

8:30pm April 22, 2020

Zoom conference for Judy Gruenfeld hosted by Kevin Gruenfeld

KEVIN: Thank you all for joining me, I've got my Dad and my brother on audio through my cell phone. And just so you know a little history, the Mourner's Kaddish is a pretty old prayer recited by those in mourning of a close relative. It's recited during regular prayer services and the general requirement is that we have a quorum which in this case is called a minyan, and the requirement for a minyan is that there needs to be 10 Jewish men present, and a Jewish man would be anyone male age 13 and up who has been Bar Mitzvah'd, so I've got the list and I know that we have that, so we have satisfied that requirement, so that's pretty important to me.

The candle behind me, you can't really see it too well, it's called a Yahrzeit candle, and it lasts for 26 hours. It's lit at sundown the evening before the anniversary of the death and although you might not see the candle too well, or the flame, it is lit.

So, some of you are familiar with Mourner's Kaddish and others have never heard it before. Not a problem. There are places during the prayer where everyone chimes in with "amen" and another where everyone says a line. So, you'll hear when our group says "amen," which is why I didn't mute you all at once just yet, and so if you hear a few other people shouting out amen, feel free to join in and say amen with everybody, but there's no obligation, you certainly do not have to do that. Even if this prayer is new to you, if you've never heard it before, there are some words in there that you will recognize, such as shalom, Y'israel for Israel, and of course amen. So, I will start.

[Hebrew][phonetic transliteration][translation]

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵי רַבָּא. בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתֵיהּ,
וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵיהּ בְּחַיֵּינוּ וּבְיוֹמֵינוּ וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba. B'alma di v'ra chirutei, v'yamlich malchutei, b'chayeichon uv'yomeichon uv'chayei d'chol beit Yisrael, baagala uviz'man kariv. V'im'ru: Amen.

[Exalted and hallowed be God's great name in the world which God created, according to plan. May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime and the life of all Israel—speedily, imminently. To which we say: Amen.]

יְהֵא שְׁמֵי רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעֵלְמֵי וּלְעֵלְמֵי עֵלְמַיָּא.

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach l'alam ul'almei almaya.

[Blessed be God's great name to all eternity.]

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר
וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵי דְקֻדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעֵלְמָא מִן כָּל
בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירָתָא תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא, דְּאָמִירוּן בְּעֵלְמָא,
וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Yitbarach v'yishtabach v'yitpaar v'yitromam v'yitnasei, v'yit'hadar v'yitaleh v'yit'halal sh'mei d'Kud'sha B'rich Hu, l'eila min kol birchata v'shirata, tushb'chata v'nechemata, daamiran b'alma. V'imru: Amen.

[Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded be the name of the Holy Blessed One, beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort. To which we say: Amen.]

יְהִי שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָא, וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל,
וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya, v'chayim aleinu v'al kol Yisrael. V'imru: Amen.

[May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and all Israel. To which we say: Amen.]

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל
יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu yaaseh shalom aleinu, v'al kol Yisrael. V'imru:
Amen.

[May the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace us and to all Israel. To which we say: Amen]

So that is the entirety of the prayer.

SYLVIA: Kevin, you did great, Kevin.

KEVIN: What's that, Syb?

SYLVIA: You did great, Kevin!

KEVIN: That's my Aunt for those of you who are following along

SYLVIA: [] I'm his aunt [].

KEVIN: Alright enough, thank you!

So, just another bit, Mom died May 3 of last year, which in the Hebrew calendar is the month Nisan, day 28, which is, and always will be, 13 days after Passover starts. Because the Hebrew calendar is a lunar one, the date changes quite a bit when plotted on our regular calendar, which is why Chanukah and other Jewish holidays change every year, and also, a little trivia, why Easter also does change every year. So this year, Nisan 28 falls on April 22. It's also Earth Day, also my

birthday, and for those in the New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Delaware area, a US Navy & Air Force fly-by earlier today for a display of national unity amidst our current coronavirus health pandemic. [Note: I got my dates wrong and this actually occurred on April 28, along with one the same day in the New York City area.]

So I mention that mouthful because Mom's cause of death was respiratory failure, brought on by acute respiratory distress syndrome and double pneumonia. Had she contracted COVID-19, I am not sure she would have survived. So be sure if any of you see my father that he's wearing a mask and keeping his distance and you are as well. He's a pretty social guy and we need to keep reminding him of that.

So as I mentioned before, I have him on my cell phone now listening. He can hear us, but as I mentioned also before, you can't hear him too well which is probably a good because he'd probably be interrupting us all. Those of you who know him are probably smiling right now about that!

But, since this is a commemoration, I am proposing a toast. Mom's drink of choice was seltzer. Mom, as much as I love you, I am not drinking seltzer. It is disgusting. I don't know who came up with it. Let's think, we've got water here, what does this need? I know, tiny bubbles of carbon dioxide! That's not going to happen. The mixed drink she liked, maybe once a year if that, because she barely ever drank, was a fuzzy navel. So, I don't have orange juice here, but I have peach schnapps. So, that is what I'll do. I've got here a shot glass from New York, which is where she is from. And so this is going to be a bit of a general toast. I kind of lucked out with two good parents and I know not everybody has that, so the toast will be to our parents, though for some, others may have filled that role for you. So, if you've got it, raise a glass. If you don't have a glass, raise a hand, that's okay; join me, to our parents!

Alright. Thank you all, so, Mom's cousin Arlene offered to say a few words. Arlene, raise your hand so people can see you online, and you have the floor.

ARLENE: Thank you. I just wanted to say a few words about Judy... was a wonderful cousin to me. Until I was seven and Judy was ten, we lived across the street from each other. And in Brooklyn at that time, kids were just playing in the street all the time. And Judy had friends her own age on the block, but if I was outside, she always included me or left them to play with me. Now, I don't know how many kids growing up wanted a little cousin tagging along. Judy did, she loved me, she was so wonderful to me. She used to remind me that she taught me to read and I don't quite remember that, but I do know I wanted to do anything my

big cousin did []. She was one of my first friends, and even after she moved, lifelong and remained friends. And, Judy would always invite me to go to the beach club with her, my Aunt and my Uncle, and to come to sleepovers. And she always [] in touch by phone. She was so good about calling, I wish I had been as good. But, we always got to celebrate holidays together and looked forward to seeing each other and spending time together. And as I said, she always called me, always kept in touch, and I miss her.

KEVIN: Alright. Thanks, Arlene, that is appreciated. I know not all of you have met my mother before, but that is, I think, a pretty good representation of who she was.

Another friend of Mom's, I believe her name is pronounced Joette, asked me to read, "She was devoted to her family and faith . A lovely, kind lady who made everyone in her presence feel comfortable and special. Thank you for allowing her friends to share tonight with you."

So I've got one thing but if anyone else has a few words, we do have a little time. If you want to raise your hand, I hopefully can see you and call on you, but no obligation. Alright, the Kane's. I see Uncle Allen.

ALLEN: Uncle Allen. Judy, a couple thoughts. Judy was a very complex person. On one hand, on one hand, she couldn't do enough for her friends and relatives. She was very loyal, amazing person. On the other hand, she seemed to always be searching for who she was. She was also searching for her role in life. Very interesting to watch [] the years []. But at the end of the day, I couldn't have had a better sister-in-law. Anyway, the benefits of knowing Judy.

KEVIN: Thanks, Uncle. Alright, anybody else want to say a few words before I conclude with another toast?

DORIT: We loved Judy, and the kids all loved her. She was so good to them. [To her kids] Everyone say something.

MAX OR ZACK: She was so nice to us.

CHLOE: She was such a good Aunt, she always made us feel good.

ZACK OR MAX: She was a great Aunt.

KEVIN: I gotta say.

DORIT: We were very fortunate to know her.

ZACK OR MAX: A great Aunt.

KEVIN: I gotta say, Max, she loved going to your Bar Mitzvah. That was, she talked about it, she really enjoyed that. This was last year, so you all know. I know she so much enjoyed me driving her all the way up there.

SYLVIA: How nervous I was, I wanted to make sure you got there on time.

KEVIN: We had plenty of time, Syb, thank you!

For those who didn't know, that was Dorit and the kids, that is, they're relatives on my Dad's side of the family and hopefully we'll be able to see each other. We had a Zoom meeting Passover recently, so this sometimes does come in handy this newfangled technology stuff.

SYLVIA: Kevin, your Mom would be so proud [].

FRAN: Kevin?

KEVIN: Yeah, yeah Fran, is that you?

FRAN: Your Mom, your Mom would be so proud of you, you've really stepped up to the plate. Good job.

KEVIN: Appreciate it

FRAN: We loved her very much and you did well.

KEVIN: Thank you. Alright, so, anybody else? There's a bit more I have to do after this, but I want to give anybody the opportunity. Okay.

SCHLOMO: Hello, Kevin, can I say some words?

KEVIN: Certainly. Go ahead.

SYLVIA: Who's that?

SCHLOMO: This is Schlomo Frid. I'm just a, I met them through my sister-in-law, Amy [?], which I believe was in attendance over there, and, I met her over the years a number of times together with her husband and I really have to say she was such an exceptional human being, an exceptional Jewish person. She was the real [] part of my mind, of nobility, not only she was a very intelligent person, but she was a person that studied the Judaism and really understood and stepped up to the plate to the higher human values that are involved in there. And she represented them so proudly and she was so proud of being a Jewish, a Jewish lady. I remember one time she told me that she understood the concept, it was explained to her, how a Jewish lady is really a Bas Melech, the daughter of the king! And that is a great honor. And, I miss having conversations with her. I did get the opportunity to visit her a little before Pesach last year before she passed over. And now sad not having her around. But would be a good merit [?] for her children and for her family and for all of us. Thank you.

KEVIN: Thank you. That is appreciated. Alright, we do have a little more time if anybody wants to say a few words, otherwise I've got a few things. Gary, my older cousin Gary.

GARY: I took a screen shot of everybody and texted it to you

KEVIN: Both windows?

GARY: Well, just the one window.

KEVIN: Aw, come on, step it up, cuz.

GARY: Couldn't figure out how to do that one.

KEVIN: Alright, but if you can, that would be great. I know we've got like at least 30 windows on here, I can't see everybody.

Alright, so, so that's that. And then a final thing here since it is my birthday today, I will say, I don't need much, and with you all here, there's really no need for me to make a wish, so I'm going to light this birthday candle behind me. Just a moment. And the yahrzeit candle is still going as it will for a few more hours. So you can see me bringing the other candle out.

Okay, so now another toast. This time, I'll use the schnapps again. I don't know why I'm [] but whatever. This time it's a Philadelphia shot glass where I am, there is some symbolism there. So, if toasting out parents, what we did before is kind of looking back to what was, this one could be a toast to our children, towards our future and for what can be. So again, raise a glass or your hands if you don't have. To our children.

SYLVIA: Kevin, you're doing such a great job! Now he's drunk!

KEVIN: Just so you know, you're supposed to drink four glasses of wine on Passover. I think we can handle two.

SYLVIA: Oh, okay.

KEVIN: Or more, some of you probably will continue once this is over. No judgment. So that is all I had, just a few quick notes then. Shortly after Mom died, the Gregorian calendar death was May 3rd, funeral was on the 5th. I did create a webpage for her, and on the page I originally was just going to put some of her extensive writings. But I also ended up adding some of her recipes, a bunch of photos, and even a bunch of voicemails that I had saved on my phone that I was able to upload. So, you're able to see how she expressed herself written, in words, in food, and, and images of her. So, the website that I own is RunPhilly.org, but on there on the bottom there's a link to my own, and then at the top, there's one for Mom's writings. So, it's not been updated since maybe around her birthday last July, something like that, but that's another way to see the impact that she had on all of us.

So, that's all for the evening. Thank you all for joining.

[Miscellaneous chatter including Dad saying to Ron: Did you like that, Ron?]