

## Yale Schulman Eulogy, January 20, 2012

### A. Introduction

During our lives we meet so many people. Most of them come and go. We interact and go our separate ways. Some people stay for awhile and we have a relationship with them. But then there are a special few that become part of our lives, who have a special impact upon us. Their influence never leaves us.

I feel that way - as many of us do, about Uncle Yale. He's not biologically my uncle. He's my uncle by choice. I think he was for many of you too.

### B. Judaism and Uncle Yale

Whenever I think about Uncle Yale, I think about him in the Synagogue. It was his second home- became part of his DNA. J. F. Wright said, "True religion is the life we lead, not the creed we profess."

1. Yale lived a Jewish life.
  - i. There are three pillars in Judaism; God, Torah and Israel. If you add on family, community and Synagogue, you have identified the most important components of his life.

### C. Biography

1. The youngest of seven children, 6 boys and 1 girl, born in Altoona to Morris and Anna. Parents were Russian immigrants. Mother was a mail order bride. Brothers Max, Ben, Clarence, Irving and Sam and Sister Ruth.
2. Grew up in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward - 18<sup>th</sup> Street and around 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Neighbors were the Bergers (Irv) and Saltzman's (Snooky).

3. Education - graduated from Altoona High School in 1941.
4. US Army - All 6 brothers served during WWII. Yale was in the Army and part of the Normandy invasion.( He returned there with Marty to visit many years later- this time without bullets flying.
5. Returned to Altoona - He and Ida married in 1947, April 20. - Almost 65 years ago. They met- where else, at Friday night services. Many of us remember celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Calvin House and then packing the Synagogue Chapel to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup>. We all felt a part of their extended family.
6. They raised their 4 children; Becky, Ellen, Naomi and Marty here and assured that all were college graduates and had a solid Jewish education/ foundation.
7. Yale was a businessman- first with his brothers and later with his own store, in Gallitzin and later in Altoona- selling appliances, clothing, and floor covering.
8. Synagogue activities

Along with his work- he often worked seven days a week and always having time for his children's activities, Yale became a tireless worker and one of the most active Synagogue members. He served several terms as President and Treasurer and was Chairman of the Board.

  - i. He championed the development of the Synagogue Trust Funds at a time when funds were really low - to ensure that there would always be enough funds for the future. He never hesitated to remind/lecture the Board about use of the Trust Funds.

- ii. After retirement, he joined the minyonaires, became a Gabbai and frequently read Torah and Haftorah.
- iii. Rabbi Harold Kushner talks of the minyon in the Synagogue and beyond. He defines it as the “community.” He says that your life takes on meaning when you take on responsibilities and become part of the community. The minyon is the perfect remedy for loneliness  
Yale certainly lived a life of meaning.

9. Last weekend was Shabbat Tzedek - Sabbath of Righteousness in honor of Martin Luther King. The theme was service to the community- as an obligation for all of us - to help make a better world - tikkun olam. Yale lived this theme through his work. He loved Altoona- his community and had the drive and determination to make it the way he thought it should be. He especially worked with:

- a. IDA - providing quality housing, 20 years on the board.
- b. AMBUCS and Easter Seals - commitment to people with disabilities- Yale was their longest member.
- c. Call for Action - consumer hotline.

He touched so many lives and helped so many people.

10. Beyond our own community, Yale was committed to Israel and to Jews in need throughout the world. Visits to Israel and financial support. *Kol Yisrael averim zeh b zeh* - all Jews are responsible for one another.

D. When they moved to Austin two years ago, the Synagogue honored them for their many years of service. Yale was awarded the title of Honorary Life President.

1. Federation President, Michael Cohen wrote on our website about them - as members of a "special 1%" of a community, who are selfless and tireless in the pursuit of the greater good. They led by example and raised the level for all of us. They are mentors and leave their marks on our lives. They motivate and inspire us even when they are no longer around.

Let us commit ourselves to have Yale's example continue to inspire and motivate us.

- E. In conclusion, I know that Uncle Yale will continue to live on in our memories. Let me share this reading: "We remember him."

May his soul be bound in the bond of life and his memory always be for a blessing and together let us say amen.