

Eulogy of Dan Goody  
by Erwan Huberman

Page | 1

When live in a world today, where often communication between people is reduced to words on a page, or an email or a voice message.....

In many ways in our world, we've lost that human touch, when laughter around a game of cards, or friends sitting around the dinner table ....a kind touch on the shoulder or an encouraging word.....were so essential to who we are.....

But for Dan Goody, people and the human touch were his passion....

A mensch....a good human being who from his early years and throughout his life, made it his business to be involved and concerned about people, whether they be friends, or family, his clients....or those he read about or interacted with on the internet, or elsewhere in life .

He was born in 1944 in Winnipeg...to Dasha and Joe Goody.....He would have been 65 two weeks from today....

Just before his fourth birthday, the Goody family moved to Edmonton where Dasha's family lived ..... Her family was among the founders of the Bet Shalom Congregation....

Dan attended local Talmud Torah ....

Westminster and Ross Shepherd High School....

Page | 3

In his teenage years, he supplemented his mathematics education with a regular poker card game with his best friends Phil Gold, Kenny Gerwitz and Earl Heltay.... and that friendship between him and his high school buddies endured....and you are here today...

Back then, Denny was the guy classmates came to with their problems...always a good listener....a caring listener ..... he could keep his head, when sometimes as will happen in high school; those around him were losing theirs.

The designated driver... the stand up guy...

That's why it was no surprise that when it was time for Dan to choose a career.... he chose human relations and counseling ...

Why not make it official.....

He attended Mount Royal College, Sir George Williams in Montreal and University of Waterloo... all the while delving deeper in the field of human relations ... gaining wisdom into what made people tick.....He began his professional career in Lethbridge working for government services in his chosen field.

One day in 1976, a young woman named Linda got off the train in Lethbridge.... Linda was

traveling the country by train from Ontario to British Columbia in search of something....but no sure what.....She had been inspired as a high school student by the words of Jean Vanier....son of the former Governor General.....who extolled students to work and commit to the wellbeing of the mentally challenged...

Linda was looking for a place where potentially, a L'Arche community ... a resident community for the mentally challenged would be set up....She heard of such plans being considered in southern Alberta.....She doubled back to Lethbridge.... And got off the train, in search of something ....

And she found Dan....

Linda was working as a child care worker ....and one day her supervisor suggested that she take a particularly challenging case to an excellent counselor.... Dan Goody....

Dan worked with the young man ....and since their regular appointment was Friday afternoon, Dan would drive the client and Linda home ....

“Why is such a great guy like you not married,” Linda once asked....

“Come for coffee with me..,” said the sly Dan..... she did....and the two became a couple.... a

caring, involved, inseparable couple.....who as Linda describes it ....became interwoven...

Page | 7

That's the way it was with Dan..... when you came to him with an open heart.... He would invest everything in you....

He loved evenings with friends.....going out to a good restaurant ... checking out festivals.... And perhaps most of all family....

His sister Brandy....brother in law Ron....nephews Michael and Paul....**who by the way he was incredibly proud of** .....were central to his life.

but although indeed he loved people, .....his love for humanity was *not completely universal....*

Page | 8

He did not tolerate fools .....or bureaucracies... or governments who put money ahead of people ....He was not president of the Ralph Klein fan club....

He had a stubborn side.... Sometimes bullish and frequently opinionated.... And God bless him for it.....because in this world of political correctness..... we surely need more of that. His opinions were never to self aggrandize or to impress....but because he had a concern about humanity and where it was going.....His opinions were for Shem Shamayim, in the name of heaven...



Dan Goody was chronicler of society ....

Page | 9

His political statement to the world ...Goody's Giggles....appeared regularly on many of our computer screens ... although the size and frequency of the messages sometimes were as big as ~~big~~ as his passion....

But he loved irony ... and he never missed an opportunity to stick it to bureaucrats.... Politicians ....or those would cause harm to those he loved .....particularly the Jewish people, or to Israel where he visited twice in his life...

Dan of course suffered a number of bouts of illness....but it was with pride and optimism that recently, following the loss of more than 100 pounds, Dan was back in circulation..... lighter.... More mobile ...ready to take on life again....But sadly, these days were limited....

This week in the reading of the Torah, God provides us with a blueprint of what it takes to truly embrace our lives, and our relatively brief walk on this earth...

God through Moses tells us *as we read this week.....* "Therefore today I put before you, life and death....the blessings and the curses....."

These are your choices as you wake up every day.....

“Therefore,” says the Torah....U'Becharta B'chayim.... choose life that you may **truly live** ....”

Dan Goody chose life, and gave life....

Because when Dan listened you knew he was focused on you....your stories...your successes and your challenges....

His hug was like a big blanket....which surrounded you....

He also had a hug which would envelop you without ever touching you .... It was in his eyes....and in his voice, so big yet so soft, which will echo in the lives he touched.

Dan Goody taught us ... that human beings are precious .... And that we need to invest and listen to each other .... With full attention, and full heart....

The Torah reminds us ....that living a good life is found within our attitude as we wake up and embrace each day.

Love completely and unconditionally.....don't tolerate fools .....and pursue life's blessings ....

That was Dan Goody... ..

And although we all worried about his health....he seemed to always come through...and we were fortunate to hear his full bodied laughter and feel his care for almost 65 years....

He was good .... And it's hard to believe he's gone ....

But let us always feel and carry forward the warmth of his hug, the care in his heart....and his compassion and concern for his fellow human beings...

Dan Goody was a person who truly chose life ....

May the name of Dan Goody.....always be for a blessing.