



## BIOGRAPHY OF DR. JAYSON GREENBLATT

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While a man of faith and religion, Dr. Jayson Greenblatt was also one of science and scholarship. He was a founding member of the Beth Israel Synagogue and served a number of terms as President of the Baron de Hirsch Congregation. However, his commitment to the synagogue went beyond attending services in the sanctuary every Saturday and on High Holidays and volunteering as a Minyan Mensch several days a week. He knew the physical workings of the building inside and out. On Christmas and New Year's Eve, when the janitor was on leave, Dr. Greenblatt would make midnight rounds of the synagogue to inspect the furnace and boilers and ensure that there were no break-ins. Dr. Greenblatt's dry sense of humour was evident, when, in the 1960s, he was called upon to rewrite the librettos for a number of synagogue musical productions. Although the music remained intact, the words and plots of *GiGi* and *My Fair Lady* were wittily readapted to reflect events in the synagogue and the activities of its very vibrant Sisterhood!

Dr. Greenblatt was born in Montreal and grew up in Moncton, New Brunswick, where he and his future wife, Ann Mendelson, were childhood friends. He earned a Ph.D from McGill University in physics and chemistry and commenced his long and productive career with the Canadian Federal Government Department of National Defence during World War II

at Valcartier, Quebec. He was transferred to Halifax in 1948 to assume his position at the Naval Research Establishment in Dartmouth and was subsequently promoted to the Dockyard Laboratory in Halifax. From 1948-1970, Dr. Greenblatt was engaged in important experiments and assignments: developing non-corrosive paints for ship's hulls, as well as collaborating on the design and construction of the Canadian navy hydrofoil. This busy professional life coincided with a very active family one, because Dr. Greenblatt and his wife were raising two children, Paul and Sara. In 1962-63, he was the youngest candidate to attend the prestigious and demanding course at the National Defence College in Kingston, Ontario. The curriculum had a global dimension and Dr. Greenblatt travelled to such exotic places as Turkey, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Malaysia and Israel. In 1970, he was transferred to Ottawa to assume a new Canadian Government Defence position involving Earth Sciences, which might be regarded as a forerunner to Climate Change. During the long summer daylight hours, Dr. Greenblatt would lead teams to the furthest point north at Resolute to conduct tests, measurements and experiments of Arctic ice. He was also responsible for planning and cooking the breakfast, lunch and dinner menus for his scientific cohorts, claiming that his food never "repeated". The years 1975-1981, when he served as a

senior Diplomat at the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff in Washington, D.C., were the most memorable ones for Jayson and Ann Greenblatt. Dr. Greenblatt cooperated closely with US, British, Australian and New Zealand counterparts in defence research collaboration and travelled to destinations in the Orient, as well as Australasia.

Upon his return to Halifax and retirement from the Canadian Government in 1982, Dr. Greenblatt became an adjunct Professor at the Technical University of Nova Scotia, where he taught environmental studies in the Department of Chemical Engineering. He was involved in the design and construction of environmentally friendly coal combustion boilers and travelled to India on several occasions to introduce and train Indian scientists in applying this technology. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Greenblatt served on the Halifax Chapter of the Weizmann Institute of Canada and cooperated closely with the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation and the Faculty of Medicine in fostering scientific exchanges with the Weizmann Institute in Israel. In keeping with his commitment to scholarship and Judaism, Dr. Greenblatt created a lasting legacy in the form of a bursary to assist Jewish students in Atlantic Canada in pursuing Judaic studies in Israel or in the Diaspora. ③