

**IN BLESSED
MEMORY OF
RUDY
SKARISZEWSKI**



The Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation

LEGACIES INITIATIVE

OLAMI MENTORSHIP

RUDY



On October 7, 2023 a bright light was suddenly extinguished with the brutal murder of Rudy Skariszewski (57).

Rudy was a beloved and dedicated husband to Rinat and was the proud and doting dad of Yhoni, Daniel and Gili.

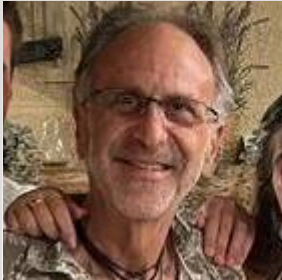
Rudy was one big heart. He cared deeply about anyone that had the good fortune of knowing him and he exuded a rare love and concern for everyone.

Rudy had the unique talent of finding the good in everyone and more importantly identifying the potential in every single person, even those that society had already written off.

Rudy was always on the lookout for struggling youth and his family shared that they know of at least twelve at risk kids that Rudy personally took under his care and literally transformed their lives by building their self confidence. Today, each of these twelve kids are successful adults who follow Rudy's legacy by seeking those who are falling through the cracks and building them up.

In the 90s Rudy was tasked with running the computer department in a local school. Until Rudy arrived, the computer department was insignificant and overlooked. When Rudy took over the department, it quickly became a popular and sought after subject, not because the subject matter had changed, rather because of the man who ran it.





One of the kids in Rudy's class was a young fellow with boundless energy who was also a very challenging student. Rudy did not see this as a challenge but as an opportunity! Rudy took the young man under his wings and helped him find his talents and abilities and stayed in touch with him for years, eventually encouraging him to get a college degree. Today this man is a wonderful husband and a dad to two super kids. It is frightening to think where this young man would be today had he not encountered Rudy.

Rudy's daughter Gili spent a year working in a home for children at risk. While there, she met a young boy whose father had been murdered in front of his eyes and whose mother was sadly incapable of caring for him. The boy literally had no one in this world to care for him. Gili realized that this sweet boy had a beautiful soul and really just needed a home. She asked her parents if they would be willing to become the family that he never had. They unanimously agreed; Rudy and Rinat showered the boy with love and affection and as they say the rest is history!

Countless lives were saved by Rudy's
uncanny ability to see the good in each
person

**As a tribute to Rudy's legacy, let us take a few
minutes to learn about this very valuable
character trait called "ayin tov, a good eye" and
then take the next week to try to work on seeing
the good in others.**



DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT THIS?

Pirkei Avos 2:9

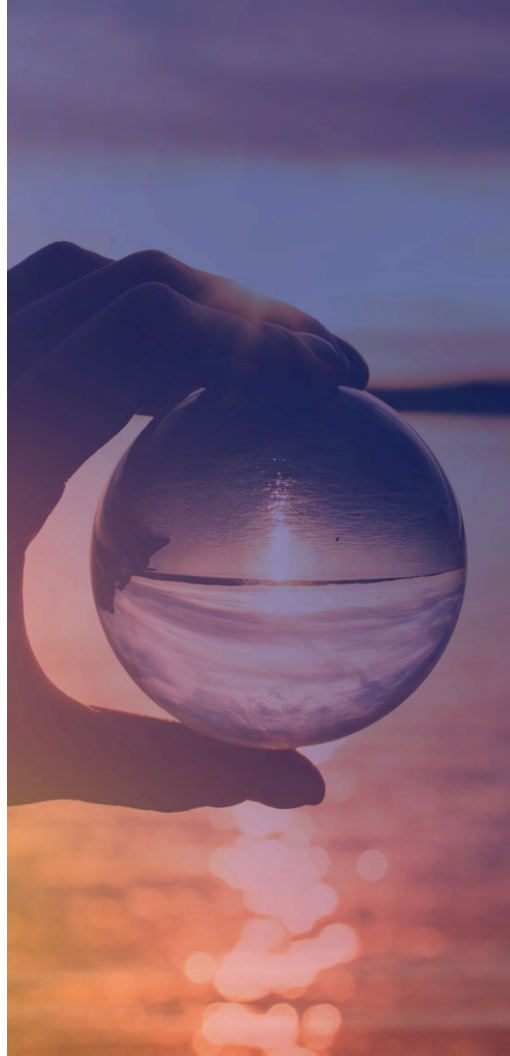
R. Yochanan challenged his students to identify the character trait that is most important for ethical living. R. Eliezer responded that it is an *ayin tov*, the ability to see the good in others...

On the flip side, when challenged to identify the most counterproductive character trait, R. Eliezer said: one who has a bad eye and constantly sees negativity.

Did you ever think about this? The Maharal teaches us that of the five basic senses – sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell – four are, for the most part, objective; they enable a person to perceive an object as it is. However, the sense of sight is subjective; a person sees things as he wishes to see them.

IT TAKES EFFORT TO SEE THE GOOD IN OTHERS

Our brains possess something called a “negativity bias” that by default initially points out another’s bad qualities vs. their good qualities. If one is not proactively working on seeing the good in others, they will almost reflexively see the negative.





IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR PERSPECTIVE

Rav Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev was walking with his students, when they came across a man who was fixing his carriage while wearing his tallis and tefillin. The students stopped in their tracks and called: “Rebbe! That Jew is fixing his carriage in the middle of prayer!” Rav Levi Yitzchak lifted his hands to the heavens and said: “Master of the Universe, look at your dear child: even while fixing his cart, he prays!”

Likutei Maharan 282:1

Even if someone appears to be entirely wicked, one must search until they can identify something good in that person. By doing so, you can actually assist that person in embracing that good and transforming into the goodness that they are capable of becoming.

Proverbs 22:9

A person with a positive eye is blessed.
Looking at others in a positive way provides benefit and blessing to the looker as he becomes a more positive person in his own life.

**How can having a positive eye
help you become a more
positive person?**

LET'S GET PRACTICAL



1. Slow down! Don't immediately jump to conclusions. Realize that in all likelihood there is a bigger picture.
2. Picture yourself as an understanding person. Do it daily. It will help you actually become that way.
3. Try to imagine for a moment what life is like in their shoes! You may be surprised how inserting yourself into another person's mindset totally shifts your perspective.
4. Take some time to reflect on the fact that every human being is created in the image of G-d and that even if one is in a really bad place, at their core, there is G-dliness.
5. Understand that your positive attitude towards another person may actually enable them to realize their internal goodness.
6. Try to shower another person with positivity and then contemplate the results for him/her and for yourself



SEEING THE GOOD IN OTHERS WAS SO IMPORTANT TO RUDY

As you take this week to upgrade your life by focusing on seeing the good in others, please **use this QR code** or [this link](#) to send a message to Rudy's family.

It will mean the world to them!



JOIN US NOW

OLAMI.ORG/LEGACIES

The Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation Legacies Initiative

OLAMI MENTORSHIP