

The Rabbi's thoughts 26th August 2011

Think Again - It is a woman's world.

This week our Prime Minister Julia Gillard valiantly tried to defend the actions of her run a way male member for Dobell. The Prime Minister was stoic in her defence of the opposite gender but the disparity of substance between man and woman on this occasion was glaring.

I had the opportunity of touching base with other great women all in their own right on a visit to the Montefiore Home this week. I had the chance to speak with Margaret Odze, Gizella Scheinberg, Pauline Burns, Miriam Palmer, and Helen Bajuz; all have amazing stories and all demonstrate an air of upbeat optimism about life. I had a chance also this week to speak to Kitty Conway. In the early days of the shule Kitty was in charge of the kiddushim together with Edna, today she is in a wheel chair but still with clarity of mind and intelligent conversation.

Sadly however I had to officiate at the funeral of another amazing woman the late Henya Shaw. Henya was a Holocaust survivor being at no less than 5 concentration camps. She had this story of a pair of shoes which became the symbol of her will to stay alive and her will to stride out and make a future for herself and family. Henya had to start life a number of times and in a number of countries, each time she emerged better and stronger. Henya wrote a book called "standing tall" in it she recounts the story of when she had to choose a PIN number for her mobile phone and she promptly rolled up her sleeve and said A-26538 will be the Pin number, I was always looking for a good use for this damn number on my arm. Henya is survived by her three daughters and sons in law Tamara and Bernie Pollack, Yvette and Lennie Bogaten, Naomi and Jeff Silberbach and 7 grandchildren. We wish them all long life.

You may have noticed that we are attempting to upgrade our newsletter and website. It is still a work in progress and your feedback would be appreciated. This revamp was undertaken by another woman in the fabric of the synagogue Billie Glass who has spent hours in mind bending technical problem solving state of affairs.

And to the other woman this week in our newsletter, Libby Gorr. We ask you to join us in a fun and entertaining night to listen to the renowned comedian and now turned mother (Jewish mother) Libby Gorr this Thursday night at 8.00pm . Hope you can make it and bring a friend and get a signed copy of the book. See you on the night.

I have now figured out why men go to shule , they can sit in separate seating behind a mechitza in quiet solitude meditation and prayer. It's a boys club

As always see you in shule
Good shabos
Elozer Gestetner