



A FRIEND
REMEMBERS

AVIE AREN SON

A builder, a proud Zionist, a good man

When Avie Arenson passed away in January 2015 in his beloved State of Israel, the world's Jewish community lost a remarkable individual.

And I lost a very dear friend.

Avie and I became good friends in River Heights around the time of our Bar Mitzvahs. He was fun, colourful, entrepreneurial, and outspoken – and very, very bright. He was fiercely proud of his Judaism and he staunchly

defended Israel, still in its very early years of existence. In fact, I can recall more than one occasion when his passion for his people led to fistfights in the school yard.

After earning his engineering degree at the University of Manitoba – seemingly with little effort – he moved to Israel where he met and married Sarah, the love of his life. They spent a year in Canada and another in Ghana, Africa, before permanently settling in Israel – the land of their dreams.

He lived life to the fullest. He was a major success in Israel's construction industry; a respected and visionary philanthropist; and a loving "abba" to six children and "saba" to 16 grandchildren.

Avie shares a special moment with his grandchildren.



A proud saba at his grandson's bris.



Through his remarkable and busy life, he never forgot his roots and always maintained a deep love for Winnipeg and its Jewish community. He rarely said 'no' when approached to support a project in his home town, and his Winnipeg friendships were deeply important to him.

My greatest moments in recent years include exciting world travels with my wife, Karyn; our dear friend, Jackie Simkin; and Sarah and Avie. Spending time with Avie took me back to my youth, and made me smile. Avie's charisma was epic; his energy was contagious.

If you are lucky in life, you get to share time and memories with people like Avie Arenson – passionate and wise; purposeful and sincere. And loaded with character.

Karyn and I loved him and we miss him. He was my very dear friend.

-Mel Lazareck