

The Numbers Game

By Andreas Simic

It is easy being a number!

From the very start, which in my case was 31/12/1956, at 8:04 the numbers game begins.

I believe I was in crib #5 of the maternity room and Mom was in hospital room number 206 at the regional hospital at 1 Prospect Street.

Each year I am given a new number, on the very first year I was given one, the second year it was two. It has increased by one every year since then.

Being the second of four children, each of whom was also a number helped in the numbers game. It told you where you stood in the family hierarchy.

At an early age I was to count these numbers. You know, one, two three and so on. This allowed me to identify and associate with other numbers of my being.

As time passes the number of numbers increases, we are taught our street number, the telephone number, very important this one, it allows us to communicate with other numbers in our lives. Or maybe that one is not so important as our health card number, which gets us medical attention and could save our lives.

Of course everyone has a social insurance number so that we can account to our government and country. The number is a must when getting a job, even though your employer will give you your very own employee number.

Once the joy of working and making money comes to you the numbers game increases quickly. Now there will be bank account numbers, PIN numbers, charge card numbers, and customer numbers in your life. Hence the number of numbers that you have of these is only limited by the number of these you have.

If you have a family, there are other people's numbers, which you will need to know. For your mother, father, spouse, mother in law, father in law, children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren etc. These numbers are endless.

Of course there is one final number. I believe mine will be 12/31/2044. That's the last number anyone will need to know. Although in the numbers game you never know when your number is up.