

# AORTA



ALPHA OMEGA REVIEW OF TORONTO ALUMNI CHAPTER, PI CHAPTER  
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JUNE 2010 VOL. 51, NO.6

## *Sailing Day at the Island Yacht Club...*



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the Graduates

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Marvin Klotz

AO Business Meeting

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# Sheryl's Schmooze

SHERYL LIPTON

"MISPACHA" (= Family)

The need for human connection is deep and universal. The love we glean from our parents when we are infants is primal, universal, and critical to our future development as well-functioning human beings. As children, we learn to develop friendships with those outside of our primary family and these relationships, although never as critical to our inner psyche as our first family, are nonetheless critical to our sense of belonging and wellbeing.

We are most fortunate to be dentists, although we all have those moments of frustration and doubt when those difficult patients and cases enter our practices. Focusing on the positive aspects of the day, both at home and at the office, will go a long way to re-framing these moments – which can overwhelm and cripple our thoughts.

I had the great fortune of attending the 2-day Alpha Omega Leadership Seminar this May in sensational Seattle, Washington, along with Canadian Regional Director, **Dr. Larry Rotman**. Also in attendance were Western Canadian Regional Director, **Dr. Martin Braverman** and International Secretary, **Dr. Marcy Schwartzman**, both from Vancouver, and International President-Elect, **Dr. Michael Tenenbaum**, from Montreal. **Mr. Steven Anderson**, a motivational speaker who partnered the Dental Boot Kamp with the late **Walter Hailey**, was absolutely the most entertaining and informative speaker that I have ever heard in my 28 years of dentistry. He teaches common-sense tips for case acceptance in your office and, as author of "The 13 Biggest Mistakes Parents Make and How to Avoid Them", taught us parenting skills while giving David Letterman a run for his money!! Mr. Anderson, a devout mormon, shares many of the values of Alpha Omega and has been made the first non-dentist Director-at-Large of International. He stresses work/life balance but always puts his family first. He will be at the next Alpha Omega



Leadership seminar to be held this fall on the east coast and you should absolutely get your butt down to beautiful Beantown (Boston) to hear him.

The highlight of the Seattle weekend was the Shabbat Dinner held at fraters

**Drs. Wendy and Michael Spektor's** spek-tacular home overlooking the bay on Mercer Island. In attendance were all of the out-of-town Alpha Omegas, plus members of the Seattle chapter and dental students from the University of Washington. Fifty of us gathered in the kitchen to welcome the Shabbat and our voices sang in unison as we chanted the traditional prayers over the wine and the challah. I am always particularly moved when fraters from all over the world share these ancient hymns and we realize how connected we all are.

The following day we had the leadership seminar, with the emphasis on membership retention, which is a problem in all of the chapters. We explored what sets Alpha Omega apart from other dental organizations and the unanimous consensus was the feeling that Alpha Omega is FAMILY. Our Toronto chapter fosters family relationships with our annual Chanukah party, skating and hockey night, the picnic, (which is being substituted this year with Beachblast Volleyball) and the visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls. But, the concept of family goes beyond this definition. **Dr. Michael Spektor**, speaking at his home in Seattle as he hosted the leadership participants described his experience with Alpha Omega this way: "When you move somewhere and you don't know anyone and an Alpha Omega takes you in; THAT's the definition of family. I consider everyone here to be family."

Those of you who have attended an international convention understand exactly what I am talking about, and for those of you who have not, I do encourage you to attend this year's convention in

*Continued on page 4*

# AORTA



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*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 c/o Alpha Omega, Toronto.*

**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING (ANNUAL BBQ)**

Monday, June 7, 2010

**NEXT AORTA DEADLINE (AUGUST)**

Monday, July 5, 2010

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

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

**BENEVOLENCE**

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# Sheryl's Schmooze

Continued from page 3

beautiful San Diego, or join fellow Alpha Omegans in Boston this fall, and meet your FAMILY.

We have had a busy couple of months as our year comes to a close for the summer. The Annual Business Meeting, admirably chaired by **Dr. Allan Katchky**, was a huge success as it was held at 398 West, an elegant, open space which was perfect for our meeting. After completing the business, house association, and executive meetings, we were entertained by **Susan Jackson**, Executive Philanthropic Officer, UJA, and frater **Dr. Ira Kirshen** brought greetings from the Ontario Dental Association.

**Mr. Lorne Cohn** hosted our fraters and their significant others at the Vaughan Estates, at the inaugural Zoomers meeting: "What's the Magic Number? How much do I need to retire?" There were many fraters in attendance whom we haven't seen in a long time and we hope to continue to see them in our future programs!

Our successful evening continuing education series wrapped up with frater **Dr. Brian Laski** discussing Inflammatory Root Resorption on May 6 and, the Women's Issues Committee, under the direction of **Dr. Laurel Linetsky**, held an amazing spin class at Track Fitness on May 12th.

The graduating Pi chapter students were taken to Bistro Grande for a congratulatory dinner and we wish them all the best as they embark on their new dental careers and their transition into the alumni chapter.

The Sunday Breakfast and Speaker was a huge success as **Dr. Andrea Most** discussed, "Life upon the Wicked Stage – Jews and Popular Entertainment in America" at the new Beth Torah synagogue. Yasher Koach, once again to frater **Dr. Sam Newman**, who organizes this event every year.

Another great family event is the UJA Walk for Israel which our fraters and their children volunteered at on Sunday May 30th. It is always lots of fun as we greet the whole community who descend upon our checkpoint en masse, identified by our new Alpha Omega banner.

We will have a blast as Bubbies, Zaidies, Moms and Dads play in the sand with their kids at Beachblast Volleyball on Sunday June 13th. Be sure to sign up and have lots of fun, and fress a little pizza with your fellow alpha omegans and their families.

Our last program for the year is Wednesday, July 14 as we set Sail Day at the Island Yacht Club, hosted by **Dr. David Cowan** and his team of fraters who graciously escort us on their boats for a

day of sheer heaven on earth. The event is a real crowd pleaser and I urge you all to "get away from it all" for a day of relaxation, jokes galore, great food, and lots of fraternalism.

I would like to thank each and every executive member for showing up for executive meetings and working on their committee assignments. It is through you that our organization thrives. To the members of the fraternity, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as president this year. I will always cherish the confidence that you have shown me. And, thank you for putting up with my poor Yiddish!!

To the line officers, who have brainstormed and worked tirelessly for the smooth execution of our programs, I thank you all so much. You are more than friends to me and truly are like family: namely **Drs. Mel Kay** (president-elect), **Dr. Elliott Weidman** (treasurer), and newly elected line officers **Dr. Alan Vinegar** (treasurer) and **Dr. Bonnie Chandler** (secretary). And, we must thank **Dr. Charles Weingarten** for all of his hard work as he finishes his term on the line. **Dr. Larry Rotman** was an invaluable advisor to the line this year and he has accepted the position as Canadian Regional Director because he didn't have enough to do as advisor!! We welcome back **Dr. Terry Shapero**, who once again steps up for Alpha Omega into the position as advisor to the line for the upcoming year.

Lastly, I must thank my other family, my daughters, **Alanna, Rachel** and **Jenna** for their understanding and help all these years as they allowed me to share my love of them with my love of Alpha Omega. I will forever be grateful to them and love them so much.

Fraternally,

**Dr. Sheryl P. Lipton**

SHOYN = "that's all folks"

Toronto Alpha Omega is pleased to announce a NEW ONLINE PURCHASE PROGRAM for office supplies from OnlineOfficeSupplies.ca. These items may be ordered by any of our fraters in good standing on an ongoing basis.

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**Warren Sone**, Purchase Program Chairman

# From the Editor

BARRY REINBLATT

I hope this issue finds everyone well and enjoying the beautiful summer weather! Just as our lives seem to slow down at this time of year, so does Alpha Omega. There are only a couple of events left in the 2009/2010 programming year, and I encourage you to check out the details of these in this issue.



If you enjoy looking back at what has been, President **Sheryl** tells us about the last couple of months in what will be her last article for this publication as president. We also have reports and pictures from a number of the events that have occurred recently. We take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the graduating class of Pi chapter by letting you meet through pictures and short biographies these future leaders of our organization.

As always, we have interesting and provocative perspectives written by a couple of local fraters, **Steven Brown** and **Marv Klotz**. We have also reprinted frater **Murray Miller**'s acceptance speech from the International Convention when he was awarded the Meritorious Service Award. He mentions a number of local fraters, and has some interesting thoughts on our fraternity.

Finally, we remain true to our roots by reprinting a letter from **Dr. Sheryl Lipton** to **Dr. David Naylor**, President of the University of Toronto, expressing our dismay at the university for allowing Israel Apartheid Week and requesting they denounce IAW and remove it from the campus.

## SHEP NACHAS

*Mazel Tov to Sheila and Rick Rodney on the recent birth of their grandchild Willow.*

*Mazel Tov to Carole and Howie Gelfand on the recent birth of their grandchild Asher.*

*Mazel Tov to Myra and Jeff Manly on the recent birth of their grandchild.*

*Mazel Tov to Howard Tenenbaum, Aldo Boccia, and the Toronto Alumni Chapter of Alpha Omega for recently receiving the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry Award of Distinction.*

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# A Slice of Pi

## THE 2010 PI CHAPTER GRADUATES



**DANIEL SCHWARTZBERG**

Will be associating next year.

I don't know how I would make it through four grueling years of dental school without the help of AO. From my first experiences with the frat, I felt a strong sense of "pay-it-forward" from the upper year students. Everyone looks out for each other until the day of graduation. Along the road, I met some incredible student members and alumni members. I want to especially thank Dr. Brian Laski for all his help and guidance. Good luck to everyone!



**RYAN SCHURE**

The past four years at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry have been tough, but having Alpha Omega, for both academic support and social relief, has really helped to make things much more enjoyable. Being active in our chapter and participating in last year's international convention has provided me with great networking opportunities that will only go to enhance my future career. As I continue my studies at U of T in the Periodontology masters program, I will look to stay as involved as possible with both student and alumni activities in the fraternity.



**CARCEA NADIA**

Graduating from UoFT. Completed IDAPP program at the Faculty of Dentistry of UoFT in 2008. First degree in Dentistry: State University of Medicine and Pharmacy N. Testemitanu Republic of Moldova with Honors; Postgraduate program and Graduate study at the same university.

AO has helped me in the areas of communication, integrity, seminars, additional materials and valuable consultations for exam preparation visiting dental offices; understanding the Canadian system; learning about new equipment in treatment and diagnosis; having fun together. I am looking forward to helping patients and promoting good hygiene and oral health.



**SEAN PRUSKY**

Graduating after 4 years at UoFT Faculty of Dentistry. Completed a BSc at McGill University in '05. Some of the first people I met at UoFT were the upper year AO members who immediately came to recruit my classmates and I to the fraternity... fresh dental students ready for frat life!! AO was a great opportunity for me: Socially – my four best friends are among my AO classmates, Scholastically – lots of extracurricular study sessions: Professionally – AO consists of dentists who are genuinely interested in helping young dentists find interesting opportunities. My AO friends and memories are ones that I will never forget.



**CARA LINDSAY**

I am proud to have been involved in Alpha Omega for the last four years. The friendships I have developed on both the regional and international level have been the most rewarding part of my dental school experience. As social representative this past year, I enjoyed planning and participating in many of the events and attending the annual international convention. I look forward to graduating this year and staying involved with Alpha Omega in the future. I am also looking to associate in Toronto this upcoming year. Congratulations to the class of 2010!



**VALENTIN DABULEANU**

Graduating 2010 from the UoFT Faculty of Dentistry. I took part in the AO Summer Externship Program, where I observed a general practitioner, Dr. Allen Ressler, and several specialists in Miami Florida. This experience, along with periodontal externships at the University of Michigan and at Harvard, have greatly increased my exposure to general and specialist dentistry, and influenced my future career path. This summer I'll be starting a general practice residency at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.



**FLORINA MENINA D.D.S**

I am a recent graduate from University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry and a proud member of Alpha Omega. This is a wonderful organization which has made my dental school experience very enjoyable and memorable. All the events throughout the years such as social events and extra help sessions are truly appreciated. I would like to say thank you to Alpha Omega for all the help that was provided for all the members.



**JACKY TZE KIT LAM**

Thank you AO for all the academic support and friendship! The past four years have been hard, but also full of fun! I'll be associating (somewhere?!) next year. Best wishes to the graduating class!!

### *Other graduating members of Pi not shown...*

Lani Kraus  
ChynnaRae McLean  
Eric Ebrahim  
Danielle Musselman  
Kimberly Mason  
Mandana Many  
Roman Kosnevitch

## Continuing Education

A continuing education lecture took place on Monday, March 15 featuring **Dr. Riva Black** (Oral Path). Her topic was: "It's really nothing... or is it? Oral pathology for the general practitioner". The seminar took place at Adath Israel Synagogue.

Dr. Black presented several clinical scenarios, including differential diagnosis and recommended path of action, follow-up and referral schedules.

Ninety fraters attended the seminar; 71 out of 99 registered, plus 28 non-registered attendees.

The final seminar of the 2009/2010 year was held on May 6, the speaker was **Dr. Brian Laski**, who presented the topic: "Getting to the Root of Root Restoration". A full report of this seminar will appear in the next AORTA.

Yoav Finer

# ZOOMERS

## *What's the Magic Number How Much Do I Need to Retire?*

This was the topic of the inaugural zoomers committee meeting held on April 21st at the beautiful Vaughan Estates and clearly retirement is of great interest to our fraters and their partners as we had approximately 100 in attendance.

After some schmoozing and a delicious buffet dinner, courtesy of our speaker, **Mr. Lorne Cohn**, Vice-President, CIBC Wood Gundy, we were treated to an excellent lecture on wealth management and retirement planning. Different investment strategies were presented and some recommendations were given regarding specific stocks, mutual funds, ETFs, etc.

The lecture was also used as a fund-raiser as the meeting was gratis but we asked for a \$5 donation from each participant to be donated to the Dental School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It was great to see some of our fraters whom we have not seen in a while and that we hope to see again in the near future at our other Alpha Omega programs!

Fraternally,

**Dr. Sheryl P. Lipton**

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# A Call to Arms

At the risk of repeating myself, I am going to tell the true (for the most part) story of my "Court Martial". I will try to give an accurate account of one of the more bizarre episodes in my strange life. In the early 1950's, good paying summer jobs, for high school students were a rare commodity. But I needed the money, so when I learned that the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) had a program that hired students over 15 to train as "ground crew", I jumped at the chance.

This involved one summer of intense classroom and on the job learning about air plane mechanics and 'military discipline'. It also meant wearing a uniform for most of the summer and receiving about \$60 per week. It seemed like a good deal so I applied, passed a rudimentary exam and was accepted into the course. I'll spare the early details; suffice it to say that I did not exude a traditional military bearing. One master sergeant remarked on my appearance – "you look like a sausage tied in the middle". But I was a pretty good student and enjoyed the training.

The worst part was my personal embarrassment at being in the armed forces. My Bubbie had indoctrinated me in the evils of the Russian, Polish, etc., army. "Nice Jewish boys" didn't join the army – except in the new, relatively unknown state of Israel. I struck a balance between my fear of military misconduct (not being in full uniform – air force cap and all) and being seen by people I knew. Silly I know, but it weighed heavily at the time. My

Bubbie had died the previous year, so, at least, I didn't have to face her.

Two years later, I was finishing my 3rd and final year of "service". I had attained the rank of "Leading Air Craftsman" and title of "Airframe Technician". It sounds pretty impressive and it was a great job, working at various air force bases in Ontario and Quebec. Outside of repairs, one of our main jobs was to safely park and refuel training jets. I was now a "crew chief" who signed-off for all services to the air planes, and certified that they were safe to fly.

One day in late August, at Downsview Airport, I was relaxing at the end of the day when a pilot radioed that his plane, a 'T100', was losing fuel rapidly and he was going to land ASAP. My heart skipped more than a few beats. I probably could have played, "Hava Nagila", as we waited for the aircraft to come in. Sure enough when one of the gas tanks covers was checked – it was not properly secured. Guess whose name was on the "OK" sheet? I had mixed feelings: guilt, embarrassment, shock and FEAR. Tales of severe military justice were rampant and I had witnessed scenes of drunken violence among regular airmen, non-coms and MP's. Along with my Bubbie's terrifying tales of pogroms and "army justice" – it was more than enough to cause me more than a little concern.

A few days later (after stewing in the wildest imaginations), I was approached by a group of the base MP's. My belt and cap were removed and I was escorted to the CO's office. There was my sergeant, a couple of expert witnesses and the base prosecutor. This may not sound terribly ominous but in 1955, for a chubby Jewish 18 year old, it was as close to hell as it could get.

I won't bore you with the details but finally, after about an hour of testimony, the facts were clear: The fuel cap was definitely not properly closed, my crew of four was definitely involved and my name was definitely on the "OK" sheet.

I had to agree that there was human

error – the cap could not have loosened accidentally and the ultimate responsibility was mine. It was time for "last words" before judgment and sentencing. Well, I tried but my pleas [a widowed working mother, saving money for university, no previous offenses, genuine remorse for the situation and alternate theories] fell on deaf ears – I was doomed.

"I'm sorry" the CO intoned somberly, "you are found guilty and there must be a penalty". In the words of my ancestors, "mir nisht gut gevoren", I held my breath, as he began – was it a term in the brig, was it public disgrace, was it some other unimaginable punishment? "There is a fine of twenty dollars", he continued. I had to hold myself back from yelling "is that all?" I was prepared to sell my precious collection of 10 inch jazz LP's, anything...! "If this is a hardship, you can pay it in small amounts from your monthly paycheque, which of course, I accepted, kept a straight face and calmly walked out of the "star chamber".

It was not a pleasant experience. Even the 'happy ending' has haunted me. Many nights I have awakened from a nightmare shouting: "the plane was left unattended for several hours before takeoff; I signed the sheet but several others worked on the re-fueling; the T100 had a complex fuel system requiring several procedures to fill its 4 tanks; all the evidence was circumstantial and I should have had a lawyer!"

The truth is I got off easy because it was not war time, I was not regular Air Force, I was a student and damned lucky. I have many interesting anecdotes about my 'military service'; most of them quite funny and positive. I learned and experienced a lot. I will never disparage the military, and the nightmares about my "Court Martial" have finally stopped.

But my son in law, the Air Canada pilot, still gives me funny looks.

**Marvin Klotz**

## 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 [eddieglick@rogers.com](mailto:eddieglick@rogers.com). To all committee chairmen, please forward a list of your corporate sponsors. Also please list the contacts and email addresses. Thank you in advance. **Eddie Glick***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EXECUTIVE MEETING AND BAR-B-QUE

Monday, June 7, 2010

### BEACH BLAST VOLLEYBALL

Sunday, June 13, 2010

### ANNUAL SAILING DAY

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Island Yacht Club

### FRATERNITY NIGHT DINNER

September 20, 2010

Shaarei Shomayim

### INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

December 25, 2010 - January 1, 2011

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### AO WEBCASTS

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# University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry, Alumni of Distinction Award

**T**he Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society was given a tremendous honour from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry as we were awarded the 2010 Alumni of Distinction Award on Saturday, March 27 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre.

The gala is held annually to Celebrate Excellence and we are only the second organization to be bestowed with this honour, following the RCDS.

The Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society was well represented at the gala as we had many fraters in attendance at this most prestigious event. In fact, many of the evening's attendees were previous Alumni of Distinction award winners themselves!!



*Left to right: Aldo Boccia, Alpha Omega President Sheryl Lipton, and Howard Tenenbaum*

The evening began with a meet-and-greet, silent auction and delicious hors d'oeuvres. Then we moved into the ballroom for the formal presentations and scrumptious dinner. The evening's Master of Ceremonies was our own Past International President, **Dr. Barry Chapnick**. Musical entertainment was provided by George St. Kitts Midnite Starr Band.

There were three Alumni Of Distinction award winners this year, as we shared the honour with fellow Alpha Omegans, **Drs. Aldo Boccia** and Professor **Howard Tenenbaum**. After a brief introduction and audiovisual presentation, the Dean and fellow Alpha Omegan, **Dr. David Mock** presented the award to each recipient. I was proud and honoured to be called to the podium on behalf of the fraternity and I had every Alpha Omegan in the room, past and present, stand to accept the award along with me. It was a very touching moment and I think that the sea of fraters in attendance felt tremendous pride for our organization. And, it reminded us all of how far we have come, as an organization and a community, as our fraternity was founded because of discrimination in dental schools.

The Faculty of Dentistry honoured the Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society for its "service to the profession, dental education, and patients in need, as well as its close ties to the Faculty of Dentistry". As well, our philanthropy to the Faculty and the community here and abroad was recognized.

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The black tie affair was held in support of patient care at the Faculty of Dentistry's clinics which face financial hardship and during the dinner we were entertained by **Ms. Lisa Philp** as we either put on hands on our head or our butts to raise additional funds for this worthy cause. The silent auction and a trip to Italy auctioned off to the highest bidder, raised funds that will "help the dental students and staff provide complete treatment for the patients who struggle to cover the costs of care".

The program book brought greetings and congratulations from our Governor General, **Michaëlle Jean**, Premier **Dalton McGuinty**, and Toronto Mayor **David Miller**.

On behalf of the fraternity, I would like to thank the Awards of Distinction Gala Committee for nominating us and for creating a most memorable evening. As well, many thanks to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, (**Ms. Susan Alksnis** and **Sara Vanos**), and the Alumni Association (**Valerie Stavro**, President) for their tremendous efforts and behind the scenes endeavours.

To Drs. Aldo Boccia, Howard Tenenbaum, and the Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society – we really did OWN THE PODIUM!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dr. Sheryl P. Lipton**  
 President



*Dr. H. Tenenbaum and family*



*Honoured AO members*

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# Have I Got a Gynaecologist for You

STEVEN H. BROWN

Let's get to that later. First, let me relate my latest story about my oldest daughter. She was turning 25, and I asked her what she wanted to do for her birthday. She said, "I'd like to go to Tiffany and Co." "Beautiful idea" I said. And off we went. When you open the 7000 pound doors, a gorgeous lady, with a Tiffany blue scarf greets you, and tells you that if you need any help, it's just a request away. I said we were fine. My daughter started to look around, and her eyes started to light up. I began to get worried. "What are you doing?" I inquired. She told me she had seen some things she just loved. I reminded her she had just asked "to go", to T. and Co., not to "buy" anything. "DAA-aaaad!!". She was not amused. I knew then and there, the deal had changed. So off I went to find the lady with the Tiffany blue scarf. I said, "I can't believe I'm saying this, but can we get some help." "Certainly sir. What's the name." "Rebecca" I replied. So off to the glass showcases we went, seated ourselves, and within what seemed like less than 7 seconds, up sauntered a gorgeous blond with big boo.., forget it. Anyway, I'm sure I'd just seen her in my monthly subscription to Bored Husband Magazine, as the latest centrefold. "Rebecca?" she inquired. I seized my chance as I blurted out "YES, I'M REBECCA!!" "DAA-aaaad!!" Rebecca chimed in. I shut up, but only for the shortest period of time. The buxom blond asked "Rebecca, do you have anything in mind." I couldn't help myself. "Actually" I said, "She's thinking of converting to Christianity, but she wants to see what the crosses looks like on, first. You know it's not so much THE religion, as much as how the jewellery looks, that comes with it" "Certainly sir" the blond said. Rebecca yelled "DAA-aaaad!!" The next ??? dollars flew by, and when my daughter was done, I asked the saleslady if I could



have her cellphone number, to keep track of the order's progress. In perfect unison, my daughter and the saleslady said "DAA-aaaad!!"

It reminds me of the time I took my son to Angelo Rossi Bespoke Tailors for his first made to measure suit. Before we went in I explained, "Mikey, I'm not sure how much a custom made suit costs, but I've got a number in mind. After we pick the material, if the salesman says anything over 1200 dollars, I want you to fall to the ground, grab your stomach, and yell – Dad, I think it's appendicitis. Take me to the hospital immediately." The plan was in place as we opened the much lighter doors than at Tiffany and Co., and we walked into the store. It wasn't long before the cloth was picked, and the helpful salesman, with the smallish chest said, "Now, normally this suit would be 1800 dollars." On cue, my son hit the ground, and started writhing in pain. "But considering you've told me this is his first suit, I'm sure we can do it for 1200." I looked at Mikey on the floor and said "Mikey, quit being an idiot, and get up! You're getting the man's floor dirty." "DAA-aaaad!!" he whined. Sorry Mike, but one of us had to be sacrificed. As a postscript – three fittings, one shirt, two

ties, and god knows what else later, the final bill came to 1800 dollars. That's why they call them salesmen, and it was way too late for a 55 year old to be writhing in pain on the floor.

**Mikey Brown** always had great lines. When he was 3 or 4, and in nursery school at Temple Sinai, at the end of the year, it seemed I was the only dad who had not come in to help with a class. Sorry Mikey. So his teacher said "Mikey, why don't you bring in a picture of your daddy, because we've never seen what he looks like. Dutifully, the next day, Mikey brought in a picture and showed it to his teacher. When she saw it, she said "Well Mikey, your daddy is a very nice looking man", to which he replied "Yes, and his penis is bigger than mine too!"

Now, let me tell you a story that will explain how I can say things like the previously mentioned Bored Husband Magazine. My youngest daughter had just spilled something on the kitchen floor, and when I walked in, I found my wife lying on her side. She was facing the baseboard under the cupboards, scrubbing away at the recent stain. I stuck my big toe in the small of her back, and by sheer reflex, she rolled onto her back, with her arms and legs up in the air. I couldn't resist. Before I could stop myself, the words were flying out of my mouth – "Hey, Mikey, give me a hand. I want to try to get her back in the water!" After 28 years, we're still in love. Either that, or, in this commercialized world where everything eventually gets thrown away; where we expect everything to break down; in a land of planned obsolescence, it costs more to repair something than to replace it – except, (she may realize) a spouse, – that costs more to replace, than to repair! And she's been trying to repair me for the last 3 decades. Nah, forget it. It was love at first sight, and I'm staying. So is she. Alas, no room for the gynaecologist. Next time. Promise.

# Letter from AO to the President of U of T

Alpha Omega was originally founded on the principle of fighting racism and bigotry. The recent advent of Israel Apartheid Week on local university campuses warranted the following response sent to the President of the University of Toronto by our President, Sheryl Lipton.

**Dr. David Naylor, President**

University of Toronto  
27 Kings College Circle,  
Toronto, Ont M5S 1A1

Dear Dr. Naylor:

It is with deep sadness that I write this letter to you, on behalf of the Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society.

Our members, representing over 650 dentists in Toronto, are dismayed that the University of Toronto continues to allow Israel Anti-Apartheid Week on the campuses.

Clearly, we understand that the university should be a bastion of free speech and

democracy. However, IAW has become a "worldwide campaign to demonize Israel". It is "anti-academic, and it is not a debate but a prejudged diatribe against Israel that prides itself on creating hostility toward Israel. It stifles debate, as evidenced by the title alone. Labelling Israel as an apartheid state is a deliberate and calculated attempt to undermine the legitimacy of the state of Israel."

Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity is an international dental fraternity with chapters in 6 continents and we have over 6,000 members worldwide. We were founded in 1907 by a group of dental students to fight discrimination in dental schools and have grown ever since. Today we are primarily a philanthropic and educational organization, however we continue to battle discrimination whenever and wherever needed.

The Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, recently awarded the Toronto Alpha Omega Dental Society its highest award – the Alumni of Distinction award for 2010. Many prominent dental educators at the Faculty are Alpha Omegas, including the Dean, Dr. David Mock, Past Associate Dean, Professor Howard Tenenbaum (who was also awarded as Alumni of Distinction this year), and many others.

It is important for the University to show leadership in denouncing IAW and removing this hate campaign from the campus. Roads to peace must be encouraged and fostered.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Sheryl P. Lipton** (B.Sc.(New College)  
1978; Dents UofT 1982)  
President, Toronto Alpha Omega  
Dental Society



Jewish National Fund of Toronto has had a long and productive relationship with the Toronto Alumni Chapter of Alpha Omega Fraternity. Members of Alpha Omega have been very generous in assisting with the work of JNF in helping to build a strong, beautiful, peaceful and environmentally friendly Israel.

When calling the JNF office to plant trees, please mention that you are a member of Alpha Omega. JNF will credit Alpha Omega's project, taken out in 1999. This project was established to develop a partnership in a very special forest known as the "Jubilee Forest" at Yatir, located between Beersheba and Arad. The Jubilee Forest marks and celebrates the very special occasion of Israel's 50th birthday.

We are pleased to advise you that if you are planning to visit Israel, we can make the necessary arrangements for tree planting. It is a very moving experience to place a sapling in the soil of Israel and all it takes is a phone call to our office at 416-638-7200 to make arrangements. Tax receipts will be issued for the amount of the donation.

The support of the membership of Alpha Omega is truly appreciated and we look forward to working with your fraternity for many years to come in our joint desire to ensure a stronger, greener Israel.

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# 2009 International Meritorious Service Award

Frater **Murray Miller** was presented with the 2009 International Meritorious Service Award at the most recent convention. The following is a copy of his acceptance speech.

WOW! What an honour, what a moment, and what a surprise! Cliff, if you wanted to keep the recipient ignorant and unawares as to who the winner was until the last possible moment you succeeded completely. I am sitting there, half-listening, trying to see if I can figure out who you were talking about. My wife, who knew, is sitting beside me stone-faced like the Giza sphinx. She is no help. Finally at the very end you mention, "his two daughters who have been to many conventions and his granddaughter's first convention last year," and a very dim bulb finally goes on. I was stunned and speechless. As a matter of fact, **Richard Brodie** told **Barbara** that "that was the longest he had ever seen me go without

saying a word", and he knows me a long, long time.

I am still "at sea" and "floating" on air and "watery" eyed.

Cliff, I want to thank you and your committee for this award, and getting it from a class act like you makes it even sweeter. Incidentally, our granddaughter is two years old in about six hours. Her birthday is January 3. Her Bubby and Zaidy have not gone "overboard" on this trip, we have only bought her about twelve gifts so far.

Before I continue my speech I want to acknowledge some special people: One, incoming president **Charlene Berkman**, our first female frater president. Doesn't that sound nice? I have known her since she was a dental student at Tufts and knew that she was destined for great things in Alpha Omega, and here we are! Incidentally, female frater is not an oxymoron. Civil war is; fresh frozen is; jumbo shrimp is; military intelligence is; communist justice is; and my all time favourite, Nazi humour really is; but not female frater. It is a symbiotic term. Thank goodness for our female fraters. I shudder to think where we would be without them.

Two, **Michael Tenenbaum**, incoming president-elect. We've been friends since the early nineteen sixties, when we were counsellors together at beautiful camp Algonquin in Argyle, New York. I was the water-skiing counsellor (easiest job) and he was the counsellor for the youngest campers (hardest job) and what a job he did. I knew he was going places and here we are!

Number three, the **Perlmutter**s, one of the first families of Alpha Omega. **Sharon**, are you in the room and would you stand up please? I want to acknowledge your dad, PIP **Gordon Perlmutter**, and your mom, **Estelle**, who until this year had attended sixty-one consecutive conventions – sixty-one consecutive!! Whenever we registered for a convention Barbara and I knew the Perlmutter would be there and they

were. We would be greeted with hugs and kisses and Gordon would immediately launch into a long and bad joke, half in English, half in Yiddish, indecipherable and unintelligible in both languages, and laughing all the way. Unfortunately they are not with us at this convention but fortunately they are still with us. Sharon, please convey to them our deep love and tell them they are sorely missed.

As far as I can determine, there are only seven other people in this room who know, really know, what I am going through emotionally right now – the seven previous Meritorious Service award winners who are here tonight: fraters **Sam Blum**, **Sy "cousin" Evans**, **Ralph Rothstein**, **Milt Salzer**, **Larry Selinger**, **Sam Unger**, and **Ben Williamowsky**. If I omitted anyone, please forgive me. To be included in this pantheon of extraordinary and excellent Alpha Omegas is ineffable. I am humbled and deeply honoured.

I want you to come back with me to the year 1965, forty-five years ago. It was a pretty good year for one **S. Murray Miller**. One, I turned twenty and became a big shot. We are all big shots when we become twenty. Two, I got my first car, a used 1962 American Rambler for \$1600.00 Canadian. Dad went halves. Three, I got into dental school at McGill University. Four, I got introduced to, got acquainted with, learned about, and became instantly enamoured with Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity. AND... five, after months of trying, I finally got a date with Barbara!!! After many "Nos", "I can't", "I'm busy", "maybe another time", "so sorry", etc., I finally got a yes. Persistence pays off! Then, after five years of begging and pleading and nagging and cajoling I finally got a yes to marry me. Persistence pays off!

Ladies and gentlemen, my brilliant and beautiful bride of over forty years, Barbara!!! (also known worldwide as). Everyone in this room who knows anything at all about me and Barbara would agree that without the quality, quantity and constancy of her love and

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support, I would not be receiving this award tonight. Believe me, it is as much hers as it is mine. Barbara, I admire you, I respect you, I appreciate you, I love you and I want to thank you for all you do for me and our family (especially my mother) and Alpha Omega. And, while I am at it, I want to thank all the spouses of Alpha Omega for what you do for AO. Without you... no AO.

Incidentally, I wouldn't be here today, physically and figuratively if it weren't for Barbara. When we first heard that the 2009 AO convention was a cruise we knew we weren't going. Barbara has had bad experiences in the past with moving buses, cars, trains and especially boats. In August of 1986 we went on a whale watching tour and it was not pretty. We never got out of the inner harbour before disaster struck. Okay, no more boats. Okay, so we'll miss this convention. Then all of a sudden around April, 2009, Barbara says to me, "I want to go; I want to try it. I'll take medicine and patches and wrist bands and whatever but I want to try it. Let's go." And here we are. She has been doing great and eating non-stop and having a blast and I've been nauseous for five days thinking about giving this nerve-racking speech. And in the ultimate irony of ironies, guess what Barbara's maiden name is, on this unforgettable first time ever Alpha Omega convention cruise? It's Schips!

This really is an unforgettable convention,

especially New Year's eve – outdoors, seventy degrees, great music, tropical breezes, and a full moon shimmering and glimmering off the Caribbean Sea. What a memory! Thank you **Bruce and Lisa and Roger and Michele**.

Hang on folks, just a few more minutes.

I want to talk about the Alpha Omega triangle and what makes us different from all the other organizations – our "ma nishtana". Speaking of "ma nishtana", did you know that Queen Elizabeth was Jewish? She revealed it a couple of years ago when she was knighting Mick Jagger. Normally the person being knighted gets down on one knee before the queen and she taps him on the shoulder with a sword and says, "I now dub thee Sir..." But Mick Jagger, being anti-establishment and a rebel, refused to kneel before the queen so when she went to tap him on the shoulder with a sword she said, "Why is this knight different from all other knights?"

What makes AO special and unique and irreplaceable? Is it the base of the triangle, Judaism? No, I can get that elsewhere. Is it the side of professionalism? No, I can get that elsewhere. Is it the side of fraternalism? No, I can get that elsewhere – the Masons, Elks, Kiwanis, Rotary Club, etc. What makes AO special is what fills in the triangle: the inside substance, the humanism, the humanity, the people of AO, individually and collectively. They make the triangular house of Alpha Omega a home. This is

what separates us from the rest. This must always be our raison-d'être from which everything else flows. I don't care how many giga-bytes, google-bytes, mega-goggles and microgoggles there are, if we lose our humanity we are done as far as I am concerned.

From the student members, whom I love, love, love interacting with to the international presidents, past and present, and to everyone in between, each and every one of you is part of the fabric of Alpha Omega. If the reason I have been given this award is that I have helped knit this unbreakable and warming and enfolding and embracing fabric of AO then I accept it with pleasure and pride and gratitude.

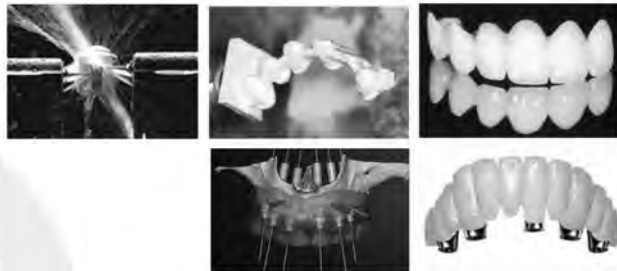
C'est pour mes amis Français: Merci pour toute que vous avez faites pour moi. C'est un grand plaisir de vous reconnaître chaque année. Merci beaucoup. À l'année prochaine. À bientôt.

I want to thank frater **Steve Kahan** for organizing and running this event so well tonight. I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy and productive and prosperous new year. Thank you again for this unforgettable highlight in my life. I love you and I love AO and God Bless.

**Murray Miller**

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# Annual Business Meeting and Election Dinner



Charles Weingarten, Alan Vinegar, Sheryl Lipton, Mel Kay, Elliott Weidman



(L to R) Allan Katchky, Eddie Glick, Charles Weingarten, Ira Kirshen

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Back row left to right: Charles Weingarten, Mel Kay, Larry Rotman, Elliott Weidman, Alan Vinegar. Front row: Sheryl Lipton, Susan Jackson

On Monday, April 12, 102 members of Toronto Alumni Chapter convened at 398 West Restaurant for the Annual Business Meeting and Election dinner. Annual reports were given by chapter president **Sheryl Lipton**, treasurer **Elliott Weidman**, Canadian Director **Avi Wurman**, amongst others. **Steve Zamon**, president of the House Association, delivered the annual House Association report. The proposed slate of executive officers for the coming year was presented and approved. Two new members joined the line for the coming year – **Alan Vinegar** as treasurer and **Bonnie Chandler** as secretary.

During dinner, two speakers addressed the members in attendance. **Susan Jackson**, Executive Philanthropy director for UJA, gave an entertaining and informative presentation on the vibrant Jewish community in the GTA, and frater and ODA president **Ira Kirshen** updated the members on current activities within the ODA and within organized dentistry in the province. Beyond the business of the evening, a good meal and fraternalism were enjoyed by all in attendance. Thanks as always go to **Jackie Levitan** and **Ellen Markin** for their invaluable assistance, both on site and behind the scenes.

**Allan Katchky**

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DR. MARVIN KLOTZ  
DR. & MRS. PAUL LEVIN

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DR. MARVIN KLOTZ  
DR. & MRS. GORDON STARKMAN

Dr. Charles Pine -loss of father  
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Mrs. Ruth Berger – loss of her husband  
DR. MARVIN KLOTZ

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