

Eulogy of Lillian Burick, *Leah bat Yitzchak u'Devorah*
Date of Death June 9th, 2008 - 6 Sivan 5768
Rabbi Eliezer Havivi

Aishet Chayil

The author of Proverbs pays tribute to the Jewish woman in his chapter glorifying the *Aishet Chayil*, the "Woman of Valor". He praises the Jewish woman, finding a virtue for her suggested by each letter of the alphabet. In this poem, the author sums up his sentiments in the most moving tribute to the Jewish woman found in a single verse: *Kamu vaneha v'ya-ashruha ba'ala viyhalla*, her children rise up and bless her, her husband he too praises her.

No more eloquent eulogy, no better summary of Lil's life can be given than to say that her family consider themselves blessed because she was their wife, mother, sister, their grandmother.

Lil was born and raised in Philadelphia, first born child to Dorothy and Irving Edoff, sister to Rhani and Marvin. She met Herman at a cousin's sweet sixteen party. They dated, and after Herman came home from the war, they married. They lived for a while in Philly, then moved to the suburbs of Levittown,, Pennsylvania. As the children were born, they became a family, and when a business opportunity opened up, they moved first to Burlington, and then, in 1958 to Greensboro, with Scott, Paul, Larry, and Beth, and Lisa, was born here.

Lil's mother died young, and she and Herman helped to raise Marvin, and then raised their own five children, helping with school, welcoming the kids' friends to the house, cooking, shopping, working in the business, and being the center of gravity of all of the kids and Herman.

She was a gracious and loving and generous mom, she was very protective of her children. She held down the fort on Woodvale – every holiday, Jewish and otherwise, all the kids were there, well into their adult years. When Beth went to Guilford, Lil had the college friends over to the house. When Lil met Donna, and found out that she was Jewish, she introduced her to Paul, which eventually produced two of her three beloved grandchildren. Lil loved her family, and she loved to bring her family together whenever she could.

And it wasn't just family. Lil and Herman were kind to their friends - they welcomed in their widowed friends, and made them part of the family gatherings. Over and over, Lil's family told me that she was outgoing, and warm, and loved to greet people, and that neither at home, nor at work, did she ever meet a stranger. Although a straight shooter, speaking the truth and perhaps saying what others thought, but were afraid to say, Lil had a heart of gold. Lil was, as Herman likes to say – a *gita neshameh* – a good soul.

Many years ago, Herman was very sick- Lil pulled him out of the hospital, brought him to Philadelphia, and nursed him back to health. She never wanted a nursing home, for her own last days, and in the last years, when she was suffering from Parkinson's , Herman was there for her, and took care of her.

Lillian Burick, *Leah bat Yitzchak u'Devorah* left this world after 82 years of life, on onday, the first day of the festival of Shavu'ot, the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan, in the year 5768. To all who mourn her:

To Herman – her helpmate and lover of 61 and more years;
To her beloved children: to Paul, and Larry and Babbie, to Beth and Gary, to Lisa, and to Scott – with whom Lil has now reunited;
To Lil's grandchildren – David Jordan and Alex;
To Marvin and Elaine;
To Mary and Rosie and Lena and beloved friends and relatives;
And to all who knew Lil and loved, her;
Our hearts and arms reach out to each other in comfort and consolation.
Lil's memory – Tiger Lily of the last few years, will always be an inspiration and a blessing for us.

Shiva will be at the home of Beth and Gary Fuchs, 3609 Timberoak. Minyans will be at the house this afternoon, and Sunday afternoon, at 5:45 PM. Herman will be at Beth and Gary's thru next Thursday,, and friends are encouraged to come to fulfill the mitzvah – the commandment - of comforting the bereaved.