

EULOGY FOR JOSEPH LUBIN

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NORMAN LAMM

President

Yeshiva University

My appearance this afternoon is a act of both institutional gratitude and personal tribute, for surely Joe Lubin was deserving of both.

Like his biblical namesake, Joseph, he was an Ish Matzliach, a successful man -- a success as a husband and as a father, in profession and in business, socially and civically and philanthropically.

In the area of philanthropy, Joe Lubin had three major interests: higher education, medicine, and Jewish causes. And when all three intersected, it was natural that this would attract not only his attention but loyalty. Thus, Joe was a devoted friend of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University and a leader in its affairs. He was a member of the Board of Overseers for many years and actively advocated the school to his many friends and acquaintances.

Yeshiva University acknowledged his leadership when it gave him an honorary degree. For Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he was a benefactor, and he and his lovely and late wife Evelyn gave to the College of Medicine the Evelyn and Joseph Lubin Rehabilitation Center and the Evelyn and Joseph Lubin Student Activities Center.

He used his powerful personality and his incisive and insightful mind to lead and advise Einstein and Yeshiva in many complex negotiations and the resolution of complicated problems.

Indeed, I was much captivated by his intriguing personality.

His slow and deliberate speech belied a quick and agile mind, but it was a clue to the clarity and depth of his thought. Joe Lubin was a leader. He had "presence." He was a force to be reckoned with. His performance at the Board of Overseers meetings was just that -- a performance. He was a skilled actor, and the rest of us were his fascinated audience. To be at a meeting with him was an experience. He would sit back quietly while others conducted their affairs, and then raise his hand -- and take over the entire meeting. His iron logic and complex yet pixyish humor combined with his innate sense of theater to propel him to a commanding and dominating position at every gathering. Yet his purpose transcended any selfish interest. His concern was the welfare of the institution. His integrity was uncompromised.

We at Einstein shall miss him -- not only his philanthropy and his influence and leadership and counsel, but also his human qualities, his humor, and his heroic ability to push just a bit more in favor of the cause he cherished and revered.

To live the good life, the Talmudic Sages taught, one must always bear in mind three things. The first two are: where we come from and where we are going to -- our humble origins and our inexorably obscure end. The third is: "know before Whom you will someday have to give an accounting." Man's deeds and conduct do not go unnoticed.

Joe Lubin was a man who was keenly aware of his humble origins -- a poor family in the Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn -- and with no delusions about his own mortality. But, as a master accountant, he was also prepared to open the book of his life before the Divine Auditor.

And we -- his family and friends, his colleagues and admirers -- have no doubt that his books will be found to balance, that his life will be found to have been well spent, that his affairs will be declared in order, and that the approval by the Divine Auditor will be -- an "unqualified opinion."