

The Oldest Living Graduation Speaker

Sandra Fenichel Asher





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We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

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THE OLDEST LIVING GRADUATION SPEAKER

by

Sandra Fenichel Asher

At Rise: There is a podium center stage. SARAH GOLDFARB enters, carrying her prepared speech. She crosses to the podium, arranges her papers to her satisfaction, and addresses the audience.

SARAH GOLDFARB: My name is Sarah Goldfarb, and I am honored to be your graduation speaker. Perhaps, I am the oldest living one! I am here to speak to you briefly. Relax. At my age, you don't write a lengthy speech.

I have for you a piece of advice. You want to save yourself plenty of heartache? Learn from other people's mistakes instead of your own. I will give you two examples to start you on your way: my aunt Sadie, may she rest in peace, and my neighbor, Mrs. Heffernan, she also rest in peace.

Some time ago, my Aunt Sadie calls me up on the phone and she says, "Saaaaaay-reh"—that's the way she always spoke my name,—"Saaaaaaay-reh, today is my birthday. I am seventy-one years old, and I have never been happy a day in my life."

Quite an accomplishment, no? Never taking a little pleasure in the sight of a baby or a rose or a parade going by. Refusing to enjoy family, friends, a good book, an ice cream cone.

(To the audience) Never met my Aunt Sadie? My neighbor Mrs. Heffernan also never met my Aunt Sadie.

I said one time to Mrs. Heffernan, "My synagogue is sponsoring a refugee family. To raise money, we make a yard sale." And Mrs. Heffernan has this to offer: "It brings the wrong kind of people into the neighborhood."

Me, I like a yard sale. So what does that make me? Sarah Goldfarb, the wrong kind of person from a long line of those people. Me and my family, we were once "those people." This whole country was once "those people."

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!