

## **Hesped for Mommy, Razel Katz, delivered at the funeral**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, Petach Tikvah**

How can one thank a lady like our Mom who was always the Lady of the family and a loyal and special wife to our Dad, who passed away about 18 years ago? How she missed him all these years was testimony to their magic love affair of nearly 60 years.

This last week we read the Ten commandments in the Parasha. The mitzva of Kibbud Av Va'Em, is included in those commandments.

I learned what this Mitzvah means from my Mother. She took care of her Mom, Granny Tillie, for years, not leaving South Africa until after she passed away because she needed her. Mommy I hope I have lived up to your expectations.

Our sister, Barbara lived up to this expectation and was an exemplary example of Kibud Av Va'Em. Without Barbara's devotion, organizational skills and pure perseverance, I would not have been content to live so far away from my Mom. I am sure Brian agrees with this.

Our Mom would willingly drive car pool for us to school and back, which was a good 15 kilometers from home, returning an hour or two later should one of have an after-school sports activity, and we had lots of them.

My Mom also taught me a lesson in finance and happy living. She often recalled Mr McCauber, a character from Charles Dicken's David Copperfield. If you earn 100 and spend 99, you will always consider yourself rich, but if you earn 100 and spend 101, you will be poor. The difference between rich and poor can be a pound or two.

In order to understanding what priorities are and what it takes to be loyal, her deal with our Dad was, that he would call her every day between one and two. This was in the times before cell phones; there was not a day that went by that she was not home to receive his call. Nothing else mattered in her life. Just to say hello!

I never understood this at the time, but now I do. I called my Mom almost every day at about the same time, from the time they emigrated to Canada in 1986, until three days ago. Like clockwork.

Her love of HaShem's world of nature was exemplary. Anyone in our school car pool would know that if she spotted a beautiful garden with blooming flowers, she would interrupt the trip to school, drive into the drive of the particular house to point out the beauty to us. We were afraid the owner of the house would come out and be upset. No! she said, anyone who cultivates a beautiful garden would be only too happy for others to walk in and admire it. And so it was that we all became very aware of beautiful gardens and to appreciate nature.

She made every effort to partner with HaShem and make the world a more beautiful place.

Once we were out of school, she signed up to do a Bachelor of Arts degree, something that she did not manage to do before she was married. It was amazing to see her, with a few friends, listening to records of Shakespeare plays and other prescribed work for the course. There were no home videos, YouTube or smartphones. A time gone by. She did in fact get her Bachelors degree and made us very proud.

In the kitchen, there were few able to cater meals and parties, dressmake dresses and other sewing feats. She was a real example of a multitalented energetic lady.

She was always well dressed and groomed. To her last days she was so happy that her caregivers were able to keep up her standards.

We salute my Mom's caregiver, Evelyn, Erlinda and the other ladies, a lady of so many talents who cared for mommy as though she was her own mother. We were so fortunate to have her in charge.

We will miss her smile and cheerful disposition and her sage advice in tough times.

Mommy, we love you!!!