

AORTA

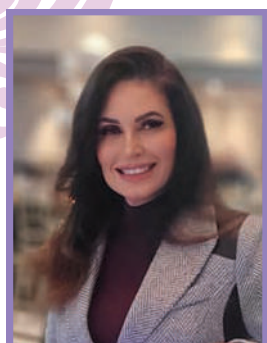
ALPHA OMEGA REVIEW OF TORONTO ALUMNI CHAPTER, PI CHAPTER | AUGUST 2026 VOL. 68. NO.1
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ALPHA OMEGA TORONTO 2026

SOCIETY NIGHT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Ave, Toronto



**Dr. Beatrice
Marr**

CHAPTER
PRESIDENT



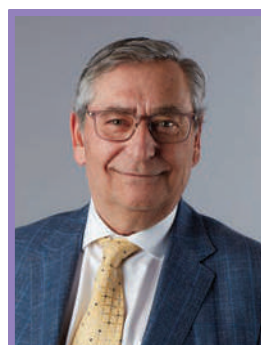
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BEA'S BUZZ



To all my fellow members of Alpha Omega Toronto,

It is with real pride, and no small amount of gratitude, that I write to you as your incoming Chapter President for 2026–2027. I follow in the footsteps of Andrea Heckler and, most recently, Jordan Klimitz — two leaders whose steady hands and genuine devotion to this chapter have set a very high bar. Jordan, thank you for two years of thoughtful leadership, and for the wealth of institutional memory you'll continue to bring as our Past President. I'm grateful to be building on the foundation you both laid.

I'm equally grateful for the Line who will be working alongside me this year: Paul Okorofsky as our Advisor to the Line, whose experience will keep us grounded; Daniel Pesin as President-Elect; and Yair Lenga as Secretary. And a special word for Velarie, our Executive Secretary, who keeps this chapter running behind the scenes with more dedication than any of us probably realize. Velarie is expecting a new addition to her family this September, and true to form, she has committed to staying involved through her pregnancy and beyond. Please join me in wishing her and her family a smooth delivery and a joyful welcome to their new baby — and in thanking her for a devotion to AO that frankly puts the rest of us to shame.

A bit about how I got here

I was born in Odessa, in what was then the Soviet Union. My parents and grandparents made the decision to leave — to build a better life for me — because antisemitism there

was simply a fact of daily existence. Growing up in Toronto, I remember their stories feeling distant, almost from another era, in a way I couldn't fully relate to. It wasn't until October 7th that something shifted in me. I realized, with some humility, that it wasn't my parents and grandparents who had been out of touch all those years — it was me. The patterns they fled are not history. They are, in different forms, still very much present, and I don't intend to sit idle in the face of them.

We arrived in Canada with me not speaking a word of English. My parents set aside their own professional degrees and worked tirelessly, day and night, so that I would never once feel financial struggle. I owe them everything for that. I went on to complete the Royal Conservatory in piano, graduated near the top of my class at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute, and — thanks in large part to my father's patience with a stubborn math-and-physics-obsessed daughter — was accepted into both dentistry at the University of Toronto and medicine at the University of Ottawa after two years of undergrad. As an only child in a small, close-knit family, staying near my parents and grandparents mattered to me, and dentistry felt like a path I could be genuinely excited about. I've never regretted that choice.

After graduation, I completed a paediatric and implant residency at SickKids, where I had the privilege of working alongside Dr. George Sandor, who involved me in the cleft lip and palate program and mentored me through the early days of implantology. Those years shaped the kind of clinician — and person — I wanted to be.

My connection to Alpha Omega itself came almost by accident. Laurel Linetsky-Fleisher asked me to take on the role of Secretary. "It's an easy position," she said. "You'll have lots of help," she said. Two years later, here I am writing to you as President — so, Laurel, I hope you're smiling at how that turned out. In 2022, after thirty years in practice, and shortly after my second COVID-19 vaccine, I experienced two retinal detachments that brought my clinical career to an abrupt halt. It is not an exaggeration to say that Alpha Omega gave me a sense of purpose at a

continued on page 5

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@aortoronto.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

Allan Katchky (416) 694-2220

Advertising Sales

Dayle Levy (905) 731-2025

Art Direction

Allegra Markham

Tel: (905) 475-5575

E-mail: info@AllegraMarkham.com

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Next Executive Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2026

Next AORTA Deadline (November)

Monday, October 5, 2026

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

Dentists needed... to treat disadvantaged children in Jerusalem who cannot help themselves.

For information, contact **Les Train** at drtrain@rogers.com, or check our website at canadianfriendsofdvi.org.

RCDSO PET EXAMS

Are you writing the RCDSO Pet exams? Do you want to join others who are writing for a study group?

Email **Velarie** at info@aotoronto.org and we will put you together.



You are invited to join the Toronto Alpha Omega Fraternity group on Facebook

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



By the time you are reading this, summer will be mostly over and we will be preparing for the beginning of a new school year (for those with younger children), as well as other regular fall activities. Alpha Omega Toronto is also preparing for the new programming year, and in this issue, we have details of everything you need to know.

Our new President, **Beatrice**, starts off with her first AORTA article, titled 'Bea's Buzz'. There is information about the upcoming

Society Night Dinner as well as the Family Shabbat Dinner. You can read about some recent programs including the Sunday Morning Breakfast and Speaker, as well as AO Toronto's participation in the Walk for Israel.

Sheldon Cooper has sent an interesting opinion about AO's representation at the ODA. We have a couple of very funny submissions: **Matthew Taub** explains Jewish Mothers, and **Steven Brown** gives us A Little Bit Of This...A Little Bit Of That. **Ted Schipper** sends in pictures of some of the AO merch he has collected over the years, and **Barry Korzen** once again sends us his latest picture in ...1000 Words. Finally, **Cal Torneck** sends a Letter To The Editor in response to **Sharon Perlmutter's** letter to the Provost at the University of Toronto printed in the May AORTA.

Please enjoy this edition of the AORTA.
Barry Reinblatt



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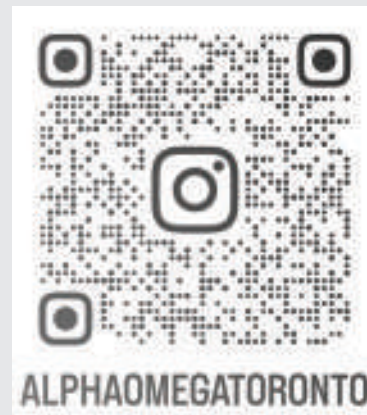
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Reminder that we will be at the ODA ASM 2023 in May. Visit our booth and meet us in person!

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BEA'S BUZZ *(Continued)*

moment when my professional identity had otherwise gone quiet. This organization has given me more than I can easily put into words, and stepping into this role is, in many ways, my way of giving some of that back.

Where we stand as a community

This has been a difficult year for antisemitism within our profession, and Alpha Omega Toronto has not stood on the sidelines. You'll all recall the details, so I'll keep this brief. When antisemitic imagery surfaced in course materials at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry, our chapter — under Jordan's leadership — pushed for accountability, worked alongside Hillel Ontario to support the students affected, and stood with our advocacy partners through our alliance with JMAO. And at the ODA, we advocated throughout the Jonathan Mayer matter for fairness and due process, consistent with the independent Task Force's findings — even as General Council ultimately reached a different conclusion and voted to remove him as President-Elect.

Neither outcome was simple, and neither is really "over." What I take from both is that advocacy only works when it's sustained, not seasonal — and that's a responsibility I intend to keep front and centre this year.

Strength in numbers

Here's my honest, strategic pitch to you: there are a great many Jewish dentists across the GTA who are not currently AO members, and our ability to show up — for each other, and for moments like the ones above — depends entirely on our numbers. I'd ask each of you to think of one colleague who isn't yet part of this chapter and personally invite them in. Not an email blast. An actual conversation. That's how most of us got here in the first place.

What's ahead this year

We have a genuinely full slate coming up, including our Chanukah party, a Shabbat dinner, our continuing education seminars, and — for those who prefer their networking on the water — our Sailing Day. Watch your inbox for details on each.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year ahead, and to getting to know so many of you better along the way.

With warmth and gratitude,

Beatrice

OPINION

There apparently is significant disappointment in the Alpha Omega family with a recent decision at the Ontario Dental Association General Council.

As an Alpha Omegan we all must remember the reasons why Alpha Omega was set up in Baltimore so many years ago. Remember the base of our triangle.

It is essential that our voices be heard at all ODA component societies where Alpha Omegans practice. (Each component society through their society executive helps decide who to choose as their representatives at the ODA General Council.)This requires more

dentists to take an active part in their local dental societies which make up the ODA.

Unfortunately the number of Alpha Omegans in practice in Ontario has dropped significantly in the last few years. This is all the more reason for us to stand proudly on the shoulders of our past leaders and speak out when we recognize injustice or plain indifference at attempts to ignore our presence in and our contributions to the dental community.

Dr. Sheldon Cooper

UPCOMING EVENTS

SOCIETY NIGHT DINNER

Tuesday, September 15, 2026
6:30pm
Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Avenue

EVENING CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Adath Israel Synagogue
37 Southbourne Avenue

FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, October 23, 2026
5:45 pm - Candle Lighting,
6:00 pm - Dinner
Ledbury Jewish Centre
157 Falkirk Street

EVENING CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

Thursday, November 12, 2026
Adath Israel Synagogue
37 Southbourne Avenue

FALL SEMINAR

Friday, November 20, 2026
Beth Emeth Synagogue
100 Elder Street

CHANUKAH PARTY

Sunday, November 29, 2026
Beth Emeth Synagogue
100 Elder Street

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.

...1000 WORDS

BY BARRY KORZEN

ABU DHABI – Traditional Dhow vs Modern Skyline

A weathered wooden dhow rests on the beach, its carved prow and sun-bleached timbers reminds us of a bygone era of pearl diving, fishing, and merchant voyages that once sustained the UAE; behind it, Abu Dhabi's glass-and-steel skyline rises in stark, shimmering contrast, towers of modern commerce reflecting the same sea that carried those old sails, creating a visual dialogue between living maritime heritage and rapid urban transformation.



SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST AND SPEAKER

On Sunday, June 14th at Beth Tikvah Synagogue we held our annual Sunday Morning Breakfast and speaker program. The speaker was Rivka Campbell. Her topic was The Jews of Jamaica. Rivka is a renowned speaker on the subject of Jews of colour and Jewish diversity. She hosts a podcast called, "Rivkush".

Her talk focused on the history of Jews in Jamaica, how they got there and their history. She touched on the topic of Jewish pirates. She spoke of the synagogues of Jamaica and showed pictures of the remaining ones. She showed us photos of the Jewish cemeteries. She explained the importance Jews have made to the Jamaican economy.

The food was catered by Levy's and was by all accounts, delicious. The turnout was less than stellar with only 18 attendees. This was due to the fact that we offered this program late in the year and people were going away for the weekends. Hopefully next year we will plan to hold this event earlier in the calendar year.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Vinegar



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JEWISH MOTHERS

There is something about Jewish mothers that cannot fully be explained unless you have lived it.

It is the phone call asking if you ate.

The sweater forced on you when you swear you are not cold.

The panic when you do not answer a text within seven minutes.

The ability to simultaneously criticize you, defend you, guilt you, feed you, and save your life... often in the same conversation.

But beneath the humour, beneath the stereotypes, beneath the jokes that generations of comedians have built entire careers around, is something much deeper.

Jewish mothers built the Jewish people.

Not metaphorically. Literally.

When Pharaoh ordered the drowning of Jewish sons, it was mothers who hid babies in silence and terror. When empires tried to erase us, mothers whispered Hebrew prayers into the ears of children before bed. When pogroms swept through Europe, mothers packed bags in minutes and somehow carried entire families forward. When Auschwitz tried to turn Jews into ashes and numbers, surviving mothers rebuilt homes, communities, schools, and futures from nothing but grief and stubborn faith.

Jewish continuity has always rested on the shoulders of women who refused to let the chain break.

We speak about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But Judaism would not exist without Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

Without Miriam standing watch over Moses in the reeds.

Without Yocheved hiding her son from slaughter.

Without Ruth choosing loyalty and peoplehood.

Without Queen Esther risking her life to save her people from annihilation.

The story of the Jewish people is impossible without Jewish mothers.

And it did not end in biblical times.

In modern Israel, Golda Meir became known as the "Iron Lady" long before others earned similar titles. She led Israel during one of its most difficult periods, carrying not only political responsibility, but the emotional burden of an entire nation fighting for survival.

Across North America, Jewish mothers built synagogues, charities, schools, hospitals, advocacy organizations, kitchens for strangers, and homes filled with tradition.

They carried Judaism into suburban Toronto basements.

Into Montreal duplexes.

Into New York apartments.

Into Los Angeles schools.

Into Winnipeg community centres.

Into Miami condos where grandchildren were overfed every Sunday afternoon whether they liked it or not.

They raised doctors, lawyers, teachers, activists, soldiers, business owners, rabbis, artists, and dreamers.

And right now, in this moment, Jewish mothers are once again carrying a burden most people cannot fully understand.

Watching their children walk into war as an IDF soldier.

They are sending children to Jewish schools with security guards outside.

They are explaining antisemitism to kids who are far too young to learn that word.

They are watching university campuses become hostile environments.

They are sitting awake at night when their children go downtown wearing a Magen David necklace.

They are holding families together while pretending not to be afraid themselves.

Jewish mothers today are being asked to do what Jewish mothers have always done.

Protect the next generation while the world becomes unstable around them.

And they do it anyway.

The Jewish mother has always been the emotional Iron Dome of the Jewish people.

She is the reason Shabbat night dinners still happen.

The reason recipes survive.

The reason traditions survive.

The reason identity survives.

The reason grandchildren know where they came from.

The reason Judaism survived thousands of years of exile, hatred, expulsion, and violence.

Long before institutions existed, there was a Jewish mother lighting candles.

Long before press releases and advocacy campaigns, there was a Jewish mother teaching resilience around a kitchen table.

Long before governments promised protection, there was a Jewish mother protecting her children with everything she had.

So here's to the Jewish mothers.

The biblical ones.

The immigrant ones.

The Israeli ones.

The Canadian ones.

The American ones.

The grandmothers.

The single mothers.

The exhausted mothers.

The overprotective mothers.

The stubborn mothers.

The loud mothers.

The soft-spoken mothers.

The mothers who carried generations on their backs so that we could still be here.

The Jewish story survives because they did.

And if our future survives too, it will be because of them as well.

Matthew Taub

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Comments on President Perlmutter's Letter to the Provost and Proposal for Further Action

I was saddened after reading President Perlmutter's letter to the University of Toronto Provost's investigation into an antisemitic episode associated with the Dean of the Faculty of Toronto an act which she classifies as being "indisputably horrific." In my view, that description is hyperbole when describing the inclusion of one image shown during a lecture without racial commentary and another in a repository of lectures from previous. These images were unknowingly used as diagrammatic support for a concept in pulp disease, a concept familiar to all those who study pulp disease. I am also concerned that such hyperbole may also undermine the role AO played when addressing the real and far more serious forms of antisemitism there common within the faculty many years ago. To AO's credit, that form of antisemitism was stifled and arrested. Today, Jews can and do hold senior positions in the faculty and the university at large. I also want to make it clear that AO does not speak for me when describing the intentions behind this event. Dr. Kishen is a person of integrity and is devoid of racial bias. At its worst, this episode was an antisemitic event caused by a lack of understanding in the significance in what was shown. President Perlmutter has called it "an act of naivety" which I interpret as being an antisemitic oversight committed by some one who is not an antisemite. I agree with that assessment

because I have worked with Dr. Kishen for 17 years, shared numerous events with him, and been a guest in his home, as he has been in mine, and never once during those times was an antisemitic trait apparent.

Dr. Kishen is a man of distinction and a universally recognized scholar who was selected by his peers as the best candidate to lead the Faculty of Dentistry for the next five years. His plans to improve the program and maximize the technology available to the profession has already been initiated and any interruption in those plans will be to the detrimental to the progress of the entire student body, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. Dr. Kishen's respect for AO and its values were also evident during his speech to the Toronto Chapter on Members Night in September 2025. In that speech he acknowledged AO's important role in fostering leadership, mentorship, and service to enhance the student experience and build a better professional community. He also expressed a keen interest in working together with AO to achieve those goals.

The question then is, can and should Alpha Omega and the Jewish community forgive Dr. Kishen this transgression and support him as the best man to lead the faculty for the next five years. The answer to can is yes. Atonement and forgiveness are tenets held by our religion and while they typically applied to the covenant between man and his G-d, our scholars have also extended these tenets to transgressions between man and man. They have defined a pathway to forgiveness that consists of five steps that Dr. Kishen is

aware of and has already initiated. He has offered an apology and expressed his heart felt regret for the incident and those affected by it. He has undertaken studies to better understand the Jewish ethos and has expressed his willingness to meet representatives of the Fraternity to ensure them that the sensitivities of all minorities, not just those of the Jewish faith, will be respected.

The question now is should Alpha Omega as representatives of the profession and the Jewish community forgive his transgression and support his return to acting Dean. As I see it, the answer to that is unquestionably yes. The University has already accepted him as the best candidate for the position. Another choice would be a compromise, and result in a less qualified candidate being appointed. His Hindu faith embraces religious pluralism and inclusivity, assuring respect and sensitivity for all faiths not just ours. He is universally recognized as a scientist and scholar. And finally, the events associated with his current experience has heightened his awareness to Jewish sensitivities and that will help him better address the antisemitism that is becoming more prevalent among the student population of our university, and sad to say, universities in general. If we want to deal with the issue of antisemitism, that is the real problem.

Cal Torneck
Professor Emeritus

SEEDS OF LIFE



When we had a large garden, we would peruse the packets of flower and veggie seeds for planting in the spring. Our yearly success was marginal as Sheila and I had only a slight tinge of green on our thumbs. Occasionally, I would get ambitious and collect and store seeds for planting the next spring. Again, my success was minimal. I was elated when an odd morning-glory or sunflower broke the surface. In London, we live close to the outskirts of the suburbs and are aware of farmers unloading large bags of seed for efficient planting of corn, wheat, white beans, and a host of cash crops. We have a few commercial test sites close by, where companies grow seed to help local farmers select the best varietal for their plots. I also buy bags of sunflower and nyger seeds to feed the birds. I should not overlook the peanuts, cashews, hazelnuts, walnuts, pecans, pumpkin and others seeds which I happily munch. Well, that is all I knew about seeds. That suddenly changed about fifteen years ago, on a trip to the Svalbard archipelago.

Svalbard is a group of Norwegian islands about half-way between the northern coast of Norway and the North Pole. The largest island is Spitsbergen, a name which used to be applied to the entire archipelago. Some of Svalbard lies above the Arctic Circle and the weather is mostly what one would expect cold, dark, long winters and long cool twilit summers. However, thanks to the last gasp of the Gulf Stream, the southern part of Svalbard and the island of Spitzbergen has tolerable summers and can

even support the growth of some tundra vegetation. Sixty per cent of the land mass is covered with glaciers, and icebergs of all sizes fill the numerous fiords. The total population of Svalbard is less than 3,000 and both the resident and transient polar bears number about 5,500. Although no longer economical, coal had been mined and exported since the early 20th century. Fishing has had a rocky history but seems to be coming back after severe overfishing. Tourism is a growing source of revenue and the Norwegian government is attempting to place controls on access to preserve the delicate ecology. Polar bears, Svalbard reindeer, Arctic fox, marine pinnipeds, whales, and hordes of northern pelagic birds are spotted from land treks, zodiacs, and small cruise ships fitted for ice. In Longyearbyen, the largest town, one can find permanent dorms housing Norwegian university students doing northern research, hotels, museums, a few pubs and restaurants, touring offices, and a few shops selling both local crafts and the usual shlock. Close to the town there is an airport which can handle widebody jets and a port capable of docking sea-going vessels. The one noteworthy world-class building with enormous global importance is built into a mountain not far from Longyearbyen. This is the site of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (SGSV) which is not a tourist attraction, as it is rarely open to visitors.



The first effort to store and preserve seeds in Svalbard occurred in 1984 when the Nordic Gene Bank began depositing material in an abandoned coal mine. It became clear that this was inadequate and if a permanent depository was required, a better site was needed. Increased global interest in securing genetic resources, and adopting rules to allow access and sharing, resulted in the signing of an international treaty. The Norwegian government was approached to establish a global facility in Svalbard and in 2004 Norway committed to establish and fund the SGSV. Although a location in the permafrost would have been straightforward, long-term seed viability required a predictable stable environment that would never rise above freezing. The solution was to construct a chamber in virgin rock without the presence of any coal and high enough above sea level to eliminate the chance of flooding. The design included emergency refrigeration, using Svalbard's abundant coal resource for energy. In June 2006, five Nordic countries, at a small ceremony at Svalbard, announced the establishment of the SGSV initiative. The Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food was in charge of the Seed Vault funding and Statsbygg, the Norwegian Directorate of Public Construction and Property, took responsibility for the day-to-day management. On Feb. 26, 2008, the SGSV was officially opened and within days, 320,000 seed accessions were deposited.

For a virtual tour of SGSV copy or paste this link into your browser.

<https://www.croptrust.org/what-we-do/programs/svalbard-global-seed-vault/>

Global Seed Preservation

There are numerous reasons to bank seeds. Some have global significance that may even play a role in the survival of humans as a species and others are of interest only to botanists and horticulturalists.

Many seeds are extremely durable and have been found in archeologic sites. In 2005, a Judean date palm was germinated

that was discovered during excavation of Herod's palace on Masada. However, seeds are vulnerable to destruction by fire, excess water, prolonged draught, pests, and fungi. These effects may be local, regional, and even global. Evolution has had millennia for plants to adapt to alterations of climate, tectonic drift, mountain elevation, and erosion. This has resulted in plants filling the diverse niches of global geography. However, it has become apparent that when climatic changes are measured in decades, there is not sufficient time for most plants to naturally evolve. Countries with sufficient resources have directed capital to find genetic solutions and they have had some success. Plant species have been bred that do better with less water, more heat, better pest resistance, and are more tolerant to salt. It is critical that these new hybrids be saved, but also that the old original genetic material continues to be available.

The loss of perfectly good seed due to storage mismanagement or conflict only requires resupply from stored supplies. At worst, a loss of a crop year gives time to regrow new seed. But where do you go to find the replacement when the entire supply is lost?

Globally, there are more than 1,300 gene banks with more than six million accessions of distinct species. On face value that seems quite a lot but, actually, it is a small fracture of the flora diversity. It is most unlikely and perhaps impractical to expect that the seeds of all growing plants will ever be stored. In fact, botanists do not know how many species have yet to be catalogued. Although, maintaining a library of all known plant species seems to be a laudable enterprise, its practical value is hard to justify. Although monoculture is a common and extremely efficient way of growing specific foods, all growers are aware that gene diversity is essential to retain vigor and pest resistance. Maintaining wild and heritage species is of paramount importance.

Wikipedia provides some background to some of the larger collections and also summarizes the types and aims of these gene banks.

1. Assistentialist seed banks: These seed banks primarily aim to support the needs of local communities and small-scale farmers. These seed samples are well-suited to local conditions and are easy to grow, have high yield potential, are pest and disease resistant, and can be grown with minimal inputs
2. Productivist seed banks: These seed banks primarily aim to support large-scale agricultural production and commercial farming. They prioritize seed samples that are well-suited to mechanized farming and can be grown in enormous quantities.
3. Preservationist seed banks: These seed banks primarily aim to conserve the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated plant species. They make seed samples available for research and breeding programs. They prioritize seed samples that are rare, endangered, or have unique genetic characteristics.¹

SGSV provides secure storage for seeds that are associated primarily with categories #2 and #3 and is particularly useful as a depository for seeds which are essential to human food consumption such as all cereal, root, and fruit crops. Once seeds are voluntarily deposited in the SGSV, the management of the material falls under The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Seeds are not open for trade or removal except by the approval of the gene bank or country which made the deposit. However, the Treaty provides for application to remove a limited sample for research or education.²

In this digital age we are acutely aware of the need for data storage and back-up. For important matters, we add levels of security because our operative devices

cannot be trusted. External hard drives, virtual servers, and the cloud are among the instruments used to provide layers of back-up for our digital bytes. Seeds are structures that store DNA code, which under specific inputs of heat, light and moisture, trigger 'on' switches that lead to morphological changes which we recognize as the particular plant species. The genetic backbone of many food seeds has been decoded. This is digital data which can be safely stored. The major issue is the reverse engineering of this data. When science can take the entire code for basmati rice and produce productive seed that can actually grow basmati rice, we will be able to dismiss the need for seed banks. Until then, local seed banks, regional gene banks, and international co-operatives such as the Svalbard Global Seed Vault hold our destiny in their libraries.

References

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed_bank
2. <https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/svalbard/en/>

Stan Kogon

AO MEMORIES

Ted Schipper sends along some pictures of Alpha Omega merchandise he has collected. According to him, the white turtleneck was from one of the early ski trips organized by Paul Levin and Wayne Pulver and the creased gold sweatshirt was from his time as an undergrad. Feel free to send you merchandise memories to the editor at barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca.



AO SAILING DAY 2026

Island yacht club hosts alpha omega 55th sailing day.

We sailed we ate we drank we joked we fraternalized we ate some more.

It was another great day.

David cowan



ALPHA OMEGA TORONTO

Society Night

2026

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 6:30 PM
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM SYNAGOGUE -470 GLENCAIRN AVE



Dr. Beatrice Marr
CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Dr. Sharon Perlmutter
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dr. Charles Weingarten
THE SHEILA RODNEY
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INSTALLATION OF TORONTO CHAPTER PRESIDENT
SHEILA RODNEY HUMANITARIAN AWARD
2026 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD
AO JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AWARD
TORONTO AO ALUMNI HONOURS
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DR. BEATRICE MARR
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DR. WAYNE WOLFSTADT
DR. HOWARD TENENBAUM
50 YEAR MEMBERS
NEW MEMBERS

PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 6

Please contact the office if you have any further questions: info@aotoronto.org

A LITTLE BIT OF THIS,.... A LITTLE BIT OF THAT

By Steven Brown

O.K. Now here's what I expect you to do. Every time I capitalize a full word, you have to yell it. Even if you're on the subway. Or in Shul. Don't worry. The people near you will get used to it. I do it all the time. O.K. Once some jerk pulled the emergency alarm on the subway, but that was a one off. Now that we understand each other, let's get this underway.

As usual. I was walking behind Paula one day when she yelled "What was that sound?" I said "My shirt fell." She responded "It was louder than that." I yelled back "I was in it."

I've split Leaf tickets since 1992, with 5 buddies. My kids take 5 games and I take 1. I take Paula; and the day before, she asks "When can we leave?" I say "For the game?" She says "No. When we get there." Also. Paula asked if we could go to an expensive place for dinner. So I took her to a gas station. (Echh.)

Don't read this one. Last night I went out alone and got pretty drunk. I don't remember much else after that. But when I woke up this morning, I was in bed with a person who was snoring and farting loudly. So I knew I got home safely! And finally on the Paula front. (Maybe yes. Maybe no.) I've had a tantalizing option placed before me. She said if I didn't get my hair cut by Friday, she'd leave me. What to do?

Now. How about a bit about the base of the triangle. Judaism. And here we go. Once in a while when I wake up, I ask Paula if she wants to go to Shul. When she says "What the heck do you mean?" I say, "I'm going to come over to you in bed, and grab you, and we're going to 'Share-a-tuchus'." (She always faces away from me). Next. Do you know which pop singer gave the most money to charity? Obviously Neil Tzedakah! And a bit of advice. Always go with the 'Sefer' torah. It's the smallest, and the big ones are way too heavy and dangerous.

(You may have to read that again.) And when my parents used to drop me off at my grandparents during the day, on Saturdays, at about 3 o'clock, some lady named Gay Shluffen was supposed to come by to visit. But I never met her, because they always sent me upstairs for a nap. (That one's self explanatory!)

And now to the dental. (Lots of dental). An old Jewish man went to his dentist for new upper and lower full dentures. They were made, and the dentist thought they fit perfectly. But the old man came back time after time, saying they don't fit. After the 10th time, the dentist (he or she), - (I'm politically correct) said - the dentures fit perfectly in his mouth, and they couldn't fit better. The old man said "Not in my mouth. They don't fit in the glass!" Oye. And I was checking on a student, and patient for quite a while, when I finally said to her "What made you want to become an expert in the Oral and MaxilloFacial complex?" Without a pause, she said "Well, I took this career test in grade 10, and they said I'd be a good - Parking Lot Attendant, or a Dentist." Now that's fast. But not all students bring English as their first language to the Faculty. So on a prescription after a wax try in, the student wrote "Please acrylicize the wax denture." Pretty, pretty good. And, would you say "Money is the 'root' of all evil to an endodontist?" Get it? You better! Now the best line from a student last year, was when she came up to me with an impression of a post core crown, to get my opinion. As usual, I said "You make a really good first impression." Wait. That's not it. She said "Ya. I'm really good at this dentistry shit." And yesterday. Really. A student was doing a final impression for an implant crown, and unlike in regular practice where they send you the one component you need; at school they send you about 7. So I asked the student to get Dr. H. I said he was 103 years older than me, and probably could help. The student said "But Dr. Brown. I was really depending on you." I said "So was my wife the day we got married, and look how that turned out."

New paragraph. For no reason at all. Still dental. There's 40 ops at the 777 clinic. A1-A10. Same for B,C, and D. They're all labeled, and under it, it's labeled in brail. I guess that's for the blind dental students. And that, my friends, is one of the many things wrong with the world today! So... Yesterday, I came home, and I said to Paula - "Dr. Brown is the coolest instructor at the school." She said "A student told you that?" I said "No. I just made that up." And when a student is doing a crown prep, I always ask before they start - "Have you ever done this on a breather?" I'm not explaining that. Also, when a student is standing while treating, are they looking 'Down in the mouth?' Daaaaa-aaaad! And unlike dentistry, medicine is a dying profession. I get it, but do you? O.K. A student just told me what they were treating was 'In the posterior.' I said "That's what a proctologist always says." This one is ridiculous but true. I worked with a student this morning, who said after she was finished with treating her patient, - "Dr. Brown, - Thank you for your service."

What the heck. Again. A patient once told me I got them in trouble. I asked how. He said he ate breakfast at the same restaurant every morning for a month. But after seeing me, he crossed the street to eat breakfast at another restaurant. The previous owner saw him, and confronted him. He asked why in the world he'd switch. The patient told the previous owner that his dentist, (me), told him to eat on the other side. Finally, dentally speaking. 'Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction Syndrome' is the only disease that can be precipitated by saying the full disease name really fast 5 times in a row.....(Not really.)

Now. More things wrong with the world. I hope you agree. Political correctness first. In San Francisco, you are no longer a 'criminal'. You are a person involved in the justice system. That's true! And that's an oye to start with. Now DEI. Yesterday, in a mall, I saw a security guard with a walker. It was his. He was using it! And I've said

this before. But it's important. - When gas is 172.9, it's not 172. It's 173!

Last week. (Not really). I took my grand daughter to 'Take your grandkids to work day'. It's new. When we got there, she started crying. I said "Why are you crying?" She said "Where are all the clowns you said you worked with?" Also, on another note. I love to jump to conclusions. But only when I know I'm right.....Which is all the time. And you don't know this but, no joke. I was the 2nd tallest centre in North York High School basketball, in 1972. Only 6'4". But my coach benched me after the first half. And I was only 20 points away from scoring 20 points. Now you may not believe this either, but I have an invisible friend who wasn't feeling well. So I took him to Emerg. They said they could help him. So they sent him to the 'I See You.' And did you know when it comes to the Toronto Maple Leafs, - 'Leafs', stands for - 'Losers Every Annual Foreseeable Season'. We're gettin' there folks. You know you're getting old, when you wish you could have a mid life crisis, but it's too late. And I have a question for you. If a girl is looking as far as she can see, - What are horizon? Go back and say it fast.

This joke is not Hallal, or even Kosher. So maybe don't read it. I was driving in my convertible around a curvy road, when a lady in her convertible, came around the corner, and I almost hit her. She yelled "Pig!!!!" I yelled back "Get a life." You know what happened? I went around the corner, and I hit the pig. Another question. You're driving, and you come around another corner, and you see an old man, and a kid, and a wheelbarrow. What do you hit? I'll give you a minute..... The brakes, you dumb, dumb. And the best thing going back to Political correctness is, with 'They/Them'. You can always drive in the HOV lane alone. (Where you need 2 people.) Oh. Come on. Get a life.

Back to the Leafs. At least they didn't lose in the first round of the playoffs this year. And this goes back at least 25 years. But I

was driving past my old childhood house. So I thought I'd knock, and see if the owners would let me in, to look around, and see how things had changed. Would you believe it.....My parents wouldn't let me in! And I know I'm getting old, cuz today I couldn't remember how to put on my seatbelt.....But then it clicked! And speaking of sweaters. I recently returned a sweater because it kept picking up static electricity. So they gave me another one, - 'Free of Charge.' Old again. I think I'm at the age, if I donated my body to science, I think they'd donate it to Goodwill.

You may have to get some help with this one. My next door neighbour just got arrested for growing weed in his backyard. I think I misjudged the property line. Next. My wife sent me to her Physiotherapist, for my bad back. (I'm sure you can relate). The Physio taught me a bunch of exercises. When I went back, she asked me if I was doing the exercises twice a day, like she had taught me. I told her I was doing them religiously.....Every Sunday. And what if someone's last name was 'Alias'. Just wondering. And I think my big fat friend misheard his Physician. When he told him to stay hydrated, I think my friend heard 'Carbohydrated.' And for what it's worth, I cut my own grass. But I waited until the end of May. And it's true what Sheryl Crow said. "The first cut IS the deepest." That's terrible.

And lastly. I hear the cheers already. Never, ever, assume. Always presume. Assuming is 'without knowledge', while presuming is 'with knowledge'. See what you learn, if you stick around until the end. You know this one. - But compliment people whenever you can. And remember this. Everyone has a Guardian Angel.Until they don't. So like 'Hill Street Blues'. - "Be careful out there". And I'll leave you with 2 very important bits of advice. The first is my favourite riddle. 'How many psychiatrists does it take to change a lightbulb?Just one. But the lightbulb really has to want to change! Good? GOOD!!!

And LASTLY! Did you scream it, like you were supposed to. Like I asked at the beginning? I doubt it. But, - "If you want to change the music, - Don't talk to the monkey. Talk to the Organ Grinder" Tadah!!!!!!!

Most of these were mine.

PLEASE JOIN THE GLOBAL AO GROUP

When you join, please identify yourself to the group and indicate that you are from the Toronto Chapter. Join the group and communicate with AO members worldwide!



Global Alpha Omega group
WhatsApp group



WALK WITH ISRAEL

We had a wonderful Alpha Omega Toronto group at the Walk with Israel this year. We all wore our awesome new AO Toronto hats that we will enjoy for years to come! It was incredible to come together and join the 60,000 members from our community who did the walk this year. Thank you to Sharon Perlmutter, AO International President, and Charles Weingarten for all of your help! Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Andrea and Guy Aboodi



AO Toronto Chapter Member Milestones

10
YEARS

Shael Markin, Naamah Jacobs Weltman, Ashley Katchky, Stefani Shnier, Jordan Seetner, Rachel Tobis, Yona Vandersluis-Solomon

20
YEARS

Allen Aptekar, Andrea Heckler Aboodi, Efram Kazman, Jordan Klimitz, Brian Laski, Stacey Stein, Sara Werb, Evan Zaretsky

30
YEARS

Shy Raubvogel, Joel Edelson, Michael Sherman, Barry Rubinoff, Mindy Gelfand, David Koven, Mitchell Rose, Herbert Veisman

40
YEARS

Michael Sherman

50
YEARS

Jeffrey Erlich, Paul Jesin, Barry Schwartz, Stephen Wasserman, Alan Bobkin, Brian Chapnick, Steven Corber, Lawrence Manila, Gordon Organ, Gerald Pearson

65+
YEARS

Harry Wineberg, Albert Reinstein, Joseph Fortinsky, Irwin Fuss, Franklin Pulver, Arthur Tarshis, Calvin Torneck, Melvin Charendoff, Moe Cooper, Marvin Mecklinger, Irving Petroff, Nathan Greenberg, David Miller, William Prusin, Wallace Rice, Murray Wagman, Gary Gutmann, Sheldon Weingarten

Congratulations to the members who are marking milestones in their membership this year! These milestones represent your membership years only in the Toronto Alumni Chapter. We recognize that many members were part of other chapters previously and also may have had years that they were not active members. This does not correlate with your graduation year. If your name is missing, please let us know right away so we can correct it in our next issue! We are so grateful to all of our members for their incredible lifelong commitments to Alpha Omega Toronto Chapter.

TRIBUTE

General

Tribute Fund

PLATINUM CARDS

Condolences

Dr. Tracey Hendler on the loss of her mother Judy

Dr. Riley Lewis & Samara Kraus

GOLD CARDS

Condolences

Drs. Tracey Hendler & Jonathan Madras on the loss of her mother and his mother-in-law Judy

Dr. Brian & Amy Laski

Drs. Tracey Hendler & Jonathan Madras on the loss of her mother and his mother-in-law Judy

Dr. Sharon Sussman & Avi Wurman

Ramzan Khadim on the loss of Hafiza

Dr. Earl & Judy Magder

Dr. Jim Posluns on the loss of his mother Marjorie

Dr. Brian Chapnick

Dr. Jim Posluns on the loss of his mother Marjorie

Dr. Lani Kraus

Dr. Sigal Schwartz on the loss of her mother Shifra

Dr. Gary & Jan Elman and Dr. Ira & Shirley Marder

Dr. Tracey Hendler on the loss of her mother Judy

Dr. Andrew Kay

SILVER CARDS

Condolences

Drs. Jonathan Madras & Tracey Hendler on the loss of her mother and his mother-in-law Judy

Dr. Karen Scherer

Dr. Jim Posluns on the loss of his mother Marjorie

Dr. Stanley & Ellen Markin

TRIBUTE CARDS

Condolences

Dr. Elliot Goldenberg on the loss of his brother Nat

Dr. Miriam Rosenberg & Craig Streisfield

Drs. Tracey Hendler & Jonathan Madras on the loss of her mother and his mother-in-law Judy

Dr. Miriam Rosenberg & Craig Streisfield

Dr. Jim Posluns on the loss of his mother Marjorie

Dr. David Morrow

Dr. Sigal Schwartz on the loss of her mother Shifra

Dr. Bonnie Chandler

Dr. Tracey Hendler and Family on the loss of her mother Judy

Dr. Bonnie Chandler

Kathy Feldman and Family on the loss of her husband Frater Dr. Brian N. Feldman

Dr. Bonnie Chandler

Emergency Aid

To Israel

PLATINUM CARDS

Congratulations

Dr. Andrew Moncarz in appreciation of his kind care

Dr. Arthur & Sherri Kamin

Maura Cooperberg in celebration of Mother's Day

Dr. Harvey Cooperberg

TRIBUTE CARDS

Condolences

Belinda Bongard on the loss of her father Richard

Dr. Stanley & Ellen Markin

Elizabeth & Many Crotin on the loss of Jeffrey

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Dr. Elliot Goldenberg on the loss of his brother Nat

Dr. Harvey & Maura Cooperberg

Raymond Moscoe on the loss of his brother Howard

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Zan & Sylvia Stern on the loss of their brother-in-law Herbert Blaff

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Kenny Wise on the loss of his brother Jeffrey

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

The Family of the late Frater Dr. Brian N. Feldman

Dr. Brian Chapnick

JF & CS

Dental Fund

SILVER CARDS

Congratulations

Dr. Lauren Fichman

Drs. Allan & Cindy Katchky in celebration of your graduation from the Faculty of Dentistry

CONDOLENCES TO:

Dr. James Posluns on the loss of his mother Marjorie

Dr. Sigal Schwartz on the loss of her mother Shifra

Dr. Tracey Hendler on the loss of her mother Judy

Dr. Jonathan Madras on the loss of his mother-in-law Judy

Kathy Feldman and the family of the late Frater Dr. Brian N. Feldman

TRIBUTE

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2. Silver Cards \$25.00 each
3. Gold Cards \$36.00 each
4. Platinum Cards \$50.00+ each
5. Bulk Tribute Cards (10 cards) \$150.00 each

FOR TRIBUTE CARDS:

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For assistance, contact Harvey Cooperberg at (416) 223-4616, or by email at tribute@aofoundation.ca

6. Toronto Alpha Omega Forest \$18.00 per tree.

A donation of Trees in the Toronto Alpha Omega Forest in Canada Park, Israel, may be ordered directly from J.N.F. When ordering please indicate the purchase through Alpha Omega Fraternity.

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ALPHA OMEGA OFFICES (416) 250-7417

or email info@aotoronto.org

or fax 416-250-8668

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Anyone needing help or information with tribute cards, please contact:

Harvey Cooperberg at tribute@aofoundation.ca, or call Harvey at (416) 223-4616. As well, 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
- Beit Issie Shapiro (Services to Disabled Children)
- Dentistry for All (Clinic in Guatemala)
- Princess Margaret Hospital Dental Clinic
- Emergency Aid to Israel
- Yad LaKashish (Services to the Elderly)
- CAMH Dental Clinic
- ALEH C.A.R.E.S. Dental Clinic
- AO Dental Centre at Baycrest

Support Dental Research in Israel and Canada

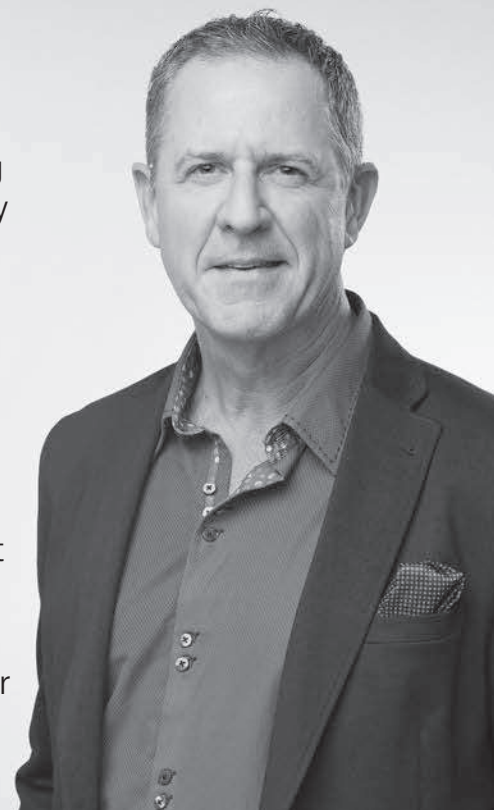


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ALPHA OMEGA TORONTO CHAPTER

family
**Shabbat
Dinner**

Please join us with your family for our Alpha Omega Family Shabbat dinner on Friday, October 23, 2026

Friday
October
23rd

5:45 PM: CANDLE LIGHTING

6:00 PM: DINNER

Kosher chicken dinner will be served. please email the office if you have any dietary restrictions.

Ledbury
Jewish Centre
157 Falkirk
Street

*More details to follow!
Registration will be sent out via email.*

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