



Matzevah Dedication Service
for Muriel Stolarsky
July 3rd, 2016
Westlawn Cemetery Norridge, Illinois

Judaism has several names for a cemetery; two of them are Beit HaKevarot: a home for burial, and, curiously, Beit HaChaim: a home for the living. How is this place a home for the living? Well look around at all of us who are here today to celebrate Muriel Stolarsky. We are very much alive and each of us, in our own way, uses the memories and the examples she set to inspire and affect how we live our lives; and together we make this cemetery a “home for the living.”

It is an ancient Jewish custom to erect a matzevah – which literally means “monument” - in memory of our relatives who die – a tradition that comes from our Biblical ancestor Jacob, who placed a monument on the grave of his beloved Rachel. Today we come together to dedicate this monument to the memory of Muriel Stolarsky, our beloved great grandmother, grandmother and mother. In recognizing Muriel in this way we create a new memory of coming together, to honor her and support one another. Unveiling Miriam Bat Yechezkel v'Rikvah's matzevah is to reveal and disclose how much we miss her and allows us to take stock of what has happened in our own lives since her death. **I want to call Judy up to uncover the headstone, then I ask us all to take a moment to reflect on those things.**

On this stone is inscribed;

pay nun, (Hebrew letters standing for “ po nikbarah, here is buried”)

Miriam Bat Yechezkel v'Rikvah

Muriel Stolarsky

Beloved wife of Victor Stolarsky

Cherished Mother, Grandmother, GreatGrandmother

Sept 6 1917 - August 2 2015

We will now hear a few words about this inscription and about the woman we are commemorating today.

It is a ubiquitous Jewish habit to place pebbles on the monument that marks a grave. This serves as a reminder of our presence and may hark back to biblical days when the monument was a heap of stones that sometimes become dispersed and needed to be built back up again. It may also be connected to the custom of writing notes to the deceased and pushing them into crevices in the headstone, just as notes are pushed into the Western Wall in Jerusalem. When no crevice could be found, the note was weighted down with a stone and in time the paper disintegrated or blew away leaving only the stone. **Today I call up all family members to put a stone or a note on Muriel's Matzevah** and we are each always invited to do so at any point in the year or in our lives that would be meaningful.

The Mishna in Ethics of our Fathers, which we studied with the Rabbi during shiva last summer, records **“It is not what one says, but rather what one does that makes a difference in the world.”** When I read these words I think of Muriel and all the thoughtful things she did (aside from all the wonderful things that she did indeed say) and I think about all of us taking the steps necessary to come together today to pay honor to her memory. We realize that Muriel's physical remains lie in this plot of ground but that she lives on in each of our hearts, and indeed the hearts of so many others who knew her. We are all grateful for the years we were privileged to share with Muriel – years when she taught us so much by example.

As the final pieces of the ceremony today, **we will recite the El Maley Rakhamim prayer in Hebrew and in English** which is traditional to say at the burial and again at the unveiling, and **we will then respond to Judy and Ken reciting the Kaddish.**

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה
על כנפי השכינה, במעלת קדושים וטהורים כזהר
הרקיע מזהירים, את נשמת מרים בת יחזקאל
ורקה שהלכה לעולמה, בגן עדן תהא מנוחתה, לכן
בעל הרחמים יסתירה בסתר כנפיו לעולמים, ויצרור
בצרור החיים את נשמתה, " הוא נחלתה, ותנוח
בשלום על משכבה. ונאמר אמן.

*El maley rakhamim sbokhen bam'romim ham'tzey menukhab nekhnab takbat
kanfey hasbekbinab, bema'alot kedoshim u't'horim kezobar harakiah maz'hirim,
et nishmat **Miriam Bat Yechezkel v'Rikvah** shebalcha lolama. B'gan eden
t'heb menuchata. Lachen ba'al barakhamim has'tireyba beseter kenafav l'olamim
vayitz'ror bitz'ror hakhayim et nishmata. Adonay hu nakbalata vetanuakh be-
shalom al mish'kava venomar amen.*

God full of mercy, who dwells in high places, grant full repose under the divine presence's wings in the heights of the holy and pure – like a light glowing in the firmament – to the soul of Miriam the daughter of Yechezkel and Rikvah who has gone to her world, may her rest be in the Garden of Eden. Merciful one, conceal her under your wings forever, and bind her soul to life. The Compassionate One is her portion. May she rest in peace in her place. And let us say: Amen.

Now Judy and Ken will lead us in the Mourner's Kaddish, and we will answer with the words in bold.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. **[אמן]**
בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתֵיהּ וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵיהּ בְּחַיִּיכוֹן
וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב,
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

[אמן], יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי
[עלמיא] יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמֵי־א:
יְתְבָרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר
וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלֵּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקֻדְשָׁא. בְּרִיךְ הוּא. **ברוך הוא.**
לְעֵלָא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא
דְאָמִירָן בְּעֵלְמָא. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן. **[אמן]**
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמֵי־א וְחַיִּים וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל
יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן. **[אמן]** עוֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא
יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן. **[אמן]**

Judy and Ken Yitgadal v'yitkaddash sh'mei rabba.

B'alma di vra khirutei v'yamlikh malkhutei, b'chayeikhon uv'yomeikhon
uv'chayei d'khol beit yisrael, baagala uvizman kariv v'imru amen.

Family; Amen, Y'hei sh'mei rabba m'varakh l'alam ul'almei almay.

Judy and Ken; Yitbarakh v'yishtabbach v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam, v'yitna-
sei v'yit'hadar v'yitaleh v'yit'hallal, sh'mei d'kudsha b'rikh hu

Family; b'rikh hu

Judy and Ken; l'ella min kol birkhata v'shirata, tushb'chata v'nechemata da'amiran b'alma v'imru amen.

Family; Amen

Judy and Ken; Y'hei sh'lama rabba min sh'maya v'chayim aleinu v'al kol yisrael v'imru amen.

Family; Amen

Judy and Ken; Ose shalom bimromav hu ya'ase shalom aleinu v'al kol yisrael v'imru amen.

Family; Amen

Translation:

Let God's name be made great and holy in the world that was created as God willed. May God complete the holy realm in your own lifetime, in your days, and in the days of all the house of Israel, quickly and soon. And say: Amen. May God's great name be blessed, forever and as long as worlds endure. May it be blessed, and praised, and glorified, and held in honor, viewed with awe, embellished, and revered; and may the blessed name of holiness be hailed, though it be higher by far than all the blessings, songs, praises, and consolations that we utter in this world. And say: Amen. May Heaven grant a universal peace, and life for us, and for all Israel. And say: Amen. May the One who creates harmony above, make peace for us and for all Israel, and for all who dwell on earth. And say: Amen.

May Muriel's memory be an enduring blessing, *Zichronab L'vracha.*