

Eulogy for Rabbi Aaron Landes (z"l) by Rena Rank

I want to thank everyone for coming here today. Additionally, I want to thank all of you for your phone calls, cards, visits, concern and good wishes. It is comforting to know that you are sharing our sorrow and you are feeling the same sense of loss that our family feels.

"Friends, I submit to you " my father would say when he delivered his sermons. Today these words will be used to describe our beloved father, Rabbi Aaron Landes.

Friends, I submit to you that my father was one of the most outstanding of Rabbis, he was an exemplary husband, father, and role model. He made this world a better place. He felt that he had a very fulfilling and successful life. Recently, he expressed to us that he had no regrets. He said, "The Almighty has been very good to me." He had an illustrious life and career.

He met our mother 63 years ago at Camp Massad in the Poconos. He was the lifeguard, and Sora did not know how to swim. 61 years later, I can say that my parents had an exceptional marriage, based on friendship, partnership, mutual love and respect.

My father came to Beth Sholom at the young age of 34. He had maturity, poise and elegance in the way he dignified the role of the Rabbi at Beth Sholom.

His most important accomplishment, he would tell you, was his family. He was such a devoted husband, father and grandfather. As busy as he was, we were never neglected. When we were little, he would read to us at night. When we were adolescents and young adults he would go on walks with us to inquire about our activities since he last saw us, and give us excellent advice as to how to proceed with our activities and conduct ourselves in our daily lives. He was always there for me. I remember pulling an "all-nighter" to write a paper, and he and my mother lay down on the carpet in the adjoining dining room so that I would not be alone. ‘

We shared special times on the beach, walking and bike riding during our summer vacations at Long Beach Island.

He was so excited when I was pregnant with our first son and grandson, Samuel. He was equally excited for all the grandchildren that followed.

He was a true example of how to live life. Even as he weakened, he continued to participate in the life-cycle events of the congregants. You were all so special to him.

He was equally proud of his naval career. He brought the Navy and the Synagogue together for his "Frocking" ceremony when he became a Rear Admiral in the Chaplain Corps of the United States Navy.

He visited with Presidents Carter, Reagan and Clinton, and Israeli Prime Ministers Rabin, Perez and Netanyahu.

I know that my father walked with God. He used to say the same thing about his father. He always saw the good in life and in people. He was such a positive thinker.

Our son Samuel told him on a recent visit that he thought God was with him in a very special way.

We all feel his presence here today, and if he were here physically, he would say to each of you, "God bless you." May his memory live on through all of us who were privileged to know him.

Y'hi Zichro Baruch. May his memory be a blessing.

