

*CLIFF GOVIER----- KARMEL BEN AVRAHAM*

*V'SARAH*

*Va-yidom Aaron:* "And Aaron was silent" Just one verb, one verb alone, written in the Hebrew language to describe, Aaron, the High Priest's reaction to the untimely, accidental, death of his sons Nadav and Avihu -- Va-yidom---

Silence. Silence

What can one say before an event so unbelievable and so tragic?

And what can we say to the wife, parents, brother, and two precious children Of Cliff Govier---as they were overcome by shock and are now profoundly grieving?

This is not what we had planned for. This is not in the natural order of things. As Monique conveyed starkly in a pager message to me

We should have been gathering together for a happy life cycle Event--- for Sarah's covenantal naming ceremony...

*Va-yidom—* And Aaron was silent.

*Va-yidom*—We are silent.

Why the silence? Because words, music, connectedness, reaching out to others were at the center of Cliff's life and so silence has followed his death. But it is nevertheless incumbent upon us to speak about the extraordinarily gifted individual. That he was this loving husband and father, this devoted son, dear brother, and admired friend.

We break the silence now to render homage to Cliff: Cliff was a caring, compassionate, sensitive and thoughtful man always ready to help those around him: Whether it was sharing pesto with a neighbor downstairs, offering to improve the sound system of our synagogue, proposing to fix a broken shed of a friend, or helping someone to begin a career. Cliff was present, was there to give of himself for

Others. He was that individual who fought against structure and convention who thought outside of the box. A unique individual, the warmth, the generous quality on the one hand, and a certain eccentricity the off-beat sense of humor. The

plays on words , the double entendre. He is work and his art--  
-a video, audio systems designer—the blossoming of his love  
for music and its technical side.

Cliff learned by doing, not by reading,. He was someone who  
lived up to the popular expression:

“ Don’t let college interfere with you education.”

Since the time they frequented one another in 7SP1 at Junior  
High

School 143: Monique and Cliff have shared many long roads  
together.

She was instantly attracted to him and he would fall in love  
with her.

Even though Cliff stayed in New York to attend Hunter College  
And Monique would attend Suny Stonybrook. Watch out Cliff  
Would come out regularly to LI to be with his high school sweet  
heart.

They have always shared the same values and the same  
interests:

Love and commitment to family—Loyalty & devotion to friends,

Good food, Spending time outdoors—the simple pleasures of life.

Summer was their favorite season and that is why they were married

On the summer solstice –June 21, 1987---outside—with the background of Vivaldi's composition on summer. love, support, nurturing, helping

One another grow these were indeed the values that he cherished and put into practice. And then they were blessed with their first child,

a boy, Joshua... What love and devotion there was between the father and his son. Joshua has already mastered one of the required techniques for wiring sound systems-soldering—how many young

boys have learned this skill in the neighborhood? Most recently,

Joshua was given a new bicycle and his father coached him on riding.

It was a wonderful experience except as Joshua said “for the dodging pedestrians!”

But the most special moments, were the special bed-time moments—most parents would read books To their children, or listen and watch as children would read their books To them...but Cliff had another approach. He wanted to stimulate Joshua’s imagination And so he brought him the world of Paprika the cat and all of the other Characters named after spices... Joshua has already taken after his father’s playful inventiveness— Witty play on words—wild imagination...The other day he was thinking About the next speed business: a quick tire changing business---what was More fun was to think about the name: Joshua’s response: Watch me if you can.”

There was still a great desire to have a second child. To have a daughter

And after trying without success to have conceive Cliff said:

“There is a soul out there who needs a home. And so beautiful, bright, curious, Sarah arrived Coming from Korea, Cliff acknowledged with pride that the Asian culture is a wonderful culture and that his family would be a part of it.

Sarah misses her Dad already, swooping her up, placing him in the

Back-pack, and now knowing already how to count up to six She will want to count the 22 guitars of her father with the hope

Of finding him again.

As we have said Cliff was passionate about music: he played, he listened, He created , he marveled at the technical aspects of the field .

Music—the ultimate expression of the human soul –of the ranges

Of human emotions---music spoke most powerfully to him—to this man

Who since his youth had a deficiency in hearing. It was something

That he discovered and enjoyed through the years with his dear brother Glen, Now consider for a moment taste ---wide ranging and eclectic. Look at his CD Collection: Frank Zappa, Steely Dan, Jeff Beck, The Dictators. And his musical Instrument...His guitars--- must be the largest personal collection of guitars In Northern Manhattan. What is remarkable is that he only took a few lessons. And later he later he would create and be part of a band: The Difference playing: Rhythm and lead guitar.

And then as we have said there was his love of nature: a New York city boy born and raised fascinated by the history of New York and stimulated by all that this vibrant City has to offer. Cliff nevertheless always looked forward to being In the country...being in a natural surroundings...and this at an Early age with visits to his aunt Theo in Wayne New Jersey. And later the years spend as a camp and counselor at the Incarnation Camp in Connecticut—Those camp years were defining moments in his life---Not only for developing his love of the

outdoors but for planting the seeds Of life –long  
friendships(there are a number of you here today)

Family, Friends, Music, Sound, Communion with Nature,  
They are all interrelated. We are speaking about  
Connections, bonds, the flow of energy,  
The flow of soulfulness, the flow of music,  
Communication-- Eloquence in expression  
Comical and witty paronomasia

This describes the essence of his life...Connection---

About connection: the writer : Theodor Reik:

To connect one's life in thoughts and deeds with others is the  
only way

To make it worth living.

AT this time:

Glen

Les Pestaina:

Monique and Cliff's family are in the process of setting up a  
Trust Fund

In Cliff's memory. If you are thinking of making a memorial  
contribution Please be in touch with the family as they will be  
providing you with details about this later.