



Interviewed: Brenda and Colin Baskind
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Theme: Contribution to Canada
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(Colin)

So, you know in the early 90s when we were here I what, joined, they called it JIAS, and at that point, a lot of Russian immigrants were coming in. That's when Gorbachev opened up and I spent a lot of time with conversational English with the Russians, mainly Russians, some Yugoslavian, where they just learned...they just wanted to speak, I didn't do anything other than raise, mention a subject. I also spent time linking Canadian families to Russian families for *Pesach* or for *Rosh Hashanah* and we put the two together and they actually went and they actually had a meal and we followed that through a few times.

(Brenda)

I forgot about that.

(Colin)

Yeah, and I did quite a bit of that, so I actually enjoyed it, I really did enjoy it. In addition to which, with SAJAC, I'm the president, but one of the things I actually did was help people find work. A lot of times there was one a week, different one and spent quite a lot of time... Again, I enjoyed that. Then, we have a bursary. When I was at JIAS, I was involved with a bursary system that existed here. I think his name was Lindemann, and that was a bursary to Israelis and Russians based on, not financial need, but ability and that was very interesting. You interview all these people. Again, it gave me a lot of satisfaction to see the young person who's really got such a lot talent get money to, you know, to follow their dreams or at least further their education. So, we introduced that for South Africans and we spent time and a lot...of the reputation of South African Jews have, is they're all wealthy and there's no problem is totally untrue. There are certainly people...they can't afford to send their kids to university. It's as simple as that. Our bursary is based on financial need, nothing else. They can be a...you don't have to be a smart person but if there's a financial need, so we spend time interviewing them and we've had some tremendous stories where people come from a broken home –completely messed up and they qualify and that's given me a lot of satisfaction.

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