

My name is Eitan (Anthony) Levy and I lived in Durban in South Africa.

In the 1960's **Eddie** was sent to Durban as the *shaliah* to the Israel Habonim youth movement. Later he also spent some time as the *shaliah* in Johannesburg.

My future wife Doreen and I became firm friends with Eddie and his wife Yael and we sometimes babysat the children. I was by then, because of my ripe old age of about 23, less active in Habonim but still took part in some activities. One evening Eddie asked me to join him in some activity and I told him that I was not available. I was rather embarrassed to tell him that I was playing bridge that evening. Although not forbidden, bourgeois things like lipstick, makeup, and playing card games like bridge were then not considered quite suitable for Zionist *chalutzim*. Eddie's reaction was completely unexpected. "Fantastic. Bridge! I love bridge. Maybe we can play together." And Eddie and I often went (somewhat surreptitiously) to the local club and played bridge as partners, not very successfully I might add.

Doreen and I were not yet married and our relationship was problematic for our parents. We encountered opposition from her parents over our plans to get married, and Doreen left home. Eddie was our go-between with Doreen's mother. Eddie's, with his personality and sense of humour, was of invaluable help in calming things down, and getting them to accept the idea. To a large extent we have Eddie to thank for 56 years of married life. Our decision to come on Aliyah was due in part to Eddie's influence. His *chanichim* living in Israel, including on kibbutz Tzora, are also a testament to this.

In Israel we continued our contact with him at Kfar Hanasi and I often saw him at various bridge tournaments. About 10 years ago we celebrated his 80th birthday at a party at Kfar Hanassi with some of his former *chanichim* from Durban and Johannesburg.

About 5 years ago we visited Eddie, and were also happy to see Yael again and exchange details about our families. Eddie no longer had the use of his vocal chords and was fed intravenously. Nevertheless we reminisced and carried on a lively conversation with the aid of his scratch pad. I took a picture of him there – in spite of everything there is a broad smile on his face.

We were deeply saddened by the news of his passing, and will always be grateful and thankful to him for his positive influences on our life

We extend our condolences to Dorit, Amir, and Orna, and their families

יהי זכרו ברוך



Eddie's 80th with ex-Durbanites living in Israel



Eddie 2015

