

The Kustanowitz Kronikle

Vol. XXVIII, No. 1

Fair Lawn, New Jersey

March 9, 2014

SUSIE MICHAL KUSTANOWITZ APPOINTED EDITOR OF KRONIKLE ISRAEL TRAVEL DESK

Smiling Dimpled Beauty Makes Debut At Gala Simchat Bat in Riverdale

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle



RIVERDALE, NY, March 9 – The Hebrew Institute of Riverdale was packed with relatives and friends today as Susie Michal Kustanowitz was formally welcomed into Simmy and Ilana’s happy home, joining sisters Julia and Ella, who hovered around her admiringly.

The newcomer, the subject of attention by the paparazzi ever since her arrival as an eight pound beauty on January 15, posed graciously with all who wanted to be photographed with her.

Simmy and Ilana gave her the name Susie Michal in memory of her Savta Shulamit Michal, who was known to family and friends as Suz and Shuly.

After Doda Esther carried Susie to the bimah, Simmy spoke about the significance of the name and the legacy of his mother. Ilana spoke about the qualities that Susie also inherits from her grandfather Kenny Sherrin.

Here are Simmy and Ilana’s speeches:

Simmy: As you all know by now, our baby girl’s name is Susie Michal, in Hebrew Shulamit Michal, named after my mom who passed away nearly three years ago. Many of you knew her as Shuly, but that’s actually a nickname my father gave her when they started dating. She was never a fan of her given English name Shulamith – can’t imagine why – and growing up she was affectionately called “Suz” by her closest family and friends. Giving Susie her grandmother’s exact Hebrew name and preferred English name means the world to us, but as you might imagine it comes with some very mixed emotions. My Mom carried Julia in for her Simchat Bat and Ella for hers, and while it breaks my heart that we couldn’t go three-for-three, it just wasn’t meant to go that way.

I think of my mother every day, most often when I’m spending time with my three little girls. She absolutely adored Julia and Ella, and that love was made even easier by her genuine and pure love of babies in general. Shortly after she died, we discovered

(Continued on page 2)

Succeeds Her Savta Shuly In Israel Travel Reporting



Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

RIVERDALE, NY, March 9 – The editor and publisher of The Kustanowitz Kronikle announced today that Susie Kustanowitz has been appointed editor of the newly established Israel travel desk, a post that she will assume upon completion of an internship that will start soon and that is expected to take a few years to master.

The need for an Israel travel desk became apparent when cousins Gil and Dov, together with their parents Jack and Penina, made their big move to Jerusalem in the summer of 2012.

With Saba Al spending a month in Jerusalem in the spring and another in the fall each year, Esther visiting often, the Riverdale five planning their visits, and the new Israelis planning summer trips to the USA, the need for coordination of these travels demanded the attention of a full-time staffer.

Susie will need time to grow into her new role, but the Kronikle Krew has high expectations that she will quickly become bilingual and keep up with new developments in Israel tourism, just like her Savta Shuly did during her successful career in the travel industry.

As she assumes her new duties at the Kronikle, she will be assisted by the other members of the editorial board:

Julia Deborah Kustanowitz - Director of Juvenile Arts & Leisure
Ella Rae Kustanowitz - Manager of Ellactronic Edition
Gil Aviad Kustanowitz - Director of Sports and Energy Utilization
Dov Yair Kustanowitz - Director of Online Juvenile Services

Smiling Dimpled Beauty (Continued from page 1)

many of her thoughts typed out in a file saved to her computer, with one section dedicated to parenting, and babies in particular. I can think of no better way to honor her memory than to read my mother's exact words to you at her granddaughter's Simchat Bat, so here they are:

Babies are not doing nothing. Every minute, they are studying their universe, restoring and adding to their strength, absorbing nutrients, growing ... These all take effort; give the kid some credit. My rule of thumb was to treat my children as royal visitors from another planet (God) who required care, instruction and respect. That did not mean spoiling them. They got all my attention, but when they needed insight into how the world works (or should) and where the limits were, that was my job.

I used to love observing my mother as she watched her newborn grandchildren look around and soak in this exciting and brand new environment. Her fascination with and passion for children was a big reason why Lani and I decided to dedicate a beautiful mural on the third floor of this building in her memory. The mural depicts the days of creation from B'reisheet. It hangs on the wall of the children's floor, and in a thoughtful and meaningful twist, it was colored in by the children of HIR – Julia and Ella among them. It's a gorgeous piece of art, and I suggest you all stop by the third floor on the way out today to take a look for yourselves.

As for the name itself, my Saba and Savta named my mother Shulamit to represent an optimistic hope for peace – Shalom – since she was born one day after the death of Adolf Hitler. Nearly seven decades later, a new Shulamit has arrived, and with her comes a renewed hope for peace in our world. I wish the circumstances were different, but I can't tell you the pride I feel in not only giving Susie my mother's name, but in honoring my Saba and Savta by choosing the exact name they chose way back in 1945.

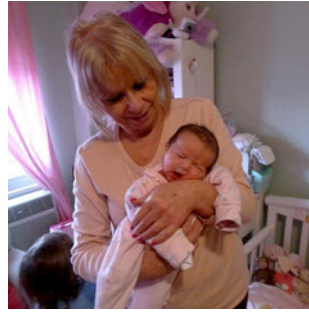
And finally, there's this: Shulamit Michal is and has always been a beautiful name. But tragically, for 16 straight years – half of my life at the time of her death – my association with that name was in the form of a *Refuah Sheleimah*, a prayer for her recovery. Every morning and every night, I would speak that name in a context I would have given anything to change. Now, I believe it's time for that Hebrew name to enjoy a fresh start, and my mom would have undoubtedly agreed. It's time to give the name Shulamit Michal its due, and have the name – in addition to my mother's kindness, patience, creativity, thoughtfulness, humor, love of family, love of Israel and so many other wonderful traits – live on in our daughter.

Ilana: I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge my maternal grandfather, my Papa Kenny, who passed away almost two years ago and who was the leader of – as many of you know – our Tribe of Chayim. For those of you here who do not know what the Tribe of Chayim is, you are the segment of the room who had not met my grandfather. For if you had, he would have told you about his Tribe within 30 seconds.

A brief history – when I was growing up, my grandfather decided that his family, his descendents, made up one of the ten lost tribes, and so he naturally named it after himself, *Chayim*. It wasn't an exclusive tribe- if he met you, he invited you to be in it. As one of his descendents, I think I may even have the right to invite all of you here today. I'd need to check in with my Grandma on the criteria.

If you met my Grandfather, he certainly greeted you with a hug

Welcome, Susie, From Your Biggest Fans



Savta Malka



Bubbe Little



Saba Al



Zayde Moshe

and likely, a kiss on the lips. He was warm, demonstrative, positive-minded, minded, smart, and had oodles of passion. He was the sort of person that believed that what he had was THE best. I don't mean in a competitive or delusional way- I mean it in the sense that he was so incredibly satisfied and proud with what he had or what he did or what he accomplished, and this satisfaction radiated throughout him.

Whether it was my grandmother's eggplant parmesan, my mother's baked goods, my cousin Michael's Michigan State football team, St. Ives moisturizer, his own art work, and of course, his experience on the Manhattan Project, he approached each item or experience as being THE best. He lived with this utter sense of satisfaction and happiness. THIS is what I pray for my girls to embody. I pray for a satisfaction within themselves that drives them and gives them inner peace and a sense of self.

Besides this incredible sense of happiness and satisfaction, another attribute of significance that my grandfather demonstrated was his commitment to his friendships. My grandfather remained close throughout his life with a cohort of men that he befriended when he was in kindergarten. This crew later got married, had children, and the families continued to stay connected. My grandfather's friends and these relationships were invaluable to him, and I knew of the different people in his lives, simply because they were a priority to him. He loved people and loved to be with them.

Even when he decided to take up blood chelation- (you heard me, correct- he cleaned out his blood, just because...), he did it with two friends, as a social activity, which culminated in going out for lunch. My grandfather combined his passions and interests with his relationships. To me, there is no better way to live. He nailed it - and that is what I pray for in my girls. I pray that through their interests, passions and relationships, they find their own life satisfaction. To me, that's everything.