

# The Editor's Corner

.... Art Mayoff



**T**he reunion cake above says it all. This past year we have seen four mini-reunions across North America. I prefer to call these conclaves mini-reunions as they seem to have the same draw and interest of a formal reunion and besides, it tends to perk up your ears when you hear the word *reunion*. As I edit this issue, Sue, Debbie, Matthew and I are busy readying ourselves for a trip to celebrate Mayoff Day with our Montreal cousins. Word from **Mayoff Day** Headquarters in Dallas Texas indicates that this year Bernie and Denise Mayoff have selected an International theme for their fete and I understand the menu in Dallas will be a plethora of exotic foreign dishes. Do you know what the traditional edible of Mayoff Day is? Mayoff Day is now known is Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, El Salvador, England, France, Israel, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, Uganda and the US. Mayoff Day officially falls on June 1st every year, but traditionally it is celebrated on the weekend prior, if June 1st isn't on a weekend. Remember, just about everyone in the world participates in Mayoff Day, the day on which we take May off the calendar, but it takes a Mayoff, a Mayoff descendant or someone who knows a Mayoff, to truly enjoy the excitement of this special event. How many other families do you know that have their own annual holiday? Oh yes, the traditional Mayoff Day edible is a chocolate cookie with peanut-butter chips. The recipe is posted on mayoff.com.

## A Reminder

Many of the articles and photos in *The Family Descendant* are complemented with additional stories and sometimes dozens of additional photos on our web site. For those of you who are not internet active I suggest that if you find yourself visiting a friend or relative who is "on-line," ask them to dial up [www.mayoff.com](http://www.mayoff.com). You'll enjoy the tour. Additionally, remember to send in photos and stories for the next issue.

## Branch identifiers

To help our readers figure out who's who and from which branch they descend, I am using abbreviated identifiers taken from the first three letters of the name of each of Zelig's children:

**Abr=Abraham; Bun=Bunya; Hen=Hanya; Isr=Israel; Lei=Leizer; Sam=Sam; Sch=Schloima; Soc=Soche/Socha/Sonia; Ush=Usher.**

## Readers comment

From **Betty Rosen** (Hen) of Fairfield, CA... We are weeping that we have read our very last Mayoff newsletter via the mail. Our whole world is abandoning the old and adopting the new-- which is a shame. At any rate we thank you for the amazing work you have done for our family. We love the Newsletters.... [Betty, the newsletter is easily printable, in color no less, by those who have internet access and a color printer. Anyone who wishes to have a printed copy of this or any issue of the newsletter, should mail their request to me along with a small donation to cover my costs and I'll mail them one. Art]

From **Denise Mayoff**, (Abr) Dallas TX...Thanks for the newsletter. I've read it from cover to cover, and really enjoyed it, especially the coverage of Mayoff Day.

From **Rhea Bottler Fineberg** (Soc) of Montreal, Quebec...Just visited the Mayoff site for the first time. And WOW. Mazel tov to you and the others who have done and are doing the work to keep our family site active. What a wonderful job. Thank you.

From **Earle Wiseman** (Abr) of Montreal, QC... Art, I checked out the online newsletter. Fantastic work! Thank you for the hard copy too. I wasn't expecting it after reading your note about the cost cuts (totally understandable). But we're very glad to have the hardcopy since there are so many photos of my family. I also enjoyed **Bea Solomon's** (Soc) tribute about my Aunt **Zelda** [Mayoff]. Very touching. It's a great idea to honor someone in the newsletters. I also think it would be nice to see articles on the importance of keeping families close. Not always an easy thing to do with expansion. Maybe some branches can send in their thoughts on what they believe keeps them close, etc. Just a thought... [Great thoughts, Earle. Readers, are you listening?]As usual, your hard work is appreciated.

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From **Alice Gerstman** (Ush) of Torrance, CA... Thank you so much. It's good to know that the Family Descendent lives on. The Mayoff web page is great! It was such fun to see the photos from our recent visit.

From **Barbara and Walter Berman** (Abr) of Downsview, Ontario... Just a quick note to tell you I got the latest newsletter today and my heart just about stopped when I opened it. On page 7 were two pictures of my father **Moey Mayoff**, and, co-incidentally, tomorrow (Nov 6) is the 4th anniversary of his passing. Also, a quick hello to **Sue** from both of us. My son **Dan** will keep me informed of what's happening on the web site.

From **Richard Mayoff** (Abr) of Montreal, Quebec... That was a beautiful story about **Zelda**.

From **Robert and Wendy Mayoff** (Abr) of Kingston, Ontario... Reading about **Zelda** was simply beautiful! We are the luckiest of all the Mayoffs. Thanks for your hard work.

From **Rhea Bottler Fineberg** (Soc) of Montreal, Quebec... Just wanted to let you know that on a recent Israeli trip, I made contact with **Lillian Novak** (Lei) (amazing telephone conversation). I also spoke with her daughter (**Ilana**, I think is her name) [Family Tree indicates "Ella"]. I got to speak with them both when I tried to call **Nina Diamant** (Lei), **Lillian's** sister. **Ilana** answered the phone at **Nina's** number and told me that **Nina** had passed away a week earlier. It was unexpected and they were very sad. I spoke with **Lillian** and gave her condolences from all of us here. We later tried to reconnect when I was in Tel Aviv but we did not catch each other in. I will write to her. She's a very nice person; someone I know I could easily be friends with. The feeling of trust and knowing one another was very strong for me (if only over the phone). I do not know exactly how that works; but, I think you getting the Mayoff clan together (reunions and newsletters) has a lot

to do with an instant bonding that I felt. Connections to others is what life is all about for me.

From **Joan and Allan Sabran** (Ush) of West Hill, CA... I wanted to take the moment and thank you very much for orchestrating the Mini Mayoff reunion at **Manny and Arleen's**. It was wonderful seeing the relatives I already knew and meeting you and other Mayoff descendants was truly special. I look forward to seeing you again soon and hopefully meeting more of Mayoff clan. Thanks again for all your hard work bringing the family closer together. [The credit really belongs to Manny and Arleen Bernstein. They opened their home, opened their arms and provided enough food and drink to feed all of Zelig's descendants. It was fun, wasn't it? Let's do it again. Art]

First of two notes from **Masha Gindin** (Bun) of Rehovot, Israel... How are you all? I hope you remember me, and all **Dima Gindin's** family. (from Russia and then from Israel). The reason I write to you is (in addition to just to say hello) that we finally got our own e-mail address. It's: masha@aquanet.co.il. So I want to ask you to write my name in e-mail list on the Mayoff page and also to give our e-mail to **Zina's** family, **Leah** and **Shirley**. I really appreciate your sending us the family newspaper. You know, after living for such a long time with all our relatives [in Russia], it's really hard to find ourselves here without anyone. So we really miss you all, even that we don't really know each other (only by the newspaper). Please, answer me so at least to know that my letter got you and you really exist. Bye, a lot of kisses to all who know and remember us! (I'm really sorry if I made here some mistakes)

*The second note...*

It's wonderful to hear from you! Thank you for the e-mails and for the letter. In fact, **Aron** and **Rimma**

**Gindin** had also visited us. (they left just yesterday) How nice it was! They took a travel all over Israel in 10 days (usually it takes not really much time - to see the whole Israel). I think they enjoyed their trip. Now, about us. My father **Dima** works as engineer in a small private company. Mother **Galya** works as microbiologist (she is Doctor of biology, as you know). I finished my school in '94, after it, I served in Israel army (as a secretary in a fighting unit... but sh-sh-sh..., it's a secret information!). After that I decided to go to Jerusalem University. So I did that. About a month ago I graduate it. Now I have a BA in economy and marketing. About the occupation... the truth is that I was working during the whole period of my studies. (Here a lot of students work during their studies). And about seven months ago I decided to begin working full time. (not in marketing field - it's impossible to find in Israel full-time job without any professional experience - and you can't get that experience as far as you don't work in your field. Well... It's really stupid thing!) So I work now in a theater. It's the best Israeli theater, called *Gesher*. Maybe you even saw some of his shows - it was in USA too, a couple of years ago. Now I'm a secretary and translator (Russian-Hebrew-English) and it goes really nice. It's an interesting place to work in. But soon I'll have to make another decision and find a full-time job in marketing field. Or maybe I'll go to study for the second degree. I'll think about it! Now I'm going to finish some interesting course - I'll be a tour leader (in addition to economist, of course) Maybe I could take tourist groups to the US. I would like to. Tell me about yourself, your wife and all the family. You have no idea how much it interests me. A lot!!! And tell about the cousins in Caesarea - I had no idea about them!