

Thank you for being here tonight to celebrate in a small way the life of Batya Anna bas Shimshon Reuven, Blaine Steinberg of blessed memory .

I hope my words tonight serve as words of comfort and words that inspire deeds.

The Lubvitcher Rebbe of Blessed Memory my mentor taught everything that happens in life happens because of divine providence, and our challenge as human beings is to take away from every situation, good and seemingly bad, positive, tangible and actionable lessons.

I wish to share with you a short teaching that personifies who Blaine was; it is from our sages of the Mishnah the Jewish oral tradition from the Perki Avot the Ethics of our Fathers.

The Mishnah states

שמאי אומר עשה תורתך קבע אמור מעט ועשה הרבה והוי מקבל את כל האדם בסבר פנים יפות

*"Shammai said, make your Torah study fixed, say little and do much, and receive everyone with a cheerful countenance."*

I think this Mishnah captures who Blaine was in life. I hope we can apply these lessons to our own lives in her honor.

"Make Torah Permanent."

The Rebbe in his inimitable way explains this to mean, the very most important things in your life, the things you may not have a lot of time for , when you do them, make sure they are done with a sense of permanence, it should be engraved upon your heart so that it lingers with you throughout the day.

Much of what Blaine did was with that sense of purpose. As some of you know Blaine and I shared a love of CrossFit along with Sid her dad. I remember watching her for the first time doing a Wod (that's CrossFit talk for work out of the day) by herself on the shores of the sea of Galilee in Israel, the focus, determination and permanence of action was so very clear.

Next the mishana say "Say a little and do much."

Blaine didn't talk about what she was going to do, where she was going to go or make excuses; she just did what needed to be done. She let her actions speak louder than any words could.

Finally "greet every one with a cheerful countenance"

In all my time knowing Blaine even during the challenging moments she was never without a smile on her face. Going through pictures from our trip to Israel, every single one of them her face is shining and smiling ear to ear.

She was blessed with these three amazing qualities and many more, if all of us can add some of those qualities to our own lives in her merit, she will continue to live on and we will together make this world a better place.