

- We are gathered to mourn passing of Sarah Zipperstein, Sarah bas Isser v'Nechamah. Sarah was a staunchly independent woman who worked hard for over a century. Her home and heart will be remembered by all as being forever open and caring, whether for a warm meal, a comfortable bed or some kind advice. She will be sorely missed by the entire community and especially by her son, Leo, grandchildren Jana, Lauren, Terry & Ilana, Karen & Don & Richard and her great grandchildren Brendan, Coby and Jessica. She was predeceased by her husband Eddie and daughter Esther.
- The book of Exodus which we begin reading today opens with Pharaoh enslaving the Children of Israel and sentencing all male newborns to immediate death. Yocheved takes her precious little Moses and sends him down the Nile to face his destiny. He is found by Pharaoh's daughter Bithia and grows up in the palace. As he grows into a young man, one day he ventures out of the palace and finds an Egyptian smiting a Jewish worker. He strikes out and puts an end to the Egyptian, fleeing Egypt in the aftermath.
- We next find him in Midian, running after his father-in-law's lost sheep and chancing upon a burning bush, where G-d instructs him to take His people out of Egypt. Thus, begins his life's mission at the tender age of 80.
- Where was he until this time? The Midrash tells us that he spent 40 years as the king of Ethiopia. The Torah of course makes no mention of this, as it does not pertain directly to our nation's history. We pick up the story in the final 40 years of Moses' life.
- Sarah Zipperstein, Sarah bas Isser v'Nechamah was a strong, independent woman. Like Moshe, who left his mother's arms and earned his independence at

so young an age, Sarah left home at the young age of 14, with only a dress and an address, which brought her to her uncle in Pinsk to learn her shneidering trade. At the age of 20 she travelled alone to the new world in her quest for love and life.

- Just like Moses who was not afraid to get out there and show leadership when he saw his brother suffering, Sarah had an incredible work ethic. She would work, earn and save. From collecting eggs with her husband, to starting her own bric-a-brac business with her daughter, to dressmaking for local tailors and then eventually out of her own home, to working with her son, sewing superflies, she never stopped.
- The days of man are 70, and if strong 80. That goes for the majority of us. Not Moses, not Sarah. These are the individuals who are just starting their careers taking 3 million people out of Egypt or manufacturing blintzes on a commercial scale.
- But Moses wasn't chosen for his power, G-d chose him to lead the Children of Israel, when he saw him look for a lost sheep. Sarah's life was dedicated to tending to lost sheep. Her home was open to all, for a comfortable bed, a warm meal, starving people hopping off the train as it slowed at 95 st, DPs, students, army folks building the Alaskan hwy. But Moses Maimonides teaches that the greatest form of tzedakah, is helping people help themselves to get on their own two feet. She taught people to sew, they opened menswear stores, she taught people to bake, they made blintzes commercially. She was the first to offer chicken soup for the soul, as she fed, listened, philosophized, advised, but never judged or pushed. She lent the money she had saved to those in need. She was

the first phone-call for the meshulach, in his black suit, white shirt and black tie, be he Chasidish, Litvish or Mormon – anyone who knocked on the door received the same warm welcome and warm meal.

- And like Moses, who first took care of his wife and children, and then called upon his brother Aaron upon first returning to Egypt, Sarah cared above all about her family.
- One at a time, she utilized her personal resources to relocate them to the big city, to Pinsk. This too was her plan for Canada, to bring them one by one, but alas they all perished in the war before she could fulfill her aspirations for her family.
- However, the story of Sarah's devotion to her family began long before her travels to Pinsk. She was a devoted sister who looked after her siblings as their mother was constantly being called away for her midwife duties.
- And when the big day came to travel to America, the money that had been sent to her from her uncle for the purposes of her emigration, she ended up donating to her sister's dowry.
- Sarah had a formidable bond with her shviger, her mother-in-law, becoming almost like a sister to her.
- And of course, she was an unbelievable wife to Eddie a"h, mother to Leo and Esther a"h, grandmother to Jana, Lauren, Terry & Ilana, Karen & Don and Richard and great grandmother to Brendan, Coby and Jessica, who were the pinnacle of her joy. Always there to lend an ear, some words of advice, a home away from home, she will be sorely missed by her family and all who knew her.