

A New Life

Argentine immigrant brought fiancée to Winnipeg, married her here

All family members like winter here, especially this one

Ricardo Krigun wanted to leave Argentina for Canada for a long time, for the usual reasons of financial and political instability in the country, the feeling that you could not

plan for the next day, that you were not necessarily safe where you were living. When he heard about the second mission of the Winnipeg Jewish community to Buenos Aires, it came at the right time. In September 2003, he arrived here with his son, Luciano, then 21. They received a great deal of help from the Jewish community at that time, for which they are very grateful. It took Ricardo some time to find a job; in the interim, he volunteered his services at the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's museum, as he had previously been a volunteer at the Jewish Museum in Buenos Aires. There, he met Gila Isaacs. She and her husband, Stephen Challis, became his host family and subsequently, good friends. Ricardo also volunteered at the Western Aviation Museum, in their "flight simulation school". Flying is Ricardo's hobby and passion; both he and Luciano are glider pilots and private pilots. Ricardo is currently working as a computer programmer for an insurance company, a job he likes. In July 2004, Ricardo brought his fiancée, Alicia Gueller, here and they were married later that month. However, she then had to return to Argentina and wait until he could obtain visas for her and her children to join him. This did not happen until four months ago, in October 2006. It was a very lonely time for Ricardo until then. Now, the small house in the West End is humming with the activity of its six occupants. Alicia came with three of her four children: Ivan - 22, Larisa - 19 and Tatia - 15. The oldest, Silvana, decided not to come with them because of her boyfriend and her university studies, so she and her baby, Gabriel (just turned one), remained there. All four of the recent arrivals really miss them.



From left: Ivan, Tatia, Larisa, Alicia and Ricardo Krigun (Missing: Luciano).

A New Life
Profiles of recent Jewish immigrants to Winnipeg
By CHANA THAU

to be prepared for the change." Luckily, he is very adaptable. Although the three children studied English in Argentina, they did not have much opportunity to practise it there. They are also having to adjust to a whole new social situation and culture. As Tatia, the youngest daughter, expressed it, "I left

part of my life there." She is currently attending Grade 10 at the Gray Academy of Jewish Education, where she is finding it a challenge to be surrounded by English, Hebrew and Russian on all sides. Larisa is attending ESL classes at Gordon Bell High School, although she was only two months short of high school graduation back in Argentina. Ivan is participating in the Manitoba government's entry program, "Solutions for Youth". He completed a technical high school in Argentina and hopes to study engineering at the university. All three of Alicia's children are sad at leaving behind their sister and nephew, as well as their father. Ivan also left his girlfriend there. Ricardo's son, Luciano, 24, is working in computer software at Microsoft, formerly Front Bridge, and is happy with his job. (He was not home at the time of the interview, so he does not appear in the above photo.) Luciano had an unusual and much easier adjustment to Winnipeg, as his best friend from Argentina, Diego Fridson, coincidentally also moved to Winnipeg with his family around the same time.

Alicia and her family come from Corrientes City, the capital of Corrientes province, about 1000 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires. It has a tropical climate. "It was 28C there today," Ivan chimes in. When asked how they met since they lived so far apart, Ricardo and Alicia laughed and said, "It's a long story." To sum it up, they met through the Internet. Surprisingly, or not, all of the family members like the winter, especially the one they arrived to, although not the few days of extreme cold. Larisa likes the Forks; she feels she hasn't been here long enough to say much about the people. Tatia likes "the chocolate here, and watching the falling snow". She enjoys ice skating, which she picked up easily since she knew how to rollerskate. She also likes "shopping, McDonald's and A&W". Alicia likes "the city, the winter and the snow". She likes "the people, who are very polite, respectful" and the fact that the situation here is stable. "And you can plan your days without having surprises," Ricardo adds. Alicia and Ivan both also like the multicultural character of Winnipeg, seeing people from so many different countries and hearing so many languages. Ivan also enjoys learning about many different countries in his current program of study. While he originally thought of staying here several months and probably returning to Argentina to live, he now plans to make Winnipeg his home.

The writer is a professional personal historian, specializing in helping people write their life stories. If you know of any Jewish immigrants to Winnipeg in the past decade willing to be interviewed in this "A New Life" feature, please e-mail Thau at chanathau@shaw.ca

Good To Go?

GrowWinnipeg is putting on an Employment Networking Event for students, recent graduates, and young people looking for work and/or career information. The jfwjobexchange Youth Employment Network will be held on March 16th in the Multipurpose Room, Asper Jewish Community Campus, 123 Doncaster Street, between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. This event will put 17 to 25 year olds in contact with a variety of employers, staffing companies, training organizations, and service providers. It will be a chance to drop off resumes, get application forms, and discuss future opportunities, like Samyra Stuart-Altman did last summer: "As a student with limited physical mobility, I found that looking for employment suitable to my situation was very difficult. However as soon as I was added to the candidate list, I started receiving job postings that had never been available to me before. Within a few weeks I already had an interview with CBC, and before I knew it I was hired ... Thanks to GrowWinnipeg, I now have a great paying job, with wonderful people in an exciting environment."

Follow Samyra's lead, register by contacting Cliff Huot at GrowWinnipeg at the number in the ad below, or email chuot@aspercampus.mb.ca.

Jewish Federation of Winnipeg presents...

GOOD TO GO?



jfwjobexchange Youth Employment Network
March 16, 2006
MultiPurpose Room, Asper Jewish Community Campus
123 Doncaster Street
Contact Cliff Huot
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Sports news/scores

Grade 8 Gray Academy b'ball team leads league 10-0

Team formed at players' requests

Gray Academy of Jewish Education volunteer basketball coach Gilli Braunstein contacted this publication a few weeks ago to reveal that there was an exciting and interesting story unfolding at the institution of Jewish education. I soon learned that it wasn't necessarily about his Grade 8 team's impressive showing in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association.

THE SPORTING TOUCH



By HARVEY ROSEN

Now that's not to imply that a league-leading 10-0 regular-season record heading into the play-offs against division opponents from River West Park, Winnipeg Mennonite School, Viscount Alexander, H.G. Izzat, and Laidlaw isn't cause to crow. Early on in the interview I realized that the affable Gilli, 19, a 2004 Gray Academy grad who once played guard/forward at the school himself, wasn't on the phone to boast, but to toast his band of 13 year olds for certain intangible qualities they possess. This a group that was literally thrown together on such short notice.

Braunstein, a second-year arts student at the University of Manitoba, hopes to teach school himself one day; he was excited and upbeat about the unorthodox and humble beginnings of his undefeated outfit.

"Last year," he informed me, "I co-coached the Grade 9 boys' basketball team with Ariel Posen, who coaches the Varsity Boys now. I wasn't intending to coach at all this year."

But since a large number of Grade 8 boys wanted to play basketball after the winter break, and the organizers hadn't yet lost Gilli's phone number, he was contacted and more than pleased to resume coaching at his alma mater.

"We had one practice. It all happened very fast. Out of 18 who said they were coming, only six showed up. I picked all the guys who showed up for my team," said Gilli.

Eventually, more players drifted in and two squads were formed, with the other coached by Darryl Antel. The latter, according to Braunstein, eventually selected a number of players with whom he was familiar from his days as a counselor at BB Camp.

Interestingly, both Grade 8 teams are called the Raiders. Why not call the teams 1 and 2 or A and B? Gilli would have none of that. In his opinion,

Recreation Men's Bowling League

By SAUL LONDON, secretary
Weekly high scores - February 23
HIGH TRIPLE: Darren Earn 707 (268, 235, 204); Itz Jacob 625 (255); Chaim Raber 605 (222, 204); Hersh Doctoroff 604 (224, 190, 190); Terry Robinson 559 (225); Saul Greenberg 553 (212); Gary Granzberg 551 (215); Harvey Appelle 541 (200); Saul London 533 (192, 191); Avery Spigelman 530 (193); Herb Singer 516 (199); Jack Buchalter 509 (217); Ron Goldberg 508.
HIGH SINGLE: Saul Coodin 185; Mickey Rosenberg 180.



Coach Gilli Braunstein with his Raiders team, which ended the regular season undefeated at 10-0. Back row: Jared Ackerman - far left on top, next to him going right is Saul Werier (hair in eyes), the next person is Shia Richter (open mouth), Coach Gilli Braunstein wearing white cap. Middle: Daniel Breslauer is #15 touching knees, #5 Ivan Katz, #41 wearing glasses is Garriel Brawerman. Front row: #7 lying on elbow is Zev Faintuch, #3 Zee Lubocki and kneeling down, hand touching left sock, is Sean Morantz.

the teams are equal, and no distinction was required, despite one team's undefeated status and the other sporting a 2-7 or 3-6 record.

"When we picked the teams, it appeared they were well balanced," assured Gilli. "They are two separate teams in two separate divisions and technically in the same league."

The players, however, know each other well, both on and off the court. "We play against each other in scrimmages in practice," said Braunstein. "We don't keep score, just work on the skills. On some days, they really want to win. They're the same guys they see in class."

There was talk of a trade due to the disparity in the Raiders' teams' records, but the boys would have nothing of that. "Everybody is happy where they are and want to stay put," said Gilli.

As far as Braunstein is concerned, his Raiders team has unique qualities that one doesn't readily find in amateur or pro basketball teams. "The first game we played, I knew we'd have a good team. The first time they took the ball up the court, every player on the team touched the ball. There's a lot of talent there, and everybody I saw was team oriented. They just want to win."

"I took them to our gym and told them to look up at the school banners at the top of the wall. I pointed out that the school hasn't won any big titles in 10-11 years. They said they wanted to win, and that the only way they were going to do it was together."

Despite very little practice, but with a laudatory mission in mind, the team roared out of the gate, capturing their initial victory, a one-sided romp 62-26 over River West Park.

"The second game the team played against

Winnipeg Mennonite School was the only one in which they were behind early. "We ended up winning 47-33," informed Gilli.

Braunstein also detected a rare quality in his team that gave him pause to ponder. "I didn't think 13 year olds could demonstrate such menschlichkeit. They are always first in line to shake hands after a game," he said with pride in his voice.

Braunstein was reluctant to name anyone on his team whom he deemed to be stand-outs. "I don't like to pick favorites," he said. After some deliberation, he reluctantly mentioned Zee Lubocki, Sean Morantz, and Daniel Breslauer as the stalwarts of his team-oriented squad.

Other contributors are Jared Ackerman, Saul Werier, Shia Richter, Ivan Katz, Garriel Brawerman, and Zev Faintuch.

Antel's Raiders' squad consists of Matthew Bernstein, Brayden Bernstein, Saul

Shrom, Riley Streifler, Jystin Gertenstein, Devon Kettner, Rami Penner, David Thompson, and Matthew Ratson.

The writer, a Jewish Winnipegger, is a former school teacher, and covers football and hockey for Canadian Press and Broadcast News.

Keep in touch with Sporting Touch. Send news about Jewish sports to Harvey Rosen, 360 Scoota Street, Winnipeg, Man., R2V 1W7, e-mail: harv360@mts.net

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