

Words for Ilana – by Daddy

July 14, 2024

Ilana – Mommy can't be here in-person today but she just wants you to know how very much she loves you and always has loved you.

The pasuk in Ashrey states: Karov HaShem L'Chol Kor-av – HaShem is close to those that call out or act in God's name.

We stand here today with you and call out to HaShem – why?

The little girl who, 45 years ago, transformed Mommy and me from a married couple to parents.

The little girl who loved to play indoors and out, enjoyed being with friends and loved school and camp and never worried about getting her hands dirty.

The little girl who loved her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

The little girl who loved to daven and learn Torah and do act after act of Chessed

The little girl who loved to cook and bake with her mother, aunts, nieces, and both her grandmothers, z"l

The little girl who learned a Masechta of Gemara for her Bas Mitzvah at the Talner Bais Midrash

The little girl who was a wonderful sibling to her younger sister, Sheera, and her younger brother, Jonathan

The little girl who blossomed into a lovely teenager throughout her years at the Maimonides School where she excelled in limudei kodesh and limudei chol

The teenager interested in computer programming who, for a school project, learned VRML (virtual reality modeling language) so that she could create an intricate 3-D model of the Mishkan on the web

The high school graduate who then studied in Eretz Yisrael for her gap year and then began her pre-med preparation at Stern College followed by extra

study at Columbia in bioinformatics and then at the BU School of Medicine together with her best friend and adoring husband, Joe.

The medical school graduate who treated her patients during her internship and fellowship with love, care, dignity, and respect.

The mother of six who poured out her love and admiration for every one of her kids, Shimon Zechariah, z"l, Akiva Avraham, Yehuda Ezra, Eliezer Moshe, Meir Aharon, and Batsheva Kayla, in so many special and heartfelt ways.

We ask HKB"H - why?

Each of us is given a certain lifespan to be in this Olam Hazei. We don't know what that duration will be. However, we do recognize that our life of Torah and Avodas HaShem wants us to use our time to be the best version of ourselves that we can be and not to take any day for granted. And that self is molded by the values of our parents, grandparents, and extended family. Ilana – you were the best version of yourself!

You set an example for a life of dedication to the Masorah, family, and giving back to your world. We are saddened beyond words to have to say goodbye to you so very soon.

May the example you set for all of us be an inspiration and may we merit your being a melitzah Yosher for us as we close our eyes and wonder - why now!

The pasuk in Ashrei concludes – who is HaShem close to? L'chol asher yikrahu b'emes – to all who call out to or act in the name of HaShem in honesty and truth, people who are dedicated to doing what is hatov v'hayashar. You, Ilana are so much closer to HaShem now and you exemplified in your life many wonderful middos including sharing your love for your husband, children, parents, grandparents, extended family and all those who came within your orbit.

Yehi zichrach brucha – May your memory always be associated with blessing, goodness, and love.