

בס"ד

HESPED FOR MUM 6/6/21 כ"ו סיון תש"ף

Birshut.....

ברשותכם אני אדבר באנגלית כדי שאמא יכולה להבין

Mum, it's been an awfully long time since I could have a proper conversation with you, more than a year it must be, so now thankfully I can talk to you and you can understand.

This terrible disease first ravaged your mind then attacked your body so we just couldn't communicate with you, which has been so terribly frustrating.

Firstly, on behalf of all the family I want to tell you that everything we have done for you has been to make you as safe, as comfortable and as healthy as possible. If you were angry at us for anything we did, or anything we didn't do, we beg your forgiveness, we were often at our wits end, and yes - we all felt guilty that we couldn't carry on looking after you at home, but this was the least worst choice that we could find,

And then, just as you settled into the Nursing Home along came Corona which tore up all the cards. Suddenly, random daily visits were forbidden, and instead we were limited to one, then two weekly visits, with only 2 visitors, visits held outdoors across a police-style barrier and roped off away from each other, with no ability to touch, to hold hands, to help you eat and drink. And we saw the bewildered look in your eyes, but couldn't get you to understand. We hardly understood.....

And just as Corona ended and things started to get back to normal, you fell ill and were hospitalised. Yes, we could now again visit you at will, but you no longer were much aware of this.

It's been a very cruel end to a life well lived, but now the fog is clearing and we can turn our thoughts back to the good times, and thank G-d there were plenty of those.

You were a great mother and wife, and afterwards a caring grandmother and great-grandmother.

We all remember what an excellent cook and baker you were, and we were all always well-nourished even in the early years when money was tight. And to your everlasting credit we at that time had no idea even that things were tight – we lacked for nothing.

And you were a talented dressmaker and homemaker too and we cherish so many stories about that that this is not the time or place to retell.

You came from humble beginnings, as a 4 year old refugee from Germany, plucked at the last minute by Grandma from the fate that befell your 3 brothers who were sent to Holland but ended up in Sobibor, and I thank G-d personally that I was his instrument to find out 60 years later what really happened to them, which I hope gave you some solace.

During the war and afterwards you were the oldest child in a house full of 5 sisters, 2 adopted orphan cousins and another bat-bayit cousin who is here with us today, and the way you explained it to us, your childhood was full of responsibility.

But you thrived and grew and then met dad who you married in October 1954, and you have been together ever since – 67 happy years!

Along the way you became an active member of Emunah, with their fund raising activities and weekly shiur held in our house.

You railed against British bias against Israel and were constantly on the phone live on the radio making Israel's case, yes it's Judy from Golders Green on the phone again!

After your Aliya that obviously stopped, but about 5 years later on a visit to London some broadcaster made some preposterous lie about Israel, and hey presto you called in. One can visualize the radio guy smacking his head in disbelief – it's Judy from Golders Green again!

A little known facet of your character was your quiet Hachnassat Orchim. Dad would quite regularly bring home "waifs and strays" unexpectedly on Shabbat or Chag, and you would swing into action smoothly laying extra places and welcoming these strangers. And there was always enough food for all.

I only saw you lost for words once when a visitor for Seder Night presented you proudly with a large bottle of whisky.....

We were the only children with grandchildren in England and it was very special seeing your relationship develop with our babies and then little girls. You formed a particularly special relationship with Talya which has lasted right up to the present day. I'm blessed to have witnessed that.

And I'm so happy to see the way you welcomed Rina into the family, she has always felt like another daughter.

In later life your big adventure was to build your new home in Israel from London, then organize the actual move here. You built a comfortable home here and settled into the community with great success and enthusiasm.

You were an avid shulgoer. Both in London and in Israel, you went to shul **every single** Shabbat. And then had plenty to say about the quality of the Baalei tefilla, Kriat Hatorah and so on! As walking became more difficult you persevered and refused to give up on this weekly tradition

And how you looked after Dad! In the best yekkish traditions. Meals exactly on time all deliciously prepared and beautifully presented. Clothes laundered and ironed. House spankingly clean and completely tidy. And this was a mutual relationship, and in the last few years, as your illness developed Dad learnt how to fend for himself and also look after you.

And what pride you took in our successes and those of the grandchildren. Always interested, always up to date, always encouraging.

And the joy you had when meeting up with your sisters at family smachot or stam holidays. The laughter could be heard a 100 metres away!

A life of 86 years cannot possibly be summed up in a few minutes but I together with the other maspidim here hope we have done you justice.

Mum you enter the Olam HaEmet to reunite with your parents, sister and the little brothers who were actually older than you, accompanied by all the Torah, Avoda and Gemillut Chasadim that you practiced all your lifetime.

We on our part will cherish the good memories that are now emerging and promise to take good care of Dad now you are gone. We undertake (with G-d's help) to continue to look to you as a role model and example as to how our children and grandchildren conduct themselves. All we ask of you is to be a melitzat yosher on our behalf, on behalf of all the family.

Go in peace. Rest in peace. Be at peace.

Farewell, Mum.