



AORTA

ALPHA OMEGA REVIEW OF TORONTO ALUMNI CHAPTER, PI CHAPTER | MAY 2024 VOL. 65. NO.5
WEB SITE: WWW.AOTORONTO.ORG

2024 ALPHA OMEGA

ALPHA OMEGA TORONTO CHAPTER PRESENTS:

2024 FAMILY PICNIC AT THE METRO ZOO

SUNDAY JUNE 2ND, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



AO TORONTO ALUMNI & AO HOUSE ASSOCIATION'S
2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, May 21ST, 2024



AI AND MORE • HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TOUR • WINTER SOCIAL • SLICE OF PI

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LANI'S LETTERS



Israel on organized mission trips with DARA, Beth Tzedek congregation and several other organizations. While those who have visited the sites and witnessed the evidence of the atrocities committed by Hamas describe an emotional and deeply painful experience, they also returned home feeling inspired by the resiliency of the Israeli people. The spirit of Israel has not been broken by a horrific massacre of innocent lives. It has not been broken by 6 months of war resulting in the loss of loved ones, and it has not been broken by worldwide anti-Zionist rhetoric and Jewish hate. Am Yisrael is united, indestructible and resolute in its determination to achieve victory over Hamas for the security of the Holy Land and the entire world.

As Jews we are deeply committed to tikkun olam- repairing the world. This concept is such a cornerstone of our Jewish identity that is expressed daily in the prayer which concludes our morning, afternoon and evening services, Aleinu. The Aleinu is a prayer about our hope for the world to be united and at peace, for evil to be driven out, and for all of humanity to be united in a common vision of God. While the concept of tikkun olam had historically been understood as a Godly power, the Zionist movement gave it human agency. The establishment of a Jewish state was viewed as a holy endeavor to repair what had been broken 2,000 years earlier when Jewish sovereignty in Palestine ended. The existence of Israel preserves Jewish identity and heritage and secures our right as a people to self-determination.

Thus, the entire Jewish nation is at war to repair the world. We are fighting to support the Israeli people, for the release of our hostages, and to put an end to antisemitism. We are stronger united as a people and our collective determination is what will enable us to demonstrate the same perseverance as our ancestors throughout history.

Representing Alpha Omega Toronto during this dark period in our history has been emotionally challenging yet more spiritually rewarding than I ever could have imagined. It has been a true honour and privilege to serve

Dear AO family,

By the time you read this letter, the High Holiday of Passover will have come and gone, and we will be in the final stretch of my Presidential year. While the calendar months have flown by, I am sure all of you can relate to the feeling time has stood still since 10/7.

Protests and rallies on the streets of Toronto celebrating the massacre, rape, and torture of Israeli civilians and accusing Israel of committing Genocide in Gaza persist. One hundred and thirty-three hostages remain in captivity for over half a year and Hamas proudly rejects every negotiation deal for their release. The silence of our colleagues, friends and neighbours is deafening. Each morning, I wake up and listen to the Times for Israel daily podcast in the hopes of some good news, but tensions continue to rise on all borders and the War against radical terrorism that Israel is fighting for the world is sadly far from over.

Antisemitism has risen exponentially across the globe, and it is palpable. In Toronto, 56% of the hate crimes committed in 2024 have targeted members of the Jewish community, which comprises less than 1% of the population. News outlets, influencers, educators and social justice warriors continue to fabricate or distort the facts, inciting hate and violence.

Many of our members have recently visited

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AORTA



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Next Executive Meeting

Thursday, June 20, 2024
with the installation BBQ

Next AORTA Deadline (August)

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

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@atoronto.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



I find myself very thankful that my kids have graduated and are no longer subject to the rhetoric being heard on college campuses these days. However, my grandchildren each attend a Jewish school/daycare which brings with it a whole other level of concern. I hope you all are able to keep your families safe and avoid the worst of the anti-semitic vitriol being thrown at us on campuses and elsewhere! One of the best ways to counter the feelings this can cause is to maintain our relationships with each other and with other Jewish and like-minded people. This is where Alpha Omega definitely can play a role. Even as we enter the quietest period in the programming year, there are still some events available for us to all connect at.

In this issue, you will find reports on some past events including the AO Revival Flower Arranging Workshop, the Sunday Morning Breakfast visit to the Holocaust Museum, and the Winter Social Pickleball Tournament.

Upcoming events that you can find information for include the Annual Business Meeting and the Picnic. We also have a report from Pi Chapter about the recent Grad Formal and we honour the graduates of Pi Chapter in our Slice of Pi section.

Other content in this issue includes articles about two recently deceased members of AO Toronto, Barry Chapnick and Allen Heber, a letter to the editor from Stan Markin, a report from the awards committee, a humour article this time about Steven Brown, and our usual ...1000 Words from Barry Korzen and an article on Artificial Intelligence from Stan Kogon. I hope you all enjoy this edition of the AORTA and, as always, AM YISRAEL CHAI!!

Barry Reinblatt



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

LANI'S LETTERS *(Continued)*

as the President of a Jewish philanthropic organization that was established in response to the same antisemitic activity that sadly continues to permeate our lives. While my Jewish identity has always been strong, my leadership role in AO over the past year has reaffirmed my dedication to carrying on the traditions of our people with passion and pride.

It has been a busy year for Alpha Omega Toronto, and I would like to highlight the incredibly successful programs that have run thus far in 2024. The Advocacy Committee presented an incredibly informative webinar with renowned lawyer Howard Levitt. Our Winter Seminar and Charitable Draw raised just under \$10,000 from raffle ticket sales and our evening CE seminars and CPR certification had an outstanding turnout of members. Our AO Revival events included a challah bake, a floral arranging workshop and an active morning playing pickleball which engaged many new faces. The Sunday Morning Social at the new Toronto Holocaust Museum saw 70 members in attendance and made me so proud to be part of this wonderful AO family!

I hope to see many of you in attendance at our AO Revival Speaker Series event on May 1 where we will hear a local physician's personal and harrowing experience necessitating an organ transplant. Our Annual Business Meeting is taking place on Tuesday, May 21 at Bistro Grande and all members are welcome. The annual Spring Picnic will be held at the Toronto Zoo once again on Sunday, June 2 and the newest member of our Line of Officers will be officially installed on Thursday, June 20 at the Installation BBQ! Stay tuned for the next Advocacy Committee flyer which will introduce a local MP with an incredibly powerful voice for our community. Finally, don't forget to take the day off and join members out on the water for AO Sailing Day on Wednesday, July 10, the last program of our year together!

What a remarkable year it has been! Words cannot express my gratitude for the unwavering support and guidance of my Line Officers - Tammy Herzog, Andrea Heckler-Aboodi, Jim Posluns and Jordan Klinitz. They have been the most dedicated and committed team that has carried me through my role as

President and I feel so fortunate to be able to call each of them lifelong friends. Steven Millman has been a wonderful advisor, and we are so thankful to him for his wealth of knowledge and experience. The Executive Members, Committee Chairs and committee members of AO Toronto are the branches of the Line Officer tree that keep the spirit of this organization alive. I cannot extend enough thanks to every one of these members for prioritizing Alpha Omega in their lives by attending meetings and programs and always being willing to assist the Line. The colourful creativity in our e-blasts and flyers this year must be credited to our skillful new executive secretary, Velarie Mabounsou. Velarie's dedication to her integral role with Alpha Omega is evident in every exchange. Her many talents and positive energy are invaluable assets to our society, and we are so fortunate to have her on our team.

I am immensely grateful to all our members for continuing to support Alpha Omega and believing in our mission to be recognized as the leading global dental society that promotes professionalism, inclusion, unity and Judaic values. Every single member contributes to our success as a dynamic and philanthropic organization of dental professionals. Together we are not only making a meaningful difference in our local communities by improving access to oral health care, but we are also raising our voices in unison against antisemitism to reaffirm our commitment to peace and a better tomorrow for all. I hope that under my leadership this year we have continued to fuel your passions for dentistry, Judaic values and the amazing network that is our Alpha Omega family.

With sincere gratitude and love,

Lani

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
Bistro Grande
1000 Eglinton Avenue West

SPRING PICNIC

Sunday, June 2, 2024
Toronto Zoo

SAILING DAY

Wednesday, July 10, 2024
Details TBA

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.

ALPHA OMEGA AWARDS UPDATE

At our most recent directors meeting (formerly executive), The AO Awards Committee brought a proposal forward to add a new award to those we already give. The motion was endorsed by the line officers and readily accepted by the board. Going forward, along with the other awards that we currently bestow upon deserving AO members, we will also have

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AWARD.

This award may be presented to a frater who has displayed exemplary service, dedication and activism in, and for, The Jewish Community of Toronto or worldwide, with a preference to those who are helping combat anti-semitism and/or anti-Israel sentiment. The award need not be presented in any given year.

The feeling of the committee was this award probably should have been part of our roster of awards many years ago but clearly hasn't been. Given the current environment, we felt it was time to recognize those fraters who are going above and beyond and "fighting the good fight". Although we do have The Sheila Rodney AO Humanitarian Award which may overlap with this in some ways, the committee wanted to recognize those who, as the description denotes - *displayed exemplary service, dedication and activism in, and for, The Jewish Community of Toronto or worldwide*

This award is now available for presentation. If you have a frater in mind who you think might be deserving of this award or any of our other awards, please reach out to us.

With much thanks.

Gary Elman and Ira Marder – co-chairs AO Awards Committee

WINTER SOCIAL

The Winter Social event held at the Jar Pickleball Club on Sunday, March 24th was a roaring success! Twenty one AO members of various skill levels and experience came together to learn and enjoy the trendy sport of Pickleball.

The event featured four private courts and

two coaches, ensuring that everyone received personalized attention. All levels and groups were mixed together for tournament-style play, fostering a sense of inclusivity and friendly competition. The two-hour event was filled with laughter, camaraderie, enthusiastic play and nutritious snacks . It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to bond over

a shared passion and have a great time together while being active!

Lani Kraus

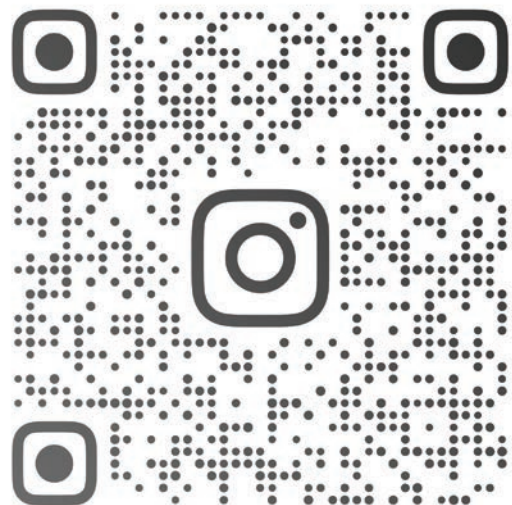


...1000 WORDS

Located in the arctic circle, lapland in northern finland has become a mecca for tourists, especially israelis looking for a winter wonderland. But climbing a frozen waterfall is something best left to the more adventurous.



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ALPHAOMEGATORONTO



AO TORONTO ALUMNI &
AO HOUSE ASSOCIATION'S

2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING




MAY 21, 2024
TUESDAY

**BISTRO
GRANDE**



1000 Eglinton Ave West

6:30 PM:
REGISTRATION & HOR D'OEUVRES
7:00 PM:
START OF MEETING & DINNER



Please join us for our Annual Business Meeting.
RSVP BY SUNDAY MAY 5, 2024

INFO@AOTORONTO.ORG



ALLEN HEBER



Dr. Allen Heber

In 1970, the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry created a class of 129 students of various backgrounds and demographics. This became the Class of '74

In those days, intolerance and racism were not rampant, as they are today. There were males, females, older students and younger students, whites, blacks, Asians and people of a wide range of religious backgrounds.

Religious backgrounds are part of the invisible minority and I am sure that most students did not know of the religious backgrounds of their classmates and moreover, they never cared or overtly showed it.

Allen Heber, born October 26, 1948, was the product of holocaust survivors and a very Orthodox Jew. Yet, to his classmates, he was another student. The class of 1974 had students with diverse backgrounds in education, as well as their personal lives. There were those with Bachelor of Arts Degrees, Bachelor of Science Degrees, pharmacists and who knows what else?

Allen Heber had a background of a Bachelor Degree in Biblical Studies.

To his classmates, he was another student wanting to become a dentist. There was no competition between students, the only competitiveness was within yourself, to learn and do better each day. The Faculty of Dentistry recognized this in the two years

that they adopted the Pass/Fail system, as opposed to the grade system

While Allen and I had planned to open a practice together upon graduation, the twelve thousand dollar investment in 1974 was too much for Allen; instead, he joined the practice of Dr. Tommy Kohn at the Jane-Finch Mall. He ultimately became the sole owner of the practice, where he worked until his untimely and unexpected passing on December 6th, 2023.

During the five decades, he also put in some time at his practice At Bathurst and Steeles and for a short time at the Peanut Plaza in Toronto, reflecting his relationship with Dr. Lou Fields

In both his practice and in his personal life, Allen emulated the way he was as a student. He never complained, grumbled and in my eyes, was outwardly always happy with a smile on his face. He was the eternal optimist.

During his student years and for the past forty-nine years of practice, he continued his biblical learning more than once a week, studying the nuances of the Old Testament with other likeminded individuals.

During his working years, he followed the precepts of Judaism and gave a large part of his earnings to charity, specifically the poor.

His family grew from his loving wife Annie, the twin daughter of a Toronto Rabbi, and together, they produced many wonderful children, most of which I had the privilege of knowing.

They included his oldest child and only daughter, Dahlia Stern, nee Heber, and four sons; Ari Heber, Rabbi Tzvi Heber, Rabbi Yehoshua (Josh) Heber and Avi Heber.

Aside from their formal education, the children were also home-taught the principles of their religion and heritage.

While dentistry has lost a valuable contributing and respected member of almost fifty years, his family and his community, which includes members of the Agudah Synagogue, and I,

personally have lost a wonderful classmate, a respected colleague a beloved friend and ex-partner. His loss has created a vacuum in my heart, as well as in the hearts of the people who knew him, loved him and respected him

As our remaining class members will meet on April 18, 2024 to celebrate our 50th class reunion, we will certainly acknowledge his departure from our lives, as well as other classmates who have not survived until this time.

Allen passed away unexpectedly on December 6th, 2023 and was interred on December 7th of 2023.

Condolences can be directed to the family via Mrs. Annie Heber at 416 562 2293.

His patients, friends and family mourn him, and everyone with whom he has come into contact know that the Almighty has welcomed him with open arms.

Dr. Hal Kershen

BARRY CHAPNICK



Barry Chapnick
P.I.P Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity

Alpha Omega and our community lost a dear friend, colleague and mensch when Barry passed away August 23, 2023.

My friendship with Barry goes back to the 1960's when we both attended Camp Tamarack. Barry was waterfront director. Barry and I quickly connected and became lifelong friends.

Barry attended Bathurst Heights Collegiate, and then University of Toronto Dental school and on to Boston where he did his Endodontic training at Boston University. Our lives closely mirrored each other both at dental school in Toronto and graduate school in Boston. Barry and I attended many Alpha Omega Conventions both in Dental School and after graduation.

While in Boston Barry met Jane (Kahn) and married in Toronto 1974. Jane quickly became the first lady of Alpha Omega. The Pulver's and Chapnick's traveled to cities all over North America and Israel attending AO and Endodontic Conventions. Soon we had kids and they joined us on our annual trips and they all became good friends. No matter the city Barry always had suggestions as where to eat. Food after all was a big part of Barry's love for life. As a matter of fact, before Google, there was Barry giving dining advice in cities worldwide. Barry's love for Alpha Omega and lifelong commitment culminated in him becoming the A.O International President in 2000. Barry and Jane travelled the world spreading fraternalism. Ironically, the year of Barry's AO Presidency, Barry could not attend Toronto fraternity night because of his

mother's passing. I had the privilege to give the AO president's address on Barry's behalf.

Barry's was a big sports fan. He was an original Blue jays ticket holder He also had ticket to the Leafs, Raptors and even the Argo's.

I had the pleasure of attending the World Series in Philadelphia with Barry in 1993. What a thrill for both of us.

Barry was also President of the Canadian Academy of Endodontics, George Hare Endodontic Study Club, Ontario Society of Endodontists and American College of Dentists Ontario section. He was also President of the Toronto Academy of Dentistry. Barry received many awards and accolades during his career and he had a great love for organized Dentistry and Endodontics.

The Pulvers attended many Chapnick family life cycle events including family seders. These were often attended by his late father Fred and loving late mother Celia, brother and AO member Paul Chapnick and wife Joyce.

Barry loved being around his kids. His son

Cary is married to Alana with granddaughters Ella and Ava, and son Stephen married to Dana and grandson Sonny.

Barry had a hearty laugh and an infectious smile. Barry was a good friend and his passing left a big void in my life, the life of his family and his many friends.

Barry is gone but he will not be forgotten. May his life serve as positive out look and role model for other Alpha Omegans.

Wayne Pulver



AI AND MORE



I was attending my cousin's birthday reception, and while sipping a cup of coffee and munching on delicious rugelach, I had a conversation with a charming, young (everyone seems young to me) lawyer, who I had not seen for awhile. I knew her long before she entered law school, and this was a chance to catch up. After passing her bar exams, she had a somewhat difficult few years, but now she was doing what she called her dream job. She neither writes briefs for criminal or defence litigants, drafts contracts, develops wills, manages family law issues, nor supervises real estate work. She was pleased to tell me that she was the manager of IT development for a very large law practice. Her job requires her to research innovative programs and applications, evaluate whether they would enhance the operation of the organization and if any are adopted, she is responsible for their implementation. Although she no longer practices law, her background is essential for her job since a typical IT support person would not have the legal background to effectively do the work. Although she loves the research and program evaluation, she commented that by far the most difficult part of the job was implementation. She asked if I had any experience initiating new processes and getting everyone on board.

From time to time, as a Chair of a Department and later, Director of a Dental School, I had to introduce a new procedure or technology. There seemed to be three user uptake categories for technology-driven innovation. Young faculty members were either aware of the application, were already using it, or

were eager to dive in and adopt the program. However, many of the older faculty were not only reluctant but some were downright adamant that whatever the application, it was not better than the process they were currently using. Much of the implementation time was spent cajoling, mentoring, handholding, and retraining these faculty. The remainder of the time was spent on the largest group, those who were somewhat unsure, but curious enough to explore how the program could assist them in their work. "What about the refuseniks?," she asked. "How did you get them onboard?"

I remember when the entire University, which of course included the Faculty of Dentistry, planned to dispense with 35mm slides and Kodak Carousel projectors and convert to digital data projection of slides and videos. The refuseniks had no desire to learn how to use programs such as PowerPoint and interfacing with a lecture room AV computer console was too daunting. A few years went by with the IT staff installing data projectors, making network connections, ensuring security and privacy, all the while, struggling to maintain old slide projectors and remote slide-changing devices. Faculty budgets continued to be degraded by the money spent on cameras, film, film processing and graphic arts. After two years, we were instructed to stop paying for photographers, graphic artists, 35mm colour film and film processing and IT was directed to remove all slide projectors from lecture rooms across the entire campus. Although a few older faculty were unable or refused to change and decided to retire, most signed up for PowerPoint classes. "That's tough love," she replied. "How did you communicate the plan to your faculty?" For the most part we could call a faculty meeting and bring in the IT folks to speak directly to the entire faculty, so no one was singled out. "I wish that were possible. Our offices and partners are spread out across the province and many work from home. In fact, I rarely go to the office. I communicate by email, Teams or Zoom meetings. My messages have to be precise and unambiguous, so I use an Artificial Intelligence (AI) program to draft correspondence." When I heard the last remark, I instantly tripped over the generation gap.

Before I convey how AI assisted her, a definition is in order.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI), *the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The term is frequently applied to the project of developing systems endowed with the intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experience. Encyclopaedia Britannica, Sept. 2023*

When my young friend needs to compose a new document, she selects a string of key words which she determines are central to the context. She also chooses the length of the document by the number of words or paragraphs and she may also select the style, e.g., suitable for a program non-user. She clicks 'start' and within a few seconds, the document appears on her screen. She reviews it and may make edits or context modifications, for instance, - provide more detail on the program's editing function and show how it may be used in real estate transactions. Another click, and the new draft appears. She reviews the document to ensure that it satisfies her needs, signs it electronically, and off it goes to her email contact list for transmission.

"Is it a better document than what you could compose from scratch?" I asked. "Hard to say, however, I saved myself 30-40 minutes of time. I can use the time saved to do more productive work." The word 'but' immediately came to mind. But you did not really write the document, you did not apply your training, or composition skills, add context nuances, or in-depth knowledge of your intended audience to create the document. My young friend looked at me quizzically. It is the endpoint that counts. Often the AI program finds references and examples that I had overlooked or would have taken hours of searching. I can ask the program to provide citations and references with a click of a button. The final document is often better than the one I could produce in the allotted time, considering all the projects I have on my plate. Innovative technology should be engaged and given a fair trial. Isn't that just how your university acted when it

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

did away with slide projectors?”

It is true that the elimination of 35mm slides was a sea change in how teachers prepared lectures, communicated research, and delivered continuing education material. At first, the digital slides were not necessarily better. The traditional graphic preparation, photography, film processing and slide assembly often produced excellent visual material - but with a little training and the added sophistication of PowerPoint subroutines, digital slides quickly became the standard. In time, new versions of the digital process evolved to provide a wide range of artistic and design choices that were completely beyond what was possible using the traditional model. For the University, after the initial capital cost of the data projection equipment, it was cheaper, and for the faculties, it was faster and safer. I would never have asked a member of my faculty to return to the old system. Just as I should not have questioned my lawyer friend about adopting her AI program for document preparation.

Stan Kogon

A letter of gratitude to all

To the editor:

On April 2, 2024, all members of the RCDSO received an invitation to attend its second virtual Town Hall of 2024: RCDSO Connect. It was scheduled for April 24th, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Upon recognizing April 24 as the second day of Passover, and that the timing of the event was still during the Holy Day, I contacted AO Toronto President Lani Kraus. She took this matter to heart and immediately informed the College of the conflict of the schedule.

The College graciously considered our concern and rescheduled the event to May 9th.

I write this letter in gratitude to Dr. Kraus for taking on this sensitive issue and congratulate her on the successful

outcome. I would also like to share my appreciation to the Registrar, Mr. Daniel Faulkner and the RCDSO for considering this matter so promptly.

From personal experience I am aware of the difficulty in coordinating meeting dates to satisfy all possible attendees. I am also keenly aware that there are other dental organizations that are reluctant to change their meeting dates once they are aware of the conflict with Jewish Holy Days.

The positive outcome here is a true sign of mutual respect.

I hope that Alpha Omega continues to be the voice of Jewish dentists for many years.

Respectfully -- Stan Markin

AO REVIVAL FLORAL DESIGN EVENT

On Thursday April 4th, 2024 AO Revival ran an event for the first time with Petals in the City. It was a floral design workshop hosted by Irene Danics who is the owner of Petals in the City. The event sold out with 18 participants. We ordered dinner in from Alo to Go and had wine flowing while we all learned how to make stunning floral arrangements. Irene presented us with a beautifully abundant supply of flowers ranging from roses, hydrangeas, tulips, mums, orchids and lisianthus. She provided us with fabulous vases that we filled and arranged with the vast selection of options. She taught us about the different ways to layer our arrangements as well as the different options for bases to place in the containers so that the flowers would stay in place. She showed us how to properly cut the stems and care for the arrangements properly so they would last as long as possible. It was such a fun, interesting, informative hands-on workshop and we all left with absolutely stunning arrangements to take home for our Shabbat tables the next day. Due to the fabulous feedback that we have received we will be doing this event again next year. If this is something that interests you please consider signing up next year as soon as the flyer is sent to secure your spot and avoid disappointment. This event is only open to AO members and their immediate family members. Hope you see you next year!

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Laurel Linetsky-Fleisher, Chair of the AO Revival Committee



HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TOUR

The AO Sunday Morning event, held as a group tour of the Toronto Holocaust Museum on Sunday, April 14th, was a deeply moving and impactful experience. A remarkable 70 of our members attended, filling the museum with a sense of unity and respect. The event commenced with a seminar led by child Holocaust survivor Andy Reti, who shared his mother Ibolya Reti's incredible story of perseverance while recounting his childhood memories of the terrible suffering and indescribable hunger in the Budapest ghetto during the War. Andy attributes his survival to the courage, resilience and sacrifice of his mother and grandmother. He believes that "every Holocaust survivor's story is a love story; the love of life, family and freedom." Andy's presentation was a profoundly moving testament to the human spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity.

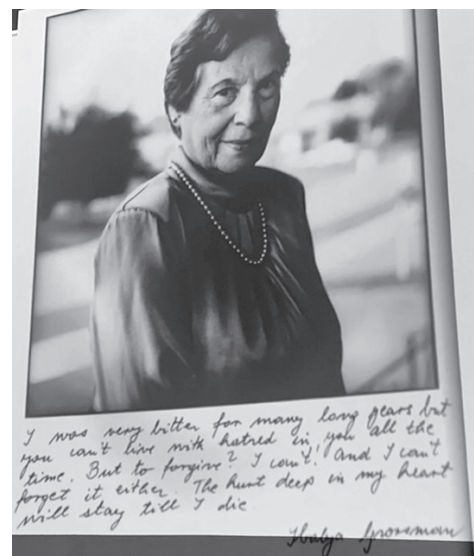
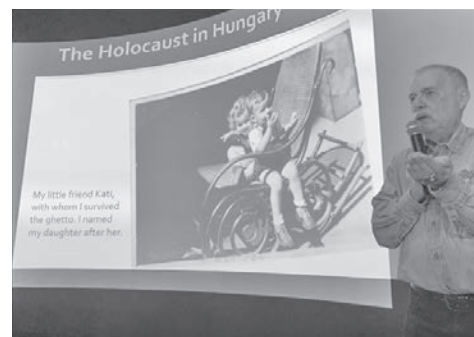
Andy has been involved in Holocaust education since 1998. In 2001, he wrote *The Son of an Extraordinary Woman* — a sequel to his mother's book, *An Ordinary Woman in Extraordinary Times*, which was written in 1990. In 2016, the two books were combined and re-released as *Stronger Together*. Andy

generously gifted us a copy of his book which will be made available to our members through Velarie at the AO office.

The tour continued with the viewing of a Virtual Reality film in which Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter takes the viewer on a walk through Majdanek death camp, where both his parents and his twin sister, Sabina, were murdered. My VR set overflowed with tears as the film evoked difficult emotions that I had not felt since walking through the same fields on the March of the Living in 2016. The technology was eerily realistic and I am so moved by the experience.

After the VR film, everyone had the opportunity to explore the museum's several exhibition rooms on their own time. It goes without saying that this event was most meaningful to all and served as a powerful reminder that good always triumphs over evil.

Written by: Lani Kraus



Holocaust Survivor Andy Reti addresses Toronto AO members and their families as part of the Alpha Omega group tour of the Toronto Holocaust Museum

I LOVE DOCTOR BROWN BUT...

Submitted by Steven Brown

Don't get me wrong as you peruse this recollection of mine. I'm not painting all dental staff with the same brush. But this was my one time, 'funny' experience, at my long time dentist's office the other day. Let's begin.

Since I was still shaking my head, and reliving my appointment, I decided to document it for posterity. As this transpired more than three years ago, posterity seems to be winning. It was a beautiful day. An unusually warm, sunshine filled November day. I walked from Cabbagetown, to my dentist's office at Yonge and Eglinton. It took about one and a quarter hours; a slight incline most of the way. When I arrived, my Fit had a heart reading of 85. "Not bad."

The hygienist was on time. A definite plus. I began by explaining my previous history with dental hygienists. Usually, within two weeks of my finished appointment, a tooth had broken, chipped, or cracked; or a filling had come out. So I asked her to be very gentle. I also explained that when she looked in my mouth, she would probably think I had not practised good oral hygiene. But in fact, I am very diligent in my dental hygiene. I felt this was enough of an explanation to prepare her for what she was about to find when I opened my mouth. Plus, she had my file. And had

she been interested, it would have revealed many facts about my long dental journey. (Dr. Brown makes very extensive notes.) So, she picked up my chart and yelled, "This says you're 32!!" I guess that was the most interesting piece of information in my chart.

The actual appointment was about to begin. Here are the highlights. First, there were issues with the suction. (I never had any issues with Dr. Brown.) I was drowning. So I moved the hose, sat up, and swallowed. As I was about to explain this to her, she again vociferously interrupted with this - "I usually hook the suction over a molar. And you don't have any!" Possibly they don't cover the possibility of missing teeth in the Hygiene program. If not, they might want to consider adding that to the curriculum!

She began by sitting to my right, with my head lower than my feet. If not for gravity, this might have worked out well. Next, she moved her stool directly behind my head, and asked me to tip my head as far back as I could. I thought she might be pointing out the beautiful picture directly behind me at 12 o'clock. Never in 60 plus years have I had a dentist, or my head in this position. But what do I know? We continued. Finally when the treatment was over, she handed me the cup to rinse with, and as I lifted it to my trembling lips, in an alarmed voice she yelled - "Don't drink that!!"

After they cleaned up my now pink top, we chatted a bit. My favourite bits of said conversation, follow.

"Maybe you were 32 when you started seeing Dr. Brown?" "Yes", I replied. "I've been coming to see Dr. Brown for over half my life." She responded - "I wasn't even born when you started coming here!" (Yippee for her!) "Are you eating OK?", she asked. "Yes?!" I replied. "But you don't have any bottom molars." she said. (So she was also observant.) And then, I was forced to explain my whole sad history of growing up in rural Nova Scotia. Poor. No insurance. Bad dentists. Blah, blah, blah...

She tried to put me at ease by saying "I couldn't live without molars!" I had no words. So she followed up with "Your teeth are also really worn down!" (Marks for observation once more.) And finally, my favourite comment. The 'piece de resistance' so to speak. "You look much younger on the outside, than you do on the inside of your mouth."

When I left the appointment, my heart rate was 105.

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SLICE OF PI

2024 PI CHAPTER GRADS



Abby Lindzon

Reflecting on my journey through dental school, I'm filled with gratitude for the challenges overcome, the comprehensive knowledge gained across all dental disciplines, and the invaluable friendships forged. These experiences have not only prepared me for the complexities of dental care but have also instilled in me a passion for lifelong learning and a commitment to improving patient outcomes. As I look forward to starting my residency at Sick Kids Hospital, I'm eager to apply and expand upon this foundation, aiming to contribute meaningfully to the field of dentistry and to the lives of those I will serve. Here's to the next chapter of growth, service, and continued exploration in the vast world of dental health.



Amanda Tittel

"Hometown: Toronto
Future Plans: U of T Graduate
Periodontics
Favourite Part of Dental School: Hosting
Dentastics
Favourite Part of AO: Hanging out with
Friends at Events and the Formal"



Ashif Nuhash

AO formal this year was insane! Jenna really popped off with the planning. Next year I'll be practicing in middle-of-nowhere Alberta. Feel free to visit.



Cheng Yen Lim

Finally done! Will be working in private practice!



Grace Chen

I remember one time in first year, when we were still in Lab 4, I wanted to clean out debris from the burs using the suction, so I put the suction directly on the bur block, but a couple of the burs got suctioned away. I was scared because I thought I would get in trouble for losing the burs, I didn't even know that we could get new burs.



Hayley Benudiz

My name is Hayley Benudiz. Over the last 4 years, AO has provided me with amazing opportunities and I've really enjoyed being a member. My favourite event this year was formal! I am looking forward to my next chapter working as a general dentist!



Jenna Pasternak

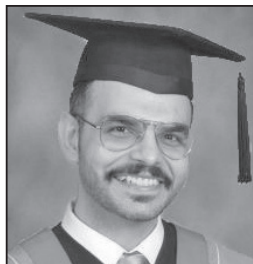
My name is Jenna Pasternak, and I am the Vice President of Alpha Omega this year. I feel so lucky to have been part of this amazing organization throughout my 4 years of dental school. I have made so many great memories through all of the awesome events and initiatives. As I embark on my journey in Oral Med and Path at UofT, I know I can always count on AO for support and fun times!

2024 PI CHAPTER GRADS *(Continued)*



Mitchell Dzaldov

Hi, my name is Mitchell and I grew up in Thornhill. I'm very excited to start my next chapter working as a general dentist. My favourite AO memories are planning events with the executive committee, meeting new people, and of course, formal.



Dr. Mohit Bhasin

Life, taxes and articulating paper taps!



Riya George

Over the past four years, my involvement in AO has enriched my dental school experience both academically and socially. Each year the formal was a lot of fun and I am grateful for all the incredible memories! Next year I head out to Buffalo for my AEGD residency!



Sagar Marwah

I am originally from the Toronto area and I am very excited to embark this new journey that is ahead of us. I will be moving to Maine to work as a general dentist. Being a part of AO was very fulfilling and made the last year very enjoyable with all the events and the close knit community.



Sharon Yoon

I'm excited to graduate this year and begin my residency in Washington State. I've been a member of AO since my first year and have really enjoyed the opportunities and events it has offered.



Shawn Zahavi

My name is Shawn Zahavi and I had the honour of being the President for Alpha Omega this year. AO has offered me so much throughout my time in dental school and I am so grateful to have been able to be part of this close community. Next year I am going to McGill University for OMFS residency and I hope to continue my involvement with AO in Montreal!

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

By: Shawn Zahavi

On March 28th, 2024, the University of Toronto's Pi Chapter of Alpha Omega hosted our annual formal at Stock Bar in Toronto. This eagerly anticipated event brought together a dynamic mix of students, alumni, and Alpha Omega executives—around 40 in total—who joined together in friendship and camaraderie, to celebrate the achievements of our esteemed fraternity.

From the moment guests stepped through the doors, they could feel the vibrant energy and immediately delighted in an atmosphere of refined elegance and charm. There was an amazing spread of drinks, gourmet appetizers, and a delicious meal that everyone enjoyed.

Adding an extra layer of excitement to the festivities was our charity raffle, where attendees had the chance to win an array of fantastic prizes, generously donated by local businesses and supporters. Thanks to the generosity of all who participated, we were able to raise funds in support of the Alpha Omega Foundation.

Many captured the magic of the evening by striking poses in the photo booth! But amidst the laughter, great food, and entertainment,



the true essence of the Alpha Omega formal shone through, reaffirming the values that lie at the heart of our fraternity.

A heartfelt expression of gratitude is extended to our esteemed sponsors, whose support played a pivotal role in making this event a resounding success. Special thanks to dentalcorp, our platinum sponsor, and to our silver sponsors, MNP Financial and Millennial Financial Group. Their generosity and commitment to our fraternity are deeply appreciated.

As we reflect on the memories created and the bonds strengthened at the Alpha Omega Formal, we eagerly look forward to the opportunities that await us in the coming year.



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10 am - 3:00 pm

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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 and a
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group for the day. Enjoy the day with your family along with
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Condolences

Heather Goldberg on the loss of her mother
Rene Katzman
Dr. Harvey Taub & Adele Rich

GOLD CARDS

Condolences

Elan Pratzter on the loss of his mother Ida
Drs. Avi Wurman & Sharon Sussman

TRIBUTE CARDS

Congratulations

Drs. Zoey Friedman and Ralph Dana on the birth of their son
Drs. Avi Wurman & Sharon Sussman

Condolences

Lynda Ellis on the loss of her husband Frater
Dr. Jack Ellis

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Sabra Eller-Staudenmaier on the loss of her father Frater Dr. David Eller

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

John Laporta on the loss of his wife Suzi Banacki-Laporta

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Helen Pokras on the loss of her father David Rozenberg

Drs. Avi Wurman & Sharon Sussman

Jeannine Girard-Pearlman on the loss of her husband Alan Banack

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Jon Banack on the loss of his father Alan

Dr. Aubey & Marilyn Banack

Sally Wolcuff on the loss of her husband Aaron

Dr. Steve & Carole Zamon

General Tribute Fund

GOLD CARDS

Condolences

Dr. Jack Train on the loss of his brother Louis
Dr. Rick Rodney

Terry Shapero Fund (Yad L’Kashish)

PLATINUM CARDS

Condolences

Lynda Ellis on the loss of her husband Frater
Dr. Jack Ellis
Dr. Rick Rodney

Alpha Omega/Henry Schein Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program

GOLD CARDS

Congratulations

Dr. Norm Talsky on his retirement
Dr. Steve & Carole Zamon

CONDOLENCES TO:

Lynda Ellis on the loss of her husband Frater Dr. Jack Ellis

Dr. Jack Train on the loss of his brother Louis

Dr. Arthur Train on the loss of his brother Louis

Dr. Leslie Train on the loss of his cousin Louis

Dr. Marshall Train on the loss of his cousin Louis

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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.

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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:

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- Beit Issie Shapiro (*Services to Disabled Children*)
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- Dentistry for All (*Clinic in Guatemala*)
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