

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Kate Maynard at k.maynard@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 350 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 700–800 words).

Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the *BDJ*.

EILEEN JAFFE



Eileen Jaffe died on 31 December 2008 at the age of 88. In 20 years in the Children's Department at Guy's Hospital she was a major influence on generations of students and junior dental staff.

Eileen Kirsch was born and grew up on the family fruit farm, about 100 miles north of Cape Town. After excelling at school she obtained BA and speech therapy degrees at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg. In 1941 she married Roy Jaffe who had just qualified as a doctor. She practised as a speech therapist during the war. Passionately left wing and a fierce opponent of apartheid, she worked to improve the pay and conditions of mixed race servicemen in the South African army.

Roy and Eileen came to England with their 3-year-old son after the war where Roy specialised in ophthalmology. Two daughters were born in the next five years. The role of non-working housewife was not for her and when her younger daughter started school she decided to apply for dentistry. First she had to do science A-levels (the hardest exams she ever sat, including FDS) and then get into a dental school. After numerous rejections, she was asked at the London Hospital whether at 38 she was not too old. 'You're all older than me', she told the all-male selection panel, 'are you past it?' She got in and never looked back.

She qualified in 1963, did a spell in the Children's Department at the Eastman and then moved to Guy's where the department at that time was essentially

an orthodontic one, headed by Jack Tulle. Together they developed children's services at Guy's and along with her colleague, Deidre Pool, the mobile clinics that visited special schools to treat mentally and physically disabled children.

Her interest in endodontics was recognised by her appointment in 1977 as President of the British Endodontic Society, unusual for someone outside the speciality. In 1982 she was made President of the British Paedodontic Society. As well as being a vibrant and inspirational teacher her management of difficult children was legendary. 'My, what beautiful new shoes you have,' would usually quieten the most recalcitrant young patient.

Eileen enjoyed a long and happy retirement. She travelled widely, was an avid reader and a very fine pianist. She is survived by Roy to whom she was married for 67 years, her three children Peter, Margie and Trisha and seven grandchildren.

A. Berman, J. Goodman, P. Kaspar

GERALD M. FEINGOLD



Gerald Feingold passed away on 6 April 2009.

Born in Redcar on 23 August 1926, his family moved to Manchester when he was a child. His first job was in a steel laboratory until he was called up for Army Service in 1944. He served in Rangoon, Burma and became a Jewish Chaplain, organising High Holyday Services for his troops. Once demobilised, he enrolled at the Liverpool Dental School and qualified as a dentist.

He devoted much of his life to the welfare of the population of Israel. His defining achievement was the establishment of dental clinics staffed by volunteer dentists in Israel. The first clinic opened in 1980, in Ashkelon, and Gerald followed this by helping to establish oral hygiene programmes in various parts of the country.

As a practice principal he set standards of workmanship that his associates carried with them throughout their careers and he was particularly adept at salvaging broken restorative dentistry. In this regard his resourcefulness knew no bounds and he gave many lecture presentations on the subject.

He was awarded a Masters Degree for his prosthodontic studies and, in doing so, paved the way for many other general dental practitioners to undertake postgraduate research.

In his spare time he was a member of the Friends of the John Rylands Library and Jewish Historical Society. He used dental techniques to make jewellery and he was also a talented artist, winning a Colgate Award for Dental Art.

Almost to the end of his life he was treating patients and working on a research project on the longevity of dental restorations. He was a founder member of the Manchester Dental Friends of the Hebrew University and later the pioneering Dental Postgraduate Society of Manchester bringing his ebullient common sense to many a council meeting.

He was passionate about Judaism, Zionism and dentistry and he will be fondly missed by all his colleagues as one of dentistry's true characters.

He is survived by his wife Judy, four children and six grandchildren.

PRG