

Legacy of Life - Al G. Brown^{z"l}

JEWISH
FOUNDATION
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It's incredible how one seemingly inconsequential decision can affect future generations.

In 1906, the parents of the yet-to-be-born Al G. Brown made the decision that, despite their love for Israel, they would move to Canada and raise their children in Toronto.

Israel's loss, as it turned out, would be this city's gain.

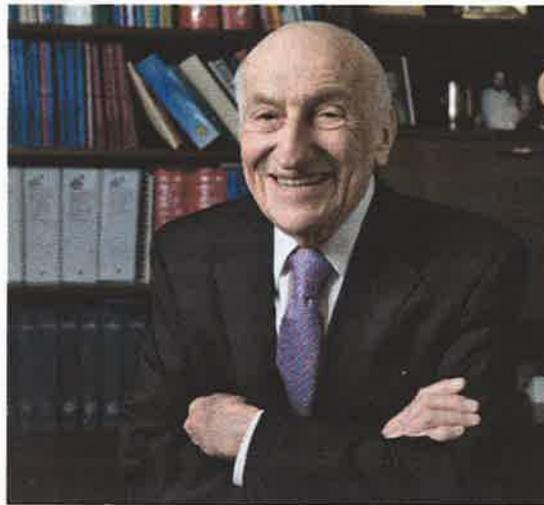
Al G. Brown, who passed away in February, left a compelling and indelible impact across the GTA as a community leader, volunteer and philanthropist who not only talked the talk, but walked the walk, when it came to giving back to Toronto's Jewish community.

"I've always felt that if you live and earn a livelihood in a community, you should support it," said Brown in his Book of Life story with the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. Brown ensured his support to the community by establishing a UJA Legacy Fund that will continue for years to come.

True to his words, Brown, who for nearly 70 years was a well respected leader in the Canadian life insurance and financial planning industries and, who in 1985 was named Man of the Year by UJA Federation's Professional Advisory Committee (PAC), received the PAC Award of Excellence, chaired UJA's Insurance Division, was President of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, and volunteered his time with various hospitals and other organizations, as well as his children's school.

It's a lesson that Al G., along with his beloved wife Shirley, were sure to pass onto their children, David and Golda.

"My children have followed my example," said Al G. in his



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Book of Life story. *"They are my partners in the family business and have taken on leadership roles in the community. I know their children, our grandchildren, are learning these same lessons."*

The youngest of nine children, Al G. Brown was born and raised on Toronto's Euclid Avenue. His father, a shochet, died when he was very young, so his mother took over the business, operating it until Al's brother became a shochet.

It's clear that, as Al and Shirley taught the importance of tzedekah to their children and grandchildren, it was a lesson Al learned decades earlier from his own mother.

"Although she was busy raising a family and running a business, she had time to be President of the Ladies Auxiliary of our shul on Palmerston Avenue and active at the Cecil Street Hospital, the forerunner to both Mount Sinai Hospital and Baycrest Centre," wrote Al. *"Tzedakah, the giving of time and money, is a building block of our family. It manifests itself in many ways. We are proud to have witnessed its development in our children and grandchildren."*

And, as not only a father and grandfather, but a financial planner as well, Al G. Brown knew well how best to help Toronto's Jewish community today, and in the future.

Anyone who knew Al G. felt special. He made a point of connecting with each individual in his own way, with his birthday calls, chocolates and personalized notes. He mastered the gift of time and gave so much of it to so many.

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