

May, 2020

Dear Friends,

It still seems hard to believe that our dear friend and student, a light to so many, Saadya Ehrenpreis, A”H is gone.

Saadya was a student in the inaugural class of the Makor College Experience, a program for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities operated by Makor Disability Services on the campus of Yeshiva University. The program gives those who would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience college life because of their developmental challenges the chance to do so, and Saadya was the personification of the type of student for whom the program was founded.

Proud not only to be studying Torah and attending college, Saadya was specifically proud to be studying and attending college at Yeshiva University, following in the footsteps of his father, Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Ehrenpreis, A”H, a longtime YU professor. Long before the advent of the program Saadya was telling his family that he planned on attending YU. In the yearbook celebrating the senior class of 2020 of which Saadya was a part, he chose as his yearbook quote, “Follow your heart”. Saadya took that advice without looking back and, while his passing from Covid-19 just a few weeks prior to what would have been his graduation continues to leave a void in many people’s lives, we are comforted in knowing that in his final years Saadya was able to live his dream.

The Makor College Experience is not just about giving people with specialized needs the opportunity to experience college life. It is about giving people with specialized needs the opportunity to live their dreams of following in the footsteps of their siblings, parents, and grandparents.

To that end, and with the support of Saadya’s family, we have decided to continue honoring Saadya and his dream by establishing the Saadya Ehrenpreis A”H Memorial Endowment Fund. The fund is earmarked for two purposes: 1) Providing needs-based scholarship assistance to participants whose families, either as students or as faculty, have a prior connection to Yeshiva University and whose joining our program will help them live Saadya’s dream of following in their family’s footsteps; and 2) Assisting Makor Disability Services in covering the program’s many expenses to assure the continued success of the Makor College Experience at Yeshiva University and the inclusion of individuals with specialized needs in campus life.

Saadya followed his heart all his life, and in his final years, through Makor, was able to fulfill his dream of being included at Yeshiva University. This fund in his name will allow

others to do so as well, thereby keeping his memory, and his legacy, alive. I humbly ask that you please give generously. Thank you.

Stephen Glicksman, Ph.D.

Director of Clinical Innovation, Makor Disability Services

Founder, the Makor College Experience