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One Dollar

The People's Rabbi

Remembering Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz, whose sudden passing at the age of 59 stunned the community, and whose life was devoted to bringing the joy of Judaism to every Jew

ב"ה

Lubavitch-Chabad Educational, Outreach and Social Service Centers throughout Illinois

mourn the profound and sudden loss
of the esteemed founder and director of
Lubavitch Chabad of Illinois

הרה"ח ר' דניאל יצחק בן יבלחט"א ר' אפרים שי'

Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz

OF BLESSED MEMORY

Rabbi Moscovitz was a passionate and selfless leader who exemplified Ahavat Yisrael — care and concern for one and all. As our state's head *shliach* (chief emissary) of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, of righteous memory, he shepherded the growth of Chabad in Illinois from a small office to a vibrant network of 43 educational, outreach and social service institutions that have touched countless lives throughout the state and beyond.

The passing of Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz is not just a loss for the Jewish communities of Illinois, but an enormous loss for the global Chabad Lubavitch movement. He was a respected member of the executive committee of Lubavitch World Headquarters, and a leading force behind its expansion and success. Those on the front lines of Jewish outreach and education have lost one of their bravest warriors.

He was a cherished friend to the many who will forever remember his incredible warmth, enormous heart and ready smile. His tireless work and leadership won him countless admirers.

He was a unifying voice who built bridges between people and organizations, a deeply caring person who took great joy in the success of others. He was a fountain of passion and endless energy who leaves an unforgettable mark on all those he inspired and loved: his family, his friends and the wider Jewish community he served with untiring devotion.

May the Moscovitz family find solace and comfort in his remarkable legacy.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

May G-d comfort you, together with all mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Camp Gan Israel	Chabad of Lakeview	Congregation Bnei Ruven
Central Avenue Synagogue – Chabad of Highland Park	Chabad of Lincoln Park	F.R.E.E. of Chicago
Chabad and FREE of Niles	Chabad of Loop & Gold Coast – Center for Jewish Life	F.R.E.E. of Northwest Suburbs
Chabad at UIC and University Village	Chabad of Naperville	Friendship Circle of Illinois
Chabad Israeli Center	Chabad of Oak Park	HINDA Institute/ Jewish Prisoners' Assistance Foundation
Chabad of Bucktown/Wicker Park	Chabad of Peoria	Jewish Learning Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
Chabad of Carbondale and Southern Illinois University	Chabad of the Quad Cities	Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook
Chabad of Champaign-Urbana and University of Illinois	Chabad of River North	Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie
Chabad of Deerfield	Chabad of Rockford	Lubavitch Girls High School
Chabad of East Rogers Park	Chabad of South Loop	Lubavitch Mesivta of Chicago
Chabad of Elgin	Chabad of Vernon Hills	N'shei Chabad
Chabad of Glenview/Morton Grove	Chai Center – Chabad of Wilmette	Northwest Suburban Chabad – Buffalo Grove
Chabad of Gurnee	Philip and Rebecca Esformes Cheder Lubavitch Girls School	Tannenbaum Chabad House – Evanston and Northwestern University
Chabad of Hyde Park and University of Chicago	Seymour J. Abrams Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School	Women to Women
	Congregation Bais Menachem	

THE PEOPLE'S RABBI

Remembering Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz, whose sudden passing at the age of 59 stunned the community, and whose life was devoted to bringing the joy of Judaism to every Jew

By Pauline Dubkin Yearwood
Managing Editor

One of the lynchpins of the Lubavitch-Chabad movement has always been outreach to other Jews, both in times of joy and of sorrow.

Last week, though, it was local Chabad members who were in need of comforting after the unexpected death of their leader, Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz, at age 59.

Moscovitz was the head *shaliach* (emissary) of the Chabad movement in Illinois. He was also active in the movement nationally and internationally and, rabbinic leaders say, was much beloved for his kindness, energy, leadership qualities and devotion to the movement and the late Lubavitcher Rebbe.

He was the driving force in establishing 37 Chabad centers around the state yet took little personal credit for the achievement, Chabad leaders say.

One, Rabbi Dovid Flinkenstein of the Chai Center/Chabad of Wilmette, compared him to the *shamash* candle, the ninth candle on the Chanukah menorah that is used to light the other candles.

"On the one hand, the *shamash* doesn't really count, but at the same time it stands taller, stands beyond the other candles. That's a metaphor for what he was," Flinkenstein said.

Rabbi Moscovitz died of cardiac arrest March 4 after a routine surgical procedure at Glenbrook Hospital in Glen-

view.

The unexpected death has left his community in a state of shock and grief, Rabbi Yosef Schanowitz of Central Avenue Synagogue Chabad House in Highland Park said. "It is a big sudden loss to the community and the community feels very moved and in a sense traumatized by the passing of a young man who didn't even reach the age of 60," Schanowitz, who has known Rabbi Moscovitz for more than 40 years, said.

Rabbi Baruch Epstein, who worked with Moscovitz at Lubavitch Chabad of Illinois, the movement's statewide headquarters in Chicago, said, "Everybody is in shock and sad and everybody keeps saying the same thing: He was the one who knew what to do. Nobody knows what to do."

Daniel Moscovitz, often called Danny, was born on the North Side of Chicago to Frank and Cynthia (Ephraim and Tzivia) Moscovitz, the oldest of four sons. His father, a longtime public school teacher and principal, had studied at the Lubavitcher Yeshiva in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Moscovitz and his younger brothers went to Bais Yaakov, a local Jewish day school. Daniel went on study at Chabad yeshivas in Montreal and Brooklyn. He was among the youngest students selected to serve as senior students at the Chabad yeshiva in Brunoy, France, according to information from the national Chabad-Lubavitch organization.

He married Esther Rochel Aronow shortly after his ordination and headed back home to Chicago, where he joined Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Hecht, then head of Chabad in the region. During his first year, he opened the area's first Chabad House, later called the Tannenbaum Chabad House, to serve students at Northwestern University.

Although Chicago was not one of the power centers of the Chabad movement as New York was, it held an important place in Rabbi Moscovitz's heart and he was devoted to the city and its residents, Chabad leaders say.

"He was a native. His parents are here, his grandparents were here and the fact that he chose to be buried here – he left oral instructions indicating that was what he wanted – is an indication of the deep connection he had to the Chicago community," Rabbi Schanowitz said.

Moscovitz's burial was in Waldheim Cemetery in Forest Park.

After Hecht's death in 1979 (also at the relatively young age of 62), Moscovitz became head *shaliach* of Illinois and soon began expanding the Chabad brand throughout the state. He was appointed to the position by Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who died in 1994.

There are now 37 Chabad houses in locales as diverse as Chicago's Gold Coast, South Loop and Bucktown neighborhoods as well as in Peoria, Naperville, Skokie, Gurnee and Munster, Ind., plus a network of schools, day camps, women's programs, synagogues, Shabbat dinners, services for prisoners, seniors and children with special needs, among others.

Along with Rabbi Epstein, in 1995 Moscovitz opened a new synagogue in Chicago's West Rogers Park neighborhood, called Bais Menachem Nusach Ari, named in honor of his mentor, Rabbi Schneerson, and of a historic synagogue that had flourished years ago in Chicago's Albany Park neighborhood.

In 2000, the Moscovitzes moved to Northbrook to open a new Chabad center along with their son and his wife, Rabbi Meir and Miriam Moscovitz. Another son, Rabbi Yosef Moscovitz, worked closely with



Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz at the Chabad Chanukah candlelighting ceremony at the Thompson Center in downtown Chicago.

his father to expand Chabad programs and centers throughout the state.

In 2001, Daniel Moscovitz told Chicago Jewish News that Chabad in Illinois is in "a concerted expansion mode, and it's coming from the grassroots. When I first started, I had to go knocking on doors, and it was a struggle. Today, people are coming to us. Communities are coming to us."

"People are affected by sincerity," he said in trying to explain why Chicagoans have embraced Chabad's message so enthusiastically. "They are looking for more meaning in life, and this is a path that provides a moral and ethical approach to everyday problems with a spiritual guidepost, something grounded in the heritage of the Jewish people."

What makes Chabad different from other groups, he said, is that "all of the Chabad people make an extra effort to be concerned about the individual. As large as we grow, we try not to become a bureaucratic organization. We're concerned with the individual heart to heart."

The newest Chabad center opened just a few weeks ago in the Southern Illinois city of Carbondale, and its creation reflects the continuity of Daniel Moscovitz's life and work. The heads of the new center are Rabbi Mendel and Yochi Scheiman. Mendel Scheiman is the son of the first rabbi Moscovitz hired, Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman, now head of the Jewish Prisoner Assistance Foundation.

Moscovitz hired him in 1980 to help expand Chabad activities in the region, Scheiman said, and that marked the beginning of a long and loving relationship between the two families.

"He wasn't just the person who hired me, he was the 'brother from another mother,' my dearest friend," Scheiman said. "There's nothing he didn't do for me and my family. At every critical time in my life, a wedding, bris, helping my children get established, he was always there. I don't have adequate words for it even."

When Scheiman's wife, Hindy, died last year, "he was the first one in the door. He helped arrange everything," he said. In addition, Moscovitz was instru-



Rabbi Moscovitz with the Lubavitcher Rebbe (photo by JEM/The Living Archive).

mental in securing a grant from the Rohr Foundation to open the Chabad house in Carbondale.

"He wanted to do something to honor my wife, and she wanted her sons to join the force of the *shlichim*" or Chabad emissaries, he said. "So he made sure the funding was there."

As he was expanding Chabad's presence around the state, Moscowitz was also serving in various positions with the Chabad movement nationally. He was a member of the executive committee of Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, the educational and outreach arm of the movement, and a leader of the International Conference of Chabad Emissaries.

He also served as president of the Chicago Rabbinical Council, the main organization of Orthodox rabbis in the region, several years ago. It is unusual for a Chabad rabbi to lead the organization, which is made up of rabbis from all streams of Orthodoxy, but CRC spokesperson Rabbi Alan Abramson said that Moscowitz "rose to the top in leadership and in his exemplary dedication. He was a leader's leader. He was a great asset to the CRC and by extension to the Jewish people. He was a trail-blazer."

Rabbi Leonard Matanky, spiritual leader of Congregation K.I.N.S. of West Rogers Park, said he worked closely with Moscowitz at the CRC and has known him for years. Moscowitz, he said, was an unusual combination of outstanding leadership ability and personal humility.

"He had a clear vision and an extraordinary sense of Ahavat Yisrael – love of the Jewish people – and a strength in interpersonal relationships. He con-

nected with people," Matanky said. He related that a cashier at a supermarket where Moscowitz often shopped came to pay a condolence call at the shiva house because of the kind way the rabbi interacted with him in the store. That was not unusual, he said.

By all accounts he was also a devoted family man. He and his wife had nine children, four sons and five daughters. All four sons are rabbis.

"He put his family first, then the entire state of Illinois," Rabbi Scheiman said.

Speculating about the forces that shaped Moscowitz, Rabbi Flinkenstein, the Wilmette Chabad leader, said that he thought it began with his family.

"He was raised in a home where his father was an educator, a principal. He saw it first-hand, what it meant to be dedicated, to lead a selfless life. His own father went to the Lubavitch yeshiva back in the '40s" and was a disciple of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, whom Chabadniks just refer to as the rebbe.

Rabbi Schneerson was a towering figure in Daniel Moscowitz's life as well, Chabad leaders agree. The rebbe "led by example, and you emulated the rebbe," Flinkenstein said. "The more you got to admire the rebbe, the more you took some of those qualities and made them a part of yourself. The rebbe was not looking for followers but he brought out the best qualities in everyone, the leadership qualities in all people. Whoever the rebbe encountered he would look at him and think, how could this person be a leader in their surroundings?"

While Moscowitz emulated the rebbe in this way, he had ex-

hibited leadership qualities even before he returned to Chicago, Flinkenstein said. In fact, Moscowitz was the head counselor at a camp in New York when Flinkenstein was a child.

"I look back fondly on those days. He exhibited those leadership qualities even back then, even in camp," he said. "He had this resounding booming voice. His excitement was contagious. You have individuals who lead by power, and he had power, strength and direction, but he led with love, empathy and compassion," he said.

Moscowitz, a forceful and imposing figure, had charisma and an ability to connect with everyone he met, from a young child in one of the Chabad schools to a construction worker building a new Chabad center, Flinkenstein said.

"He was able to remember everybody's personal details and put them together and develop a rapport," he said. "He connected to people genuinely. His mission was igniting the spark within each and every Jew and empowering them to make a change in the world for good. He took that as a mission in life," he said.

While Moscowitz rejoiced in new Chabad centers being built, he didn't seek luxurious accommodations for himself, Flinkenstein said. "He could have built a huge (center) of his own, but all he had was a small office," he said.

Children were drawn to Moscowitz, who was like a father figure to them, he said. His own 12-year-old son said he remembered Moscowitz giving him Chanukah gelt, as he did to many children, all of whom felt a personal relationship to him.

Like other Chabad leaders, Flinkenstein spoke of Moscowitz's sense of fulfilling a personal mission set out by the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

"His mission was being an ambassador of the rebbe here in the state of Illinois," he said. "As a true leader, it wasn't about him – he would always say, what would the rebbe have done? How would the rebbe have conducted himself under such circumstances?"

Rabbi Baruch Hertz, spiritual leader of Chicago's Congregation Bnei Ruven and a close associate of Moscowitz's, agreed that "he was an emissary of the Lubavitcher Rebbe and he took the rebbe's vision very seriously. He daily tried to implement what the rebbe wanted. The rebbe's vision of caring for the whole Jewish people was what he tried to implement."

Rabbi Schanowitz, of Highland Park, remembered talking to Moscowitz just a few days before his death and sharing stories about the rebbe.

"He was very devoted to the rebbe. He took that very seriously," Schanowitz said. "Every-



Rabbi Moscowitz meeting with President Obama.

decision he made was based on his thinking about what the rebbe would say on this issue. It has its roots in Jewish tradition, particularly in the Talmud. The rabbis and sages were seen as people who were pure, pious, righteous. They were a reflection of the Torah. (Moscowitz) was submissive to that, he surrendered to that. He really was a disciple of the rebbe and that probably was the major feature in his life."

Hertz said Moscowitz was involved in Chabad activities worldwide and was respected throughout the organization, but that he was very down-to-earth and "an unbelievably nice person. He raised a beautiful family and was a very warm friend." Moscowitz's funeral was held at his synagogue and, he said, "it was a very hard thing to arrange the funeral without his advice."

Rabbi Epstein, who worked closely with Moscowitz for more than 20 years, said one thing about his friend and colleague that is uppermost in his mind is that "his greatest joy was to enable other people to be successful."

When other rabbis might encounter the inevitable difficulties in starting a new Chabad center or other institution, "he was always very encouraging. If someone planned an event and there was a small turnout, he would always say that it would be better next time. He genuinely celebrated other people's good fortune, both personal and professional," he said.

Scheiman said that by being empowered by the rebbe and being thrust into a position of authority before he was 30, after Rabbi Hecht's death, helped shape Moscowitz into the person he ultimately became.

"He grew into the position and he really flourished," he said. "He took full advantage of that moment in his short life, and what he did from 1980 (when he became the leader of Chabad in Illinois) to his last day was empowered by special blessings from the Lubavitcher Rebbe," he said.

"Everybody has opportunities and he grabbed the opportu-

nities," Scheiman said. "He was always growing, expanding, he never stopped to rest on his past (accomplishments). But he never became too big to relate to his friends. He went up the corporate ladder in Chabad but I was still able to talk to him. He had that rare quality of, on one hand, being a high-powered executive but still relating to everyone as an ordinary person. He wasn't aloof, he wasn't condescending, he was kind and had humility."

He helped Scheiman and his family in many ways and "was always thinking, how could his power be used to help this one or that one. He never used that power or influence to punish people or come down hard on people," he said.

Chabad leaders say they will now be searching for a way to go on without him and, with the inspiration of his life, are sure to find it.

Schanowitz said, "Our hope is that G-d strengthens the family and the entire community" to continue on in Moscowitz's path.

"Everybody in the whole Lubavitch community is committed to continuing, strengthening, growing and expanding all of the activities he was so devoted to," Epstein said.

Flinkenstein recalled another tragic event in the community, the untimely death last year of Hindy Scheiman, an esteemed rebbetzin. Moscowitz officiated at her funeral.

"We were all broken by this, but (Moscowitz's) leadership role in how he took this, viewed this, consoled us. He said that while Rebbetzin Scheiman was dedicated heart and soul in her mission here, she is continuing on. It's just in a new chapter – continuing on, just on a different plane," he said.

"It's the same for him. It is echoed here in our situation now," he said. "It's almost as if he was saying it about himself, almost like he had a premonition. His leadership, involvement, care, love, his mission to every one of us continues. It's not over."



Of Rabbi Moscowitz, one Chicago Chabad leader said, "He connected to people genuinely. His mission was igniting the spark within each and every Jew and empowering them to make a change in the world for good."



By Joseph Aaron

My friend Danny

I am having a really hard time believing Danny is gone.

The death of Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz, the director of Lubavitch Chabad of Illinois, hit me really hard, stunned me when I first heard and continues to be something my head is having a very hard time accepting as true.

I knew Danny Moscovitz for more than 50 years, which is a very long time, indeed is longer than I knew the three other people whose deaths shook me to my roots. I was in my 30s when my bubbe and zaydie died and while I, of course, felt grief and pain at their passing, I had a whole bunch of other feelings as well.

My bubbe was not what you would call a stereotypical Jewish grandmother. She was as tough as nails, was not at all warm and fuzzy. I felt sorry for myself that she wasn't, felt deprived of a sweet, gentle grandma baking cookies for me. But when she died, I found myself feeling a lot of respect for her, an appreciation and admiration for her. She and her husband and her five children, of whom my mom was the youngest, managed somehow to survive a Siberian labor camp. And I realized it was due in large measure to her.

Whether she was always tough and resourceful or whether her hellish circumstances made her so, I don't know, but I do know that it was because she was as she was that she kept her family alive, despite all.

I didn't feel sad when my zaydie died because he was someone who always made me smile. He was the most gentle soul I have ever encountered, pure sweetness, always funny, as pious a Jew as G-d ever created. He was not learned or worldly, but he had a pure, simple faith, lived life as G-d wishes a Jew to live, was always a mensch.

I was numb when my dad died. I was only 26 years old and though he had been ill for much of my life, his death hit me like a ton of bricks, so much so I cut off my feelings. The funny thing is while right after his death, I didn't feel much, as the years have passed, I have more and more missed him, almost ache thinking of having him for so little a part of my life, so wish he had been here the last 30 years or so, so I could have talked to him, shared with him, learned from him. His death affects me more now than it did when it happened.

So I knew my dad all of 26 years, my bubbe and zaydie a bit more than 30 years. Danny Moscovitz I knew more than 50 years. My first memories of him are of when I was about 7. I was actually a classmate of his brother, Moshe, Danny being a year older than me.

But we were all students at a new day school called Bais Yaacov and there weren't very many students. Indeed, there were only 9 boys in my first grade class and all nine of us went all through day school together up through eighth grade. Interesting fact: of the 9, eight went on to be ordained rabbis. And then there was me.

Another interesting fact: anyone who knows Jewish history, knows the Bais Yaacov movement began in the early 20th century as a day school for girls. Why those who began it in Chicago chose to call the new school Bais Yaacov even though it was attended by both boys and girls, I still do not know. I do know that I have a diploma showing me to be an official graduate of Bais Yaacov, which is always good for a laugh when I show it to my Orthodox friends.

In any case, since there were only nine of us boys, we spent a lot of time at each other's houses. And so I was a frequent visitor to the Moscovitz home where, in addition to playing with my classmate Moshe, I played with his big brother Danny. I remember well that though he was older than me, he never made me feel that way, was always nice to me.

As the years passed, somehow I kept more in touch with Danny than with Moshe. Part of that had to do with our jobs. I have always been a very big fan of Lubavitch, see them as the finest Jews there are.

That is, of course, thanks to their sainted leader, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, without doubt the greatest Jew of the last 100 years. What the Rebbe taught Danny and all his followers is that every Jew counts, every Jew is precious, every Jew is special and deserves to be treated with respect.

Most ultra-Orthodox Jews remind me of Republicans, always emphasizing what they're against, always finding fault in others, always thinking of themselves as more righteous. And always making you feel less, painting a dark picture of what Judaism is about, emphasizing what you can't do, where you fall short.

Chasidism in general, and Lubavitch in particular, do the exact opposite. Their emphasis is on what they are for, which is joyful Judaism.

By Joseph Aaron

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They are about always finding the good in every Jew, never judging any Jew, reaching out to every Jew, literally wherever in the world they are, whoever in the world they are. Lubavitchers always make you feel good about being a Jew, always emphasize the happiness that comes with being a Jew, always paint a beautiful uplifting picture of what Judaism is all about, emphasizing how much G-d loves you, how much meaning is to be found in being a Jew.

I have found that what someone once told me to be very true. In the Orthodox yeshiva world on Rosh Hashanah, the feeling is that your neck is in the noose, G-d is this close to pulling the rope and you have to pray your guts out to be spared. Lubavitchers, by contrast, say that on Rosh Hashanah there is no need to worry, that G-d wants to forgive you, wants very much to bless you with a happy new year, wants you to know how much He loves you. With Lubavitchers, praying on Rosh Hashanah is not about saving your neck but feeling in your heart and soul how much G-d cares about you.

That was Danny Moscovitz, always with that loving, lovely smile on his face. Always reaching out to Jews, all Jews, always wanting to bring the message of the Rebbe, always wanting to spread love of G-d, always wanting Jews to feel good about themselves and feel how lucky they were to be Jews. He was about joys, not oys, about kvelling, not kvetching.

I feel really privileged to have known Danny, to have been friends with Danny. And I feel very grateful to him for a couple of very special things he did for me. When it was the 80th birthday of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Danny not only bought me a ticket to New York to accompany him to the gathering the Rebbe held, but made sure I had a front row seat right in front of the Rebbe. And it was at the end of his talk that the Rebbe stood for hour after hour handing each of the thousands there a copy of the Tanya, the central book of Lubavitch teachings. And so I got to stand in front of the Rebbe and receive a Tanya from him.

Now, regular readers of this column know what a cynical bastard I am, how little I think of most rabbis. So you know it takes a lot for a rabbi to impress me, for me to be wowed being handed a book by a rabbi, but there was just something about the Rebbe. He was an incredible person, not only incredibly learned in terms of Jewish texts, but so well versed in science, politics, world affairs. Unlike most Orthodox rabbinic leaders, he didn't shun the world, but embraced it, didn't fear technology but employed it, didn't label and dismiss certain kinds of Jews, but accepted and cared about every kind of Jew.

Danny knew how I felt about the Rebbe and so he arranged for me to be in a small shul where the Rebbe sometimes prayed and to be seated literally a couple of feet away from him. I must admit I could not take my eyes off the Rebbe, felt a tangible sense of holiness emanating from him unlike any I have ever felt anywhere with anyone. And I have been in the presence of quite a few learned and renowned rabbis.

Once when I was on my way to Israel, Danny told the Rebbe's key aide that I would be spending a couple of days in New York before flying to Israel. The aide told the Rebbe who in turn told his aide to give me a 100 shekel bill and to tell me it was to represent "mayah brachos," 100 blessings.

I was floored. Yes, to receive 100 blessings from the Rebbe himself, but more because of something deeper. We are taught that every Jew is obligated to say 100 blessings a day, which is easy to do if you pray three times a day. But having had some really unpleasant experiences at the day school and the yeshiva high school I attended because of my journalistic penchant to ask questions, I was very turned off at that point in my life to Judaism, and manifested that by, among other things, not praying three times a day, or even close.

I felt in sending the message of "mayah brachos" to me that somehow the Rebbe had peered into my very soul, knew very well I wasn't saying 100 blessings a day and without criticizing or chastising or calling me a bad Jew, he instead was gently and lovingly telling me, for my own sake, to start saying 100 blessings a day. That he did it as he did, without putting me down but by building me up, touched me deeply. And from that day to this, I have said 100 blessings every day. Because of how the Rebbe cared about me, because the Rebbe treated me like something precious.

That happened thanks to Danny, as did other things I don't have the space to relate. One final Danny story. A couple of years ago, Danny had a heart attack and so the first time I saw him after that, I asked him how he was doing. I will never ever forget the love in his eyes when he looked at me and, because he and I were both shall we say a bit overweight, telling me to take care of myself, to watch my health. It wasn't just words, he really meant it from his heart, was so caring in telling me that, was being a real friend.

That was all Danny. A caring mensch, a true Jew, a rabbi as we wish rabbis would be, a shining example of living the Rebbe's teachings. Danny's death hit me real hard. I really still can't believe it. I will miss him very much. I am so very glad he was in my life for more than 50 years.