

"A TWINKLE IN HER EYE"

*For Eileen Isenberg, On Your 75th Birthday, December 21, 2005
Celebrated in Ann Arbor, Michigan, November 20, 2005*

*Where is the twinkle of a good heart?
Where do I find it, where do I start?
The Lord told me, "Go find thy twinkle in the sky
And thou wilt have wings to fly."
There must be an easier way to earn my wings
Through miracles and things.
I've searched the earth, looked far and wide,
And still can't find the place where that twinkle resides.
But now in Michigan as I soar, I dare to look once more
I see a soul's smile so bright, a sparkle so right, it is indeed a blessed light
And despite trouble and doubt, it never fades out.
Swirling round her soul are melodies of Chopin
With harmonies of Dixieland
And the liveliness of a Klezmer band.*

*Her name is Eileen -- so refined with a presence divine
She shines with piano-playing talents I wish were mine,
And dances through life with ease,
As if she has the wings I pray for so earnestly!
She flies, it seems, from Glendale High and playground days to her Detroit stays.
Cousin Dave Benjamin delivered her soul, to teach her the ways
Of joke-telling that she's refined as part of her quest to heal people's minds
But her purpose is not to do social work, she finds
Still, when kids look grim, she picks them first in gym
And please forgive me if over some history I happen to skim.*

*Son Steven enlightened her world with an eye for design,
Lauren shares her Jewbilation in kind
And Lynn honors her in tales where she has the best lines.
Eileen's marriage to Jerry adds to her life's story much joy and growth.
Because she's strong enough to learn from both.
And with an open mind, Poznański helped her in kind.
Self-improvement is her game, as she unknowingly creates her fame.
With courage and foresight she takes on the tasks and examines her masks,
Then lets her light shine through as her family would want her to do.
After the loss of Jerry and Steve, she steadfastly faced her grieving,
And with help from friends like Sherry and Sumi, she kept on believing.*

*Eileen always seeks to feed her mind.
She enjoys Chagall, and any new knowledge she finds,
She speaks Yiddish, studies Hebrew, and likes sculpture hand-cast,
With her enthusiasm, she learns well and fast!*

*Organizer Nancy Kalif keeps her out of a mess, so she has less stress
To pursue her happiness with much success!
Body and brain must be healthy, and work as one
Otherwise Eileen can't enjoy all the fun,
Don and Sonia get her hair and nails artfully done.
Trainer Kim keeps her slim and trim,
So she has the energy, vigor and vim
To watch "700 Sundays" and "The Producers" on Broadway with Lynn,
And partake with Mara, Sadie and Lauren in "The Lion King".
To enjoy storytelling with Laurie in Jonesboro, Tennessee,
And to cook macrobiotic at the Isenberg Spa in NC,
Thanks to chefs Joe and Lenore who've never made health a bore,
With Georgia by her side and that ongoing twinkle in her eye,
She built a house at Solterra, then asked herself "Why?"
Alas, she chose to return to the place
Where she could pivot with grace!*

*The brightness grows as Eileen's funny side shows,
I flash to Eileen's children's younger years in Michigan snows,
Her sense of humor is always loved by the tots,
She can laugh and plotz when twins get in difficult spots
With a "Roman Holiday" among pans and pots!
I smile at white boots the twins stomped in
"Are you expecting a flood?" said the plumber when he tromped in,
I grin again at white boots in an oven baking
But it's lemonade Eileen's always making,
The twinkle glitters with glee, at her crafty white egg plea
For the Seder prize...
But when Lauren brings brown eggs,
Eileen can't believe her eyes!*

*This amazing woman gives beyond compare
And all the people in her life are grateful and aware.
Raising three kids with loving energy, she brilliantly achieves,
Every day, her family is gifted with her, so each one believes:
Bobby and Laurie, favorite cousins in Jackson, make her laugh at the start
Cousin Jeannette, always shares from the heart.
Gary and Donna, favorite cousins from Toledo, do their part
To Kenny, Kim, Emily and Daniel she's dear and gives great cheer.
Lynn and granddog Tao cherish her spirit, with licks and lyrics.
Lauren, Frank, Mara and Sadie all care
About this great person, who forever has twinkles to spare.*

*Eileen's spirit succeeds in attracting such loving friends,
For she's an angel to Shir Tikyah where much time she spends,
With her wonderful friends
Rabbi Arnie, Ron Elks, Ron Goldman and Edwina all bless
This amazing, classy woman who causes such happiness.*

*Does a twinkle come from the soul, heart, mind, or all three?
The light comes from an extraordinary woman, it seems to me!
I have my twinkle, finally I meet
A spirit who warms the hearts of all she greets
She embraces the world with love
As I make my report to God above:*

*"This soul represents a masterpiece of life,
With laughter, grace and no more strife,
She teaches everyone to look at life with a grin, and in trouble, begin
To sit in the balcony and appreciate the view
That offers a somewhat different colored hue.
With the gift of a well-told tale and warmth of soul,
Eileen makes everyone's lives complete and whole.
Because her lovely twinkle banishes all sadness
She is the one who causes such gladness."*

*I wait in anticipation as God reviews my report
Then suddenly feel a growth of sort
Oh, joy! My arms spread wide, to a changing tide.
At last... I can fly!
"Thanks, Eileen, for the twinkle in your eye!"
As I part company with earth I sing,
"Happy Birthday, you've given me my wings!"*

—From Angel Clarence II

(whose father appeared in "It's A Wonderful Life")