

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

Elizabeth and Tony Comper

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

in acknowledgment of their activities, undertaken jointly and individually, in the areas of volunteerism; the mobilization of resources for social and cultural purposes;
and, in particular, for their outstanding initiative in founding EAST (Fighting Antisemitism Together).

Conferred in Toronto, Canada

28 Heshvan 5767/November 19, 2006

Aaron Ben-Ze'ev

Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev

President

Ben-Artzi Yossi

Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi

Rector



TONY COMPER

When he received his Award of Merit from B'nai Brith Canada in 2003, Tony Comper connected the honor back to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States when he was a teenager, recalling how deeply impressed he was that one oppressed minority, America's Jews (including many not much older than himself), were so passionately willing to take up the cause of another oppressed minority, sometimes at great personal risk.

This is one of the reasons he agreed to his wife Elizabeth's past-the-tipping-point insistence that they do something to fight antisemitism in Canada. In 2005, they founded FAST (Fighting Antisemitism Together), publicly supported by an A-list of non-Jewish Canadian business and community leaders.

Tony is the President and Chief Executive Officer of BMO Financial Group, Canada's oldest bank. He joined BMO in 1967 after earning a degree in English Literature from the University of Toronto, where he would one day serve as Chairman of the Governing Council and lead a groundbreaking, \$1-billion fundraising campaign. By the time Tony was named Chief Operating Officer of BMO in the late 1980s, he had worked in most areas of the organization. He became CEO a decade later and held the Chairman's title, as well, until 2004, when BMO switched to a non-executive chairman model.

In addition to his high-profile commitment to FAST, Tony is well known as one of the first corporate leaders anywhere to take up the cause of the advancement of women in the workplace. He is a longtime Director of Catalyst, New York, and Chair of its Canadian Board of Advisors. Among numerous other business and community affiliations, he is a Member of the International Business Leaders Advisory Council of the Mayor of Beijing and a Member of the Board of Directors of the International Monetary Conference. He is also a patron, as well as a lover, of just about all of the arts.

Tony's commitment to education and Canada's intellectual growth has been recognized with honorary doctorates from the University of Toronto (LL.D.), Mount Saint Vincent University (D.Hum.L.), and the University of New Brunswick (D.Litt.). Even before his B'nai Brith award, his commitment to social justice was recognized with a Human Relations Award from the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

ELIZABETH COMPER

Although she was never sure where the feeling came from, or why it was so powerful and enduring, Elizabeth Comper always knew that she would have to take action at some point in her life to fight antisemitism. That point arrived in the Spring of 2004 in the wake of a shocking, weekend-long string of anti-Jewish incidents in and around Toronto, Canada, and resulted in the founding, with her like-minded husband, Tony Comper, of FAST (Fighting Antisemitism Together), a coalition of influential non-Jewish Canadians dedicated to speaking out against humanity's oldest hatred.

Given Elizabeth's credentials as a former elementary school teacher and her early ambition to become a children's librarian (she holds a Master's degree in Library Science from McGill University in Montreal), it is not a surprise that FAST's first educational initiative is a curriculum-based learning program aimed at students in their formative, early-teenage years. Called Choose Your Voice, the program includes an award-winning DVD. To date, it has been implemented successfully by more than 30 school boards.

Early in their marriage, the Compers lived in Montreal and London, England, before settling in Toronto, where Tony worked his way up to become President and CEO of BMO Financial Group and Elizabeth took up charitable causes. Particularly noteworthy was her passion and aptitude as a fundraiser and volunteer for the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, which led to special recognition from Toronto's Chinese community.

Elizabeth also turned her attention to the arts as Chair of the Founders Committee of the Elinore & Lou Siminovich Prize in Theatre, Canada's largest annual arts award. She served for ten years on the Board of Toronto's Tarragon Theatre, two of them as Chair. She is currently a Director of both the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Ontario Arts Council Foundation.

Other beneficiaries of Elizabeth's commitment include the University of Toronto, which has honored her with an Arbor Award; recipients of the Charles and Betty Webster International Study Scholarship, named for her parents, at the University of Guelph; the Reach for the Skye Project for child cancer research; and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. She is a Director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and a recipient of its Human Relations Award.

אוניברסיטת חיפה

סנאט אוניברסיטת חיפה בתוקף סמכויותיו המוענקות לו
על-ידי חוקת האוניברסיטה ובהתאם להמלצות הנשיא והוועד הפועל

מעניק בזאת

לאליזבת ולטוני קומפר

את התואר

דוקטור לפילוסופיה

לשם כבוד

בהערכה לפעילותם ההתנדבותית, יחד וכל אחד לחוד בתחומים שונים; על גיוס כספים לרווחת
החברה ולקידום התרבות; ובעיקר על יוזמתם המופתית בהקמת הארגון
"נלחמים יחדיו באנטישמיות".

ניתן בטורונטו, קנדה

כ"ח בחשון תשס"ז, 19 בנובמבר 2006


פרופ' יוסי בן-ארצי
רקטור


פרופ' אהרון בן-זאב
נשיא