

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Charlie-Ben Glassman and I wish to talk to you about two heroes in my life, my grandfather Zadie Leon and my great grandfather, Zadie Charlie (Z'I). They forged a special bond and drew strength from hardships caused by Anti-Semitism. Together they grew successful businesses and believed in the support of Israel and local Jewish and non-Jewish causes.

My great-grandfather experienced gruesome hardships during the pogroms in a shtetle in the Ukraine. Till the day he died he refused to talk about them, saying, "I only live for today and tomorrow". I only wish I got to know my Zadie Charlie. He and his brothers made their way to Saskatchewan and Manitoba, one at a time. In only a few years, with only a grade 2 education, he managed to become financially well off and then, in the Great Depression he lost almost everything. He managed to start all over again, married and opened a general store in a small town.

He and my Bubbie Esther had only one child, my Zadie Leon. They kept a kosher home and celebrated all the Jewish holidays. There was still much Anti-Semitism and my Zadie Leon, got into many fights. When Israel came into existence, he says that this was a great source of pride and personal strength. From a young age, Zadie Leon worked in the store and after university, became business partners with his father. They developed apartment buildings, highly successful men's wear stores, and later, moved to Vancouver to build more buildings.

What inspired me to learn more about my Zadie Leon was learning that he built the second section of the Talmud Torah. This filled me with a great sense of pride and we have had many conversations. He is a pretty funny guy who has done so much more in the community. The important thing is to know is that if it weren't for the efforts of people like him, our lives as Jews would not be as comfy as it is.

He likes to say "Business before Pleasure" and will interrupt me to say, "Just wait a minute, let me explain it one more time" But on a more a serious note, and in conclusion, his advice to me in life is to first "decide where you want to go" and even more importantly, to get there "look after the details" and you will succeed.