

## The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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### ELLA RAE KUSTANOWITZ TO HEAD KRONIKLE ELLACTRONIC EDITION

#### Seven Pound Cutie Is Introduced At Simchat Bat Party in Riverdale

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

RIVERDALE, NY, Dec. 19 – With great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins looking on, Ilana and Simmy Kustanowitz introduced Ella Rae to her world of admirers at a Simchat Bat celebration at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale here today.

There was a hush as Ella entered the sanctuary of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. Grandparents and aunts took turns holding the new arrival as she made her way to center stage.

The highlights of the ceremony were the blessings offered in Hebrew and English by Doda Esther and Bubbe

Little and the welcoming speeches given by Ilana and Simmy.

Here are some highlights from the speeches.

**Ilana:** Simmy and I have always fit into a modern orthodox-conservadox-Camp Ramah-Hebrew Institute of Riverdale world. We value being Torah-committed Jews while being a part of a Jewish community that approaches Judaism with love, thoughtfulness, and intellectual challenges. We both grew up in the homes of Conservative rabbis who taught us to love Israel, holidays, and being Jewish. We solidified our love of being Jewish during our summers at Ramah. We value spirituality and seek meaning in life, and found it fitting to infuse God's name into our daughter's name, reminding her to include spirituality in seeking meaning and purpose in life.

Ella's middle name, Rae, was the name of my Grandma Lily's sister. My Grandma Lily, or as she is referred to by her great-grandchildren, Bubbe Little, grew up with three sisters. One of her older sisters was Rae, my great aunt, with whom I spent holidays and Shabbatot throughout my childhood. Growing up in

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#### Newest Recruit to Lead Expansion To Smart Phones, Kindle

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

RIVERDALE, NY, Dec. 19 – The editors and publishers of The Kustanowitz Kronikle announced today the appointment of Ella Rae Kustanowitz as Managing Editor of the new Ellactronic Edition.

This new venture, expanding the readership of the Kronikle to a host of new digital media, including Smart Phones, Kindle, Nook, and iPad, has been in the planning stages for some time now, but Ella Rae's arrival on the scene on November 3

made her an obvious choice for the new post.

At 7 lbs., 8 oz., Ella weighs about as much as a laptop computer, but already she is bigger than the smart devices that she will be responsible for filling with Kronikle text, photos, and video.

Ella joins her sister Julia, Chief of the Juvenile Arts and Leisure Bureau, as a full-time Kronikle employee, and will be entitled to the same benefits package that Julia gets whenever she spends time at Kronikle headquarters in Fair Lawn. The package, negotiated over the past two years, includes unlimited hugs and kisses, cookies and muffins, birthday and Chanukah presents, a special present for returning the Afikoman on Pesach, blowing bubbles on the porch and deck, and a flower at the end of each visit.

She also joins her cousins, Gil Aviad Kustanowitz and Dov Yair Kustanowitz, on the Kronikle staff. Dov retains his title of Director of Online Juvenile Services, but Gil is being promoted to Director of Sports and Energy Utilization, given his strong showing this year in soccer, running, and being in constant motion.



Dov, Julia, and Gil Kustanowitz celebrate Ella Rae's appointment to the Kronikle staff.

## Seven Pound Cutie

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Port Jefferson, my home tended to be the nuclear center for holidays and rituals, which allowed me to grow quite close with not only my aunts and uncles but also great aunts and great uncles, and of course, innumerable cousins. Simply put, Simmy and I value both our family and close friendships above all else.

By naming Ella after my great aunt Rae, we seek to achieve two main goals. First, to honor her memory – a kind, warm, and loving woman who would put Magnolia Bakery out of business if given the opportunity. Second, we hope to show our daughters the critical role that family and close relationships play in our lives.

Our bracha for our sweet Ella Rae is that through her spiritual journey of life, with close family and friends by her side, she achieve her optimum level of happiness and life satisfaction.

Because I have always been fascinated with the study of happiness, it seems fitting that I should marry Simmy, his Hebrew name being Simcha, or joy. I pray with all my heart that my girls marry a prince as wonderful as their Aba, someone who will commit himself to bringing joy and simcha to their lives; who lives his life to serve his parents, siblings, wife and children; who only wants to provide for his family so that they should have the opportunities that his parents provided for him. May my girls always see the gift that their Aba is and always value his many talents – beyond his silly faces and shmooshy cheeks.

**Simmy:** Since we're here to celebrate the birth of our daughter Ella, I thought this might be a good time to say a few nice things about Ella and Julia's mother. I often think back to a moment during Ilana's first pregnancy, when her uncle Myron came over to me and said: "The world will be a better place when there are kids who have Lani as their mom." And in all honesty, I couldn't agree more.

Allow me to share one brief personal story that will help sum up the way Ilana deals with pregnancy, with labor, and with life. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> at around 6 pm, after nine very uncomfortable months, two weeks of false labor and contractions, and finally seven hours of labor that day, her doctor entered the room alongside two nurses and said, "OK, it's time to push."

At that moment, my thoughts rushed to Ilana's well being and our baby's safety. Ilana? Without missing a beat, she said, "Wait, wait! Hold on. Before I do this, everybody place your bets. Gender and weight. Let's go. Starting with you, doctor."

Well, nobody guessed "girl" and "7 pounds, 8 ounces." So no one got to keep the placenta. But that's hardly the point. The point is that I have literally dozens of stories that involve Lani using that patented adorable charm of hers. Whether she's eight months pregnant and belting out tone-deaf karaoke with all her heart, or saying "I love you" to our cleaning lady and hugging her, once again, with all her heart, there's a theme here: Lani does everything in her life with all her heart.

I do believe the world is a better place today with Ilana as a mother, and I know our two girls won the lottery by winding up with her. So Lani, thank you for carrying Ella for nine months even though, since you carried Julia, technically this time it was my turn. And thank you for writing this speech for me.

## A Big Welcome, Ella Rae, From Your Fan Club



**Julia, Ema, and Aba**



**Savta Malka**



**Savta Shuly**



**Saba Al**



**Zayde Moshe**



**Bubbe Little**



**Papa Kenny**