

Aaron & Ina Ettenberg



Ina and Aaron met on a blind date in the late summer of 1976 – shortly after the conclusion of the Montreal Olympic Games. That evening obviously went well as they will be celebrating their 42nd wedding anniversary in August! They moved to California in 1980, a change that was both exciting, as they began a new chapter of their life together in a new city and new country, but also sad as they left behind virtually everyone that they knew and loved. The move was prompted by a prized research position that Aaron was offered to work at the Salk Institute in San Diego. The position was funded by a Medical Research Council of Canada 2-3 year fellowship after which they assured their families that wherever they went next would undoubtedly be closer to home. But that was not to be. In 1982 Aaron was offered a faculty position at UCSB and they moved even further west to take up residence here in Santa Barbara.

Both of their children, Sharna and Michael, were born and grew up in Santa Barbara, have married wonderful spouses, served up a grandson (Avi, from Mike and Elana) a granddaughter (Maddie, from Sharna and Justen) and, and unlike their parents, fortunately decided to stay somewhat closer to home having set down roots in San Diego and Los Angeles.

Upon their arrival in Santa Barbara, having no family or friends, Aaron and Ina sought out the Jewish community by joining Congregation B'nai B'rith where they both quickly became

involved as members, volunteers and lay leaders. Ina served several years as a resource and mentor teacher in the Sunday school and worked on the development of creative programming for the religious school curriculum, while Aaron was elected to the Board of Trustees where he served 26 years in almost every capacity including President. Of course, their involvement in the Jewish community extended beyond CBB, both served at different times as members of the Hillel Board, and Aaron (Hillel's immediate Past President) is an honorary lifetime member of the CBB Board and also sits on the advisory board of the of Antidefamation League.

In their spare time, both have developed rewarding careers as distinguished educators – for 30 years Ina (now retired) taught, mentored, and most recently served as a special needs teacher in Goleta where in 2016 her efforts were recognized by the Goleta Chamber of Commerce in a gala event held at the Baccara where she was awarded the “Teacher of the Year”. Aaron has served 37+ years as a Professor of Neuroscience and Behavior in UCSB's Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences where he studies the neurobiology of substance abuse and addiction -- work for which he too has been recognized by the campus with awards for both his research and teaching. Aaron has also served in numerous administrative positions on campus including Vice Chair and Chair of his Department, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and a five-year term as Provost of the College of Letters & Science. He plans to retire this coming June so that he and Ina can spend more time in their most preferred roles as *Bubbie* and *Zaidie*!