ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND WHAT A VIEW
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You've probably heard all of the one-liners on how you can tell when you've become a senior citizen. It's when you finally know your way around, but you don't feel like going. Or, another way to tell that you've become a senior citizen is this: when you bend down to tie your shoes, you ask yourself the question, "Is there anything else I can do while I'm down here?" Or, it's when the gleam in your eye is the sun reflecting off your trifocals. Or, you've finally got it all together, but you've forgotten where you put it!

Someone has said that you're as old as you feel. When the late Bob Hope was 100 years old, someone asked him how it felt to be 100. He said, "I don't feel anything until about noon, and then I take a nap."

Zoey as we celebrate with you your 100th birthday we marvel not only at the longevity that such a milestone signifies but the profound insight you have gleaned from so many years. You have quite nearly seen it all, or at least seen more than all of us.

What this world must look like in your eyes in the context of all you've witnessed and experienced? I imagine that it is both fascinatingly unfamiliar in its technological advances and at the same time horrifyingly all too familiar in its regression to age old hatreds and inhumanities.

Historian and Biographer David McCullough once wrote regarding the context of history, "History is an antidote to the hubris of the present. History should be a lesson that produces immense gratitude for all those who went before us. To be ignorant of their contribution is rude."

I asked you a few months ago what after 100 years of living, were the most important things in life, you said:

1. Honesty
2. Integrity
3. Decorum
4. Family
5. Community

I'd like to briefly unpack each of those insightful and hard learned values for all of us this evening because I think in your list of what you learned over the past 100 years might bring insight into the things we must insure for the next hundred years.

Let start where you began with Honesty & Integrity… I learned recently that the Guinness Book of World Records was created by the Guinness company to settle arguments over historical

facts that often took place in bars and pubs. Thus, the Guinness company published a volume the bartender could pull from the shelf to solve an argument about who did what, when before fists were thrown. Today of course the book has been replaced with Google. There is nothing that cannot be known without a few moments of internet searching. But just to know something is not necessarily to know what is true.

Our torah teaches that word EMET, which means truth in Hebrew is spelled with an Aleph-Mem-Tav for a very particular reason, Aleph is the first letter of the alephbet, Tav the last and Mem is the very middle. This teaches us that to find truth and its compatriots' honesty and integrity we must examine the whole picture – the beginning, middle and outcome of an event or a lifetime.

We live in a time when truth is not held in high regard in our public life. The political culture of spin and plausible deniability contrives to make the truth retrospectively malleable. Post-modern critical theory questions the idea of truth altogether.

The Torah teaches that, making all allowances for human weakness and subjectivity, there is an ultimate truth and we should strive to reach it.

With the overwhelming volume of information available at our finger tips today, honesty and its companion integrity are harder to discern and sift through the flood of misinformation and propaganda, than anytime in your lifetime, which of course includes ours as well.

For sure you had both in your own day, living as you did through the Second World War and the Cold War and now some would say through the information wars. So, I am drawn to your placing of Honesty and Integrity at the top of your list of life lessons for our world today. You'll probably hear me say this a few times tonight, and I hope you have heard it countless times from others over the past 100 years, but Zoey you are right. We must pursue the truth, we must practice compassionate honesty.

Which is to say, that even the Talmud teaches us that we can temper the truth of a harsh judgement to preserve feelings or peace, the example it gives is that every bride is beautiful on her wedding day and if you think otherwise you are not allowed to say so. But beyond that compassionate shading of the truth. Your placing Honesty at the top of the list, well it is as they sa=y, "The best policy."

And we must adhere to rigorous integrity, valuing it in ourselves as much as we would in others. Why do Jews wear a yarmulke? There are many reasons but one is to remind us of our integrity that, the kippa like an ever watchful eye of God sees everything we do, we may hide it from others, we may think we can hide our actions from ourselves but an ever present power greater than ourselves sees all and one day in this lifetime or another we will be called to account for our actions. To live in such a way whether one believes in God or not, is to live a life with integrity.

Your third value was decorum. I was so intrigued by this teaching of yours and I would pair it with the value of civility both of which are greatly lacking in our modern discourse and gatherings, both real and virtual.

Sunday we will observe the Jewish Memorial Day of Tisha B'av the day set aside to commemorate the destruction of the first and second temple as well as other calamities that have befallen the Jewish people throughout history. Our rabbis teach that the first temple was destroyed because the people lacked integrity in their faith and practices, they went through the motions of worship but didn't mean what they prayed, thus as a people were easily distracted by the false gods of modernity and Hellenism, destroyed by outside forces that exploited this hunger for always wanting more, never satisfied with what we had and held.

The second temple however was destroyed from within, because of *sinat chinam*, senseless hatred and internal fighting. We tore each other down and the walls of the temple came down with us.

In both instances, as with our society today, decorum and civility are a rare thing. With no respect for the other, no empathy or understanding we crush feelings, trample on long held and hard fought for social norms with no sense of the long-term consequences in our desire for instant gratification. Ends justify any means, and they are just that, a means to an end.

Your teaching Zoey in your words, your lifetime of deeds and in your miraculous longevity is that we must think beyond today, we all have to live with each other tomorrow (God willing). So be respectful of your fellow, comport yourself with dignity and humility. We can disagree, but need not be disagreeable, we can be civil, we must preserve our humanity.

The Mishnah commands us, "bmakom sh ayn anashim, histadel l'hiyot ish. In a place where people are acting in human, be a human being." I think even you were too young to be present when the rabbis wrote that, but they and you were both correct.

Your last two values are also closely related, family and community, for what is one if not the logical extension or contraction of the other?

It was vitally important to you that tonight be celebrated in the synagogue. That is what you and your late husband Nathan of blessed memory would always do back in Saskatoon. When there was a Simcha to be celebrated you did it at shul with family and community. He loved to say the *shecheyanu*, the blessing for having been given life and heath and sustained to arrive at a joyous moment. A moment such as this is a *shechyanu* moment.

Look around at your family, 4 children, 9 Grandchildren, 13 Great Grandchildren. You could play a game of baseball against each other and still have subs sitting in the dogout.

But more than the quantity of course it is the quality of your remarkable family that inspires us and reminds us of your true legacy. For Zoey by every measure, but certainly by the measure of

commitment to the Jewish community your family has been and continues to be pillars of our community. They are leaders, teachers, philanthropists, advocates, activists, visionaries, students, workers and volunteers.

I don't know how you did it, I don't know how you inspired and guided so many to live lives of such generosity and passion, but I imagine, no I firmly believe it has a lot to do with those first four values of Honesty, Integrity, Civility and Community.

Judaism holds that a culture is judged in large measure by the way it treats its elders. As the Torah commands us in the book of Leviticus, "You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old." (Leviticus 19:32).

I ask you now all to rise, rise for this remarkable woman, not only for the length of her years but for their depth and profound meaning, rise for the Torah of life Zoey has taught all of us in how she continues to live her's.

Zoey will you please join me on the bema for a blessing?