

INGE: "A Special Lady"

Inge Ellinger, widow of our late Chairman Bob, died suddenly but peacefully on April 2nd aged 86, at the Bradford Royal Infirmary. A large number of relatives and friends attended the funeral service on April 10 to celebrate her life.

Inge, a former President of the West Riding Shalom Lodge of B'nai B'rith, had requested a humanist funeral like her friend Rita Eckstein who died a few weeks earlier but also asked for a Jewish prayer which was sung by Rudi Leavor. At the service, Gill Herbert of the British Humanist Association said Inge was a special lady, a character one did not easily forget meeting. A survivor of the horrors of Germany in the Second World War, Inge was a loyal member of the Kraentzschen – that group that developed such strong bonds between them as they brought up their children in the land that adopted them.

She was born on 19th February, 1921 in Gladbach, Germany one of three sisters. Her father had won the Knight's Cross in the First World War and was proud of service to his country, but it was no protection once the new regime built its power. Inge, Ursula and Gisella were sent by their parents, penniless but alive, to build a new life in England in 1938. Ursula began to train as a nurse in Bradford and Inge followed in her footsteps, with them both having to learn to speak English. Both their parents later died in Auschwitz and the sisters built their lives and families from scratch. She married Bob in 1947 and had three sons, Peter Richard and Robert and ten grandchildren. Bob died ten years ago and it was on the anniversary of the death of Robert three years ago that Inge was taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary where she had spent much of her working life



and later died.

In a tribute to his mother Peter said she and his Dad who had only £5 between them when they got married had always put themselves out for him and his brothers and made many sacrifices to put them through school and college without ever complaining. They always maintained an open house for all their friends and the extended family that was the Kraentzschen and that included taking taking friends on holiday with them to Aberystwyth.

The last few years had been particularly hard for Mum. Her two sisters had died and she had never really recovered from the shock of losing Robert three years ago.

"The great thing that Mum and Dad did was to instill in all of us, children and grandchildren, a sense of right and wrong and the need to look after others. I think it is a marvelous tribute to her that so many of you have come here today to pay your respects."

Richard said his fondest memories were of growing up in a happy, friendly, loving vibrant family and this was very much down to mum. The love and support she gave her three boys also extended to many friends who considered Inge as their own second mum.

“Thank you mum for making our childhood and growing up such a wonderful and happy time”, said Richard. “We will miss you but your love is always with us as we move on through life.”

Inge’s granddaughter Judi spoke about her memories of Inge – the meals she prepared, enough to feed an army whenever any member of the family descended on her, her delight in the fact that her grandchildren phoned her with their news at any time of the day or night, the way she opened up her home anytime to anyone.

She added, “Hearing Grandma talk about

her family and friends makes me realize how lucky I am to belong to such a wonderful group of people. To hear her talk about anyone of us was to know that we were truly loved and for that gift I thank you Grandma with all my heart.”

The service ended with Gill telling the congregation: “Inge lived her life with dedication to her family and loyalty to her friends. She survived some of the most terrible times we as human beings have inflicted on each other and rose beyond that to love and care for so many others throughout her life.”

“We thank her for her contribution to our world and for bringing so many rich experiences into the lives of others.”

We wish the extended families of Peter, Richard and daughter-in-law Nina a long life. Happily the connection between them and the Synagogue will continue when grandson Matthew blows the shofar at High Holyday services.

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be better to admit that they should not be there anymore?

Of course, the idea of amending Scriptures, when so many people treat every word as the unalterable will of God, presents immense problems. But believers of all faiths need to ask themselves whether reverence for ancient verses should be allowed to override the need for better relationships between all of God’s creatures.

A guideline that might be helpful in judging any passage would be to ask: If such words were to be written today would they fall foul of the Race Relations Act or religious discrimination

legislation? If answer is yes, how can they continue to have religious imprimatur?

Given the scale of the task, the first step might be to urge that copies of the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Koran and other sacred writings be printed with the parts capable of giving offence in brackets; it would be akin to a religious health warning to the effect that: “These words have survived from the past but do not necessarily reflect our teachings today.”

No doubt this would be very difficult to do but it might also be the most religious way forward.