

Obituaries 輓文



Mrs Memory Heather Stather
1944-2024

In loving memory of Memory Stather

It has been my great blessing in knowing you, my dear friend. You are always one of the brightest stars in gemmological and jewellery design industry.

Your passion and dedication inspired us not only in knowledge, we learned from your love and kindness, especially when you served as Director of Education in GAHK during the 1990s.

Being your friend and colleagues in The Gemmological Association of Hong Kong for years, we admired your generosity in sharing your knowledge and insights. Thank you for all your contributions. Your ideas and influence have been long lasting.

Memory, you had been like a precious pearl with lustre shining around the world wherever you were. You are indeed an angel from Heaven.

Rest in peace until we meet again. You are always in our hearts.

Henry CHENG Ex-Chairman of GAHK (1991)



Memory was a fine and passionate gemstone carver. These perfume bottles are examples of the beautiful work she produced.



Dr Rafael Aharoni, BBS
1947-2024
Honorary Advisor, GAHK
2017-2024

Rafael Aharoni was born in 1947 in Jerusalem, Israel, and was the fourth generation in the diamond industry. His business focused on the manufacturing of diamonds, import and export since the 1970's.

Dr Aharoni had been a dedicated and active member of GAHK since the 1980s with enormous contribution. He had been serving as Honorary Advisor of GAHK since 2017.

In 1996, Ministry of Industry and Trade granted him the Israeli Trade Award for the Diamond Industry. In 2001, he was awarded as an Honorary Doctor of Southwest University of Science and Technology, Sichuan, PRC.

Dr Aharoni had served as Chairman of the Israeli Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong since 1998, and in between he stepped down as an Honorary Chairman in 2004, and was re-elected as Chairman again in 2008 until now.

In 2012, Rafael Aharoni was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star Medal by the Government of the Hong Kong SAR for his valuable contribution to humanitarian and voluntary services, as well as promoting trade and development in the Jewish Community in Hong Kong.

With Dr Aharoni's engagements in the diamond and jewellery sectors, he served as Former President of Gemological Institute of America (GIA) – Alumni Association – Hawaii Chapter, and Former Chairman of WGI – World Gemological Institute, Hong Kong, Macau and China.

In 2013, Rafael Aharoni was awarded the title of “Dearest Man of Diamond Industry of the State of Israel” by the Israel Diamond Manufacturers Association in recognition of his outstanding

contribution to the Israel diamond industry over the years.

Dr Aharoni had served as an Honorary Chairman of The Gemological Association of Sichuan, PRC, Honorary Advisor & Consultant of The Hong Kong Institute of Gemmology and the Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences for almost 2 decades.

Dr Aharoni was not only as member of GIA Alumni Association (Hong Kong Chapter) but also served at the Board of Director of the Diamond Federation of Hong Kong, China Ltd.

Dr Aharoni had also engaged himself a lot to Hong Kong, Jewish community services and charitable organisations, such as being Chairman of Maccabi World Union – Hong Kong, Macau, China (Jewish Olympic Games), Chairman of the Advisory Board of UNESCO Hong Kong Association – Peace Project, President of ZAKA International Search & Rescue Unit – HK – Macau – China as Regional Team Leader and Degree in Disaster Management which was recognised by the UN as a humanitarian NGO.

Dr Aharoni was President of the Jewish Community, Chabad of Kowloon, Hong Kong.

He was awarded as an Honorary Man of the Year “HINENI”/“JP” of the Jewish Community of Hong Kong - Chabad of Hong Kong in 2012.

Dr Aharoni had been Director of Hong Kong Baptist University Foundation for years, and also served as member of the Board of Governors of Technion - Israel Institute of Technology and Tel Aviv University respectively.

Dr Aharoni had been Rotarian for 2 decades. During his tenure of Presidency of Rotary Club of Wanchai in 2002-2003 when SARS crisis was in Hong Kong, he contributed greatly to those who were affected by SARS in both Hong Kong and China. His second tenure of Presidency of Rotary Club of Wanchai was in 2012-2013.

During its tenure of 2018-2019, Dr Rafael Aharoni was awarded the top most honour of “The Rotarian of The Year” for his valuable contribution, great leadership and outstanding work as Assistant Governor of Area 2 of Rotary District 3450 – Hong Kong – Macau – China – Mongolia, especially for his unwavering support to Rotary International over the years.

In memory of my dear friend Dr Rafael Aharoni

I was shocked to hear the sad news that Dr Rafael Aharoni passed away. I was deeply saddened and couldn't calm down for a long time.

I have known him for more than 30 years in Hong Kong. He was a senior Israeli diamond wholesaler, but he had deep feelings for Hong Kong. He was a gentleman of integrity and enthusiastic about participating in social activities, which was admirable. He often encouraged me and invited me to participate in important meetings. He generously provided me with the materials I needed for my work. I was deeply moved by his encouragement to recognise my strengths and took an active role in society. Although Dr Aharoni was a businessman, he was very passionate about charity. I know that he had often donated generously to disaster-stricken areas. As the domestic economy in China opened up, he also participated in business activities frequently.

His death is a great loss to the Hong Kong jewellery community. For me personally, I have lost a rare and close friend. May Dr Aharoni rest in peace. I will miss you forever.

Mimi Chiu Mei OU YANG Honorary Chairlady, GAHK



Left: Dr Rafael AHARONI, BBS
Right: Prof. Mimi OU YANG