

BH. Erev Shabbos Yisro, 5783

Dear Friends,

It's less than 24 hours since Henya was laid to rest, and Shabbos is fast approaching.

I asked a friend to compile some of the hundreds of social media posts and comments – each representing another group of lives Henya touched. Feel free to print this for Shabbos reading. On Shabbos we must be happy. I hope this will help you feel inspired, uplifted and joyous.

Thank you for your condolences and your warm wishes. We really appreciate them.

Have a good Shabbos.

Elkanah

If you have any memories, anecdotes, inspirations, photos or recordings of our beloved Henya please share them with the family.

Emails: [HenyaFedermanMemories@gmail.com](mailto:HenyaFedermanMemories@gmail.com)

Photos, video or other file uploads:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/dJ9ZxwNA7cZs9aGW2CAs>



**Shaina Katzoff-Sugar**

17h ·



There are many different kinds of friends in this world. Friends we see every week, friends we see a few times a year, life partners, friends you chat with daily, work friends, friends you see only at a reunion...

And then there are those few friends who you haven't seen in over 25 years but who made such an impact on your young life that they make regular appearances in your dreams.

This is the case for me and my small class from Hillel Academy in Milwaukee. When you spend the first dozen years of your life with the same dozen kids in 1 classroom, they all tend to show up in my dreams regularly... Including [Asher Henya Federman](#). I spent many Shabbatot at Henya's house (the same amazing salad was prepared every time and I think about it often on shabbat morning). I remember the upstairs of her house and the side by side twin beds we chatted and giggled in until way too late.

We have several Katzoff family VHS videos from my sleepover birthday parties where Henya is front and center in her long modest nightgown and sleeping bag. I love watching her run in my basement balancing a ping pong ball on a spoon from her mouth.

These are the kinds of memories I think of when I think of my old friend, Henya. But I know from Facebookland over the years and the thousands of tributes that I keep reading, that she lived the rest of her short life with happiness and purpose. BDE



**Alexa Safer**

It's so heartbreaking. She was an incredible woman. And had a huge presence in my childhood, which makes this that much stranger because in my mind, I still visualize her as a little girl. So many emotions, this is a very hard loss.

Like Reply 15h



**Jesse Glaser**

Thank you for sharing this. I cannot wrap my mind around this tragedy. Henya was a camp counselor for me at Gan Yisroel. She was always leading our class shabbatons at the Lubavitch House, although looking back, she was probably only in 7th or 8th grade, maybe even younger. She was such a leader then, because she cared about us and wanted to take care of us. And now her nephew is in my daughter's class. In living in Milwaukee and being part of Hillel and Jewish Beginnings, our lives are so intertwined with the Shmotkins. It's such a terrible tragedy, there just aren't words.

Like Reply 5h





Carrie Benedon

**Shaina** I couldn't agree more with your description of Henya and I have the same memories - right down to the birthday sleepovers in your basement. Even as a kid she was just \*nice\* - never clique-y or catty like some of us could (admittedly) be at that age. As I read comments from people who knew her more recently as a shlucha- describing her warmth and compassion and friendship from the day they met her - it really does sound like the exact same person she always was.

Like Reply 7h



Robin Benedon

**Carrie Benedon** yes she always was just a genuinely nice and sweet girl. And when I would run into her as an adult, here in the Milw area when she would be back for a visit or whatever, still the same sweet ' girl' but grown up, still with a bright bright smile and and so politely greeting me as Mrs Benedon and always asking how you were and asking me to send her regards. I remember her as an energetic little one running around Lubavitch House with you, Melissa and Jacob and Channie and Levi etc and with that same twinkle in her eye when we would stay there for Yom Tovim before we moved to Glendale. Happy and kind and full of positive energy that she shared with thousands as she made St Thomas a welcome port for Yiddishkeit.

Like Reply 1h



Madeleine Tick

22h · 👤



The loss of [Federman Asher Henya](#) is a devastating blow to the Chabad community at large, but Henya's influence reaches so far beyond that. I was fortunate to know her in youth as my summer camp counselor, for years her warmth and vitality made every morning on my summer break even more invigorating and exciting. She always made sure that all the kids at camp felt special, had their needs met, and were loved and cared for in those few precious hours every day.

In college, I was working as a summer term teacher at the local Jewish preschool. I opened the door to welcome my preschool kiddos on the first morning, and I remember seeing Henya in the hall holding her son's hand and an instant smile of recognition crept across her face when our eyes met. She gave me a huge hug and said, "Madeleine, I'm so glad you're going to be here with him. Growing up on an island means that he is a little shy with new people, but I know he's going to have a great time with you here watching out for him." It felt completely karmic, or b'shert, as we say. I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to share in her passion of providing a space of joy, safety, and comfort to children.

Her kindness and love will be missed by many, and I'm lucky to have known her.



Shera Sacks is with Federman Asher Henya.

1d · 🌐



If I knew this was the last time I'd see you I wouldn't change a thing- I got to hug you and dance with you . Arie and Miryam sat with you too. I am so blessed to have called you my friend. Your memory will always be a blessing for our family. We love you.



Mendy Zak, יוסי וחני פרידמן and 160 others

56 comments



Mina Orenstein

Such sad news, not unexpected, but so so sad. This is a huge loss. For Asher, their children, St. Thomas, and the countless people that she so graciously brought into her home. My life, like so many others, was enriched by her presence. She will be greatly missed. And of course, her memory will always be for a blessing.

Like Reply 1d



Lisa Jennifer

So incredibly devastating. Sending lots of love your way. She touched the lives of so many and legacy will continue to live on through her loved ones.

Like Reply 1d



**Rochelle Weisburg**

There are no words to describe such a wonderful person. The joy for life and family (her own and St Thomas family) was something special. BDE

Like Reply 1d



**Barbara Pozen Cooper**

How blessed we are to have had Henya in our lives for every hug we shared, coffee we drank together, and laugh we exchanged. May her name and memory be for a blessing.

Like Reply 1d Edited



**Geri Goldman**

I'm so sorry for your loss, Shera. It turns out my wife Stacy knew Henya and her family well from growing up in Milwaukee. She is so sad to hear this news. May her memory be for a blessing.

Like Reply 1d



**Levi Shmotkin**

1d · 🌐

To our dear extended island family,

It is with immense pain that we must share with you that my aunt Henya (Federman) returned her soul to her maker a short while ago.

We know that you ached and prayed and beseeched G-d with everything you have -- and more -- right along with us during these trying couple of months, and each of you in your own way did all kinds of things to continue Henya's beautiful life and ways.

All these and more will live on inside you and your families, and inside all the concentric spheres of your influence.

It took us some time to get the word out, as each of Asher and Henya's children had to be told... We know full well how you ache for them right along with us... There are no satisfactory 'answers' now, only deep pain.

The funeral will certainly be in NY tomorrow, please G-d. As to more specifics, we'll keep you posted, as well as shivah location.

One thing is certain: Henya will live on through each of you, her dearest friends and family.

\_Baruch dayan ha'emet.\_ Blessed is the True Judge.

For more information about Henya visit:

<https://chabad.org/5819809>



Mussie Deren, יהודה אריה אינדמן and 120 others

46 comments 13 shares



Ernesto Ribeiro is with Federman Asher Henya.

1d · 



Once I can't hug you in person here goes a virtual one! Dear Rabbi please feel hugged and loved! May Henya's light shine on forever! Thank you and her for sharing that light with us! I got nothing but love for you!





Steve Rockstein is with Federman Asher Henya and 2 others.

1d ·



**The world has lost a powerful &  
loving light today.  
Rest In Peace dear Henya**



Shaul Wilhelm, Eli Federman and 98 others

25 comments



**Patti Klein Greenberg**

So very sorry for the loss of your dear Rebbetzin and friend. When we stayed by you in Feb 2016 Leslie took us there to the new area for kiddush and I remember how welcoming they were.

Like Reply 1d



**Bonnie Goodman Erb**

Henya was an angel on earth whose kindness and generosity knew no bounds. She was love personified. I am devastated and saddened that I will never see her again. Rest in peace our beautiful Henya. Sending my deepest condolences to her family and to her many friends.

Like Reply 12h





Pamela New

Today we weep

2/8/23

Today we weep for the  
foresaken children, the bereft spouse, the gaping hole that was this dear woman's  
heart.

Today we weep for all of us who, in no matter how small a way,  
this warm, gentle, powerful  
human held in her care,  
if only for a moment.

Today, the heavy clouds offer no rainbow, no pot of gold. For it makes no sense, and in  
that turmoil of questions about her light extinguished,  
I struggle to understand, to find meaning in anything good, anything worthwhile,  
because...

Because, today, a sweet soul  
has let go, and how can I offer platitudes of being in a better place, when that best  
place for this mother was in the embrace  
of her family.

Like Reply 1d



Elana Epstein Gottfried

1d · 👥



Truly heartbreaking 😞😞😞

ברוך דיין האמת!

we met each other as neighbors temporarily, when the [Federman Asher Henya](#)  
family relocated to Michigan when their community was being rebuilt after a  
hurricane hit St. Thomas in 2017. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to know  
you 💔



Alexa Safer

15h · 👥



How can I sum up the way I feel about losing [Federman Asher Henya](#) in a few  
sentences or paragraphs? It's impossible. So I'm not going to try. Suffice to say she  
was a good friend to me. And she dedicated her life to a movement she truly  
believed in. I admired her greatly. My heart goes out to her husband and children in  
this painful and traumatic time. The only comfort I can find is the thought that she is  
reunited with her baby girl and together they will watch over their family. May her  
memory be for a blessing.





**Simcha Hatuel** ► **Federman Asher**  
**Henya**



13h ·

My heart is broken, its hard to digest that loss,I loved Henya so much, she was my angel, she and Rabby Asher took care of me when I lived in St Thomas when I had a bad car accident , her house was open to everyone always with a smile on her face.

I will remember you as long as I live, may she Rest In Peace BD HaEmet



**Ivan Tuchten** ► **Federman Asher**  
**Henya**



16h ·

Dear Asher  
My deepest condolences for your loss.  
There are no words I can say to express my feelings of sadness and shock.  
G-d bless you and your children forever.  
Ivan and Natalya



### The quintessential shlucha



🕒 February 8, 2023 5:18 pm

I've known Henya for many years, way before she was an official shlucha. Henya exuded kindness and ahavas Yisroel. May her neshama have an Aliya and may she be a gutte better for her beautiful family.



19

| -2



Reply

### So so sad ❤️



🕒 February 8, 2023 5:46 pm

It's not right HaShem to take a mother of small children ... a young wife ... 😞

Henya was so special and calm .. I spent one Shabbos with the Federmans and Henya had such an impression on me ...

The way she served her meal , made with extra love and care .. tuna filled borekas... soup .. chicken .. warm conversation.. sensitivity and kindness ... everything the soul of a young backpacker or a businessman or a cruise vacationer could fill up on and rejuvenate and learn sweet lessons from

You were a Dugma Chaya and will be sorely missed ..

Tell the Aibishter to send us Moshiach already please

Love Neomi Gniwisch



24

| -5



Reply

### Henya's former Rebbe



🕒 February 9, 2023 1:42 pm

I had the Zechus to teach Henya when she was in elementary school in Milwaukee. She was a ball of energy and enthusiasm for everything. You could already see the future Shlucha in her. She was a powerhouse of positivity to the rest of her class. (She also was the fastest "spit," player I ever saw.) May Henya be a Melitza Yashra for her Mishpacha and may they find the strength to continue their Heliga Avodas Hashem!



0

| -1



Reply

## Look at these photos



🕒 February 8, 2023 7:48 pm

Henya is literally glowing in all the photos, as she did in real life. So much chein. I hope that she will be remembered thusly, and not just for her tragic demise. Look at these photos, and look again.



7

| -1



➔ Reply

## BDE



🕒 February 8, 2023 6:30 pm

Henya was pure Ahavas Yisroel. Even if you only met her once, you felt like she was your best friend. Selfless and kind, with endless patience. What a painful loss for her family and all of us who had the privilege of knowing her.



6

| -1



➔ Reply

## I'm one of those people



🗨️ Reply to [BDE](#)

🕒 February 8, 2023 7:36 pm

I only met her once, on a random shabbos in Detroit, and she took the time to send me the sweetest, kindest most uplifting message



5

| -1



➔ Reply



**Adina Selmar** ▶ **Federman Asher Henya**



1d · 👥

Just a year ago we spent winter break in beautiful St. Thomas. We'd been there without the kids before and Henya would always ask when we were coming back with the kids. We had kept in touch since we met the Federmans 7 years ago and it was only a matter of time before we would bring them to this magical place.

Chabad houses make vacationing easier (especially if minyanim are important) but Henya made my trips so much more than a convenience. Her companionship, her genuine love... her ability to empathize and connect- she made everyone feel important, loved. Shabbosim meant countless guests and she welcomed everyone with a smile and delicious food and genuine love. Visiting St. Thomas felt like visiting an old friend.

I told everyone any anyone that they need to go to St. Thomas, the shlucha there is the current day Sara imeinu. And she really was in so many ways. My heart hurts tonight for Henya's immediate and extended families. May the light you brought to this world continue to shine through all the lives you have touched. Baruch Dayan Emes my beautiful friend.



3



**Steve Weinstein** is 😞 feeling sad.



1d · 👥

Damn.

Words usually come easily to me. But, in this case, there's there's not a lot more that I can think to write or say about Henya, a young woman whom I've known since infancy, who taught my children, and who enriched the lives of everyone (YES, EVERYONE) with whom she came in contact.

Please click below and read about Henya's life. You may not have known her like my family and I did, but take something that she did and engrain it into your life. It'll definitely make a difference in the world.



**Mendy Kaminker** is 🥲 feeling heartbroken with **Mendel Shmotkin** and **3 others**.

1d · 🌐



When the saddest news arrived, my wife [Shterna Kaminker](#) told me:

"Henya was such a dedicated Shlucha (emissary), and now thousands of Shluchos from around the world (who are gathering in Brooklyn for the annual conference) will be there to say goodbye".

I couldn't stop thinking about this.

---

WHEN A SOLDIER FALLS /

When a soldier falls  
all soldiers stop  
to pay their respect.

They mourn  
they grieve  
they cry.

They lift their eyes to heaven  
G-d, maybe, for once,  
you would wipe our tears away?

Maybe, it's time  
For soldiers not to fall anymore?

They tell heroic tales  
of a soldier who was brave  
and dedicated to no end.

They are heartbroken  
and then  
with flowing tears  
they return to their posts  
determined as ever.

17 Shevat 5783

Dedicated to the Federman and Shmotkin families



**Elana Epstein Gottfried**

1d · 👥



Truly heartbreaking 🥲🥲🥲

ברוך דיין האמת!

we met each other as neighbors temporarily, when the [Federman Asher Henya](#) family relocated to Michigan when their community was being rebuilt after a hurricane hit St. Thomas in 2017. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to know you 💔



Lisa Jennifer is with **Federman Asher Henya**.

13h ·



Such a devastating loss of truly the kindest, most loving and thoughtful individual who has touched the lives of so many. I'll always cherish the memories with Henya and the outpouring of love and kindness she showed to everyone.

My deepest condolences to her family and to all who have been graced with meeting Henya. Let's continue to honor her legacy by spreading kindness and making a difference. ❤️



51

19 comments



Lissa Kay

Im so sorry 😞 sounds like the world lost an amazing soul! So glad you were able to experience her light ✨❤️🙏 prayers for her family and friends

Like Reply 13h



Shelly Kadosh

Henia, I have lived in so many places in the world, and mer so many amazing chabad shlochim, but you really had a special place in my heart. We celebrated Nelly's first birthday together. You and **Federman Asher Henya** were always there for me. You even came to visit me in FL and Asher hanged the mezuzah in the house. My heart is broken tonight. 😞😞😞 There are not enough worlds to describe you. You are absolutely the definition of pure good. I love you, and you will always stay in my heart. Rest in peace

❤️❤️❤️ ברוך דיין אמת

Like Reply 1d



**Rochel Gordon**

17h · 🌐



It was February 2012.

I was for the first time attending the International Kinus Hashlichus in New York. I had recently moved far away to Tasmania, and I was feeling lonely, confused and ambivalent.

I went to get breakfast, and sit on my own on a table at the other end of the large hall. I didn't know anyone and had no confidence to sit on a table with women whom I didn't know. Honestly I was feeling overwhelmed by the sheer number of women there, and little, young me travelling alone from a place that most American's had never heard of (What part of Africa do you live? You live in New Zealand, right?)

A woman approached me and asked if she could sit next to me. We made some small talk, and played Jewish geography. She said that she saw me looking alone and figured she would strike up a conversation - She instantly made me feel at ease and comfortable. She also immediately understood many of the challenges I was experiencing - the living far away, living on an Island, homeschooling, isolation, lack of Kosher food, no Mikvah....

After this encounter, she took my number and often messaged me for updates and just to check up on me. She made it her business to show she cared and to make me feel like I wasn't alone.

Subsequently every year, when we met at the kinus, she greeted me like a best friend, and I knew she genuinely cared.

To say that Hashem takes the best is an understatement. 🙄

I have nothing else to say, except thank you Henya for teaching me how to genuinely show that you care about someone else.

ברוך דיין האמת



Lee Fallach

Yesterday at 4:28 AM · 🌐



An angel has left this world today, probably to do good in the next world.

ברוך דיין האמת.

[Federman Asher Henya](#), my deepest condolences to you and your beautiful children for this huge loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers everyday ❤️ so much love to you all dear family

My dear Henya 😭

This picture is from a day that I will never forget. The day I truly understood what kind of a mother you are, and what kind of a mother I would like to be one day.

A few years ago you did a Moroccan Shabbat and asked me to make the food , being the only Moroccan in community . With my ADHD and not paying attention, I almost set the house on fire. From that moment on, watching you and your beautiful family handling the situation was a story I will tell for ever!

We were panicking, while you were peacefully asking everyone to leave the house, from the fear of inhaling the smoke. The kids were soooooo calm! Some went straight to grab the books of the Torah, while others took the younger kids from their beds, outside. Rabbi Asher was just around the corner and was able to turn the fire off within seconds. The smoke was heavy, so we had to wait outside for sometime so it will clear. You set a blanket on the floor and had everyone sitting together, explaining to them what happened, and asking each one about the experience. I will never forget those moments on the floor. I was looking at you and the kids with a huge admiration for how you have raised them. Their ability to handle rough situations in life, their wisdom, Kidush Hashem, and the care for each other is beyond incredible. You showed me that motherhood is about the energy you pass to your children. A few days before the tragedy you sent me a message reminding me of that day, calling it a sweet memory, even when I almost burned your house and you had to replace this whole part of the kitchen. This was the person you were. Always positive, welcoming, loving and caring. Never made it to this last Shabbat with you.. I became a mother 10 months ago and had the honor to have you and rabbi Asher host Reef's Brit at the new synagogue. Your light will always shine in our hearts, and I will raise my son knowing who you were for us, teaching him your kindness and Derech Eretz. We love you always and forever ❤️



Meredith Wilkie ▶ Federman Asher Henya

1d · 👥



Asher we are so incredibly sad to hear of Henya's passing. We are thinking of you and your beautiful children and pray that her memory will be a blessing for you all. Our deepest condolences and love to you all.





**Stephanie Rosenberg**

February 8 at 6:14 PM ·



My body is literally aching right now. [Henya](#) was the most beautiful human, inside and out. The world is a little less bright today and everyday moving forward.

ברוך דיין האמת



**Levi Shmotkin**

February 8 at 5:48 PM ·

To our dear extended island family,

It is with immense pain that we must share with you that my aunt Henya (Federman) returned her soul to her maker a short w... [See more](#)



Mushka Lein, Yisroel Lein and 60 others

14 comments



Like



Comment



Share



**Stephanie Rosenberg**

<https://www.chabad.org/.../lwAR12htY6t8ZYsrRJTgmmJtZesW6E...>



CHABAD.ORG

Henya Federman, 40, Devoted Her Life to Locals and Visitors on the Virgin Islands - Inspired thousands to increase their...



Like Reply 1d



**Stephanie Rosenberg**

I was so incredibly honored to contribute to this piece, which has honestly been in the works for 2 months already (miraculous recovery would have also been appropriate had it happened). Truly, anyone who met her was blessed to be in her presence. I'm just at a complete loss.

Like Reply 1d



**Lisa Jennifer**

So incredibly sorry for this devastating loss. Henya has touched the lives of so many and her legacy will continue to shine.

Like Reply 1d



**Ilene Lexin**

Our deepest condolences. Henya was amazing. May her memory be a blessing.

Like Reply 1d



Lee Fallach

23h · 🌐

An angel has left this world today, probably to do good in the next world.

ברוך דיין האמת.

Federman Asher Henya, my deepest condolences to you and your beautiful children for this huge loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers everyday ❤️ so much love to you all dear family

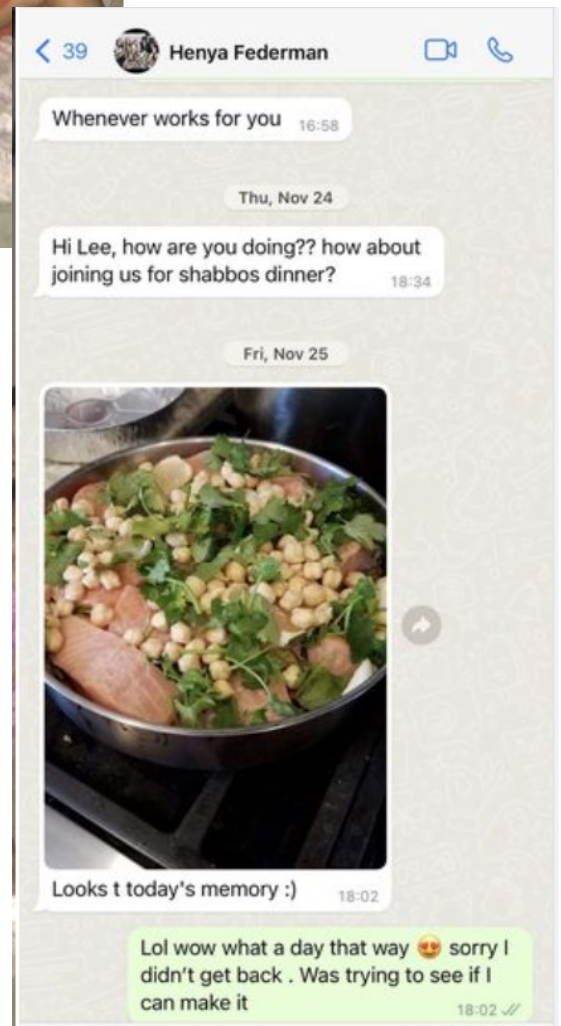
My dear Henya 😭

This picture is from a day that I will never forget. The day I truly understood what kind of a mother you are, and what kind of a mother I would like to be one day.

A few years ago you did a Moroccan Shabbat and asked me to make the food, being the only Moroccan in community. With my ADHD and not paying attention, I almost set the house on fire. From that moment on, watching you and your beautiful family handling the situation was a story I will tell for ever!

We were panicking, while you were peacefully asking everyone to leave the house, from the fear of inhaling the smoke. The kids were sooooo calm! Some went straight to grab the books of the Torah, while others took the younger kids from their beds, outside. Rabbi Asher was just around the corner and was able to turn the fire off within seconds. The smoke was heavy, so we had to wait outside for sometime so it will clear. You set a blanket on the floor and had everyone sitting together, explaining to them what happened, and asking each one about the experience. I will never forget those moments on the floor. I was looking at you and the kids with a huge admiration for how you have raised them. Their ability to handle rough situations in life, their wisdom, Kidush Hashem, and the care for each other is beyond incredible. You showed me that motherhood is about the energy you pass to your children. A few days before the tragedy you sent me a message reminding me of that day, calling it a sweet memory, even when I almost burned your house and you had to replace this whole part of the kitchen. This was the person you were. Always positive, welcoming, loving and caring. Never made it to this last Shabbat with you..

I became a mother 10 months ago and had the honor to have you and rabbi Asher host Reef's Brit at the new synagogue. Your light will always shine in our hearts, and I will raise my son knowing who you were for us, teaching him your kindness and Derech Eretz. We love you always and forever ❤️



מימי אוסעדון

וואו ממי שלי איך ריגשתי, היכרתי את האישה המדהימה הזאת והערצתי אותה על הדרך תהי נישמתה צרורה בצרור החיים ומלא אהבה למישפחה שהשאירה

Like Reply See translation 16h



Chanie Mendy Krinsky

3h · 🌐



It's been a roller coaster of emotions these last few days.

Wednesday, Mushka, Perel and I, left to NY for a weekend in NY with thousands of our friends and relatives at the international "Kinus Hashluchos" - the convention of all the Chabad emissary women and girls. As we were driving we got news of 3 friends who got engaged and were having engagement parties that night. The excitement was building for this weekend and really starting off on such a positive note! We got to NY and ran a few errands before heading to the ice cream store for Perel to meet up with some school friends. Of course in the ice cream store, they all live in places where good kosher ice cream is not available and this is a huge treat!

And then we got the most awful news. News I never wanted to share here. Dear Henya returned her soul to G-d. She returned to a place where she could be with her baby Shternie 🥲.

About 30 minutes after we heard, we had to switch gears and be at a school gathering for all of Perel's schoolmates. The one time a year they see each other in real life. You can imagine the excitement there and the damper on all of us moms who were close friends of Henya. With 12 children, all of us had, or had in the past had, kids in class with her kids. And we had to emotionally be there for our girls who just heard such awful news, plus give them the excitement they needed and deserved for seeing their teachers and friends. As soon as that was over we headed out to the engagement parties. Meeting up with more friends we shared with Henya, yet celebrating the simcha of these brides and grooms.

On Thursday morning the convention began. This was not an easy one. It's always the highlight of the year. Everyone I know was on the same emotional roller coaster. We hugged and cried. So happy to see each other but oy, what a heavy load.

The convention, planned over the entire year, had to quickly change course. One of our sisters was being led to her final resting place. No way could workshops happen at that time. As the funeral procession stopped in front of headquarters, at 770 Eastern Parkway, thousands of women stood there to pray and wish a final farewell to someone who was a friend to everyone she encountered. No one should ever ever have to witness the pain seen there. I continued on to the cemetery where Henya was laid to rest. Close by to our Rebbe, whom she gave up all her personal comforts for - to live a life of giving as the Rebbe inspired her to - in the Virgin Islands. There were so many who came to the funeral. We met some of her friends from the Islands, and many from around the world. There was one common thing. Tears. Lots of them. No one could hold them back. How could it be? And yet we knew, in 40 short years, Henya had completed her mission in this world. Her family and friends are in pain as she moves up to a higher and better place. We are left behind with a gaping hole. She is ok.

Driving back to Brooklyn and back to the convention with a car full of friends and relatives, to head back to the official opening dinner of the convention, we spoke about Henya. We also spoke about regular life. We had to switch gears. Back to other emotions where we can be happy for seeing those we love. Spending a weekend together in a great environment. Even while missing Henya. Sitting at dinner, listening to friends with amazing lessons to share, learning, being inspired, and feeling Henya in my heart.

And now, staying in my cousin's house, with 20 other family members who came in for this convention (and my cousin's family who also isn't small :-)) you can imagine there is a lot of happy energy here. (Yes we squish and we love it!) We will go into shabbos in a really happy space, while still holding Henya with us. And the roller coaster keeps on doing its twists and turns.

Baruch Dayan Haemes. Blessed is the true judge. It's been hard to accept but we know, with complete faith, that Hashem has a plan. One that is really hard for us to understand. And we know that any moment now He will send moshiach and reunite us with our dear Henya. May it be today - even before Shabbos!

I would like to thank all of my friends who prayed for and did good deeds in honor of Henya. She brought the entire world together with good. We will continue to hold her children in our thoughts and hearts.



**Mitch Lechter**

2h · 🌐



She inspired me, my wife and my family for nearly 20 years. Her memory and good deeds will forever continue to inspire us to do more goodness and kindness in the hope of making this world a better place for all.

Dear Rabbi Israel and Rebbetzin B. Devorah Leah and Your Family,

With heavy hearts and tears, Clara and I send our sincerest and most profound condolences. We have both experienced this in positive ways we never imagined. Henya was so kind, so generous, so loving, so caring, so willing to self-sacrifice in order to bring more Torah and Mitzvot into the world. We will never forget all the joy and holiness of the first Chabad wedding we were invited to, Henya's and Asher's 7 Circles. This was the tipping point in our understanding and celebration of our Jewishness. With this, we have wrapped our arms around her memory and wear it as a way to remember all the joy she brought us personally and to our community. She has guided us, over the recent past, to do more to make this world a better place.

Forever our souls will be filled with the best Henya.

Sincerely and with immense gratitude,

Clara and Mitch Lechter

2:21 AM



**Liad Zamir Hacoen**

11h · 🌐



The heart refuses to believe...

I got to know Henya 10 years ago when we lived in the Caribbean

Sometimes in life you meet people who directly enter to your heart, people who are always surrounded by light and joy, who know how to give a feeling of togetherness and belonging without effort, Federman Asher and Henya there were a home for us when we were far away from home.

Friday dinners, holidays, small and big joys, thanks to Henya even the kitchen was full of the flavors from home that she made sure to bring to the island so that the homesickness would be sweeter.

I remember Fridays together, the hospitality, the giving, and the small conversations over a huge platter of Friday fish.

In your special way, I always felt at home with you.

I had the privileged to know you, to learn from you what is giving for nothing, thank you. Rest in peace, im sending big hugs to your children and strengthening to our dear Rabbi Asher, we will never forget you. — with **Federman Asher Henya** and **Or Hacoen**.



Ben Gursky

15h · 👤



<https://collive.com/henya-federman-40-obm/...>

The world is a little darker tonight with the passing of Rebbetzin Henya Federman AH. I know that she and her husband, Rabbi Asher (may G-d grant him many more happy healthy years) [Federman Asher Henya](#) achieved a lot in their shlichus to the Virgin Islands. My family, friends, and I were privileged to know them when their shlichus was a pipe dream. Rebbetzin Henya was the head counselor in the Gan Yisroel in Milwaukee 20 odd years ago, and I'm drawing a blank if she was involved in the then-new Milwaukee Cheder (an after school religious school). She and members of her family influenced many people (yours truly included) then to increase their Torah and mitzvah observance. When I was in 7th grade, I was fortunate to have Rabbi Asher teach my class Gemara for most of the year. Since then, I watched them inspire others and thrive for themselves in the Virgin Islands. They and their children totally gave of themselves to make a place for Judaism in St Thomas. I'm sure the distance from family and community, and the weather volatility of the Virgin Islands was tough. They had a fire and determination to fulfill the vision of the Lubavitcher Rebbe ZT"L, and fulfilled that mission with flying colors.

Many people today are frum and closer to Judaism because of the extended Shmotkin family. I know I am. The volumes of mitzvos pledged for Rebbetzin Henya are a testament to all that she and her family have accomplished. I am confident they will continue to bring people closer, just as she would have wanted. The peer group of boys and girls in Milwaukee, now all grown, will continue to inspire others the way Rav Asher and Rebbetzin Henya inspired all of us.

May Henya bas HaRav Yisroel & Bracha Devorah Leah (may G-d bless them both with many happy healthy years) and her daughter Shterna Sarah bas HaRav Asher Yaakov rest in peace, may their family find much comfort and strength, and may they join us in Heaven as we cry out on Earth "enough tzaros!! Moshiach Now!!"

תנצב"ה



Robert Ba-at ▶ Federman Asher Henya

1d · 👤



My deepest heartfelt condolences to you, Rabbi Federman, and your entire family. I am so sorry for your loss. May Henya's memory and name always be for a blessing. You and your family are in my prayers.

😭😭 3

Just seeing this on the plane as I turned on WiFi..

Heartbroken and crying with you Malya..for this inhuman pain.

I will never, ever forget Henyas passionate, outstanding, regal keynote at the Kinus all these years ago (and at such a startlingly young age), empowering her sister Shluchos with marrow for tired bones to continue the Rebbe and Rebbetzins holy work until this endless Golus ..finally ends.

Sending comfort and tefillos for Moshiach now ❤️

2:22 AM



Eli Federman is with Shainy Toron-Federman.



February 8 at 10:01 PM · 🌐

We are immeasurably heartbroken and filled with unimaginable sorrow. My sister-in-law Henya Federman passed away today. I have so much to say about her enormous impact and awe inspiring life, legacy, selfless commitment to public service/Shlichus and motherhood, but I'll leave that for another day. We will never understand the injustice of this world and why the righteous suffer as articulated in Kohelet 9:11 וְרָאָה תַחַת-הַשָּׁמַיִם כִּי לֹא לַקְלַיִם הַמְרוֹץ וְלֹא לַגְבוּרִים שְׂבִתִי וְרָאָה תַחַת-הַשָּׁמַיִם כִּי לֹא לַקְלַיִם הַמְרוֹץ וְלֹא לַגְבוּרִים שְׂבִתִי וְרָאָה תַחַת-הַשָּׁמַיִם כִּי לֹא לַקְלַיִם הַמְרוֹץ וְלֹא לַגְבוּרִים שְׂבִתִי וְרָאָה תַחַת-הַשָּׁמַיִם כִּי לֹא לַקְלַיִם הַמְרוֹץ וְלֹא לַגְבוּרִים שְׂבִתִי

"I returned and saw under the sun, that the race does not belong to the swift, nor the war to the mighty; neither do the wise have bread, nor do the understanding have riches, nor the knowledgeable, favor; for time and fate will overtake them all." The funeral will take place tomorrow February 9th at the Old Montefiore Cemetery in Queens. She will be buried near the Rebbe's Ohel. 💔💔💔😞😞😞



😞😞👍 Mussie Deren, Yisroel Lein and 232 others

103 comments 4 shares



Anne Nayer ▸ Federman Asher Henya

18h · 👥



No words for the loss of Henya, just tears and memories of her beauty, warmth, joy and radiant love. My condolences to Asher and all of their beautiful children. — with **Amy Gibbs**.



🥰❤️😭 21

6 comments

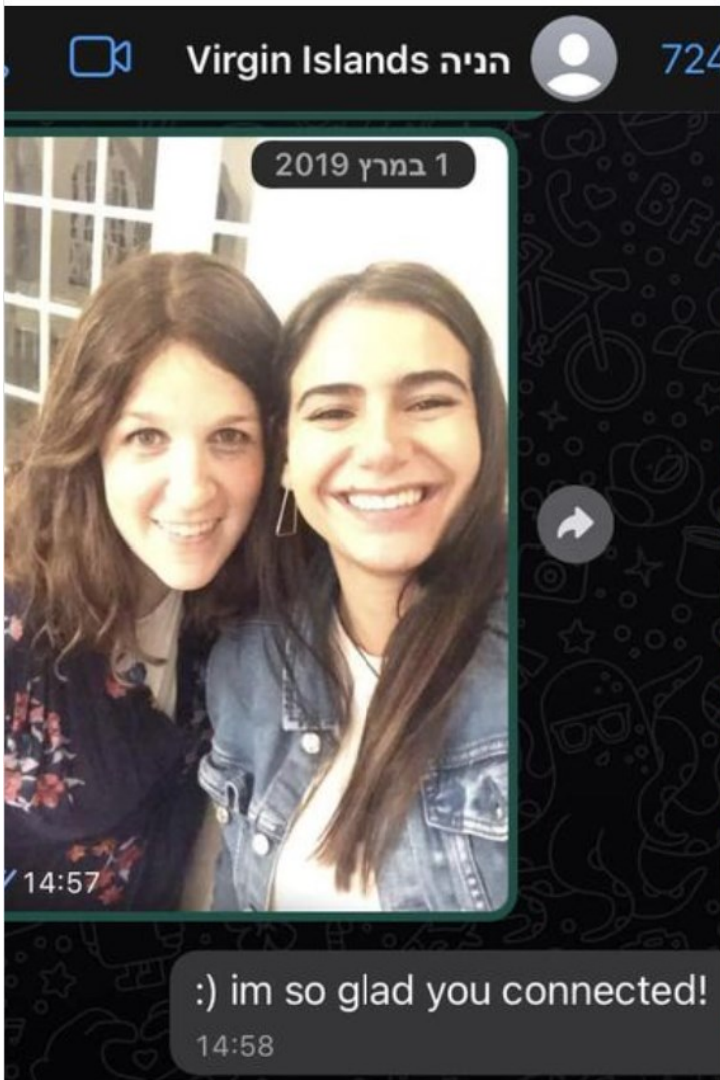


Lisa Jennifer

Beautiful tribute **Anne Nayer**! You captured Henya's joy and warmth so perfectly. This is such a tragic loss. Sending lots of love! ❤️💔

Like Reply 6h





Vered Kaddosh is with Anna Efrat Attia · 1 hour ago · 🌐

לא מצליחה להבין את הקדוש ברוך הוא!

לפני 4 שנים, זכיתי לטוס לניו יורק, כחלק מצוות ההפקה של כינוס שליחות חב"ד העולמי.

באחת מסעודות השבת, התארחתי אצל משפחה מדהימה, עשינו סבב וכל אחד הציג את עצמו. ביקשו ממני לספר את סיפור התשובה שלי. כשסיימתי, אחות של בעל הבית סיפרה לי שהיא שליחה בא"י הבתולה בקריביים, אמרה שיש בחורה ישראלית שהתחילה להתקרב לאחרונה ליהדות ושהיא תשמח לחבר ביננו כי יש הרבה משותף.

ממש תוך כמה ימים אנה ואני כבר היינו חברות. ב-4 שנים האחרונות זכיתי ללוות אותה בתהליך לפרקים.

לפני חודשיים אנה סיפרה לי שהינה טבעה כשניסתה להציל את התינוקת שלה שנפלה למים. התינוקת נפטרה ומאז הניה נלחמה על החיים שלה. לא יודעת כמה פעמים התפללתי עליה מאז.

בטוחה בלי ספק שהשם יעשה לה נס ויחזיר אותה לבעלה ול-12 ילדיהם שמחכים בבית. לא יכולתי לדמיין שום מצב אחר.

שלשום, ערב חתונתה, אנה בישרה לי שהינה נפטרה. מה??? למה???? איך????? שאלנו ובכינו ביחד בטלפון, היא בירושלים ואני בחדרה, וכל מה שאני רוצה באותו רגע זה לחבק ולנחם. איכשהו השם שלח מילים דרכי שאספו אותה.

אמש, באותה שעה ממש שרקדנו ושמחנו עם אנה בחתונה שלה, בקצה אחר של העולם, ליוו המונים את הניה למנוחת עולם. בשבוע הקרוב בדיוק בימים שאנה ובעלה יחגגו את השבע ברכות שלהם, בקצה אחר של העולם ישבו שבעה על הניה. בחפיפה מושלמת. נשמות קשורות לעולם. הניה ואנה. אנה והניה.

אז.. אני לא מצליחה להבין את הקב"ה, אבל יודעת שאיפה שההבנה מסתיימת, שם מתחיל מבחן האמונה. ואנחנו חייבים! להאמין! שגם כשאנחנו לא רואים טוב גלוי, זה בוודאות מושג בהשגחה פרטית.. חייבים לבטוח בה' יתברך שלא משנה מה קורה לנו, זה חייב להיות לטובה, גם אם קשה לנו להבין.

בעז"ה שאנה ושרגא יזכו להקים בנין עדי עד מלא ברכות גלויות וששמחת החתונה שלהם תהיה לעילוי נשמתה של הניה. שזו תהיה עליה לצורך ירידה בתחיית המתים. שנזכה אנה ואני לנצל את החברות הזו שהינה נתנה לנו במתנה לדברים טובים שיקרבו את הגאולה האמיתית והשלמה!

**עוד דומע**

**און הייטס: אלפים בהלווית השליחה הניה רמן ע"ה • צפו**

כיום ליוו למנוחות את השליחה מא"י זולה הרבנית הניה פדרמן ע"ה, שהלכה לעולמה או רי חודשי ייסורים בטררגדיה משפחתית נוראה, ביניה חות הרבי מכל רחבי העולם שהגיעו לחצרות שנו לכינוס השלוחות העולמי... | לגלריה המלאה, ויד 3 שעות



Rabbi... I have no words... been thinking what should I say ... My hart feels heavy... and I can't stop thinking of you all... I'm feeling so angry... and trying not to ask why... and I guess Ahem knew she was to much for this world... and I pray with all my hart for you all... for me Henyale was my sister... my best friend... my religious connection! She was my call to earth she was there when I felt my world was falling down and then she was again to celebrate so many things... I love her deeply and always will... and I love you all...

I know nothing I say will help you and the family... but just know me and Danny are with all of you... and we love you as a Family because that's what you all are for us... sending you all our love, prayers and strength...

Asher I want to send my condolence for your lost. Henya was an angel and I can say that she and you will always be in my memory as the reason I become closer to God. First shabat I ever attended the amazing love and atmosphere that both of you gave me henya for me was always an angel much higher and above any other human being I ever met ,I kept telling about you and her to every chabad rabbi or community I have ever attended. I will tell you that I keep shabat fully for over a year now. I am a member of the chabad of brookline Massachusetts with rabbi shayke lerner. I am blessed and honored to meet you and henya you guys truly influenced my life and I will wish you only to be strong for the family know that I am truly sorry for your loss and appreciate to have the honor to meet both of you. If there is anything I can help with let me know. 💔

ברוך דיין האמת



Lynn Rabinovici Park

Heartbroken....there are no words 💔 the world lost one of the kindest people I have ever known. My thoughts and prayers are with you Asher, your beautiful children, and the whole family

Like Reply 1d



Debbie Goldstein Orkin

Elkanah Shmotkin, BDE, I am so heartbroken. I am so sorry for your family's and the world's loss. I really think that if I didn't babysit Henya and your brothers that summer, I wouldn't have become frum. Henya has always held a special place in my heart.

Like Reply 1d



Alina Rehm

She was the sweetest person I have ever met.

Like Reply 1d



Rachel Frank

So very saddened by this huge loss. I spent many a shabbos in my youth hanging out in her bedroom with my close friends and her sisters. Baruch Dayan emes. May her neshama have a n aliyah.

Like Reply 15h



אשרית עזריה ▶ Federman Asher Henya

1d · 👥



כל כך עצוב....  
חינתי לנס שתפקחי את העינים ותחזרי לחיק משפחתך אך לא רצית להאשיר את שטרנא  
לבד ועלית למרומים לחבק אותה...  
יהי זכרך ברוך

→Forwarded

It's the words I've been saying twice a day for over 30 years now.

They roll easily off my tongue (unfortunately) without much thought.

ה' שפתי תפתח ופי יגיד תהילתך

Today, I'm having a hard time saying those words.

How can I sing your praises Hashem when you have taken a mother away from her 12 children?

How can I sing your praises when you've shattered a beautiful family? a family dedicated to everything holy and right. A family dedicated to heed the Rebbe's call every day of their lives.

\*\*\*

There was no canceling last nights post Tu Bishvat women's event. I put on a smile and spoke to the women, but mainly, I was talking to myself.

We spoke about the different parts of the tree and how we are similar to them.

A tree can be big, majestic and beautiful but the most important part of it is actually the simple, and unseen roots. If the roots are damaged or weak, then strong winds and storms will knock that beautiful tree right over.

Our trunks and our branches are our knowledge and the emotions and deeds that branch out from it.

Our roots represents our faith which is the foundation of our entire tree.

We may have a wealth of knowledge and many Mitzvos to show for ourselves, but if our faith is weak or damaged then the storms in our lives will knock us off our feet.

Today I am leaning into my roots. It's the only safe place to be.

Tomorrow Hashem, please send us Moshiach. Only then will we be able to sing, with all our hearts

שירה חדשה שיבחו גאולים

11:03 AM