

AUGUST 2019

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*Neighbours*



The  
Meltzers  
Three is a Charm!

 Best Version Media 

Cover photo by Erlisa Riconallo



# The Meltzers

## Three is a Charm!

By Rhonda Massad | Photos by Erlisa Riconalla

Australian born Michaela Lincoln Meltzer fell in love with Montrealer Stephen Meltzer when friends introduced them in Australia close to 30 years ago. The dating game for these two was a little over a year. They married in 1991 and have lived in Westmount for their 28 years together. They gave birth to triplets, Spencer, Ariella and Elijah Meltzer who are 21 years old.

Michaela went to Monash University in Melbourne Australia, where she graduated in Education. She taught high school in History and Sociology.

“I taught briefly in Canada after I got married,” Michaela explained to Westmount Neighbours. “I had my own cookie store on Monkland, then was a stay at home Mum for 14 years.”

“Since I have lived in Canada, we have always lived in Westmount. Stephen is originally from Saint John New Brunswick and was living in Westmount when we met,” Michaela stated. “We started out together in a lower duplex on Grosvenor. We moved to a duplex on Mount Stephen and lived in the lower and rented the upper for 20 years. We moved to our current house on Roslyn 5 years ago and love it.”



“We love Westmount. We are so close to everything, the shops, the library, public transport and our friends. Stephen walks to work. The kids take the bus or walk to school so we only need one car,” she added. “The summer is a great time with all the beautiful flowers and gardens. We love being outside and walking the dog as it is such a short season.”

The Meltzer children have a strong bond having grown up as “The Triplets”. With family in Australia, the triplets were brought up travelling.

“We love to travel and the kids are great travellers,” she said. “Being from Australia they have been many times to visit my family. If you can travel that far, you can travel anywhere. We love Hawaii and have been a few times. We enjoy fun and different activities.”

A sense of humour is a must in the Meltzer home.

“We love to laugh. We are very loud,” she continued. “We have a skill of being able to have multiple conversations going on at once. We all contribute and all know what is going on in what conversation.”

“Now the children are all at different schools after going through Elementary, High school and CJEP together. They all played Westmount Soccer for years and the boys did hockey as well,” Michaela said. “The boys have refereed for Westmount Soccer. They have always been involved with the Shaar Hashomayim.”



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Erlisa Riconalla

Photographer

T: +1 (514) 217-7702

E: erlisa13@icloud.com

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Spencer coached the Bialik Physics team for the past three years and won one year. The team went to Israel to compete in the finals and ended up coming 9th out of 72 teams.

The Meltzer family motto is: Always stand up for what you believe in and always help those less fortunate.

“Each year, I organize, with my friend Myra Mazur, a Morning tea to raise money for the Brain Tumour Foundation,” Michaela explained. “I lost my father six years ago to a brain tumour in just 14 weeks. My passion is to help raise funds for research for more effective treatments and ultimately find a cure. Each year we host the tea. It is based on the Australian Biggest Morning Tea where anyone can host a tea.”

According to Michaela, a tea means putting on the kettle, baking a cake, inviting people over for tea and cake then encourage them to make a donation.

“It is a fun and easy activity that brings people together in an effort to find a cure. There is no training involved either!” she continued. “We are always looking for people to host teas as Myra and I would love to see this grow and get more people involved to support all cancers.”

In addition to this great initiative, Michaela cooks monthly for Meals on Wheels at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. She runs a health and wellness e-commerce business and recently authored her first children’s book.

“I just wrote my first children’s book on a subject I know very well, triplets,” Michaela boasted proudly. “I am proud to say you can purchase it on Amazon. It is called Three Times the Fun by Michaela Lincoln.”



# Saying Goodbye is Never Easy

By Rhonda Massad .....

It is true what the songs say, that saying goodbye is never easy. About 24 years ago I said goodbye to a friend, Maria. It wasn’t easy, partly because it was violently unexpected and partly because we were both 24 years old. People are not supposed to die at 24 years old.

It was January. We had planned a hot date night with our respective mates. I had a babysitter for my first born and was seven months pregnant. We were very sure of ourselves, and we knew what we wanted. We were both born under the sign of Leo and we fancied ourselves as “being all that and a bag of chips”. At least we thought so.

Maria and Richard never made it to that dinner. Dan and I were running a little behind and were home to receive the phone call from the hospital saying Maria would not be joining us for dinner. I remember the nurse’s voice on the phone. She just said, “your friend is at the hospital, and maybe you should come.”

She landed at the Lakeshore General Hospital, but she had left this world at the scene of the accident between their car and a flatbed truck on that cold, slippery evening. Their car hit the back of the flatbed due to a patch of ice on Highway 40. Richard was fine but at the hospital in Lachine. Maria was not.

The human body sets up a shock system to lessen the blow of news that makes us unable to cope. I barely understood what was being said to me by the family when I waltzed into the hospital still thinking I was heading for dinner at Milo’s on Park Ave. It was simply a matter of scooping up my buddy and getting things back on track. We had a dinner to get to.....

Not so. That was the night I said goodbye to what today would be called my BFF. Today is her birthday, so I think of her and wonder what would have been. Would we



have drifted apart in time or made the long haul? Would we have attended all the weddings and baptisms? Would we have laughed and cried a million more times? I think so. Anyone who knew us together already understood giggling was part of the package. We giggled at everything.

Saying goodbye was really hard for me. She was the one I would have leaned on in a situation like this. She was the one who I wanted to help me through this, but she was gone. How was I supposed to manage?

It took a full year for me to adjust and be able to speak about her without crying. I still miss her and still cry for her but more so on special occasions, like her birthday and New Year’s Eve. I seem to have held placeholders in her honor without actually planning it. I hate New Year’s, I never did, but since she died I save that day to be miserable and say goodbye all over again. The odd time I have made an effort to join the festivities but my heart is just not in it. That was our day. I want to keep it that way.

Though we will not have the pleasure of sharing life’s events, I see her face in her nieces and nephews and hear her voice when I visit with her sisters. I somehow know I will see her again on the other side. She will be waiting for me. I choose to believe that, it comforts me to think I have not said goodbye but à Dieu. So maybe a good way to look at goodbye is “someday”. Not today but I will see you someday.

We will giggle together again someday.

Do you know a neighbour who has a story to share?  
Nominate your neighbour to be featured in one of our  
upcoming issues!

Contact us at [rmassad@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:rmassad@bestversionmedia.com)



# What's Up With People Born in August?

By Rhonda Massad

Wikipedia states that the birth month of a person has considerable influence over his character and personality. People born in the month of August are governed by the sun and have amazing and unmatched qualities in their character. They are born leaders and great achievers, full of the zest and enthusiasm to chase their goals and achieve them too. They have a positive attitude and spread positivity wherever they go. Another quality of these individuals is their loyalty and commitment in friendship as well as relationships.

## Famous People Born in August

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Meghan Markel</b>  | <b>Maureen McCormick</b> |
| <b>Martha Stewart</b> | <b>Neil Armstrong</b>    |
| <b>Martin Sheen</b>   | <b>Charlize Theron</b>   |
| <b>Barack Obama</b>   | <b>Sidney Crosby</b>     |
| <b>Loni Anderson</b>  | <b>Dustin Hoffman</b>    |

- Ken Dryden**
- Princess Beatrice**
- Melanie Griffith**
- Whitney Houston**
- Fidel Castro**
- Halle Berry**
- Magic Johnson**
- Ben Affleck**
- Princess Anne**
- Madonna**
- Timothy Hutton**





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## Sumo Hopes To Become a Therapy Dog

Sumo is a one-year-old Golden Doodle. His mom, Michaela, this month's Westmount Neighbours profile, says he looks like a Muppet character and is just a big goofball. He is super friendly and easy going and plans to train him as a therapy dog when he is two.

"We have great neighbours on each side and across from us. We usually get together all of us a few times a year and take turns having everyone over. Our neighbours on one side also have a young dog and the dogs constantly play in our back gardens, in fact, we think we might put a doggy door between the two fences," Michaela said.

Submitted by Rhonda Massad

## Pet of the Month Pet Corner Nos animaux favoris





## Pet Corner

Nos animaux favoris

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**Have an adorable pet?**  
 Send us your photo of your favourite furry friend and include a little about what makes them a special member of your family! Be sure to include your pet's name and breed and a special story or memory.

Please send your photo(s) and details to: [rmassad@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:rmassad@bestversionmedia.com)

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