

Mummy-I miss my mother

my parents moved to Golders Green just before I was born. they didnt have much money ,but they made our home comfortable and we lacked for nothing. Mum was always prepared for any waifs and strays that Dad brought home from shul on shul shabbat orchag.

Mum enjoyed entertaining, and there were regular visitors over Shabbatot, committee meetings for Emunah -it never fazed her. She would bake up a storm of fairy cakes and spice biscuits or chocolate coated cakes for all to enjoy- we used to steal them when she wasn't looking!

Mum was an ardent volunteer, a trait she passed on to us. She was a founding member of her Esther Calingold Emunah group, & was its treasurer for many years until they came on Aliyah, where she promptly joined Masua here, and became very involved on the committee, with their fundraising efforts, yemai iyun, and various dinners and suppers which needed organising. She volunteered on the Ladies Guild of Munks and was the Mikva lady on Friday nights, did vaching (watching) over those who'd passed away until the levaya, and when they made Aliya ,she joined Ruth in volunteering in the shop in Schneider for 22 years to the point that my kids thought it was her own personal shop ! I think she was one of their main supporters of the shop always buying up new bits and pieces there and calling to tell us what she'd bought for which grand or great grandchild, and getting enormous pleasure seeing their reactions when she gave them their presents.

Once when I was staying in their apartment with Ariella, and Mum came to visit, she asked me to make sure that Ariella didn't look in her suitcase, and to keep her out of the salon for a few minutes. Mum rushed to the miznon (the sideboard) and took out a load of bits and pieces, all sorts of little presents, and ran to "hide "them in her suitcase.

I was extremely puzzled by her behavior. Mum explained that instead of running around Golders Green looking for gifts for the grandchildren, she bought them here, which saved her schlepping them in her suitcase, and she could support stores here, a win win situation, but she wanted the kids to think she brought them all their

gifts from England!! Such a clever idea, and Mum's way of making sure that everyone was satisfied including the Israeli shop owners.

Mum used to bring small packets of sunmaid raisins for the children, a huge treat, to which she said at least they are healthy, kids, remember that?

As I said our house was always open to visitors. I remember one Sukkot, I think Gillian was eating with us (I cannot be sure) and the weather in England on Sukkot is very iffy - never knowing if it'll rain or not. Mum said no worries, we'll set the table in the sukka, and in the dining room so we can go in and out between courses! Which we did! We too were encouraged to host our Ezra and Sinai meetings. When I came on Aliya, my friends missed our house and for a short while continued to pop in. Mum told me and she so enjoyed that.

Mum was a talented seamstress/ toferet having learned the trade straight from school when she went to work for Canda now called C&A

She eventually taught me how to sew - usually in exasperation, but I'll never forget the keif we had going together to choose materials and styles and how proud I was to be able to wear what Mum made me. It was a marvelous feeling to wear clothes that no one else had, which had been especially designed and sewn for me. My own personal designer!

Mum and Dad always wanted to come on Aliyah and encouraged us too. I remember being very nervous about coming on my own, would it work out, and Mum's advice to me has stayed with me till this day: try it and see, if it doesn't work out come back, I'm not selling your bedroom. Her advice to me was always spot on. I miss making decisions without her input. She advised me to become a gannenet and a few years ago to retrain as a medical secretary. She had huge faith in us that we would succeed. I so miss her advice in all things, how to arrange furniture, how to design a kitchen or bathroom, what and how to cook. She was a fantastic cook, and however much I try I cannot emulate her recipes. She was always excited to see what we'd bought (or what I'd sewn), we never bought new clothes or shoes without first stopping on the way home to show Mum, or if we'd gotten new furniture, the next day she was around to come and visit it! Even the kids knew that if they came to shul in something new, they'd want to show Mum and see her reaction! She backed us up in everything and was there for me all during my time with cancer.

She was determined we'd have a good Jewish grounding and education. In England you have 2 nights of Iel Haseder. When we were very young Mum let us stay up till the meal on the 1st night, then on the 2nd night we went to bed and Mum woke us up in the middle of the night from just before the meal till the end. It was so exciting to get up in the middle of the night! and this way we learned all the songs and minhagim of the entire seder over the 2 days.

She wanted us to be aware of what was going on in the world and Israel too. One night in 1969, she woke us up to watch the first lunar landing, and even Rabbi Munk came to watch and he made a bracha.

Mum was determined to come to Israel and spend as much time as possible with us after we'd made aliya. In the summer that I came, I knew that Mum and Dad were looking to buy a small apartment for when they'd come, but even so I was shocked one day when I asked on the phone what she'd done, she said, oh on the way to the supermarket I bought a flat!! That was Mum, decisive and a doer.

She was always 1 of the first in shul (our Rabbanit has told us that the first people to greet her when they came to Mevor Chaim, were Mum and Ruth), her adherence to the Jewish faith, to Yahadut, are a shining example to all of us.

We had so many good times together, after David got married and Anne made Aliyah, I would come home from college or work, and we'd go out together and become friends as well as Mother and daughter. I remember being selfishly upset if when I came home and someone had come to visit and I wouldn't have that time together with her!

When Mum and her sisters got together we all joined in the fun of the sound of shrieking hysterical laughter that could be heard down the road

Mum, you lived a full and active life, in which you taught us ahavat hazulat, and ahavat haaretz.

We will always miss you and you will always be in our hearts

תהי נשמתך צרורה בצרור החיים

Tali has offered to give us a zoom shiur in English le ilui nishmat Mummy on  
arvei Rosh Chodesh , the first one taking place this Thursday at 8pm

Anyone interested can write their names on the list and you will be added to  
a whatsapp group in order to get the link. Those listening on zoom, you can send a  
message to Anne or me and you will be added. Please send us your email addresses  
too.

Thank you