



AORTA

ALPHA OMEGA REVIEW OF TORONTO ALUMNI CHAPTER, PI CHAPTER | MAY 2023 VOL. 64. NO.5
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AO TORONTO CONVENTION



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Wednesday, June 7th, 2023



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Bar Mitzvah photo: Liora Kogan



TAMMY'S FINAL TABLE TALK



To all my incredible fellow Fraters,

It feels like just yesterday that I was sending out my first official "hello" as I stepped into the role of President of AO, yet here I am preparing for my "farewell" article. It is with very mixed emotions that I approach my final months serving this incredible and prestigious organization in this capacity.

It has been a very busy and gratifying year and I was blessed to have had such an incredible group of Line Officers to serve with me. I know that I will be leaving you in the incredibly capable hands of Lani Kraus who will be assuming her new role as President this June and Andrea Heckler and Jim Posluns will continue to support her with their own incredible skill sets. Laurel Linetsky-Fleisher certainly helped pave the way for me, leaving me big shoes to fill, and I'm truly grateful to have served my entire time on the Line with her. Also, my gratitude to Gary Elman is endless who served in the capacity as my wise advisor, but in truth, he was so much more than that. Gary was always there to help guide me through any situation that arose and he did it always with a smile and a laugh.

Serving as President has given me many gifts and insights, but perhaps the most important is the clarity of just how relevant and important Alpha Omega still is in 2023! This organization was founded in 1907 to combat antisemitism and discrimination and after 116 years one might think that the

reason for founding this organization would have long since been resolved. Unfortunately, this could not be further from the truth and the founding pillars on which this organization is built continue to stand strong and relevant in today's world. Now, more than ever, it is our duty to continue to combat an ever-growing hatred and we must do so with a strong and united voice if we are ever hoping to reverse the horrible trend we are bearing witness to today. Admittedly, it will continue to be an uphill battle, but that has never stopped us before.

At the same time, I could not be prouder of the many accomplishments we achieved this year. Of special note is that the Reserve Board of Trustees was able to distribute \$19,000.00 to help support a number of very important charities! Just shy of \$10,000.00 of the money distributed was from adapting how we managed our charitable draw tickets which just goes to show us that even little changes, can have big impacts and allow us to do even more good in the community.

We have also had many successful events since the last edition of the AORTA came out including our Winter Social, Continuing Education Seminars, and CPR. Our lineup for the remainder of the year remains jam packed as we still have our annual ABM, Spring Social Picnic, Speaker Series, our Installation BBQ in June and finally, our Convention in Toronto at the end of June!! The lineup for the convention is spectacular and please visit the website at www.aotorontoconvention.com to register for some, or all, of the incredible events that are being offered!!

I want to thank you all again for your trust and confidence in me this past year and for allowing me to play such an important role in this organization. I look forward to acting as your Immediate Past President next year and for continuing to contribute in this capacity.

Always remember, tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book – so write a good one!

Fraternally yours,

Tammy Herzog

AORTA



Toronto Alumni Chapter
of Alpha Omega

Adath Israel Synagogue
37 Southbourne Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1A4
Tel: (416) 250-7417
Fax: (416) 250-8668
E-mail: info@aotoronto.org

Editor

Barry Reinblatt
c/o Alpha Omega, Adath Israel Synagogue
37 Southbourne Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1A4
Tel. Home: (905) 886-7497
Tel. Office: (905) 725-9954
Fax: (905) 725-5830
E-mail: barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca

Assistant Editor

Sharon Perlmutter

Advertising Committee Chair

Alan Kreidstein (416) 630-6282

Advertising Sales

Dayle Levy (905) 731-2025

Art Direction

Allegra Toronto North
Tel: (905) 475-5575
E-mail: info@AllegraTorontoNorth.com
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Next Executive Meeting and BBQ

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Next AORTA Deadline (August)

Monday, July 3, 2023

Notable Achievements

Please inform the AORTA of fraters or members of their families who have achieved success, honours or milestones.

Benevolence

Please call Lorne Chapnick regarding illnesses or deaths of fraters.
Email: lorne.chapnick@utoronto.ca
Home: (416) 782-1521

The opinions as expressed by the editors and columnists of the AORTA do not necessarily reflect the views of Toronto Alumni Chapter and/or its executive. All correspondence should be sent to the editor at barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca

DENTAL VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

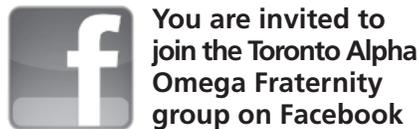
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RCDSO PET EXAMS

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Email Jackie at info@atoronto.org and we will put you together.



Do you have a story to tell that other Fraters would love to hear?



Contact the AORTA editor Barry Reinblatt at barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca with your suggestions!

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

If any Alpha Omega member knows of individuals or corporations who may be interested in sponsoring our programs please let me know. This will ensure the quality of our programs and events.

Please email this information to stephenkay@sympatico.ca. To all committee chairmen, please forward a list of your corporate sponsors. Also please list the contacts and email addresses.

Thank you.
Stephen Kay

FROM THE EDITOR



check out the convention website at www.atorontoconvention.com.

In this AORTA, you will also find reports from the recently completed Winter Seminar and Charitable Draw. There is information on the upcoming AO Revival Speaker Series evening and the Annual Picnic. We are celebrating the recently graduated Pi Chapter class in our Slice of Pi section, and we also have a report from the Board of Trustees. You will find an article from our usual contributor, Stan Kogon and a very interesting take on Israeli life by Barry Korzen. Finally, President Tammy Herzog has submitted some correspondence she has had with the University of Toronto as well as with the Canadian Dental Association which goes to the heart of why Alpha Omega exists. Please enjoy this issue.

Barry Reinblatt

Summer is just around the corner, or so they tell us, which usually means that Alpha Omega Toronto programming takes a little break until the fall. This year, that isn't entirely true as possibly the biggest event of the season, the International Convention, is taking place next month at the Westin Harbour Castle hotel. If attending some or all of the convention is on your radar, you can find quite a bit of information in this issue, or

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AO REVIVAL PRESENTS



SPEAKER SERIES



WITH PSYCHIATRIST

DR. BEV YOUNG

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POLISHING UP ON WOMEN'S
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

JUNE 7 2023 at 7:30 PM
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family

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Come to an educational event to learn from Dr. Bev Young, a well respected, experienced psychiatrist and leader in her field about how PMS, postpartum depression, parenting and perimenopause can impact mental health. This important presentation is open to women at all stages and their supporting partners.

All proceeds from this evening will be donated to: **The Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration**

To learn more about The TAAAC [CLICK HERE](#)

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

For more information about Dr. Bev Young
click here for her bio.

ALPHA OMEGA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING REPORT

MARCH 13TH, 2023

The Board of Trustees meeting took place virtually on Zoom on March 13th, 2023. We met to allocate funds for charities who had requested donations from our local chapter. In attendance were:

Laurel Linetsky-Fleisher, Immediate Past President
 Tammy Herzog, President
 Andrea Heckler-Treasurer
 Rick Rodney- Past President
 Adam Kaplan- Member at Large

The committee mandate was made known to the members in attendance and request letters were distributed prior to the meeting. Funds available this year for disbursement were:

\$19,825.00

\$10,000 was from budgeted funds that we receive each year from a portion of our dues \$9,825.00 was raised from the sale of our chapter's Charitable Draw tickets. Last year this amount was \$4,200.00 so we were able to raise an additional \$5,625.00 this year. This is likely due to the fact that we had an in-person Half Day Seminar and Charitable Draw

event this year so we were able to physically sell more tickets to those in attendance. Last year this same event was done virtually due to the Covid-19 restrictions so we didn't have the same success selling the tickets the day of the event virtually. We printed 300 tickets this year and sold a total of 299 tickets. The bulk of tickets are usually sold when dues are paid at the beginning of our year in Aug and the remaining tickets are sold at this event.

We received 4 requests for funds from the following:

1. CAMH dental clinic
2. DVI- Dental Volunteers for Israel
3. Beit Issie Shapiro dental clinic for disabled children
4. About Face

It should be noted that Jewish Family and Child did not request funds last year or this year as they feel the funds they have at the moment are sufficient for their needs. We also did not get a request from Jewish Free Loan who were granted \$3,000.00 last year.

After due deliberation the following recommendations were made and adopted:

1. CAMH dental clinic- \$8,000.00
2. DVI- \$7,000.00
3. Beit Issie Shapiro dental clinic- \$2,500.00
4. About Face- \$1,500.00

Total funds distributed: \$19,000.00

Funds remaining in the kitty for future disbursement: \$825.00

I would like to thank my committee for their valuable input. We would also like to thank Velarie Mabounsou for assisting us in putting this meeting together, distributing the package of requests and available funds and taking minutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurel Linetsky-Fleisher
 Immediate Past President
 Chair of the Board of Trustees



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...1000 WORDS

ONLY IN ISRAEL

Having recently finished celebrating Passover, publishing a photograph of a table set for the Seder doesn't seem to have anything unique about it. But a close examination of the

cabinets to the right of the table show price tags hanging from the handles. It's not that they were unintentionally left behind. No. This beautifully set table is what greeted people at the entrance of the IKEA stores in Israel prior to the holiday. Only in Israel!



UPCOMING EVENTS

INSTALLATION BBQ

Thursday, June 1, 2023
Adath Israel Synagogue
37 Southbourne Avenue

2023 FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 4, 2023
10 am - 3 pm.
The Toronto Zoo

AO REVIVAL SPEAKER SERIES

Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Dr. Bev Young
Fighting Tooth and Nail to Feel
Our Best-Polishing up on Women's
Mental Health Issues.
Adath Israel Synagogue
37 Southbourne Avenue

AO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Wednesday, June 21 - Monday,
June 26, 2023
The Westin Harbour Castle Hotel
1 Harbour Square, Toronto

Just A Reminder...

The Roster is for the exclusive use of the membership of Alpha Omega Fraternity. Anyone found using this directory for solicitation purposes will be prohibited from advertising to Alpha Omega and may be the subject of legal action.

AS IF WE NEVER STOPPED...

In person winter seminar – what a concept! After 2 years of PJ winter seminar and charitable draw, we finally had to pull out our nicest outfit and get to meet each other at Beth Emeth synagogue on February 3, 2023. We hosted Dr. Siavash Hassanpour and our very own Dr. Ryan Schure, who gave a clear and practical summary of **Classification and Diagnosis of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases** followed by similar excellent lecture about **Non-Surgical Management of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases**.

I am sure all 116 participants can appreciate the fine case-selections to demonstrate the appropriate diagnostic stages.

During the delicious lunch we completed our Annual Charitable Draw. Iris Kivity-Chandler was the head of the Charitable Draw committee, and together with the line members, organized awesome prizes.

A whopping \$9,825.00 (!!!!) was raised through this year's Charitable Draw!!!

This is by far the most raised during my tenure at this event. We are so excited to be able to give back through the Chapter's Charitable Board of Trustees.

This great event was generously supported by **Garfield Refining, Adin Implants, The Surgical Room, and Carestream.**

The list of donors who contributed to this successful event and charitable draw can be found in the AOrta you are now holding.

I really missed meeting everyone in the past few years! As we get to enjoy in person events again, I am so happy to be part of the winter seminar and charitable draw.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard and helped make this event as awesome as it was.

Guy Aboodi, Chair



Thank you

A big thanks to our donors from our 2023 Winter Charitable Draw

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Y-2-Y



A few months ago, I found myself ready to throw my hands in the air and yell out, 'Its no use – We Are Doomed!.' We have had three plus years of Covid with an ocean of waves and an entire Greek alphabet of variants, an incomprehensible invasion of Ukraine, unending grift in USA politic, climate extremes with people running out of water, flooded out of their homes, or escaping from burning mountainsides. Canadian air travel had collapsed, and a fractured supply chain disrupted most normal activities. Residential School atrocities were exposed and a Pope who could not admit that the church had any responsibility. Self-proclaimed Freedom Riders had interfered with both commerce and the freedom of Ottawa citizens and when asked, were unable to explain the freedom they sought. Home prices were sky-rocketing. There were more jobs than job-seekers. Immigration and travel were delayed because our government could not approve visas and passports. Gas prices were yo-yoing from way too high to just too high. A scan of popular YouTube sites finds, climate change deniers, young earth creationists, anti-science cults, Moorish and sovereign citizens, flat-earth advocates, far-right crazies and also some from the anarchistic far left. If that was not enough, measles, polio and monkeypox cases seem to be on the rise. I do not want to overlook missiles launched indiscriminately from Gaza into Israel, Taliban and Iranian atrocities, the near assassination of Salman Rushdie and live streaming of police brutality. It was unbelievable, that in a UN vote, a few countries sided with Syria to not allow humanitarian aid to flow into the country to address the horrible human catastrophe that resulted from a devastating earthquake. Social and political commentators attempt to find connections between these events- but even if they could- so what.

There used to be a broad, centrist, social/political philosophy with small black and white extremes. We now have a shrunken central zone with large black and white elements on the right and left. Just tune into the CNN and Fox news and you might think that they are broadcasting from different planets. Even what used to be entertainment has begun to fester. Baseball and basketball players find it unacceptable to play for 25 million dollars a year. An upstart golf association is underwritten by a misogynistic and terror supporting family. Unspeakable behaviour of young hockey players, who lacked or would not follow, ethical mentors. Sport elites, who refused to get vaccinated, shun the public, the very same public which had buoyed their success. I see these issues as mostly self- induced. That is, humans acting or not acting in a manner which lacks consideration for others, having an unwarranted level of self-importance, hiding behind religious fundamentalism, or simply ignoring or unwilling to accept readily available evidence. These matters, although disturbing, being man-made, are potentially correctable.

As we pave over arable land to expand suburbs, fence off huge tracts to graze cattle and sheep, waste more than 30% of the food we grow, we ignore the flora and fauna which had occupied the land. One of the most disturbing sights is to see one of the islands off the west coast of British Columbia, clear-cut exactly in half. The bison which at one time spread across the horizon in the millions, were whittled down to just a handful. Passenger pigeons are no more. Most Canadians will never see a caribou in the wild, let alone beaver, fox, bear, moose, and mountain lion. Ranchers are deforesting the Amazon rain forest, to make space for cattle to graze for a few years until the poor soil is depleted. Great swaths of the Indonesian and Bornean tropical jungles have been cut down to farm palm oil trees. Huge factory fishing ships scour the oceans, each day scooping up more fish than a single fisherman can catch in a lifetime. The tons of by-catch are thrown back dead or processed into pet food. There is no doubt that the animal diversity of our planet is in peril. Natural threats, climate cycles, isolation and a variety of selection pressures have led to unique biological modifications, so that today, every living specie is exquisitely adapted to survive in a specific environment. This is not a new phenomenon; evolution has been a constant factor for billions of years. We know that most of the animals that have walked this

earth have gone extinct. The difference today is that another animal specie is directly affecting the rate of extinction.

We should be heartened to know that we can reverse the trend. Close to home, we have tens of thousands of wild turkeys in Southern Ontario when only 40 years ago there were none. Right whales are on the increase after being decimated to a remnant population. We can purchase some cod again, after intense social, economic, and political intervention. Actually, there are many examples of the successful rescue of single species from extinction. What is rare, is an intervention which is meant to salvage entire ecosystems and the diverse population of flora and fauna which it supports.

Some time ago, I was killing time in a Goodwill book-store, searching for a read when I came across the book 'Good News-For a Change' by David Suzuki and Holly Dressel. Whether you are a fan of David Suzuki or not, he has made a career out of pointing out deficiencies in ecologic management. I have never felt him to be a harbinger of good news. So, I laid down two toonies and took the book home to add to my Covid reading list. The book is really a collection of short non-fiction stories of environmental, political, and social actions which have improved the lot of both humans and animals. They are brief enough so that you can read two or three and return to peruse others at a later date. Hidden in the chapter, titled 'Using Coyotes to Grow Grass' was a piece about the concept of Cores, Corridors and Carnivores. The essay made the point that we cannot think of animals in the wild as just living in a bigger cage than a zoo can provide. Animals move about to find mates, to find food and to find an environment which is conducive to their biologic needs.* Putting aside tracts of tundra to give more space for polar bears is useless if they are unable to reach sea ice. The theory suggests that if we can protect enough space for the predators at the top of the food chain to flourish, the rest of the fauna and flora will thrive. In the next essay, 'Living Together,' I found a brief reference to the Y-2-Y Wildlands Project. I had never heard of it, so I read the reference with some interest. The first Y stands for Yellowstone Park, the American national park which covers about 9,000 km² mostly in the state of Wyoming. The second Y stands for Yukon, the huge Canadian territory of the north-west. In between are two Canadian Parks, Banff, and Jasper. Y-2-Y aims

to link these regulated areas in a continuous corridor of unspoiled land along the spine of the Rocky Mountains. In total this vast stretch of wilderness will enclose more than 43,000 km², although this is not a huge amount of land compared to the size of Canada or the USA, it is still an area larger than Denmark.

**Pluie, a five-year-old female gray wolf, was radio-collared in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, Alberta, in June 1991. Over the following nine months she traveled over 100,000 square kilometers – an area 15 times larger than Banff Park. She crossed more than 30 political jurisdictions including three states, two provinces, private lands, and First Nation's territories. Pluie was shot and killed in a legal hunt south of Kootenay National Park in December 1995.*

Since it would be impossible to actively provide ideal natural space for each and every specie, biologists have identified certain animals which are essential to the health of the biome and are also recognizable to the public. For programs such as Y-2-Y, public support or at least indifference, is essential. In this scheme, Grizzly bears are designated as an Umbrella specie. They require 100-300 km² for nutrition, mating, and rearing offspring. Evidence shows that a healthy bear population is associated with good populations of medium-sized mammals such as lynx, wolf, sheep, and deer. Bears also play a fascinating role in providing nutrients to forests running along the edge of rivers. They bring their fish catch into the forest where they eat the skin and fat and leave behind carcasses to decompose, resulting in healthier trees, and more abundant birds and insects.

Biologists use the term 'Flagship' to denote other important animal contributors to ecological health. Beavers construct dams which support wetlands, ponds for fish and fowl and insect habitant. Wolves, another flagship specie, were reintroduced into Yellowstone, in spite of protests from many. The result has been a healthier elk population and rebirth of the riverine flora and fauna.

For a variety of pragmatic reasons, the Y-2-Y biologists have focussed on Grizzly bears. In an attempt to prevent further decrease in their population they are attempting to link isolated islands of bear territory within the corridor to allow bears to move back into their historic habitant, which should allow mixing of genes and growth in population.

Although the benefit to the animals, flora and insects is immense, it is not the reason I was tempted to draft this essay. I was taken by the complexity of the task. For many American and Canadian citizens, a project such as this, neither affects them directly nor has any personal adverse consequence. They are indifferent because of distance and perhaps a pollyannish view of the natural world. But as you draw closer to the boundaries of the project, there are groups which find a project which diverts funds to protect bears, wolves and beavers, an abuse of tax dollars. Building crossovers and passages under highways to allow deer, fox, and pumas to pass safely to a nearby forest is using money which could be spent to assist people. Passing laws which prohibit or restrict hunting and fishing, on land which had traditionally been open season, is an infringement on personal rights. Industry, makes the claim that there will be increased costs and more dependence on foreign countries if there are restrictions on mining and logging. Adding more environmental rules, meant to reduce watershed pollution only increases the cost to the consumer. Complaints from land speculators who wish to build houses (low cost, of course), civil engineers who locate land fills and sewage ponds and even well-meaning guides and outfitters who seek more liberal public access to parks, all rail against projects such as Y-2-Y. If you define these groups as adversaries, you immediately envision a never-ending series of legal battles. Y-2-Y organizers have taken a different route, one that requires patience and buy-in by political, social, and environmental groups. Their web site lists at least 75 organizations and philanthropic agencies which are partners. Both The Governments of Canada and the United States have to believe that passive ecologic management is in their best interest. Provinces and States which benefit from resource extraction, must fend off the lure of increasing the number of permits and therefore foregoing tax income to satisfy a benefit which will not be appreciated by the vast majority of their populations.

In this age of reconciliation, Y-2-Y openly acknowledges that Indigenous rights and interests in the natural landscape must be considered, not only on Treaty and Reserve land but the entire ecosystem, which was their ancestral homeland.*

Y-2-Y sponsors workshops to explore new

conservation agreements between First Nations and national governments and Indigenous experts are invited to present lectures on land-based reconciliation. As an example, in late 2020, the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative hosted a workshop series to discuss how Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and organizations can work together to create and sustain prosperous communities and healthy landscapes in British Columbia's Kootenay-Columbia region.

*<http://www.conservation2020canada.ca/ice-resources/>

When one thinks of the complexity of dealing with two Federal Governments, Provincial, Territorial and State Legislatures, city and town by-laws and numerous planning boards, Departments of Transportation, and Agriculture, Indigenous reserves and Treaty rights, beef, sheep, and even bison ranchers, it would be understandable that you might say 'This can't be done.' But remarkably it is happening, slowly for sure, but it is moving forward. In fact, there are other natural expanses in North America and Europe which are studying and beginning to implement concepts such as Y-2-Y.

The Yellowstone to Yukon Wildlands Project is an example of a community of people with diverse ideologies having a common goal and working to implement it. The end result will be a better ecosystem not just for the flora and fauna that reside within its borders, but for us and our grandchildren.

So, I take it back- We Are Not Doomed!

Stan Kogon

CONVENTION



By the time you read this, Convention will be just a few weeks away. I can't thank our committee members enough for the time, thought and energy committed for this event. There is just so much to enjoy that the pages of the AORTA cannot do justice to what is about to unfold. A few highlights are included with this issue, but there is so much more, and for all who have experienced Convention, you know, some things just happen and spontaneous memorable experiences are many.

And to our sponsors, what can I say. Without your support, this Convention would not happen. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Take part in all or just some of the activities. For me, the recognition of Dr. George Zarb with the Alpha Omega Achievement Medal, the highest award AO bestows must be a very significant event. There are very few members of the dental profession that Dr Zarb has not influenced in the way dental

care is practiced today. We are proud to be able to present this honour in our own city, and where Dr Zarb has taught, practised and lived for many years.

Registration is still available on our event webpage www.aotorontoconvention.com. This won't happen in Toronto for many more years. Be there.

Brian Chapnick
CONVENTION MARSHAL



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HOSPITALITY NIGHTS



CONTRIBUTORS



2023 Convention Continuing Education

Pharmacotherapy in the
Elderly dental patient

Dental Care of the Frail
Elderly

CORE 2 | 3 POINTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

9:00 am - 12 pm

Westin Harbour Castle
1 Harbour Square, Toronto

8:00 am: Light Breakfast & Registration

9:00 am - 10:00 am:

Pharmacotherapy in the Elderly dental patient

10:00 am - 12:00 pm:

Dental Care of the Frail Elderly

CE Included with Convention Registration
\$125 per member (Without Convention Registration.)

Partial proceeds will be directed to the:
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Dr. David Chvartzaid
D.D.S., M.Sc. (Prosth), M.Sc.
(Perio), F.R.C.D. (C)



AO INTERNATIONAL
**HONOURS
NIGHT**

Sunday 25th
JUNE

AT THE WESTIN HARBOUR CASTLE
PIER ROOM 4&5 AT 7:00PM

TICKET
\$200 CND
Per Adult
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The Events

DINNER & DANCE

Entertainment by: The Magen Group

**INSTALLATION OF INTERNATIONAL
OFFICERS 2023-2024**

PRESENTATION OF AO'S HIGHEST HONOUR,
THE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL TO:
DR. GEORGE ZARB



VISIT: WWW.AOTORONTOCONVENTION.COM



AO FOUNDATION NIGHT PRESENTS

SCHMOOZE & DINNER CRUISE

AT THE TORONTO HARBOUR



SCHEDULE

7:00 PM

BOARDING WILL BEGIN

7:30 PM

BOAT WILL DEPART

10:00 PM

RETURN TO DOCK

- *Transportation is not provided
- *The dock is an 11 min walk from the hotel

THE OBSESSION III

The Obsession III is a 78' motor yacht. Its cruise director and friendly crew will give you the individual attention you deserve.

Your captain will pilot the Obsession III through the Toronto Island lagoons, allowing you to experience the intrinsic beauty of this special area. Discover Toronto Harbour, and capture spectacular views of Toronto's magnificent panoramic skyline.

Meals will feature fish and pasta with a strictly Kosher option available on request.

A night of dining & dancing aboard the Obsession III with your AO friends

JUNE 22, 2023

7:00-10:00 PM

Hosted by
the Alpha Omega Foundation of Canada

PURCHASE OPTIONS

Proceeds from the event will go to Tel Aviv University School of Dental Medicine Oral Pathology Laboratory Project and the Radiology Center at the new Oral Health Center for People with Disabilities at the Hebrew University Hadassah School of Dental Medicine.

CANADIANS

\$200 CAD/ per person
(includes 1 alcoholic drink)

AMERICANS

\$150 USD/ per person
(includes 1 alcoholic drink)

visit www.aotorontoconvention.com to register

UPON REQUEST

- Kosher meals are available
- Tax receipt for \$50/ ticket

Payment may be made by PayPal or cheques mailed to the applicable Foundations.
Additional donations are welcomed & encouraged.



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SLICE OF PI

2023 PI CHAPTER GRADS



Adam Tepperman

My name is Adam Tepperman, and I was the Treasurer for Alpha Omega this year. I have enjoyed all that AO has had to offer in improving the social and academic experience at dental school. I look forward to using my AO connections as I embark on General Practice Residency in New York City.



Alex Khozin

Hometown: Toronto
Plans after grad: Sunnybrook GPR
What I enjoyed about AO: the amazing formal!!



Charanbir Dhillon

Hi, my name is Charanbir and I'm super excited to be graduating this year and can't wait to start my residency in San Francisco. Joining AO this year was an incredible experience, the formal was a huge hit! and excited to grow as part of AO (it rhymes, so it must be true!)



Christina Basily

I am originally from Windsor, Ontario. After graduation, I will be moving to Florida to start working as a general dentist... in the sunshine!
I enjoyed my time in AO and I found that AO provided me with plenty of opportunities to network with other members. My favourite event this year was the AO formal!



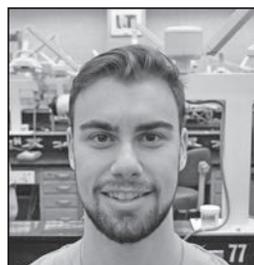
Dave Dunbar

Originally from London, Ontario, I have loved living in Toronto the last four years. The city is beautiful and there is so much to do, but the best part has always been the people. Through AO, I have formed countless lifelong friendships. I will cherish the memories we have made at numerous AO events--AO formal, Spin night, etc.--and look forward to making many more at the University of Michigan during my periodontics residency.



David Abraham

My name is David and I grew up in Thornhill. I'm very excited to begin my next chapter working as a general dentist. I really enjoyed my time as a member of AO, especially the Formal at CIBO Wine Bar and the information sessions organized by our executive team. I look forward to staying involved with AO as an alumni and seeing the chapter grow and develop.



David Goldenberg

Hometown: Richmond Hill. Plans after grad: working as a GP. Throughout my time in dental school, I enjoyed being a part of AO. Looking back, the start of each school year was accompanied by memories of AO dinners spent with my classmates, enjoying good food. I'm grateful for these experiences and hope this fraternity remains available for future generations of students.



Kayla Mincer

Kayla Mincer is originally from Thornhill and plans to work as a general dentist in the GTA after graduation. Kayla has been a member of AO since DDS1, and this year really enjoyed the AO Formal as well as Fraternity Night. AO also provided access to the incredible academic package which is invaluable for succeeding in school.

2023 PI CHAPTER GRADS (Continued)



Matt Deratnay

Hometown: Toronto

Plans after grad: Mt Sinai GPR

What I enjoyed about AO: being part of AO allowed me to meet a ton of interesting and the AO formals were always a good time



Nayha Eijaz

I'm a Toronto girl through and through- I did both my undergrad and dental school at UofT and am originally from Scarborough. After graduation, I am working directly in private practice.

I really appreciated AO's social events as they gave us the opportunity to connect with peers and members of the community in a fun way outside of school!



Noha Miah

I am originally from Scarborough and completed both my undergrad degree and dental school at UofT! I will finally be leaving Toronto for a year to pursue a GPR at the Montreal General Hospital next year. AO was a great opportunity to connect with faculty and my classmates outside of school. I am super grateful for all the people I met and got to interact with through AO!



Rebecca Allen

I'm from Toronto, and I'm hoping to work in Toronto next year. I enjoyed all of the different aspects of being a member of AO, from the academic and professional opportunities to AO formals and other social events.



Stefan Juckes

I'm from Halifax, NS. After graduation I'm planning to return home and work in a small private practice in Dartmouth. I'm also looking forward to getting back into all my favourite hobbies, skiing, biking, camping and photography. I mostly enjoyed AO's food at formal events and the more "quiet" atmosphere compared to ZIP.



Willie Cygelfarb

Hi AO! I am super excited to be finishing up dental school and am looking forward to beginning my career. AO has been an essential part of my dental life and I am so grateful to serve as the 2022-23 AO Pi Chapter president this year. We managed to host a ton of incredible events such as insurance talks, socials, seminars, mock exams and of course, the AO formal. I will forever cherish my AO family and cannot wait to continue my involvement with the rest of the frat! Thank you AO!!

REMAINING GRADUATES

Matthieu Trottier

Mina Hanna

Caroline Ye

Sara Marcine

Rebecca Bahar

Victoria Fugariu

Sarah Park

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM – AN IMPORTANT BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK AT WHAT WE DO...

To our wonderful Fraters,

We thought it might be nice for all of you to get a glimpse of some of the very important things that we do as an organization “behind the scenes” in addition to the amazing programming that we offer.

I hope that you all had a chance to attend one, or both, of the incredible webinars that our Advocacy Committee put together this year. But in addition to these webinars, we have met virtually with dental students from Western and U of T to let them know who we are as an organization and that we are there to support them should they have concerns or issues that they face at school. Luckily, there wasn't much action that needed to be taken on that front this year, but I did recently write two letters – one to U of T and one to the CDA to address some concerns that had come to our attention.

We were advised that U of T, Faculty of Dentistry, was hosting their Staff and Students Awards Night as well as a CE program on the first night of Passover. As such, we sent an email to Dean Tam to address our concerns and to see if these events could be moved as

it essentially excluded the ability for Jewish students and staff alike from being able to participate. I am thrilled to report that Dean Tam was very responsive to our concerns and both her, the Dental Student Society, and the Advancement and Alumni Relations team were very apologetic for this oversight. In addition to their apologies, both events were rescheduled, even though it was on short notice. This was a win for us as an organization and our Jewish community! You will find the email exchange between Dean Tam and myself below and I was very happy to have such a swift and successful response from U of T, Faculty of Dentistry!

Unfortunately, on the opposite front, the Federation Dentaire International (FDI) World Dental Congress 2023 is being held in Australia September 24-27, 2023 and this falls on the holiest day of the year for Jewish people, Yom Kippur. Our International President, Dr. Gail Schupak wrote a letter to the American Dental Association voicing her concerns about this matter. The FDI and the Australian Dental Association issued an apology email that was sent out which I have included for those who may not have seen it. While an apology was issued, in my opinion it

was a weak one and while they have “tried” to make concessions, they definitely did NOT address the true issue – especially since this is not the first time this has happened!! As such, I have written a letter to the Canadian Dental Association voicing our concerns with the apology that was issued. I urge you to read the letter below and while I have nothing to report back to you about as of yet, as your Line Officers, we felt it incumbent upon us to ensure that our members know the importance of an organization such as Alpha Omega. We are also reaching out to the other Canadian Chapter Presidents in hope of them sending similar letters.

These are only two examples of why it is **essential** that this organization stand strong as one because if we do not speak up – I fear that no one will!!

Fraternaly Yours,

Tammy Herzog
**President of Alpha Omega Toronto
Chapter 2022-2023**

EMAIL FROM ALPHA OMEGA TO DR. LAURA TAM...

Dear Dean Tam,

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out to you regarding two serious and time-sensitive concerns that have come to my attention. The University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry has scheduled the Staff and Student Awards night and a continuing education webinar on Wednesday April 5, 2023. Both of these events fall on the first night of Passover which is an important date in the Jewish Calendar where families gather to hold a seder. Passover is a well-known holiday and I think it is inappropriate and insensitive for the University to hold events like this on any religious holiday - regardless of the religion. While I understand that the CE webinar will be available online after the fact, the Awards night does not lend itself to the same solution.

Through my discussions with some faculty members, I understand that the DSS schedules the date for the Awards dinner and that the CE events are also organized by an independent body. Having said that, these are University of Toronto Dental Faculty events that I feel reflect poorly on a such a well-respected University and is sending the wrong message to both Jews and non-Jews alike. Holding an awards night on a night when few, if any, Jewish staff or students are able to attend, segregates them and sends the message that U of T is not concerned with their Jewish population. Sensitivity and respect to religious traditions of all faiths are foundational to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusivity; principles to which the University has clearly committed. Plans to hold events on dates that effectively exclude Jewish participation is problematic.

Ideally, we would ask that these events be rescheduled as to not exclude participation by persons of any faith. While I do recognize that it may be difficult to do at this point, I would strongly encourage you to consider both the long-term ramifications and messaging that is being sent out to your students, your faculty, and the community at large. To help prevent issues like this in the future, I will email you a list of Jewish holidays for the next 3 years for your convenience.

I look forward to your response.

Regards,

Dr. Tammy Herzog
President of Alpha Omega Dental Society's Toronto Chapter 2022 – 2023

RESPONSE FROM DEAN TAM TO MYSELF...

Dear Tammy,

Thank you for your email. I am sorry to hear about this, and want to assure you that we are working to resolve the concerns you have shared. Our guiding principle and intention across the board is to always ensure that all members of our community are included and that religious traditions of all faiths are respected and accommodated.

You are correct in that the Staff and Student Awards night and the Wealth Management Seminar are in fact organized by two different bodies of our Faculty – the DSS and the Advancement & Alumni Office respectively.

Regarding the DSS Awards night, please note the following personal note that I have received from the DSS president.

“I am reaching out to address the DSS Awards Night scheduling issue. The entire Dental Students’ Society is regretful to learn of our error of omission by not factoring in Passover in our scheduling process for the upcoming DSS Awards Night. Before I continue, I want to reassure you that we are rescheduling the DSS Awards Night to a later date to ensure we are inclusive to all individuals who observe Passover. We will be notifying everyone of this change shortly, and will send further information on the new date and time as soon as we have made a determination.

We understand that we have potentially hurt or offended people of the Jewish community by this oversight. We are extremely sorry, and can assure you that this mistake was not done with intention. We also will learn from this mistake and ensure something like this never happens again. Please let me know if there is anything else we can do.”

With respect to the Seminar, I have connected with the Advancement & Alumni Relations team who are also deeply apologetic and appreciative of you bringing the oversight to our attention. The Seminar too will be rescheduled for an alternative date, during which we hope that all members of our community who are interested in participating live will join us.

Being familiar with the religious observances of your community is an important part of promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion and we will address this oversight during our upcoming senior leadership team as well as with our academic scheduling officer and with the DSS.

I would like to assure you that the Jewish community is deeply valued at and the Faculty across the UofT. Your thoughts and feedback are always welcome Tammy, and I hope that you will accept my personal wishes for a peaceful and happy Passover.

Best personal regards,

Laura

28 MARCH 2023

Apology: FDI World Dental Congress 2023 and Yom Kippur date clash

FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) and the Australian Dental Association (ADA) wish to jointly state our sincere apologies that the annual World Dental Congress scheduled to take place in Sydney, Australia from 24 to 27 September 2023, clashes with Yom Kippur (24 to 25 September) the holiest day of the year in Judaism. In particular, we apologize whole heartedly for any offence it may have caused to our Jewish members, friends, colleagues and partners.

Whilst regrettably the global pandemic led to extremely limited availability of dates for this year's event, which was rescheduled from 2021, the FDI and ADA acknowledge that our shared core value of inclusivity has been compromised and we must do better to avoid such conflicts going forward. We have learned from this unfortunate situation and have committed to immediate and thorough due diligence, for all future congresses, meetings and events, to avoid dates of religious significance.

The FDI and ADA wish to sincerely thank key members of the Jewish dental community in Australia, with whom we have been working in order to find every solution possible to ensure the importance of Yom Kippur is truly respected. These include but are not limited to:

- Moving the Congress opening ceremony to prevent a clash with the Yom Kippur fast.
- Extending the trade show each night to allow our Jewish dentists, partners, exhibitors and colleagues to compensate for any time lost at the exhibition.
- Adjusting the main scientific programme to ensure Jewish speakers can observe Yom Kippur, and making exclusive plans for faith observances at the meeting venue.
- Liaising with the Great Synagogue (Orthodox Judaism) on Castlereagh Street Sydney, which as a result will now welcome out of town Jewish delegates to attend the Yom Kippur services.
- Contacting Temple Beth Emmanuel in Chatswood (Progressive / Reform Judaism) to inquire if Jewish delegates can attend their services during Yom Kippur.

While we recognize that this may not be the ideal outcome for our Jewish community, we thank you for your understanding of the incredibly difficult conference environment we face due to the pandemic, but most importantly seek to clarify how seriously the FDI and ADA have taken the issue, and sincerely hope that all affected find some solace in the solutions presented. Above all, we emphasise our commitment to not allowing this to occur again.

Best regards,



Prof. Ihsane Ben Yahya
FDI President



Enzo Bondioni
FDI Executive Director



Dr. Stephen Liew
ADA President

Damian Mitsch
ADA CEO

LETTER FROM AO TO THE CDA



ALPHA OMEGA DENTAL FRATERNITY TORONTO CHAPTER

37 Southborne Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M3H 1A4
Tel: 416-250-7417 Fax: 416-250-8668
Email: info@aotoronto.org Web: www.aotoronto.org

Dear Dr. Tomkins, Dr. Carr, and Dr. Antel,

I am writing to you regarding some serious concerns that I have with the upcoming Federation Dentaire International World Congress taking place in Sydney, Australia from September 24-27, 2023. I have seen the apology statement from the FDI and the ADA that was put out regarding the fact that this meeting is being held on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year in Judaism, and find their explanations to be objectionable on several fronts. Firstly, they have used the global pandemic as an excuse stating that there was extremely limited availability of dates for this year's event, which was rescheduled from 2021. Seeing as we are in 2023, I think that 2 years gives them a lot of dates to pick from and choosing the holiest day in the Jewish religion, or any religion for that matter, is completely unacceptable. They claim that the core values of both the ADA and the FDI is inclusivity, but actions often speak louder than words, and therefore, I find it difficult to believe that inclusivity is a core value when in 2015, the conference was held again over Yom Kippur. The conference ran September 22-25th and Yom Kippur was on September 23rd.

While the ADA and FDI have outlined several adjustments that they are making to try and be sensitive to, and accommodate, Jewish people at the 2023 conference, they finish their apology with the statement "Above all, we emphasize our commitment to not allowing this to occur again". Considering this is the second time this has occurred in the last 8 years, I find it difficult to take comfort in their professed commitment. To be frank, it almost appears as though they are simply placating people by putting a statement like this out.

As the current president of the Alpha Omega Dental Society's Toronto Chapter, I felt obligated to bring this to your attention and serve as the voice for all of our members and Jewish dentists worldwide. Alpha Omega is the oldest international dental organization and was founded in Baltimore Maryland in 1907 by a group of dental students to fight discrimination in dental schools. Sadly, we still find ourselves fighting the many different faces of discrimination making this organization as important today, as it was at its' inception.

I cannot imagine that this conference would be scheduled on the most religious holiday of any other religion and would expect that all holy days, regardless of religion, should be taken into consideration and avoided in situations like this.

I would ask that the Canadian Dental Association send a letter in support of the concerns raised considering it is the second time in less than a decade where the world congress meeting is being held on Yom Kippur.

I await your response to this problem so I can share it with my members.

Respectfully,

Dr. Tammy Herzog
President of Alpha Omega Dental Society's Toronto Chapter 2022-2023

ALPHA OMEGA TORONTO CHAPTER

2023

FAMILY PICNIC

AT THE TORONTO ZOO

**FREE FOR ALL AO
MEMBERS, SPOUSES
AND THEIR OWN
CHILDREN OR
GRANDCHILDREN (<18)**

**ADULT GUESTS \$30
SENIOR GUESTS \$25
CHILD GUESTS \$20**

**SUNDAY
JUNE 4**

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Kosher Cheese Pizza will be served at 12:00 PM.

Please bring snacks, more food, and drinks for your family!
AO members, children, grandchildren and guests welcome!
There will be a registration desk at the entrance to welcome our
AO Families and Friends. Includes ZOO admission, Zoomobile
tickets and a private animal encounter for our group.

We will be gathering at the Wildlife Marquee which is reserved for our group for the day. We will have a scavenger hunt, games, and schmoozing with AO friends and family. Enjoy the day with your family at our amazing Toronto Zoo!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON!

TRIBUTE

General Tribute Fund GOLD CARDS

Condolences

Dr. Jessica Gold on the loss of her grandfather
Frater Dr. David Kaplansky
Dr. Andrew & Wendy Kay

Dr. Larry Vinegar on the loss of his father
Barney
Drs. Avi Wurman & Sharon Sussman

SILVER CARDS

Condolences

Dr. Steven Millman on the loss of his
mother Ann
Dr. Stanley & Ellen Markin

Dr. Arthur Tarshis on the loss of his
wife Harriet
Dr. Stanley & Ellen Markin

Terry Shapero Fund (Yad L'Kashish)

TRIBUTE CARDS

Condolences

Dr. Arthur Tarshis on the loss of his
wife Harriet
Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

JF & CS Dental Fund GOLD CARDS

Condolences

Dr. Arnie Closner on the loss of his wife Joy
Dr. Stephen & Carole Zamon & Family

AO Dental Centre at Baycrest GOLD CARDS

Condolences

The Gold family on the loss of Frater
Dr. David Kaplansky
Dr. Michael & Rayna Litchen

CONDOLENCES TO:

Dr. Arnie Closner on the loss of his
wife Joy

Dr Frank Gold on the loss of his
father-in law Frater Dr. David
Kaplansky

Dr. Jessica Gold on the loss of
her grandfather Frater Dr. David
Kaplansky

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the purchase through Alpha Omega Fraternity.

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ALPHA OMEGA OFFICES (416) 250-7417

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or fax 416-250-8668

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Weekdays Only

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anyone who wishes to volunteer some time
assisting with this very worthwhile cause,
please contact Harvey as above.

Honour a loved one and perform a mitzvah with Alpha Omega Tribute Cards

WHERE DO THE TRIBUTE CARD FUNDS GO?

The Alpha Omega Foundation of Canada distributes funds from
the sale of tribute cards to Dentally related agencies such as:

- Dental Volunteers for Israel
- Yad LaKashish (*Services to the Elderly*)
- Beit Issie Shapiro (*Services to Disabled Children*)
- CAMH Dental Clinic
- Dentistry for All (*Clinic in Guatemala*)
- ALEH C.A.R.E.S. Dental Clinic
- Princess Margaret Hospital Dental Clinic
- AO Dental Centre at Baycrest

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