

**Texts Articulating Hopes and Dreams for Our Children
for Sunday, September 25
Miftan L'Tzedek Parent's Salon**

Eili Eili (also known as "Walk To Caesaria" poem by Hannah Senesh)

My God, My God,
I pray that these things never end:
The sand and the sea,
The rush of the waters
The crash of the heavens
The prayer of man.

Pirke Avot chapter 4 (Mishnah)

Who is wise? Those who learn from all people.
Who is strong? Those who control their impulses.
Who is rich? Those who are happy with their portion.

**Sholom Aleichem - Excerpts from Sholom Aleichem's Ethical Will to His Children
(Solomon Naumovich Rabinovich 1859-1916)**

My last wish for my successors and my prayer to my children: Take good care of your mother, beautify her old age, sweeten her bitter life, heal her broken heart; do not weep for me -- on the contrary, remember me with joy; and the main thing -- live together in peace, bear no hatred for each other, help one another in bad times, think on occasion of other members of the family, pity the poor, and when circumstances permit, pay my debts, if there be any. Children, bear with honor my hard-earned Jewish name and may G-d in Heaven sustain you ever, Amen.

Ethical Will from a Father, late 20th century

To my family:

In reading my ethical will, I hope that you find very few surprises. I believe I've been open about the things that I've valued over time. I've also tried to live my values on a day-to-day basis. I trust that I succeeded much more often than I've failed.

As I matured and accumulated life experience (and life is a great teacher), I think I gained an appreciation of the importance of balance in my life. Balance among the family, work, spiritual, and physical aspects of life. And, having fun. It's easy to let things get out of balance. When they do, life can get out of control and become miserable. Always try to maintain a balance in your life.

Having a good sense of humor is very important. I know you've all moaned and groaned at my puns from time to time. Overall, the laughter was well worth it. It's important to have fun and there is humor in almost all aspects of life.

It's impossible to be successful in everything you try to do. So, don't be afraid of making mistakes. Just be sure you learn something from them. Sometimes you can learn more from a mistake than from always doing everything right.

Respect life- yours and others. I'm a believer in the idea of treating other people the way you want to be treated. This is the proverbial "Golden Rule." My hopes (to you, Alisha and Hannah), are that

you find a vocation that adds value to the world. This is my interpretation of Tikkun Olam. I feel very lucky to have worked in the hospice world and devoting some of my energies to issues people face at the end of life. I think trying to relieve suffering has been a worthwhile pursuit for me.

I hope you continue the traditions and faith of Judaism. Although this spiritual aspect of myself was relatively unimportant to me in my younger years, I feel you all have a wonderful foundation and excellent skills and knowledge in regard to the basic tenets of Judaism. I hope you will be able to pass these on to future generations.

I hope you are as lucky as I was in finding a soulmate like Sandy to share your life with; someone with whom to enjoy time together, grow together, solve problems together, face challenges together, support each other, and laugh and love together. It may not last forever, but the effort of staying together is worth it.

As I look back over my life, overall, I am happy with what I've accomplished. I've tried many things and would like to try some more. As long as you live you can always learn new things. This is an important value to cherish.

One of my regrets is that my parents and father-in-law weren't around to share in some of the things we (as a family) have done over the past 5-10 years. Another regret is not spending even more time together as a family. We certainly have taken some incredibly fun vacations: our three car trips (to the west coast, Canada and Niagara Falls, Hershey-Gettysburg-Washington DC-Williamsburg), Pinehurst, and of course Italy. I'm glad we kept journals for all of them. You kids just grow up so fast, and before you know it, you're out there, (or soon will be) and on your own.

You all have been a great source of joy and strength for me. I love you all very much.

Barry

Excerpts from a Sermon “Believing Is Seeing” by Tehilla Lichtenstein who led The Society For Jewish Science from 1938 - 1973

pass over which the physical eye can range. If you believe only what you see, your world will consist only of molecules and atoms, of inert matter, having little soul and meaning, you yourself will be but a moving mechanism, having neither significance nor permanency, nor connection with the central meaning of things. And where would God be in your consciousness, who **is** not to be seen except with the eyes of the soul, nor felt except by the sentient heart? But turn the proverb around, and see with your inner vision that which you believe; for **believing is seeing**. And I do not mean by that that faith makes you see, makes you imagine, that which **is** not and cannot be, and will never be; I do not mean that faith, that **believing**, will make you capable of deluding yourself, of mistaking illusion for reality, of being satisfied with illusion, with mere imaginings, and allowing them to take the place of reality. No, I mean that **believing is** the act of **seeing**, faith expresses itself in **seeing**; not **seeing** illusions, but **seeing** that which **is** sought, which **is** desired, which **is** to be attained.

Excerpts from Ethical Will of Mordkhe Schaecter, 1979

Follow the ways of your father and mother, just as they walked in the paths of their fathers and mothers:

To love -- not just with words but actually with deeds -- the Jewish people, the Jewish language, and the Jewish way of life.

To speak Yiddish among yourselves and with Jews who know Yiddish.

To have no fear of being in the minority; avoid doing as others do for conformist reasons.

To conduct yourselves Jewishly -- observe Jewish customs, celebrate Shabbos and festivals, marry in the Jewish manner.

To be faithful to the Jewish people.

To stand up for the weak, the oppressed and the beaten.

To be plain, honest, trustworthy and punctual.

To live for not self only; to remember we are part of a large family -- the Jewish people -- and of a larger family still -- the human race.

Not to wait for someone else to do what is right, but begin yourself, as though the whole world is on your shoulders, as it were; as if the task were waiting for you to perform it. ...

In summary, be a true human being and a good Jew! -- **Mordkhe Schaechter, May 5, 1979**