

REMEMBERING JDA MEMBER KENNETH SILVER

Our remarkable friend, Kenneth Silver, passed away on 12 April 2024. His son Jeremy writes about the important life lessons he passed on to his family.

Our darling brave daddy, Kenneth David Silver, was born on 6 March 1938 to Edith and Joseph.

Throughout his life, he never let anything stop him achieving his goals. He rarely complained, he didn't feel sorry for himself, he just dealt with life's challenges and lived the best life he could.

Born profoundly deaf, he was a happy child surrounded by lots of cousins who all adored him.

His mother Edith was a professor at the Royal Academy of Music and she worked hard to help Dad learn to speak as clearly as possible. Sadly, she passed away at the age of 34, when he was only 8. Losing a parent at such a young age is a tragedy, especially as an only child.

After she died, Joseph struggled to cope and Dad had a difficult time of being passed around family and friends. His schooling was disrupted — initially going to the Tottenham School for the Deaf, and then the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children.

Dad had a very close relationship with his grandparents on his mother's side — Marie and Henry. Marie played an active role in dad's upbringing. She armed him with many life skills and provided for a secure future for him.

They were founder members of Kinloss Synagogue — something Dad was always eager to point out. He was very proud of this, as well as their charitable donations to help build a newly created Israel.

Daddy's father, Joseph, sadly passed away in 1970, a year before our parents reconnected at the JDA.

On 24 March 1971 (that's 53 years ago!) Kenneth married Lorraine. It was a grand affair! And it was the first day of a wonderful marriage. They loved each other so much and they were a great example of what marriage and family should be. They had two children — Jeremy and Melody — and were always immensely proud of them.

Our childhood was different to most of our friends, but we look back on our time as kids with nothing but happiness. We grew up with so much love. And of course, the smell of daddy's pipe!

We are very lucky to have such amazing parents. They understood the added responsibility we faced and, in return, took great pride in supporting us whenever we needed it in our lives. Like any father, Dad encouraged a good education for us and pushed us to play plenty of Monopoly to help our business brains!



▲ *Kenneth at school (front row, left)*



▲ *Kenneth and his devoted wife Lorraine*

Growing up, we could see the importance of family and friends — Mum and Dad had a very active social life with their friends from the JDA.

The JDA community was always very important to our family and remains so to this day. We will be forever indebted to them for the support they give to our family.

As you know, Daddy had significant vision impairment. His sight was affected by Usher Syndrome, tunnel vision, and other issues — but he made the most of life.

He travelled the world with his friends, drove his favourite cars, and carried on with all of his passions in life — including his love of Spurs. In fact, Daddy was able to say he saw Spurs win the league — twice!

And, as our family grew — firstly with Melody marrying Jon, and then Jeremy marrying Omerah — he couldn't have been prouder. Daddy had so much love for Jon and Omerah and they loved him too.

When he became a grandfather, Harry, Libby, Jasmine and Rosie all gave their Grandpa a new lease of life. He loved them with all his heart.

And each of them is a credit to the family, learning the values that are most important to all of us — **to be kind, be caring and look after each other.**

Daddy loved to talk — about his adventures, his friends and his family who he loved so much. When his eyes got worse and his sight failed, communication became harder for all of us. However, it didn't stop him talking to us with all of those memories stored in his very clever brain.

Everyone describes Kenneth as a gentle man, a brave man, always with a smile and a glass half full. He gave us an amazing upbringing and taught us our most important life lessons.

He was an ever-loving husband, a great example of what it is to be a father, and an inspiration to everyone who knew him.



▲ *Kenneth out enjoying life with his loving family*

Our dad leaves behind a lifetime of memories for all of us.

And the message he leaves behind is to **make the most of life. Don't let anything stop you. Try not to complain and make the most of every positive you have.**

We love you Daddy and will miss you every single day. We will look after Mummy and will be a good boy and good girl.