

Remembering Rebbetzin Sifra Tendler, ז"ל

The *Jewish Voice and Opinion* mourns the passing of Rebbetzin Sifra Tendler, a true lady whose love and devotion for her family, especially in adversity, did not deter her from extending graciousness and kindness to the entire community.

The daughter of *Hagoen Hagodol HaRav* Moshe Feinstein, ז"ל, one of the world's most renowned Talmudic scholars and *poskim*, Rebbetzin Tendler was a shining example of how gentleness and strength in the cause of justice could blend to form a truly righteous, regal, and, nevertheless, modest woman.

She will be deeply missed.

She died on October 11 after a lengthy illness. She had just celebrated her 80th birthday on Simchat Torah.

At the funeral, held at the Community Synagogue of Monsey, which her husband, Rabbi Dr. Moshe Dovid Tendler, *shlita*, has served as spiritual leader for decades, hundreds of mourners packed the shul and lined the street outside, waiting in the rain to join the procession to

the cemetery afterwards.

Many of the mourners noted the esteem in which Rebbetzin Tendler was held by the entire community in Monsey and well beyond, where she was known for her intelligence, understanding, service, and especially kindness.

On the Internet, a woman recalled that, many years ago, she had approached Rebbetzin Tendler with a request for a blessing from her father for a sick relative. The blogger recalled how quickly and graciously Rebbetzin Tendler had responded, although she did not know the woman at all.

The Tendlers, who have five sons, three daughters, and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren, recently returned from Israel, where they celebrated the marriage of one of their granddaughters. In Israel, Rebbetzin Tendler was remembered for the intensity of her support for the Jewish State and its citizens.

"Her death is a major loss to the community," said Elaine Silverberg, a family friend and long-time congregant at the Community

Synagogue. Ms. Silverberg noted that Rebbetzin Tendler worked side-by-side with her husband, and that, together, they comprised the shul's leadership.

Shimon Sontag, another Monsey resident and congregant, agreed, noting Rebbetzin Tendler's activity with the shul's sisterhood.

"She was a good-hearted and learned person. She was respected by everyone. She was always there for people when they needed her," he said.

At the funeral, Rabbi Tendler spoke with difficulty at first, but then found his voice. He thanked many individuals from the synagogue as well as the staff at Good Samaritan Hospital in neighboring Nyack for caring for his Rebbetzin during her final illness. Noting the wonderful life they had shared, Rabbi Tendler said he had lost his "best friend."

The Tendlers' devotion to one another was legendary. In a paper on "Thermophilic Actinomycetes," published in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* in 1959, (studies that were begun for

the Biology Department of Columbia University for the fulfillment of his doctorate), Rabbi Tendler thanked his wife for her "invaluable assistance...with the mathematical calculations."

Rabbi Tendler serves as professor of biology at Yeshiva University, professor of Jewish Medical Ethics at Yeshiva College, and a rosh yeshiva at YU's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

We at the *Jewish Voice and Opinion* offer our sincere condolences to her devoted husband; her sons, Rabbi Dr. Yaakov (Yael), Rabbi Mordechai (Michelle), Rabbi Hillel, esq (Mashi), Rabbi Aaron (Esther), and Rabbi Eli (Racheli); her daughters, Rivka (Rabbi Shabtai) Rappaport, Sara (Rabbi Avraham) Oren, and Russie (Rabbi Sholom) Fried; her brothers, Rabbis Dovid and Reuven Feinstein; her sister, Rebbetzin Faya Schisgal; and her more than 100 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

HaMakom yenachem et'chem b'toch shar avay'lay Tzion vee'Yerushalayim.

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