

*Rabbi Mintz
Memory Book
Celebrating
25 Years with Hillel and
40 Years in Buffalo*

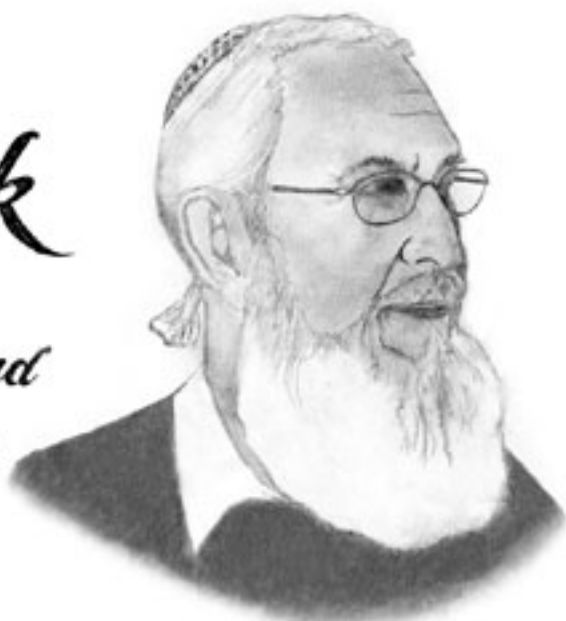


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- Julie and Steve Van Vliet

Helen and Sam Ablove

61A Old Lyme Drive, Apt. 1
Williamsville, NY 14221

Shay Mintz

It was in the early 1970's when the temple was searching for a principal for our Hebrew School. I recall that Jerry Frank (ר' פראנק) was chairman of the search committee.

Rabbi Klein (ר' קליין) had a very good friend in the Chicago area, Rabbi Katzhoff, a prominent Jewish educator. He pointed us in the direction of a young man in South Bend, Indiana, the home of Notre Dame. It was said that Shay might have been the only Jew teaching a course there. We invited him here for an interview, and Jerry said from the beginning that he was the man for us.

So it was that a stern-looking, black bearded young man and his lovely wife, Lila came to Buffalo. It so happened that Lila had a cousin living in Buffalo, Bobbie Simmons and her husband, the late Professor Noel Simmons. From the start they already had a Buffalo connection. Jerry bonded with Shay quickly and they became very good friends.

Shay, despite his stern-looking demeanor, had a soft heart and a love for the children. It did not take long for the students in the Hebrew School to take to him. He was like the Pied Piper!! I can recall that there was a young child from Kadima who was taught by his teacher, Alex Siedenfield, to blow Shofar. This child began to blow Shofar in Junior Congregation every year. However, he had to audition with Shay every year just to make sure Shay approved.

Shay attracted some excellent teachers to the school, some of whom still reside in the community. He was a dedicated teacher himself besides being principal. I can recall a young couple, Mitch and Cheryl Parker who studied Mishnah with him for years. He always found time for anyone who wanted to continue their Jewish education. He had an open door policy.

Today, his beard is no longer black but white. He is known as Rabbi Mintz or just "Shay". He has been a part of our community for over forty years and has been loved and respected by all who have had the pleasure of knowing him.

Submitted by Sam Ablove

August 22, 2011

To: Hillel of Buffalo

Rabbi Mintz Memory Book

We would like to offer our sincere congratulations and thanks to Rabbi Mintz for touching our lives over the past years.

One of the major experiences occurred in November 1994 when Rabbi Mintz asked us to help organize a committee to sponsor a group of Russian-born Israeli music students. These highly gifted and talented children ranged in age from 6 to 14 and trained at a music conservatory in Ramat Gan, Israel. They were planning a tour to display their musical talents to many cities in the United States, among which included Buffalo.

The local committee worked very hard to generate ticket sales for their performance scheduled to be held at Slee Hall on the SUNYAB North Campus. The musicians performed various solo pieces as well as participating in a chamber orchestra selection which was conducted by Arie Lipsky.

A most remarkable thing happened the night of the performance. While we expected about 250 people to attend the children's program, it turned out that over 600 jammed Slee Hall to hear these children play. Across the hall, a famous operatic star was appearing at the same time, but took ill soon after beginning his performance. When he announced to the audience that he was too sick to continue, many of the people walked across the lobby and came to the children's performance. It was a huge success.

The other memorable experience was the B'nai Mitzvot ceremony that Rabbi Mintz conducted in our home for our two grandsons, Aaron and Joshua. It was truly the most meaningful and warm ceremony that Natalie and I had ever attended. Our grandsons did not have formal Hebrew School training, but were diligently coached by Rabbi Mintz and Dan Mink. The boys did a most wonderful job reading their portion of the Torah and the memory of that ceremony will stay in our hearts and mind forever.

Our best wishes to Rabbi Mintz, and his wife Lila, and family for many years of good health and success.

With much love from,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie and Mort Abramson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Natalie (Natasha) and Mort Abramson

Shay Mintz is the most unforgettable person I have ever met. He and my dear husband Nate were best friends. I value his friendship greatly!

Toby Ticktin Back

You've been a wonderful friend to Marty and me for so many years, and a wise, valued member of "The Discussion Group." We always admired and appreciated your non-judgemental acceptance and support of our Reconstructionist orientation, and your insistence that you are not a denominational rabbi, but a "Jewish Rabbi."

With love and admiration,
Esther Bates

149 Summer Hill Lane
Williamsville, NY 14221
June 22, 2011

Shalom of Buffalo
Rabbi Mintz Memory Book

The enclosed is our personal contribution to
the Rabbi Mintz Memory Book:

Dear Rabbi Shay,

I remember first meeting you when Joel and
I returned from our first wonderful, inspiring
trip to Israel in 1972. At that time, we decided
we wanted to belong to a Temple where many of
our friends were and wanted our children to
have a conservative upbringing and Jewish Education,
as both Joel & I did growing up.

I introduced myself to you at Temple and you
graciously invited Joel & I to come to your home
where we met your wonderful wife, Lila and
talked about our religious direction, Israel and
both our backgrounds.

By the time we left your home, we knew not only
which Synagogue we were going to affiliate with
but felt we had made new friends. We felt

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warmth, kindness and compassion from both you & Lila and you have remained our close friends to this day.

Shay, you have our greatest respect, love and prayers for many more happy, healthy years ahead. We and all of the Buffalo Jewish Community have been blessed to have you as such a guiding light.

With love & continuing friendship
Sheila & Joel Bernstein,
Children & grandchildren

My own memories of Shay relate to his wonderful High Holy Day services. During one Second Day Rosh Hashanah service several years ago, Shay gave me the honor of hagba (sp?). Unfortunately, I'm not that big, and I nearly dropped the Torah. Shay informed me (with that wonderful sense of humor he has) that, if he hadn't had steadied the Torah for me, it would have meant seven years of fasting. Lucky for me that Shay was so quick, especially since seven years of fasting would be an ironic punishment for a person with an eating disorder (that's me).

Shay's service gave me the opportunity to witness the beautiful, loving relationship between Shay and Lila. Even though Lila could barely see, she was always right there following the prayers and the service. I could feel this tremendous connection between Lila and Shay: it was if they were joined into one being. Words can't sufficiently express that connection. I feel truly lucky to have attended Shay's services and to have witnessed the love between Shay and Lila.

Shay is an amazing person, a good man, and a good friend. He deserves all the honors he gets. My father, who passed away last November, also had tremendous regard for Shay. My father was never fond of overly formal services (i.e., those with all those frills); however, he loved attending Shay's Hill services, which discarded the frills and embraced the spiritual.

Sincerely,

Judith Bluestone

Mazel Tov Shay!

You've always been a special part of my life!

Gail Gendler, Rachel and Talia Briant

Prior to arriving in Buffalo in 1973, our family had been the proverbial wanderers. We had moved from Boston to Jerusalem to Boston to Syracuse to Buffalo in a period of five years. Steve had been a professor at Harvard, Hebrew University and Syracuse University during that time span. Eileen had taught biology in high school in Boston, was a full time mother during our year of adjusting to life in Jerusalem, and began doctoral study in psychology in Syracuse.

We had much trepidation after having made so many moves in so short a period of time. We knew few people, and felt very much like outsiders. Shay Mintz, principal of the Shaare Zedek school at the time, was one of the first people we met when we arrived here thirty eight years ago. We went to see him in hopes of continuing our children's Jewish education at a conservative Temple similar to the one we had recently left in Syracuse. The sticking point, however, was that we were not ready to become full-blown members of any temple, until we had explored our new surroundings more extensively. Temple membership is usually a prerequisite for one's children to attend Hebrew School.

Shay not only welcomed Sharon and Jordan warmly, but showed great flexibility by making an exception in inviting them to be students for a one year trial period. In spite of our decision not to affiliate with Shaare Zedek after a year, his warmth and friendship towards us never waned, and he has often asked about the adjustment and progress of Jordan and Sharon as they progressed from pre-teens to adulthood.

In addition to having a positive influence on our children, he played an important role in our lives as well. Steve had joined the faculty of UB in 1973, and one year after arriving, he taught a course at the college of Jewish Studies on ethics and education.

Shay brought along several Jewish educators to take the course. Many Hillel members and friends of Shay will recall with great fondness the teachers who accompanied him: Chana Post, Sara Joseph, and Lucy Weiser. In addition, the class included several students who were not professional educators: Mary Jo Trusso, Rhonda Martens and Sandy Skaine.

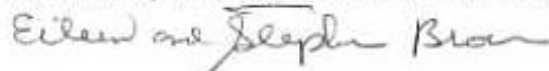
Steve was not expecting to be blown away by this small group, most of whom were taking the course for personal enrichment with no degree or program affiliation. They were able not only to offer insightful criticism of philosophical articles they read, but as the course progressed began to relate many of the theoretical readings to their personal lives. Steve was so moved by a number of incidents in the class that he published an article based upon that experience in a philosophy of teaching journal. It was an event that had a lasting influence on his teaching.

Shay contributed to Eileen's career as well. After receiving a Ph.D in psychology from UB, she became a professor at Medaille College in 1982. When she received the Teacher of the year award at Medaille in 1992, she was asked to choose a clergy person to deliver an invocation at the college assembly to honor all those who received awards that year. In previous years, those who gave the invocation for this event were priests or ministers, but never before a rabbi. This was not surprising since only a very small number of Jews attended or were employed at the college. In fact, this may very well have been the first time that many of the students who were there that night had ever heard a rabbi. In spite of a very busy and over-extended schedule, Shay not only agreed to come, but was spectacular. His remarks were warm, witty, encouraging and saliently Jewish. Eileen was filled with tremendous pride.

We are both happy to have fallen under the influence of someone who has made such a positive contribution to the Buffalo community in general and to the Jewish community in particular as we continued to wander the desert for almost forty years.

Warmly,

Eileen and Stephen Brown, 86 Sherbrooke Ave., Williamsville, NY 14221



Many years ago when I was going through a divorce, Rabbi Mintz gave me comforting words that greatly eased my difficult times. I will always be grateful to him for that.

Yours Truly,
Joel Brownstein

Shay Mintz.....Memory Book

Wow.....so many years, so many memories.

It all started with Ralph and Gert and their trips with you and Lila, to many different countries. Most memorable are Ralph's ratings of the hotels....by the herring they served!!! And of course my mom's suitcase full of the stones she collected to make jewelry.....and the porters question to you, " What does she have in here? Rocks????? He should only know!

Your leadership of the Temple Shaary Zedak Hebrew school, and your wonderful influence on Aaron, Mitchell and David. They all remember those days and you so fondly and with love.

Our times together at Hillel, when I served as president of the board, and I remember Eli's cooking as well. Then the furniture from Gert and Ralph's house found its way to the Hillel house on Capen.

The group of young Israeli musicians who performed a benefit for Hillel, at the UB Performing Arts Center, with the help of Natalie and Morton Abramson. It was a wonderful success.

Our many meals together, with a little fine scotch, and lots of maches herring, mine with vinegar (via Ralph) and yours with olive oil....both a tamte Michal!!!!

Mazel tov on the publication of the book on Binyamin Mintz- your father would be proud.....

We love you....may we all enjoy and create more warm memories...

Sheila and Jeff Carrel



Aug 15th 11

Mr. Sidney Cohen

I especially remember
an outdoor concert
in Jerusalem in 1974

There was a gazebo with
a musical group. I
sat outside and got
tapped on the shoulder. It
was Rabbi Mintz of course.
we also had the Semmons
family in common.

and because the many
inspirational services
we attended with him
officiating.

Love

Sid Cohen

What a wonderful and well-deserved tribute. And we can't wait to read the book about your father.

Ken and Antoinette Dauber

Dear Rabbi Mintz...I'm so happy to be a part of your memory book. You have been, and still are, an inspiration to me and to all of my family. My children have wonderful memories of time spent with you during their growing -up years. You are a much loved memory of our community, and I'm so proud and pleased to honor you in such a wonderful way.

May G-d grant you good health and peace of mind.

With much love, Carol Davis

Our three children had the distinct honor of attending Shaary Tzedek hebrew school in preparation for Bar (2) and Bat (1) Mitzvahs and we, as long time Temple Emanuel and subsequently Temple Shaaray Zedek members began our 35 year relationship with Rabbi Mintz. Our family was also blessed to have him officiate at our youngest son's and daughter's weddings. What a privilege to have him and his sage advise, countenance, leadership, and friendship for our family cycle from young marrieds, young parents and young children through present day adulthood and now our grandchildren continue to receive the same blessing of knowing our Rabbi Shay Mintz.

One brief story, although there could be many...at a recent function attended by our entire family, Shay, dressed in flowing rabbinical garb, came over to greet us. After many warm hugs and introductions to the grandchildren, the youngest, Nathan, age four looked up and asked Rabbi Mintz: "Are you ~~god~~"? Shay wonderfully scooped him into his arms and a short discussion developed.

The sight of our wonder friend and spiritual advisor holding our youngest grandchild cannot be completely or adequately described.

Our love and affection for you, Rabbi Shay Mintz, has no boundary.

The Dubin Family

Marvin, Shirley, Robby, Jeffrey, Tammy, Benjamin, Nathan, Amy Rose, Bruce, and Esther

Rabbi Mintz will always have a special place in our hearts. He and Lila joined us for our son's bris in August 2009. I recall when I was studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1992, I knew that Rabbi Shay was bringing a group of UB students to visit Israel. At the Hebrew U Hillel Chanukah party, I was chatting with someone, turned around... and there he was with a smile on his face... he remarked that if I couldn't get to see him, then he would get to see me. He brought his UB Hillel group to the Hebrew U Party so all the people could see each other. What continues to impress me is how Rabbi Shay has touched so many lives just by being there. His enthusiasm when leading services at Hillel was amazing. If the kehillah (audience) was not loud enough when responding with Amen, he would turn around and say, 'nu' and repeat until he was satisfied that people were engaged and participating.

Love from your friends,
Jonathan and Judith Gendler Epstein

Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek! You have been an inspiration to us all, a stalwart pillar of our community, of Hillel, a representative of Yiddishkeit here and in Israel.

Irwin Gelman and Mara Koven-Gelman

I am grateful for the love and support Rabbi Shay Mintz shared with me when I was enrolled in college in Buffalo. He was my mentor and leader. He sowed me a joy of Shabbat and a dedication to something he believed in -- Hillel.

Our mission to Israel is extremely cherished and is a gift to my memory collection. I have only loving feelings.

Love Rachel Graf (1987-1992)

The Gerbers congratulate Rabbi Mintz
for his many years of compassionate,
generous, and wise service.
David, Carolyn, Jon, and
Shmuel (our Bar Mitzvah boy)

"As regards scholars, the older they become the more wisdom they acquire...."
Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 152a

How apt as friends and scores of students celebrate your years of inspired leadership on campus and in the community.

To a wise scholar who has gathered much wisdom and shares it all with grace and sweetness, Kol HaKavod to you, Shay on this special occasion.

Shira and Rob Goldberg

Dear Shay,

They are calling this the Mintz Memory Book. What do I remember? I remember to change key during Lekha Dodi. I remember that the friends I still have from UB are my friends from Hillel. I remember that I intended to join Hillel, and even to attend one service freshman year. I remember that I had no intention of doing anything more than my first Shabbat with Hillel. I remember that I never missed a Shabbat service after that. I remember the Glorious Shabbat dinners at the SAC and at the old house on Capen. I remember megillah readings on Cindy Dr. I remember a special minyan so Alyse could say Kaddish for her mother. I remember that I am where I am, doing what I am doing, in no small part because of my teacher, Rabbi Shay Mintz.

Thank you does not seem like enough.

Rabbi Sean Gorman

I've known Shay since I moved to Buffalo in 1979.

Shay has been a part every phase of my life since I came to Buffalo.

I was nine years old and to me, he was Mr. Mintz the Principal of the Hebrew school at Shaarey Tzedek. I stayed in Buffalo for college and once again, Shay was a major part of my college Jewish experience. He was the Executive director at Hillel and also my teacher.

He always amazed me how he could hear a kid's name and give them a list of their relatives. Shay's brain is the nexus of Jewish geography.

I went to Israel on a Hillel Winter Mission in 1991 lead by Shay. There were 20 to 25 of us. He shepherded us across Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. He took us from Jewish places in history to caves and from the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found to the Dead Sea. I was exhausted, but he just kept going.

Shay arranged the whole trip, including where we would stay. The most memorable places were a youth hostel with a bomb shelter where we partied all night and a flooded hotel. We got into this gem of a hotel late at night and it was pouring rain. We were assigned out rooms and lugged our suitcases up to the third floor by steps only to find our rooms flooded with water and in serious disrepair.

Shay got on the phone to see if he could move us to a different hotel. I remember watching "It's a Wonderful Life" with Hebrew subtitles. Shay pulled some strings and within a couple hours we were moved to the nicest hotels in Tel Aviv, the Dan Panorama.

I met my wife, Renee, at Hillel and Shay officiated at the wedding. We had a reunion of sorts where we had a Hillel style Friday night service. It is a weekend we'll never forget.

Shay also officiated at the bris of my son Charlie.

There are many more memories I could write, but I think that's enough. We love you Shay.

Scott Herman



1986: Camp Lakeland is where I remember first meeting Shay Mintz; although, somehow, he already knew me. I was about 12, and did not remember, but he had known me and my parents through Sha'arey Tzedek, where we had been members when I was very young. But the truth of the matter is that I think Shay always made people feel as if he had known them for years.

1992: Fast forward to my freshman year of college. I remember feeling a little shy and awkward as I went down the steps of the Hillel house. I had seen Shay Mintz a number of times throughout the years, and this time I did remember the man who led services with his unique style of tunes, and seemed to be a nexus of energy, gathering students in to enjoy Shabbat and dinner before we went to the movies or a party.

After dinner, where I quickly met so many friendly, welcoming people, I was invited to the movies by one Scott Herman, to join his friends. I did not realize that this was our first date until later. Scott and I dated for about a month and then, over the next four years developed a strong friendship; a friendship which never would have solidified if I hadn't been drawn to Hillel each week of the school year by a magnetic leader. Shay Mintz is a man who invites people to join him with his spirit, commanding with humor and love; I wish I had his talent. After graduation, ex-students were still welcome to services and to dinner, and I went to many of them. Scott still went too. I continued to attend the High Holiday services led by Rabbi Mintz, and endured Scott's incessant goofing-off, usually in time with the tunes of the prayers. We became "best friends."

I joined Hillel for a trip to Israel, led by Shay, and it was one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had. I experienced more culture shock upon our return to the USA than I did when we arrived in Israel. One of the more memorable aspects, was the interaction between Shay and our tour guide and bus driver. They argued a lot, and, as I was the only student with somewhat functional Hebrew skills, my eavesdropping abilities came in handy to the rest of the group who wanted to know what was going on.

2001: Scott and I were married by a man we lovingly refer to as Moses. I learned over the years that Scott also had a lifelong relationship with Shay, and when it came to wedding decisions, this was easy. He had known both of us to varying degrees for most of our lives, was a quiet, but strong part of the relationship that grew between us, witnessed the long story of ups, downs, in, outs etc. of an eight year friendship that struggled with the idea of being more. I find it impossible to talk about our early years together without mentioning Shay.

2003: It's a boy! Again, another easy decision was made to have Shay officiate at the Bris. Another life-cycle event made warm and easy by the presence of a man who carries himself with humility, but is seen by so many as larger than life.

2005: It's another boy! This time, although Shay didn't officiate, it was performed by Rabbi Sean Gorman, Scott's long time best friend. Guess where they met: Hillel! Shay had a knack for creating an atmosphere where people built friendships that last.

Now: Every year, we still split the time we spend at High Holiday services between our Shul and Hillel. We go only for the experience of having the services led by Rabbi Mintz.

Shay,

You have always awed me with your spirit, energy, dedication to family, especially to Lila, to the community, and to students. May you continue to be an inspiration for those who know you. It is a rare person who has the qualities to affect so many so strongly, throughout their lifetimes.

With much love and adoration,
Renee (Rosen) Herman

Rabbi Shay Mintz, We can't begin to express how happy we are that you have been a part of our lives.

Shalom,
Steve Herzbrun
&
Nancy Winer-Herzbrun

Barbara D. Holender
bh315@roadrunner.com

לשי חבר שלי

לן מחוזק לחוזק
עד מאה ועשרים

בזכרונות יפים

ובאהבה

ברוריה

Rabbi Shay Mintz,

We appreciate all your years teaching us, guiding us and sharing with us!

We look forward to 40 more years!

Captain David Blum
Evelyn Hurvitz
Asher Blum
Jessica Blum

My first introduction to Rabbi Mintz was High Holy Day Services 2011. I just moved back to Buffalo after living in other states for 35 years. A friend recommended Hillel for the High Holidays.

Rabbi Mintz brought wonderful wisdom, humor and heartfelt davenning to the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. I really appreciated his presence and the gift of his energy for all of us to enjoy meaningful holidays.

Holly Hutchinson



SHALOM TO ALL

In Tribute to Rabbi Shay ^{נ"ר} Mintz

Approx. 30 yrs. ago he was the
Principal of Temple Shaarey
Tzedek Hebrew school, and
I was one of the Teachers.
He know every student by
both his or her Hebrew and
English Name!! And we had
many children then.

Lovingly,
SARA JOSEPH

Compliments of: General Israel Orphans Home for Girls / Jerusalem • 132 Nassau Street, New York, NY 10038, 212-267-7222 • www.gioh.org

Daniel G. Kantor
Executive Director

May 18, 2011

Dear Shay:

When we look back and review all the important roles you have played in our Buffalo Jewish Community we are so proud to be able to help to celebrate you; Rabbi, teacher, friend, organizer, Israel supporter and above all Leader Extraordinaire.

Thank you for all you have done for so many.

With Much Affection,

Judy and Dan Kantor



Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo
787 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209
Phone: (716) 886-7754 Ext. 305
Fax: (716) 886-1367
Home: (716) 688-0422

There is so much to say - years of vivid memories with each worth 1,000 words. How does one write about our first encounter in Capen Hall - a man looking like Moses inviting me to come to the JSU and Hillel? I wasn't sure if Charlton Heston was making some cruel joke leading the Jewish People of SUNY Buffalo or if I could witness the sea parting if I came to the first event. No matter - your positive energy and excitement was contagious; I caught the Hillel and JSU bug.

Who can forget the memories from Hillel. The tefilah at the Hillel House and the various locations in the north campus. The Shabbat meals - my only good meal during the week - surrounded by friends and hosted by our esteemed Rabbi. The events - opening week, Purim, the parties - I think we pushed the limits at times but you always stuck with us!

I deeply remember our walks back from the south campus of UB on Shabbat evening. An hour or more during the winter - climbing over snow-packed and icy sidewalks for our 3-mile journey. One cannot buy better company and conversations.

I was very touched to be part of your "chevruta" - often a lone student among the families in the community getting together for intimate and spiritual tefila. The food and drink afterwards were not the only bonus - the songs that were sung around the table indirectly introduced me to some of my favorite Shabbat shirim.

Graduation was far from the end. You have been an intimate part of my life thereafter. You read my ketuba at my wedding. You were one of our first visitors after we moved to Israel and later you hosted all of us for Shabbat in Jerusalem.

To you, I ceased to be just Steven. I was Simcha Tvi ben Eliezer HaCohen. You helped me appreciate my name and in that, you have made a name for both of us.

With love and great appreciation,

Steven Katz

Thank you for being a wonderful father, Saba, advisor, and teacher for us, for your generosity and caring for others, and above all, such a loving husband and friend to Mom.

B'Ahava,
Sharon and Bob, Ron and Ellen, Marty and Beth, and all of your grandchildren.





Shay Mintz is one of the nicest, warmest, and intelligent people we have ever met. He has influenced not only our lives, but the lives of our children. The mere mention of his name brings smiles to our faces. We feel so fortunate to know Shay and have him as a friend.

Rina and Mark Kotok

Thank you for proving that Hebrew school does not have to be torture -- demonstrating that Jewish learning and thinking can be a wonderful experience.

Robin Strickberger Krantz

So there we were with the boys, finished breakfast at the Windmill Hotel in Yerushalayim, waiting for the elevator. The door opened and Rabbi Mintz stepped out, a perfect Israel moment! We always find someone we know on a trip to Israel.

Kol tov,

Paul & Sharon Kuritzky

Thank you for all of the years of guidance from the United Junior High School and USY Shabbatonim and then from the years we worked together in Hillel. One of my favorite memories was when you scolded us for wearing our coats during Sunday morning religious school services and the doughnut breakfast and you said that if we were cold we should wear a sweater. And then you said, "or if you prefer, I'll say it in Hebrew. You can wear a sveter." You have been a guide and inspiration to your students through several generations and have brought many years of memories and inspiration to us all.

Rabbi Jeff Kurtz-Lendner

Our Memories of Rabbi Shay Mintz

My family and I met Shay when he first came to Buffalo and how remiss we would be if we did not put a few memories in The Mintz Memory Book.

He had a ready smile, an easy manner and one could tell and see his love for children. Though he could be strict at times, he certainly made it a heck of a lot easier to not have to argue with my three children about going to Hebrew and Sunday School at Temple Beth David Ner Israel.

His son, Ronnie, and my son, David, became friends and Shay always took an interest in David's comings and goings. He was also a big help when my younger daughter, Dana, was getting ready to make her Bat Mitzvah. Something she really did not want to do.

I always loved bumping into Shay and Lila, whether at Temple, at Wegmans, or at a Simcha. Never forgetting a name, which always amazes me, he would ask how my husband, Larry was. And always about the kids. How were Shaun and Dana and how was David. What was he up to? As Shay and I both knew and witnessed, my son would get into some pranks now and then. His interest was genuine and I always admired that and loved him for it. He would be stroking his beard or holding Lila's arm as we spoke.

We went to Hillel for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at UB and enjoyed the services even though my husband always complained, too long. When Shay would prostrate himself during the High Holiday service, it always gave me a tzieg in my heart and a tear in my eye. Having grown up in an Orthodox home and going to an Orthodox Shul, I remember my grandfather, my Zaidu, taking part in that part of the service. When walking the campus to get to the room to be used for the holidays became an effort, we had to give that up. And we missed that part of Yom Tov.

Shay is a wonderful husband, a great father and I am sure, an extra special grandfather but most of all, what I consider, a good friend.

Though I cannot remember special moments and have asked my family if they can recall any, it is always the same answer. Not really, but he is a

great guy and we always liked him a lot. A testimonial to him. Nary a bad thought or a bad word. I know that there are many moments that had brought a smile, a laugh and a tear, but as of right now, I will always remember Shay with the smile, the beard, the friendliness and his just being Shay Mintz.

We can only wish for him happiness, peacefulness and to know that he holds a special place in the hearts of the Larry Laufer family.

Gilda L. Laufer
716 834-5870

I am grateful for the kindness and compassion Rabbi Shay Mintz showed to my family after the death of my mother. Luba Literman was a Holocaust survivor who died right before Yom Hashoah. Rabbi Mintz allowed us to move the funeral one day later so that it would not conflict with the observance. Thank you Shay.

Bonnie and Andy Levine

Dear Rabbi Mintz,

When I look back on my life and the people who most influenced it, you are near the top of that list. I treasure the lessons I learned and the memories we shared.

Todah Rabbah.
B'Shalom
Heather (Goldstein) Linsk

Stuart W. Maisel, M.D.

Kindly accept this donation in
honor of Rabbi Shay Mintz celebrating
his 25th year with Kheel and
40 years in Mithals! A heartiest
"Maisel too" to our friend,
teacher, scholar, and beloved
Rabbi Shay -

This donation comes with love
from → Eliahehu Gitzhak
Rittel bat Joseph Levi
Shifra Chaya
Joseph Gelta

To this day, Shay always remembers
his "Kinders" → 36 years later.

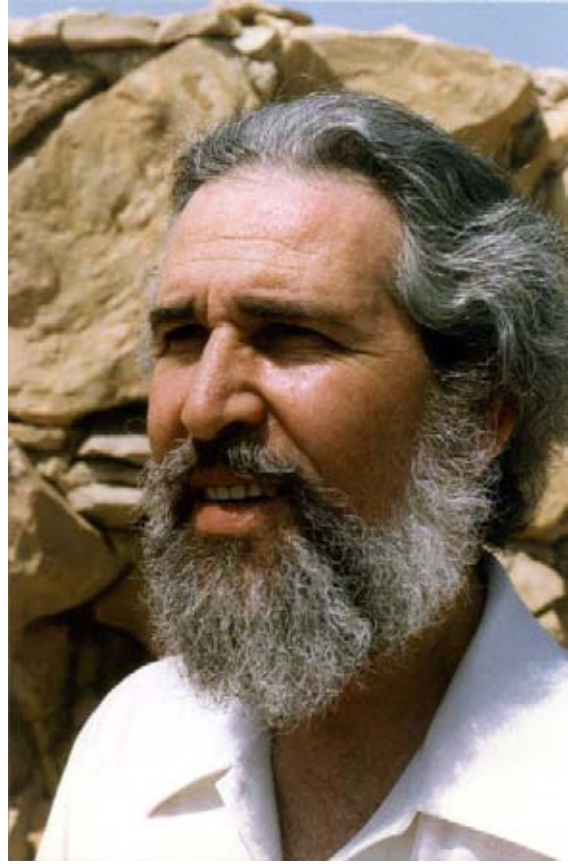
What a pleasure to daven with
him - especially at Neilah service
at the conclusion of Yom Kippur.

With love to our "Santa Claus"
aka Moses →
Yours & Gynecology's
Stu Maisel

Enclosed are a few pictures taken on our trip to Israel in 1985.

Arnold Malvern





For Book in Honor of Shay Mintz
Cathy Shuman Miller

Shay is the only person who can call me Chanala. I would be remiss if he called me by my real name. My fondest memories from Hebrew School were of him, as early as third grade. His energy and warmth as well as leadership greatly affected me; so much so, he was the Rabbi David and I chose to marry us. Thank you for being a part of my life, love Cathy.

Davin:

As a fresh-off-the boat South African Jewish grad student, in a foreign environment, with no other local Jewish culture or activities, Shay welcomed me into Hillel, and thereby made Hillel my second home for the years that I was in Buffalo. Over my years there, first as a PhD student, and then as staff at UB, I saw the groups of students come and go - but Shay was the constant. He welcomed each new group, and built a UB Hillel community that endured.

Elyse:

I first met Shay in a Jewish History course that I decided to take in with my friend Sandy in Freshman year. I did not realize at the time how important that class would be to me. Shay introduced me to Hillel and also taught me what it meant to be Jewish. With his guidance and support I became a Bat Mitzvah.

In 1991, I went on Shay's Hillel Mission to Israel. It was an amazing adventure. When we went to climb Masada,

I can still remember how effortlessly Shay made it to the top, while the rest of us were all slowly making our way up.

Then and now I still think of Shay as Super Rabbi!

Elyse and Davin:

The night that we got engaged, Shay and Lila were the first people we told. It was by coincidence that we happened to pass them during their Friday night walk from the UB Campus back to their house. When it was time for us to plan the wedding, the only person who we wanted to perform the ceremony was Shay. The ceremony itself was great. He kept it fun and even though it was a wedding he made it feel like an extended Hillel service by involving everyone. Every year since then, we always look forward to the call from Shay, wishing us a Happy Anniversary.

And several photos are attached: 2 of Shay and us at our wedding; 1 of Shay on Massadah, and 1 of Shay and Lila dancing at our wedding.



Dear Shay,

You are our second cousin, but more than that we consider you our friend, a member of our immediate family and our inspiration. We all remember vividly our first meeting with you. Marshall and Bernie met you when they were in high school at Skokie Yeshiva and made a trip to South Bend to meet our father's only cousin in America. They were captivated by your charisma and charm and returned often to South Bend to visit. They were thrilled and honored when you and Lila traveled to Skokie to attend their graduation. Miriam Z'L and Helen met you when you came to visit our parents in Minneapolis Minnesota soon after your arrival in America. They were amazed that a Yeshiva bocher could be so cool and with it. You had them both in stitches as you impersonated the sound of a police car while riding in the back seat with them. You were so skilled at making the sound that our father kept on pulling over thinking a police car was following him. Our parents felt deeply honored and very moved by your request that they walk you down the aisle at your wedding. Your father had passed away and your mother was unable to come from Israel. That request cemented your relationship with us for, from then on, you and Lila became members of our immediate family. Your wedding was a very special day not only for you and Lila but for our parents as well.

With your move to Buffalo, we continued to visit you, and you continued to visit us in Minneapolis or in the New York City area, wherever we resided. We were all also privileged to visit with you in Jerusalem with our families, and have fond memories of those visits. They were fun and educational as was expected from our consummate teacher. You were always loyal and kind to family, and were with us when our mother became very ill and at both our parents' funerals. You will never know how much your presence and words of wisdom and consolation meant to us. You and Lila were also always up for a simcha and you played a pivotal role in each of our wedding ceremonies as well as the Bar And Bat Mitzvah's and weddings of most of our children. You were there to party as well as to elevate the occasions as you so masterfully did. We were always delighted to introduce you and Lila to our friends, as you both were endearing to all who met you. Your love and concern for each other was also very visible, and quite touching.

Shay, it is no wonder to us why the Buffalo Jewish community and Hillel of Buffalo would want to honor you in this way. You have touched and influenced us and countless others immeasurably with your Jewish soul, your wisdom, your kindness, and your grace. May you go from strength to strength and may we always be able to spend time together with you on happy occasions.

Love,
Helen Ickowicz, Bernie Mintz and Marshall Mintz

During my thirty three years in Buffalo as a newsman for WIVB-TV, Rabbi Shay Mintz and I crossed paths many times. His rabbinical beard and focused eyes presented an iconic Jewish presence that, all at once, conjured up a notion of the ageless wisdom and tradition that helps define our people. Needless to say, Shay appeared many times in my stories for television, and his picture alone spoke a thousand words of news copy.

As I got to know the substance of the man behind the image, my respect and love for Shay grew even deeper. My favorite tale is one Shay related to me as I researched his past for a tribute given in his behalf. For a boy who grew up in a sheltered Tel Aviv community, Shay was not afraid to express himself or accept a challenge outside his Jewish comfort zone.

He was twenty nine years old and new to America when he accepted a position at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Shay had never set foot in a church. Notre Dame had no Jewish students. Shay would create a Judaic Studies program at the university. He broke the ice by waving to a likeness of Jesus on the wall when he entered the classroom. His students looked bewildered. Shay stated somewhat matter-of-factly: "Excuse me. He's the only other Jew in the room!" "They all laughed heartily, and it started a bond," Shay told me. We had picnics in the backyard and I even gave Hebrew names to some who requested them." "I learned from them," said Shay, "that in every group there are people whose minds are more open and liberal. They are willing to subject themselves to new experiences, new learning."

Shay would become very close friends with Notre Dame's famed president Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, who insisted that the university purchase a full set of kosher dishes to cater kosher affairs. "It was an eye-opener," Shay told me. Since his arrival in the United States in 1965, Shay's eyes have remained wide open. He still marvels at the unlimited possibilities and opportunities afforded to all who cross "The Golden Door."

In Buffalo, Shay has opened many doors leading to golden opportunities for his community. He has also helped students, largely through his work at Hillel, realize their own unlimited potential. "The greatest thing that happened was that students felt they had a home," Shay said.

Shay, from our home to yours, Lori and I would like to thank you for enriching our lives and those of our sons David and Michael. We congratulate you and are honored to be part of your Memory Book.

--Rich and Lori Newberg

Dear R' Mintz,

You are the only person on earth that calls me Chaim and means it.

I was in the first class that you taught at Shaarey Tzedek/ Hebrew High way back when. You made a huge impression on me in many ways.

As a teacher you were firm, fair and knowledgeable. You made a quick study of all of us and were not afraid to tell me for instance that I was not performing to my potential. As a leader you were a role model for me. Always standing tall, in control, taking the heat and making everyone feel good about themselves. A rare gift.

Even an adolescent could see that you radiated spirituality. When I think of the term: divinely inspired, I always have an image of you (with more dark than white hair because you did not look like a biblical figure then). I believe that you still have that intense energy and spirituality.

It is sad that I was unable to spend significant time with you during my adult life. I know that I would have been enriched by that.

Hillel would have been a wonderful venue for you as it must have been given this tribute. I am sure that you inspired many students with a Yiddishkeit that they never would have experienced and at a time in their lives that is so vital.

I am sorry that you have had recent illness and wish you the strength to carry on till 120 and watch over your beloved Lilah. I always look forward to seeing you when I am in town.

Kol haKavod,

Earl Norman

June 25th 2011

Rabbi Shay Mintz Memory Book,

I would like to contribute
to the memory fund for my
very good friend.

Shay is my most favored person

We could speak for hours
never exhaust the topic. We worked
in temple Shaanay Tzedake, He in
the capacity of a principal,
I worked as a teacher.

He is the most understanding
kind person, always ready to
help. He was a mentor to all
students, some of them spend time
in his office as a result of
misbehaving. He also presided as
a Rabbi on most of our students' weddings.
Now I wish Rabbi Mintz, improving
health and to continue his involvement
in the community. I just adore him
and love him. Anne Pot

Mazel Tov, Shay! You have been a major influence in the Buffalo Jewish community. We wish you many more years to impart your wisdom to us.

Lance, Michele, and Evan Pozarny

Our entire family have wonderful memories of Shay. He would always be in the vestibule at Temple Shaarey Zedek when the students would be dismissed. The parents would come in to pick their children up and he would always converse with everyone and my daughter, who was a toddler, would go up to him and shake his pockets because she knew he had candy in there. He has an uncanny gift for including each person in a room in the entire conversation, sermon or just social banter and making them feel like he is just speaking with them. This is a wonderful tribute to a great man!

With our warmest regards,

Mannette, Bruce Raines and Family

Dear Shay,

From "disciplining" me at Hebrew School, to encouraging me to read Hebrew while standing on my head, to guiding our Israel tour in '86, to drinking a beer together on Ben Yehuda Street when I turned 21, to overseeing Sue's conversation and officiating at our wedding, to the family Bar Mitzvah on Masada in '08 - and so many moments in between - you have been an inspiration to me (and Sue) for over 35 years. You are truly a community treasure. Thank you for your insight, encouragement, understanding and friendship. Congratulations on 40 years in Buffalo!

Fondly,

Susan & Eric Recoon

Thank you for being a part of our lives. You are an inspiration.

All my love,
Brenda Rosen

Thank you for honoring our son, David, with an Alyah and Howard with blessings before the torah.

Howard and Valerie Rosenhoch
Those were the days my friend, I though they'd never end!

My husband, Allen, and I met Lila and Shay as soon as they arrived in Buffalo.

Although my kids went to Kadimah, Saturday a.m. the Shaarey Tzedek kids and Kadimah kids attended Jr. Congregation together – it was a wonderful service led by Shay Mintz.

Very soon after, Toby and Nate Back, the Mintz's, Allen, and I spend together on Friday nights, with Shay, Nate, and Allen managing to knock off a bottle of J&B.

Eventually, Shay became Hillel Director, and my daughter Ellen's husband, David (as an Israeli) read the Torah during High Holy Day services for a number of years.

In 1981, Shay officiated at the wedding of Ellen and David in Jerusalem. Lila and Shay afterwards stayed with Ellen and David, constantly "schlepping" in duffle bags filled with all kinds of American-made goodies. Little did Shay know that he was bringing a very noisy toy lawn mower for my 8-year-old grandson Ben. Can you imagine the noise the lawn mower made on a tile floor at 5:00 a.m.? I think Shay was ready to ruin our friendship.

For a while my other daughter, Sandy, worked for Shay at Hillel before she too made Aliyah.

Ellen has four children now, and Shay and Lila have a lovely apartment around the corner from Ellen.

For many years, I have considered myself head of the "Aifo Shay" (Where is Shay?) Detective Agency. Whenever people do not know where Shay is, I get phone calls.

Finally, when Rabbi Netter came to Buffalo, he was only here for a month when he made the following statement: "I already know that Shay Mintz is the most loved Jew in all Buffalo."

Arlene Rossen

It is our pleasure to contribute to the Rabbi Mintz Memory Book. I have known Rabbi Mintz since the 1970s and respect the work that he's done for our community.

Sincerely,
Lawrence M. Ross

The Rubin and Shatz families will always have you in our hearts!

Martin and Norma Rubin

Rabbi Shay Mintz first came into our lives as the head of the Temple Shaary Zedek Junior High School program. Our children went to Temple Beth El's Hebrew School and on Sunday morning both Temples joined in a prayer breakfast with the parents and children. The teamwork developed between the Temples was because Rabbi Mintz led his team, while a number of lay people led the Beth El contingent. It was a great experience for both the children and the parents who participated. His phenomenal memory was displayed when he greeted each preteen, on the first day of the new school year, by his or her Hebrew name, even though many had not yet met him. Little did they know what an influence he would be in their lives.

The last time my family enjoyed Rabbi Mintz's skills and personality was when he flew from Buffalo to the Washington, D.C. area, to preside at our youngest son's wedding. Not only did he make the service personal, insightful, and, meaningful, he again, astounds us by always remembering the date of the wedding.



The Safeer Family, Ellen, Neil, Ronni, David, Barry and Richard, wish Rabbi Mintz the best for himself and for his lovely bride, Lila.

The idea for Rabbi Shay & Lila to lead a group of teenagers on a trip to Israel was conceived in December, 1977 at my son Harvey's Bar Mitzvah reception. The trip was a success and resulted in Rabbi Shay leading many more trips with teens as well as adult groups. My late husband Marty and I were privileged to be on two of those trips. It has been an honor to call Rabbi Shay my friend. All my best wishes for good health and many years of building more memories.

Love, Ina Sanders

Shay Mintz has been an ever present, wonderful influence in our family's life. Our children were interviewed for Kadimah, one was accepted but the other one was not. Thus began Hebrew School at Temple Beth David/ New Israel. On the ride to Hebrew School, Bruce our son, would comment, "Boy am I going to make that teacher nervous today!" That was before Shay became a steady influence in his, and his buddy Bobby Horonsky's, lives. He made a menshes of them both.

At Bruce's Bar Mitzvah, I made a speech, which unfortunately I did not keep, thanking Shay for his persistence and fortitude in making the day possible. He was the greatest influence in keeping our two children interested and devoted to Judaism despite their very secular education.

When my parents died four days apart in 1983, Shay was there to comfort me. When our best friends, Ira & Honora Pressman died young, Shay was there to comfort me.

Shay participated in Bruce's wedding to Robin Kauffman at Keshet Israel Synagogue in Westchester Pennsylvania, October 9, 1988. (pictures enclosed) All three of his children, Alana Esther, Sarah Hannah and Jesse Ezra were named here at Hillel in Buffalo by Shay.

Shay participated in all three Bat and Bar Mitzvahs of our grandchildren in Wilmington Delaware, as well as the wonderful fralick wedding of Bob and Amy Honoronsky at Bruce and Robin's house in 2001.

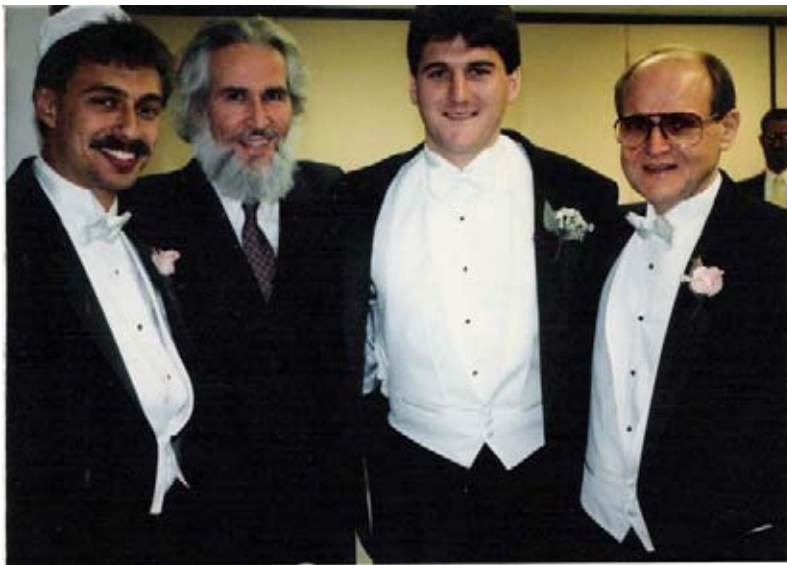
Our grandchildren adore him (see picture of Sarah Hannah, age 2, with Shay in 1995). They always look forward to spending Rosh Hashanah at Hillel. We are proud that all three are active in Jewish Life. They are graduates of Albert Einstein Hebrew Day School; attended Jewish camps, gone on USY Mitzvah cross county Tours, USY Israel Tours, and our eldest Alana Esther is in her third year at Brandeis where she is on the Board of Hillel and arranges the Shabbat dinners. Bruce's wife Robin is president of the Jewish Federation in the Delaware Valley and was honored nationally this past year.

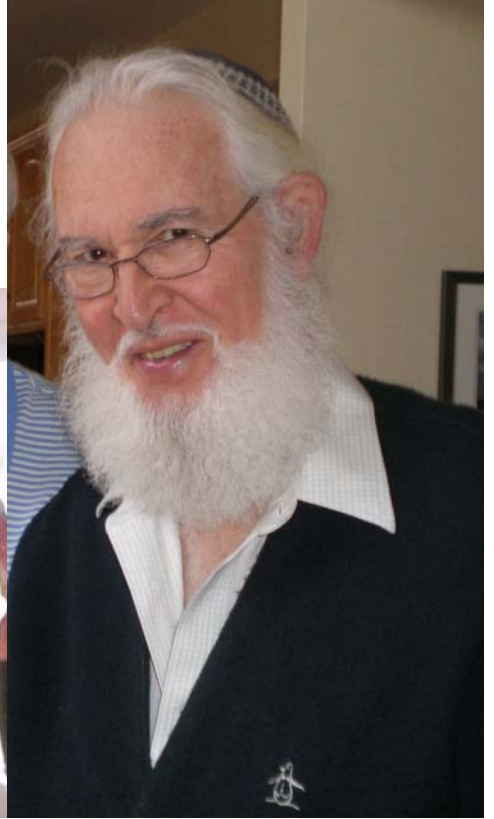
Bruce and Robin have been on several missions to Israel. Bruce has ridden his bike, crossing Israel with a team of Doctors. Our daughter Melinda serves on the Board of Kadimah and is a loyal supporter

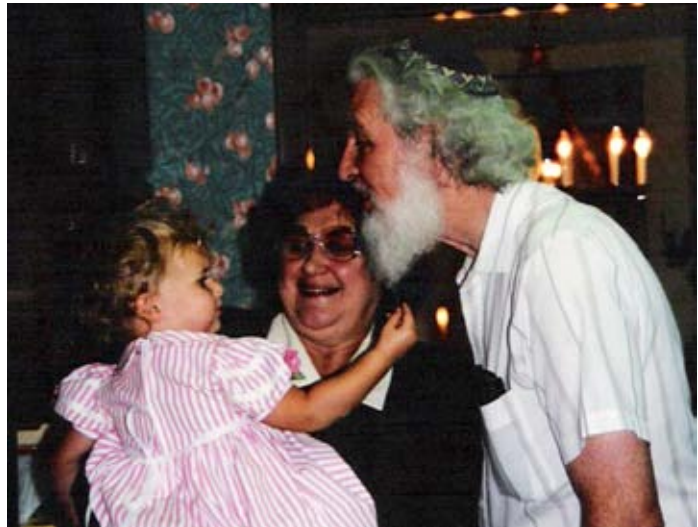
Shay, you have given us a Jewish identity. We so loved the Havarah we attended with you for so many years. Your wisdom, practicality and devotion to Judaism, is a great influence in Lenny becoming a practicing Jew, attending minyon and services. Many years ago, when asked, I said to

you that “being a Jew, was a burden”, today I can truly say “being a Jew, is a privilege and a joy.”
You have done so much to instill in my family the joy of Jewishness.

Marcia and Leonard Saran







Thank you for all the knowledge, education and friendship you have given to me and my family.

Melinda R. Saran

You are an amazing teacher, rabbi, counselor and motivator who has presided over nearly every milestone in our lives...from hebrew school, b'nai mitzvot, graduations, engagement, marriage, baby namings...to the next round of b'nai mitzvot. Can we book you for the next round of baby namings too?

Robin and Bruce Saran

When shay conducted the overflow service at Temple Shaaray Zedek during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur during the Alaynu prayer when He recite the anachnoo koreem umishtachabeem umodeem Shay would cover his head with his Tallit and get down on his knees and bow to the ground. My daughter Jennifer who was 3 then and very inquisitive walked up to the bimah and picked up the tallit and asks Shay what he is doing under the tallit on the floor in the middle of the Alaynu. Shay continued with the prayer but thought this was a precious moment. At the end of the service we went to wish him a shana tova and yasher koach on a wonderful service and at that time he informed us of this wonderful experience while he was praying all of a sudden this child comes over and plays pick a boo.

I worked for Shay as a teacher at the Temple Shaarey Zedek religious school. The first year I was hired Shay gave me a class with children that had many interest of which one was not learning Hebrew, Torah or anything at Hebrew school, so Shay told me to do what i wanted and in any way I wanted to teach these students and he gave me free reign. I decided to teach the children needlepoint but it had to be a Jewish theme, after all there was a famous football player Rosevelt Grear, who also did needlepoint so it was not a hard sell. Through this project I taught the children prayers, holidays and a discussion of Torah and the children at the end of the semester not only learned but had a beautiful finished needlepoint. Shay was loves by all the children and his staff. It was a pleasure working with him and for him.

Leah Schneider

WHAT DOES ONE SAY ABOUT SHAY
MINTZ THAT HASN'T BEEN SAID
OVER AND OVER AGAIN? THAT HE
LOVED YOUR CHILDREN AS IF THEY
WERE HIS OWN? THAT HE WANTED
YOUR COMMITMENT TO LIFE TO BE
THE BEST THAT IT COULD BE? TO
HONOR YOUR PARENTS, ELDER,
DISABLED, TEMPLE, ISRAEL, THAT
A MITZVAH A DAY KEEPS THE
DOCTOR AWAY? TO IGNORE THOSE
REMARKS MADE IN HASTE BY
SOMEONES' LACK OF JUDGEMENT..
AND TO FORGIVE, FORGIVE THOSE
OR YOURSELF AND MOVE FORWARD
ONTO LIVES' ADVENTURE.

I COULD RAMBLE ON WITH MANY
STORIES OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY
THAT SHAY HAS TOUCHED BY
HIS LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP BUT
MOST IMPORTANT, I WISH TO
MENTION HIS SINCREST DEDICATION
OF LOVE AND DEDOTION TO HIS
DEAR WIFE LILA AND THEIR CHILD-
REN.... THE MOST VALUED MITZ-
VAH OF ALL.

HILLEL WILL ALWAYS REGARD SHAY
AS THEIR "TEMPLE", AND SO WILL
MANY OTHERS. WITH LOVE & RESPECT

Jane & Louis

Siegel Family

For the Shay Mintz Memory Book

Shay, you are a wonderful person and a wonderful educator. Thirty-some years ago, you were principal of the United Hebrew junior high school—at which my youngest son, Stuart, was a very reluctant pupil. Stu had tuned out on his Hebrew classes and was threatening to drop out altogether when you had a great idea. You suggested that Stu take some time off from Hebrew to create and edit a school newspaper. Problem solved. Stu got busy. Soon the students were reading a newspaper about the school, Jewish issues, and the editor's favorite ski racer. Thanks to you, Stu finished Hebrew junior high.

Your love of Judaism is obvious (and contagious), as is your kindness and the respect and concern you show for everyone you meet. What a wonderful Jewish role model you have been for Stu and for the many other children whose lives you have touched—and for their parents as well. Thank you, Shay. You were, and are, a Buffalo treasure!

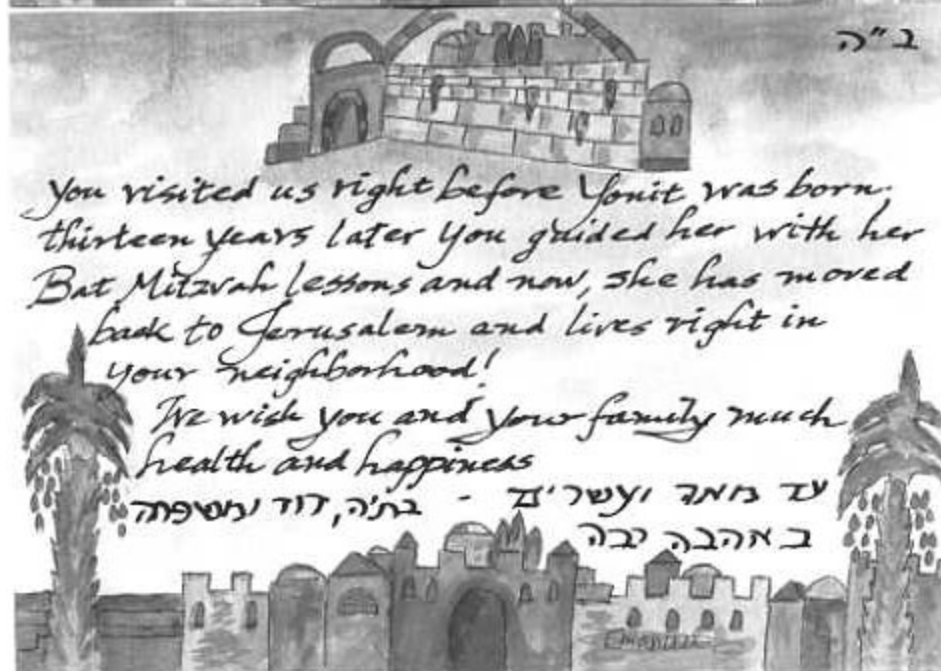
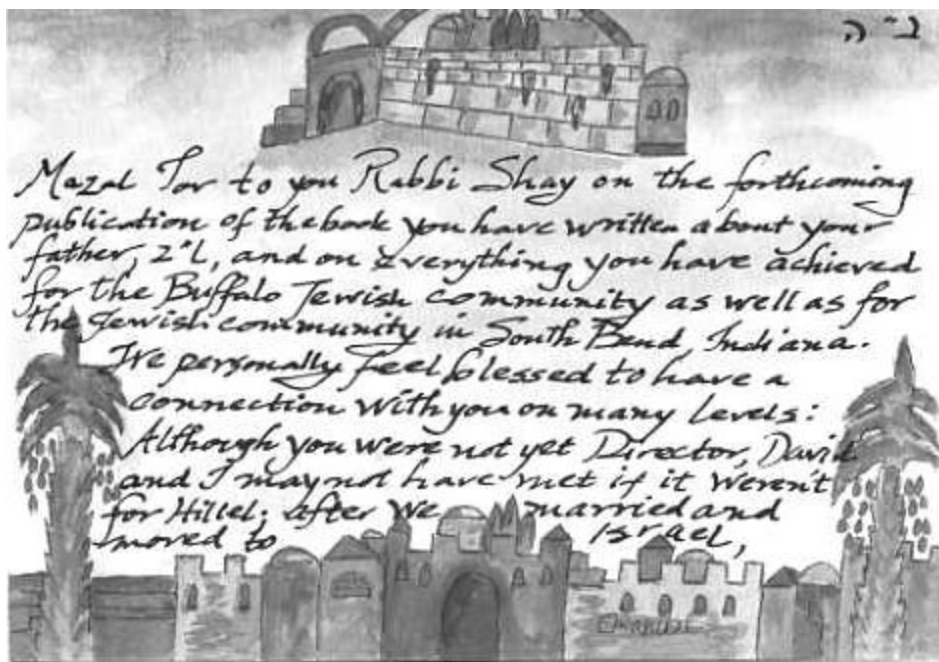
Maxine S Seller

PS Stu says to tell you hello. You may not remember him from thirty plus years ago, but he remembers you. He lives in Colorado where he continues to ski and where he has served as president of the local synagogue.

We remember Shay Mintz with love and joy. He not only taught and influenced our children, in the love of Judaism, but he officiated at the marriage ceremonies of our three daughters. His warmth compassion and humor is contagious. We wish for him and his family a long, happy and healthy life.

With Love,

Marilyn & Irv (Itzy) Shuman



David and Beverly Shiller



Committee members Nancy Schiller, left, and Dvorah Joseph check applications of students wishing to avail themselves of Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies' Israel scholarships.

Summer 2011

Dear Shay,

Let's take a stroll down Memory Lane together.

Do you remember the "kitchen table" conferences where we planned to start an Israel Scholarship Fund to help young people travel to Israel?

Do you remember how we made lists of possible donors and those of us who would approach them?

Do you remember how passionate we were about making those trips affordable for the families.

We started it with YOU!

We are still doing it.....25 years and 135 scholarships later!

Shalom and love,

Nancy Schiller and Dvorah Joseph

My Dear Shay,

You have been such an important part of my family's life, and of course, the most memorable is our trip to Israel. Will we ever experience a seder without remembering our incredible "seder on the roof?" Thank you for being you, and enriching our lives over the years.

Love and hugs,

Sandra Silverberg

Thank you so much for your years of service! You made those walks back from South Campus to North Campus a true joy! Hillel, thanks to your leadership, was always a place of such warmth and welcoming.

Fondly,
Ben Simon, Class of '98

For about 20 years I and my husband, of blessed memory, attended services for the High Holidays at Hillel. We stopped when the walk from the parking lot became too difficult.

The services were rather informal and it was gratifying to see the young students attend and participate. Rabbi Mintz seemed to know all their names. He would walk around and never pass us without stopping and saying a few words to greet us and acknowledge our presence. I still believe his melody for Adon Olam is the best I have ever heard.

During part of our son's religious school years Rabbi Mintz was the principal.

Needless to say a principal sees many, many children over a period of time. Many years later when our son worked in airport security, for a short time, Rabbi Mintz had come home from a trip. Even with his uniform and cap on not only did Rabbi Mintz recognize him, but he took the time to stop shake hands and

speech with him.

In 2006 I was getting ready for hip surgery at Beechwood. As it happened, there were other Jewish people there at the time. One evening after dinner we were all "wheeling" ourselves out of the dining room as Rabbi Mintz was walking in. He took one look at the "wheelchair brigade" coming towards him and said "I think we've got a Menyan". We all had a well needed laugh.

Buffalo has been fortunate to have with us, these many years, a man who not only has knowledge, but a warmth, a gentleness and a sense of humor as well.

It has been an honor and privilege to know him.

Marlene Simon

24 Shachrai Str. #621
96470 Jerusalem
May 24, 2011

Hillel of Buffalo
Rabbi Mintz Memory Book.

Enclosed is my check in the amount
of \$36.00. The message we would like included
in the Memory Book is as follows -

So many years have passed since Noel
suggested your move to Buffalo. It was our
great pleasure to have relatives in the city and
spend those years with you, Lila and your family,
sharing simchas and holidays. And now we
continue to do that in Jerusalem. May we
enjoy many more! We wish you many years
of good health, joy and nachas from your dear
family.

Love, Bobbie, Reid, Minna and Shraga

Hillel -
If you need to reach me, my email is
bgsimmons@013.net

Rabbi,

We have been friends for the 40 years you have been in Buffalo. During this time you have enriched the Jewish community with your wisdom, as well as your wit.

I hope that you will continue to enrich our lives for many years to come.

Thanks for all the memories.

Lee & Barbara Singer

Our first Shabbat meal in Buffalo was at Hillel House on Capen Blvd. in January, 1988 when we were here on a house hunting trip. We had heard that Hillel was having a Friday night dinner/services. We were very impressed. We will always remember the wonderful spirit which filled the Hillel House back in the early 1990's on Simchat Torah and Purim. Rabbi Shay Mintz was the driving force behind these wonderful celebrations. We were looking for just the type of high energy observances that we were able to experience at Hillel on these occasions. Rabbi Mintz was very warm and welcoming to all newcomers.

We also were thrilled with Rabbi Mintz's interest in klezmer music and the enjoyment he derived from it. We have very fond memories of him attending the Yale Strom concert at the JCC Bookfair a number of years ago on an extremely blustery afternoon that resulted in numerous power outages. Shay was obviously having a great time and we were lucky enough to contribute to his enjoyment as we accompanied Yale as musicians at this event. Shay's exuberance thrilled us to no end.

We once witnessed Rabbi Mintz conduct a very moving funeral for a congregant who died violently and suddenly. We also saw him on numerous occasions at Temple Shaarey Zedek.

We will always have nothing but positive memories of Rabbi Shay Mintz.

Alan Sisselman and Roberta Levine

You may recall some 15 years ago or so I was attending high holiday services with my three children. My daughter passed out during the services and required some medical attention.

Over the years at high holiday services you have remembered to ask about her and my family. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Howard Smith

Dear Shay,

The first memory I have of you is from when I was 9 or 10. We were in the auditorium at Shaarey Zedek and it was the middle of Micha services with hundreds of kids around. Ofcourse, many of us were whispering...including me. I remember you looked right at me and "Shhhhhhhhed" very loudly. I then remember seeing a faint but distinct smile come across your face. In that look I felt as if you were saying "be quiet now....but it's ok, I still love you."

I know you gave that same look to countless other students for many years. You shared your warmth and knowledge, and helped us feel pride in our Judaism by your infectious enthusiasm.

Throughout the decades since, you have been part of some of the biggest milestones in our family. Several Baby namings, Sue and Eric's wedding, Ben's(Simchat Torah) Bris, and of course Ben's Bar Mitzvah on Masada. That magical occasion would not have been possible or the same without your guidance and encouragement.

There are not proper words to convey how much you mean to me, my family, and the community of Buffalo. You have inspired and instructed generations of students with your unique brand of "ruach.". You have also been a role model for the entire community in your dedication to Judaism, your family, and especially, Lila.

No matter where I live, or what congregation I belong to, I will always think of you as "my rabbi."

Thank you for everything...and be well.

Love,
Pam (Recoon) Snyder

Dear Shay,

One of my favorite memories is bringing Hannah to the Sunday morning minyan when she was little. She would stay under my tallit during the service and peek out at the "Candy Rabbi" who always had something good in his pocket. You would wave her over and she always came back with a big smile and something good. I think that's why she still comes to shul with me. She remembers your candy and those great breakfasts from Leo Lewis, Sam Sysman and Bernie Lewkowitz. She loved the attention from you and all those wonderful people.

Thanks for that memory,
Mike, Becky and Hannah Stern

We have been friends of Shay and Lila since they came to Buffalo forty years ago. They have been involved in so many of our life's experiences, both in joy and sadness.

Shay has officiated at one daughter's wedding and another daughter's son's bris and her daughter's baby naming.

Shay was always there to give advice when needed and so very helpful in times of stress.

Perhaps our most memorable time with Shay and Lila was our 1982 trip to Israel with 16 members of Temple Shaarey Zedek. We toured Israel from the Golan to the Dead Sea. We climbed Masada at 3AM so we would be in time for the sunrise and morning prayers. It was an unforgettable experience for all of us.

As we all reach our "golden years", may we continue to have Shay and Lila close by, and wish them many LaChayims in the years to come.

With much love
Irving and Marilyn Sultz

My most vivid memories of Shay are involved with his friendship with my father - they got along so well.

Shay was on his way to talk Yiddish with my dad when he died. I couldn't have asked for a more personal, warmer officiant at a funeral.

Sincerely,
Judy Summer

Hillel of Buffalo,

July 18, 2011

My memory of Rabbi Mintz was a very touching and endearing one.

My husband, ~~Shmuel~~, had recently passed on a few weeks before the High Holidays. Rabbi was conducting service in a medium size room in the Student Union Building at UB, if I remember correctly.

We had reached a particular prayer which had really "spoken" to me and I started crying as I was reciting it; — wiping away my tears, but continuing on nevertheless.

Rabbi saw my sorrow, left the "bima" and came over and stood by my side for a while. This was so comforting to me and I will never forget his very kind gesture. It meant so very much to me.

I will always remember Rabbi Mintz as a man with great wisdom and much compassion.

Sincerely

Ether Trachtenman

You can't grow up Jewish in Buffalo without knowing who Shay Mintz is.

Rabbi Mintz has been a presence in each of our lives for as long as he has been in Western New York.

Some of us have memories of him as he "patrolled" the hallways at the United Junior High School of Jewish Studies. A stern word about getting to class was always accompanied by a gleam in his eyes, and a hidden smile, trying not to let us know that he was having just as good a time as we were.

Some of us have memories of him as we spent time with his children at many USY events. He was always there to encourage those friendships and memories that have endured throughout the years.

We all have memories of the relationship he had with our parents, Marvin and Gilda. They served on Boards and committees together, always working toward the goal of strengthening Jewish education in Buffalo. Later, we were touched and comforted by his presence at Shiva Minyan services for both of them.

We thank Rabbi Mintz for being a part of our lives and for the impact he has had on our Jewish life in Buffalo.

The Tunis Family
(Karen, Rick, Susan and Adam)

from the desk of

MR & MRS.
AARON VANGGLISH

TO

Gentlemen:

June 6, 2011

Enclosed please
find donation in
amount of \$36.00 for
inclusion in the
memory book for
Shay Mientz.

Sincerely,
Mr & Mrs
Aaron
Vanglish

We are from Long Island, but all of our 3 sons, Adam, Joshua & Daniel, attended UB. Rabbi Mintz was a major influence and support for them throughout their college years. In fact, our son, Joshua, met his wonderful wife, Adina, at the April 1999 Hillel Passover Seder. They now have a beautiful baby boy, Ryan Paul (future UB student?). All 4 have stayed connected to their Jewish Heritage and we will be forever grateful to the Rabbi for this.

Congratulations on this wonderful milestone. Good health and happiness to you and your entire family.

Meme & Jay Wanderman & family
Merrick, New York

Dear Shay,

"Only to act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with thy G-d."

These words from Micah always bring you to mind.

Much love and Simcha in the future,
Bernie & Helen Weinstein

Dear Shay - thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do for our community. You have been both a blessing and an inspiration for me, my family and all who have had the honor to know you. May G-d continue to shine upon you and your family.

Steven and Ellen Weiss

May 19, 2011

Ha Rav,

I write this because I want you to know my feelings about you. When my children were growing up, I was convinced that, while you quickly admit to being a Jewish Rabbi, you are also a Jewish Pied Piper. Your attraction to children and the children's attraction to you is always phenomenal and so very satisfying to Marcia and me.

But as our kids grew older and, of course, as we grew older, I was equally convinced that you are the Jewish Pied Piper for adults as well. I cannot tell you the comfort level I feel when I see you walk into the Minyan Room or when you ascend the Bimah to lead davening. Just your presence makes things right with the world which culminates when we shake hands, hug and you give me the Kohen greeting.

I often think that there are very few people who would have such an influence on me that, like Moshe Rabeinnu, when they would say, "Follow me!" I would do so. You, Rabbi Shay Mintz, are one of those few people.

I must thank you for being who you are and I thank Gd for giving me the chance to have known you.

With love,



Norm (and Marcia) Weiss

We welcome this opportunity to express our thanks, love and respect for Rabbi Shay Mintz.

The Weissman Family
Sam & Joan, David, Michael & Lindsey, and Jeffrey

Photos are attached and text below:

Text below by Michael Weissman:

As a youth, I was not a big fan of Hebrew school. I was bored and impatient, and was often a handful for my teachers. On multiple occasions, I was kicked out of class for insubordinate behavior (deservedly so) and sent to the principal's office. This turned out to be a true blessing for me, as I got to spend time with Rabbi Mintz, our principal. Rather than chastise me, Rabbi Mintz challenged me. He knew that I had a passion for reading (which I still do today, in my 40's). He said that I didn't have to go to class, but I had to instead go to the library and read books by Jewish

authors. He told me to make a list of all the books I read and bring it to him. I did so with vigor and I churned out book after book. I enjoyed it very much and the experience broadened my horizons. At the end of the school year, at the Hebrew school awards ceremony I was called up to receive a special award to acknowledge my accomplishment of reading so many books. The award was a book called "The Jews Helped Build America" which I still have today. To me, it was the work of a great educator, transforming a child who was a classroom discipline problem and turning him into an award winner!

As an adult, my current wife (then girlfriend) and I traveled to Israel for the first time. She had never met Rabbi Mintz, and I, having moved away from Buffalo, had not seen him in many years. We reached out to Rabbi Mintz and he invited us to his home in Jerusalem. We had tea with Rabbi Mintz and Lila and spent a memorable and pleasant afternoon with them. We took photographs and will keep them as a great memory.



Rabbi Mintz,

When I first transferred to UB I did not have many friends. The school year began, and the High Holiday season was approaching. I had gone to Hillel a couple of times, and never to Chabad. People said they were going to one or the other. I chose Hillel services. I got there, and was very nervous because I knew no one. You were walking around the Congregants, and stopped at me, and asked me my name and what year I was, and asked me more but I do not remember. I, since then, have felt a connection between us. You knew I was by myself and nervous, and you made it your business to introduce yourself regardless of you being in the middle of leading services. That made things so much better and easier for me. The years after I continued coming, and got more and more involved with Hillel. Directors came and went, and you were a constant. You stayed. It was nice to have that consistency.



I really only saw you during the Holidays, until my first Birthright trip, I am at a Shuk in the middle of Jerusalem, when I hear behind me, "Ms. Winters, how are you?" At this point, I am shocked someone in Israel recognizes me from behind, and knows my last name. I turn around and it was you. That story makes me laugh to this day.

So, a few months ago I had called you for advice, take Hillel job or follow through with JFS, and you told me, both will be good no matter what decision I make, and that once you get in Hillel, you might never leave like yourself. Well, I appreciate that advice, and want you to know I am glad you got suckered in to staying for longer then expected otherwise we would have never met.

In conclusion, thanks for always being there and I hope we stay in touch for a long time. :)

Love Always,
Tara Winters

My husband Steven, my daughter Heather Wurman, and I, Mildred, met Rabbi Mintz at a Hillel meet and greet. Heather was a freshman, and we attended the meet and greet after helping Heather move into the Freshman dorm. The whole freshman experience was exciting but not without anxiety about having Heather living in the dorm away from home. However, when we met Rabbi Mintz my husband and I were so relieved to know that Heather had Hillel, and Rabbi Mintz would be there for her.

When our younger daughter, Meredith, attended Buffalo, she also had a place away from home by being a member of Hillel and had Rabbi Mintz, which we were very thankful for. Through Hillel, Heather and Meredith were able to have a place to go during the Jewish holidays, as well as, having the opportunity to participate in Birthright. They are truly wonderful experiences both will always remember.

Thank you Rabbi Mintz for all your hard work that you have given to Hillel and your students. The best to you today and always, Mildred, Steven, Heather, and Meredith

Mildred and Steven Wurman

The board of directors of Temple Beth Tzedek made a nice donation and enclosed a photo from when Shay was Director of Education for Shaarey Tzedek.



Thank you for all your kindness, support and generosity to the Bureau of Jewish Education throughout the years.

The Board and Staff of the Bureau of Jewish Education

Bless you Rabbi Mintz. You have touched the lives of so many people.

This project was the work of Scott Herman and Hillel of Buffalo.

The sketch of Rabbi Mintz was done by Scott Herman in 2011. Scott Herman retains the copyright to the image.

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