

Dear colleagues and friends,

The crown jewel of Congregation Shaarey Tephilah, of the Jewish community of Portland and of the city of Portland has permanently passed away. The magnitude of the soul of Dr. Shapiro was such that my three immediate predecessors were drawn to Israel great distances to ~~him~~ eulogize this great man. Rabbi Bekintsky had the good fortune of officiating at the beginning of the married life of Mordechai and Miriam Shapiro, this unique couple that has given so much to our synagogue and community. The Shapiros always ~~spoke~~ ^{spoke} reverently about their association with Rabbi Bekintsky. When Rabbi Dworkin arrived here, he was able to utilize the leadership and the full force of the Shapiros in the cause of the synagogue. He and Mr. Dworkin were intimate friends of the Shapiros. Rabbi Yaffe and his family were close to the Shapiros for many years and Rabbi Yaffe was oft this private mentor and spiritual guide. 6 years ago when I came to Portland, Dr. Shapiro was actively engaged as the Chairman of the Membership Committee and he continued to work for our shul as a member of the Board of Directors.

To my great sorrow, and maybe it was a great privilege, it was my destiny to be with the Shapiros in the final weeks of their married life, which apart from everything else the Shapiros meant for them, they were singular in the great love and devotion they gave to each other. Whenever I walked into Dr. Shapiro's room in the hospital, there I was there beside him. For some reason invariably, I began to lecture to the Shapiros on some intricate Talmudic matter. After all the Shapiros had ~~attended~~ attended my Talmud class frequently and this was a continuation of our Talmudic discussions. And as soon as I completed my little discourse, Dr. Shapiro would smile to me and offer me strength and encouragement. This was the paradoxical situation about visiting Dr. Shapiro. I supposedly came to visit him to give him cheer and hope. But upon leaving the room, I realized that in fact I was the recipient of friendship and strength. In other words I want to make one point to all of you gathered here today to pay tribute ^{to our dearly departed} ~~to this great man~~. Dr. Shapiro was, to his last moments, a physician who prolonged the lives of all who came in contact with him and he never really relinquished his role as doctor ^{until} and exchanged it for the status of a patient. He was the brilliant surgeon who dispensed life to countless patients. He was ~~the~~ a ~~university~~ professor of medicine at Tufts University, but he was above all the perfect physician, ^{who} by his very beneficent nature, ~~was~~ inspired as well as healed his patients and he simply uplifted the spirits of all who came in contact with him.

"Small" great distances to ~~the~~ enlarge this great man. Rabbi Bekintsky had the good fortune of officiating at the beginning of the married life of Mordechai and Miriam Shapiro, this unique couple that has given so much to our synagogue and community. The Shapiros always ~~spoke~~ ^{spoke} reverently about their association with Rabbi Bekintsky. When Rabbi Dworkin arrived here, he was able to utilize the leadership and the full force of the Shapiros in the cause of the synagogue. He and Mrs. Dworkin were intimate friends of the Shapiros. Rabbi Gaffe and his family were close to the Shapiros for many years and Rabbi Gaffe was oft his private mentor and spiritual guide. 6 years ago when I came to Portland, Dr. Shapiro was actively engaged as the Chairman of the Membership Committee and he continued to work for our shul as a member of the Board of Directors.

To my great sorrow, and maybe it was a great privilege, it was my destiny to be with the Shapiros in the final weeks of their married life, which apart from everything else the Shapiros meant for me, they were singular in the great love and devotion these two had for each other. Whenever I walked into Dr. Shapiro's room in the hospital, Miriam would always greet me. For some reason invariably, I began to lecture to the Shapiros on some intricate Talmudic matter. After all the Shapiros had ~~attended~~ attended my Talmud class frequently and this was a continuation of our Talmudic discussions. And as soon as I completed my little discourse, Dr. Shapiro would smile to me and offer me strength and encouragement. This was the paradoxical situation about visiting Dr. Shapiro. I supposedly came to visit him to give him cheer and hope. But upon leaving the room, I realized that in fact I was the recipient of friendship and strength. In other words, I went to make one point to all of you gathered here today to pay tribute ^{to a man who was dearly beloved to me} to his last moments. Dr. Shapiro was, to his last moments, a physician who prolonged the lives of all who came in contact with him and he never really relinquished his role as doctor and ^{never} exchanged it for the status of a patient. He was the brilliant surgeon who dispensed life to countless patients. He was ~~the~~ a ~~master~~ professor of medicine at Tufts University. And he was above all the perfect physician, ^{who} by his very beneficent nature, ~~was~~ inspired as well as healed his patients and he simply uplifted the spirits of all who came in contact with him.

The Hebrew name of Dr. Shapiro was שמעון. It is the name that the greatest physician and Talmudic scholar of the last thousand years of Jewish history bore - ^{was} the son of Haiman. I believe that Dr. Shapiro was a T.B.S. - spiritual heir to שמעון ^{the} Haiman, generally known as Moses Maimonides in two ways; his excellence in the field of medicine and surgery and the fact that he taught us that there was no intrinsic conflict between

Dr. Mordechai Shapiro

JNB AND SHAPIRO'S

showing the Jewish community of H...
The magnitude of the soul
predecessors were drawn to
his great men. Rabbi
of the married
over or

To my colleagues who came from far to pay tribute to his great
Orthodox Jewish physician, I want to say something. Mordechai Shapiro
wrote in his commentary on medicine, that if we never do enjoy another
then he may break his own if he is patient of matter because
1) because the physician who provides healing is fulfilling a
commandment of G-d, a מצוה, and not merely giving joy to another. And
what is the particular מצוה that he is performing? 1) מצוה - not merely
and restoring a body part to its proper owner, for is there anything more
precious to a person than his health? Dr. Shapiro constantly
restored health to others. ~~Not only did he do this great מצוה but~~
and he did this מצוה in a most compassionate manner. Yes,
that he was categorized by one prominent ~~physician~~ ^{attorney} Dr. Shapiro was (quite)
~~an unusual feat~~ a compassionate doctor and he schoolmate
of Dr. Shapiro ~~never~~ described him - in a most emphatic manner -
(quote) "He was the greatest."

The greatest has now appeared before the greatest. He will
be well rewarded in high. He ^{who} excluded life to others, somehow overlooked
himself. And perhaps G-d wanted Mordechai Shapiro to be close to Him in Heaven.

Mordechai can only be grateful for the days that G-d gave ~~him~~ ^{him} to
his. The children, Lynn, Susan and Steven can only ~~try~~ ^{strive} to
emulate the great ~~man~~ ^{man} their father was. And surely in Heaven,
G-d the son of ~~the~~ JNB AND will ~~entrain~~ ^{entrain} in behalf of his beloved wife, children
and grandchildren and be a source of blessing to them and to all
the multitude of his ~~patients~~ ^{patients} friends and all of us, Amen.