

Archie and Sadie Levin

by Herschel Gelbart 2021



Archie was probably one of the main stalwarts of keeping the daily minyanim going in Woodstock shul. He always did the shacharit early morning davening, and if he got home in time from work he would come as well and do the other evening services. A complete all rounder and pro. His achievement was the fastest time for completing the davening whenever he did the services. Archie was a Levi in the Woodstock shul and saw to all that Levi's had to do on yom tov.

Uncle Archie, as we all called him, was a quiet yet forceful contributor to the Woodstock community. He never wanted recognition for his work and if a job was needed to be done he never waited. He was there and did it well, always.

Aunty Sadie was a classic lady, a great mother, a great baker and made her famous bagels, bulkas, herring and kichel for the ladies guild. She was the most modest person we knew and she became part of our family, being just over the road. Again, she never waited to be asked when something needed to be done, she just got up and did it quietly and professionally and was gone.

They ran a huge successful store in Main road Claremont with their sister and brother, and which really kept them busy most of each day as they grew the business each year. However, he was at shul each morning and most evenings.

He also would take Wolfie (Levin), my brother Sidney, and I to Sacs each morning after shul and drive like Stirling Moss, but never were we late for school.

They were our across the road neighbours and when my mother had the car accident Aunty Sadie would bake bagels at 5am Sunday mornings and when we Gelbart kids awoke there was a huge platter of cakes and bagels waiting for us for breakfast. She slipped in via our back door which was always open as we had nurses on duty attending my mother and brought the goodies across the road to 2 Vine road. They were there daily at night, after the accident, mostly trying to keep my dad's spirits up when they were down most nights.

The nicest kindest people one could wish to have in any community and we at Woodstock shul were blessed to have them as members and we as neighbours were lucky to have them as friends.

Wolfie, their eldest son, became my best friend and became an oncologist now living in Toronto and helped to provide the testimony on Rev Gulis. Wolfie was the brightest in our class and today still leins the Torah and takes the services in his Toronto shul.