

Hesped for Mum 6/6/2021

(hebrew) I will be speaking in English - apologies to everyone who dont understand.

I apologies also if some of the things I will say have been said by others before me.

A lot of you knew Mum for a very long time - some a lot longer than me, and some of you did not know her at all, so I want to say a few words describing her and her life.

Mum was born a fighter and comes from family that fought for her Jewish rights, and for the Am Yisrael. At the tender age of two -

just before the holocaust was thrown upon her family, her Mother (my Grandmother) changed her mind in the last minute

and stopped her getting sent to Holland with brothers. That fighting spirit of my grandma saved her, and allowed her to grow up in London, England. Unfortunately, her brothers didn't make it.

Life certainly was not easy for her, besides becoming the eldest child in the family, and having to help look after her four siblings - her parents, my grandparents took in extra children to look after following the war, and they all had to live together and get along. We never heard her complain about this at all - only funny stories from that period. That upbringing instilled in her the duty to look after others besides her own.

As Mum grew up, she continued in her dealings with Chesed, she formed part of a Mizrahi group - named after a jewish fighter - Ester Calingold who was killed in the war of independence - and whose family lived in England and was part of the larger kehilla.

Already then, in that group - they were dealing with tzadaka and all sorts of maasim tovim - like raising money for various charities usually based in Israel, helping the state - when it needed serious financial support - and helping raise money for all sorts of "Emunah" schools in Israel.

In addition, there were many other ma'aseh chesed that she carried out that others were probably unaware of - she frequently went 'vaching' - sitting besides a dead body and saying tehillim - and was part of a rota system that took care of that. In her later years she became the mikva lady of our shul - and help the women of the community keep up the mitzva of becoming pure after the nidda period.

I am sure, there are many more things that she did - I just cannot remember them all, and quite possibly I didn't know them all.

Mum was a great cook - and has passed on her recipes to us her children, and now we pass them on to our children, and grand children. But this cooking was not without incident - and she used to keep Rabbi Feldman (the Rav of our Shul in Golders Green) busy with your many chicken shaalot - frequently going around to him with various bones to examine and to pasken whether the chicken was kosher or not, and whether we could continue using the pots the chicken was cooked in.

Mum brought us up (together with Dad) , with Jewish pride, as strong Jews and as Zionists - she made sure we davened, kept kosher, went to shul, got a strong Jewish education, and general brought us all up to be menches. But in parallel, she also made sure we continued with our secular lives and got a good secular education, so that we could become contributing members of society. We were also brought up (I think) with the knowledge that

we would all one day make Aliya, and settle in Israel - either way - we all have ended up here in Israel.

During those days, when there was no internet, and you used to keep up with the news, listening to the radio and television. In fact you became so incensed by - even on those days - the anti Israeli media - that you frequently rang in to the London LBC talk in programmes - and give them a piece of your mind, and defend Israel on the public radio. You even gained the nickname - "Judy from Golders Green".

Afterward ,you and Dad followed us to Israel, and made your home in Petach Tikva. Even then you didn't give up fighting for Israel and would frequently write letters to the Editor of the Jerusalem Post - commenting on various articles and news tidbits of the times - and attempting to show Israel in a good light.

You continued your maasay chesed here in Israel, volunteering at the children's hospital Shneider - working the till with your sister Ruth - once or twice a week - and helping people buy stuff for very sick children in order to keep them happy.

Not many of you know - that Mum loved animals - especially cats - Mum and Dad had a cat in their early marriage - and that love of animals, has continued onto me - and my children. You used to love coming to visit us, playing with our pets - and in recent times you used to like looking at pictures and videos of their antics.

Mum, you have had a long good life - and now Hashem has decided it is time for your neshama to return to him. You have created a huge tribe - 4 children, 15 grandchildren and 30+ great grandchildren - All born and living with that same Jewish pride and Zionist feeling instilled in them. You kept up with all the family news following your grandchildren and great grandchildren achievements and worrying about their health and their development - and remembering all their birthdays. You also kept up contact with the wider family - were on good terms with everyone - and frequently had them visiting in our homes, or you visited them.

Know that we, your family, will continue to keep up your legacy for looking out for others, doing mitzvot, looking out for Am Yisrael and continue fighting for Israel's rights in local and international forums.

May your neshama know everlasting peace, be reunited with your parents, brothers, and Aunt Naomi - and may you be a malitz yosher for Am Yisrael in these trying times.

- תהא נשמתך צרורה בצרור החיים -