

Why Remember?

The Baal Shem Tov's words to the effect that remembering is the key to redemption are inscribed on one of the stone markers that form the Shoah memorial in the front of our synagogue. There, they mean that remembering is a sacred act that leads to national salvation because recalling the fate of the martyrs of Israel leads us to rededicate ourselves to the great mission of the Jewish people: to mend the world and to bring its long awaited salvation to humanity.

But the Baal Shem Tov's words are true on the personal level as well. By remembering people we loved in their lifetimes, we grant them continued existence...thus defying death to take them from us totally and, at the same time, fulfilling the *mitzvah* to worship the Creator by embracing life.

We erect stone monuments on the graves of our family members who pass away, but it is we ourselves who become their true memorials when we remember their good deeds and fine character traits, and allow ourselves to be guided and inspired by them. For this reason, Yizkor

should not be a depressing or upsetting experience. Just to the contrary, when we invite the spirits of our parents and grandparents—and of all those we have loved and lost—into our hearts, we find ourselves again in their presence and can easily feel them encouraging us and leading us forward into the rest of our lives. In that, I hope, there will be great comfort for us all.

May this year's Yizkor services help us all to realize that, in the end, love is stronger than death and that the bonds love creates are truly eternal and unbreakable. I pray that all who gather this year to memorialize the loved ones they have lost find solace in the experience. May all of our departed rest in peace and may their memories be a blessing for us all.

Rabbi Martin S. Cohen

Reflections on Yizkor

In commanding us to remember the war with Amalek, the Torah expresses itself both positively (Remember!) and negatively (Do not forget!). Our sages understood this to mean that we are to remember what happened to our ancestors in the desert by talking about it aloud *and* also by preserving its detail in our hearts and memories. From this we learn that there are some memories that are best preserved on the tongue, but that others will survive best within the mind and within the heart. The scent of a mother's perfume, the taste of a grandmother's *yontif* baking, the warmth of a beloved auntie's embrace—these memories are inexpressible in words and can only be kept alive within our hearts. But other kinds of things—advice once received from a wise uncle, words of Torah heard from a revered teacher, the truth about love learned from a beloved husband or wife—these will be best remembered by being spoken aloud, by being shared, by being passed along to others orally. The challenge, therefore, is to decide which of our treasured recollections fall into which category...and then to act accordingly.

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When King Saul convinced the sorceress of En-Dor to raise the spirit of the prophet Samuel and she was successful in doing so, the prophet was not delighted to be back in the land of the living. Just to the contrary, he was openly irritated, displeased to be disturbed for as trivial a matter as the affairs

of human kings and their wars. From this we learn that there is great kindness in finding the courage to let the dead rest in peace.

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The prophet Isaiah spoke of the day when God will swallow up death itself and bring salvation to humanity. Of when and how this will happen, the prophet spoke only in veiled terms...but, even without the kind of specific details we would all love to know, there is a profound truth in his words for us to contemplate: that death can end life, but that God can end death. And, in turn, this truth leads us to a deep, unsettling question: Why fear death, when we would do so much better to fear God?

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Three times daily, the pious lift up their hearts in prayer and acclaim God as the One Who will never break faith with those who lie in the dust...and Who will bring the dead back to life at the end of time when the messiah comes to redeem the world. Is that an obvious truth that all but the most willfully stubborn will accept as undeniably self-evident? No, it's a prayer....

The Yizkor Service

We begin our service of remembrance by reciting these introductory words responsively.

יְיָ מַה אָדָם וְתִדְעָהוּ,
בֶּן־אָנוּשׁ וְתַחֲשִׁבֵהוּ.

Dear God, what are human beings that You should even take note of their existence? What are mortals that You should take them into any sort of account at all?

אָדָם לֵהֶבֶל דְּמָה, יָמָיו כְּצֵל עוֹבֵר.

Human beings are as little permanent as a fleeting breath, as little real as a passing shadow.

זֶרֶם שֶׁנָּה יְהוּה, בִּפְקָר כְּחִצִּיר
חֲלָף. בִּפְקָר יִצִּיץ וְחֲלָף, לְעָרֵב
יְמוֹלֵל וַיֵּבֶשׁ.

The years flow by like dreams through sleep. In the morning heat, people wither like blades of grass. When morning comes again, they sprout afresh, only again to fade when darkness falls.

לְמִנּוֹת יְמֵינוּ כִּן הוֹדַעַ, וְנָבֵא לֵבָב
חֲכָמָה. שׁוֹבָה יְיָ עַד-מָתִי,
וְהִנָּחֵם עַל-עֲבָדֶיךָ.

Make known to us the best way to count our days so that we may develop hearts of wisdom. Return to us, O God! How long must it be until You take pity on Your servants?

שְׁוִיתִי יְיָ לְנֶגְדִי תָמִיד, כִּי מִיְמֵנִי
בֵּל-אֲמוּנָה. לִכֵּן שִׂמַּח לִבִּי
וַיִּגַּל כְּבוֹדִי
אֶת-בְּשָׁרִי יֵשֶׁבֶן לְבַטָּח.

I shall ever strive to feel God's presence, secure in the knowledge that I shall never stumble if God is with me. Therefore does my heart rejoice and my soul exult, secure that, for all my body may be fragile, my inner self will not be extinguished by death.

Eternal God, we have come together today to remember people whom we have loved and lost. Grant them a place in Your sheltering presence among the holy and the righteous of every generation.

Each of us has a slightly different story, O God. And thus do all of us here today face different obstacles and obligations in coming to terms with loss.

Some of us here have grandparents we cherish and we pray that they enjoy long and happy lives. Most of us, however, remember grandparents today with love and with respect. They were our parents' parents, the men and women who created the world into which our parents were born and in which they grew to adulthood.

May God grant that they rest in peace and that they be a source of great and sustaining blessing in our lives.

Many of us have come today to remember parents. Who can tell another what it means to lose a mother, to suffer the death of a father? Our parents were the blessings in our youthful lives, the bulwarks of security and faith as we grew from childhood to adulthood and became

the men and women we are today.

May the Almighty grant us all the comfort of happy memories and may our parents who have gone to their eternal reward rest in peace.

Among us today are some who have lost husbands and wives. To find one's intended, to learn of life's greatest pleasures and most profound joys in the arms of someone one truly loves, to walk forward through life hand in hand with someone one trusts and loves absolutely, and then to lose that person and to have to walk forward alone—which of us could ever find words to express that kind of pain, that kind of sadness, that level of loss?

May God grant that the husbands and wives we have lost rest in peace and that those among us who mourn them find the courage to persevere, to find joy in life, and to accept that love, like life itself, is a gift from God. May the memories of our lost spouses always be a blessing for those they left behind and for their families!

Many of us were blessed in childhood with brothers and sisters whom we have outlived. The relationship between siblings is unique among the links that bind family members and, as a result, losing a sibling is different from

other kinds of loss, deep and painful in a way
that is hard to quantify in words.

*May God grant that our departed brothers and
sisters rest in peace and that their memories be a
source of blessing to us, to their children, and to
our children as well.*

In our sanctuary today are some who have
suffered the most grievous loss imaginable, the
loss of a child. Some of these children passed
away while they were still boys and girls, but
many lived to adulthood...and although the
experiences of all bereaved parents are not the
same in terms of detail, what they do have in
common is a sense of loneliness and sadness
so deep as to defy description.

*May the memory of the lost sons and daughters
of our congregation be a blessing for their
parents and for us all. And may they all rest in
peace among the holy and pure in God's highest
heaven.*

All of us here have lost members of our families
whom we now recall with love and devotion to
their memory. Our late relatives were the cast
of characters in the plays that were our lives
for as long as they lived and we miss them and
recall them now with affection and gratitude.

*May God grant that they all rest in peace and
may we find pleasure, satisfaction and solace in
recalling them always.*

In a special category, we pause to mention the friends we have lost. As we recall them now, we feel a deep sense of gratitude to God for their friendship, for the support and encouragement we knew from them, for the helpful, caring role they played in our lives. Some remained friends for as long as they lived. Others were friends at specific moments in our lives. Together, they formed a caring quilt of intimacy and succor that has somehow survived their time on earth. To them all, we are profoundly grateful and we remember them today with affection and respect.

*May God grant comfort to their families and may
they all rest in peace.*

Finally, we pause to remember the men and women of the Shelter Rock Jewish Center and the New Hyde Park Jewish Community Center whose names are memorialized on the memorial tablets in our sanctuary and in the chapel. Some of them have family members and friends here today who will recite Yizkor prayers on their behalf, but many of them have

no one at all here today. Therefore, as a community, we now acknowledge them formally and mourn their passing.

May God grant that their memory be a blessing for their families and for their friends and for us all. Together, as members of this great community, we pray that they all rest in peace.

We now continue with our private Yizkor prayers.

In memory of a father

יִזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמַת אָבִי מוֹרִי שְׁהֲלֹךְ
לְעוֹלָמוֹ. בְּעָבוּר שְׁאַתֵּן צְדָקָה בְּעָדָו,
בְּשֹׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶה נִפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בְּצָרוּר
הַחַיִּים עִם נְשָׁמוֹת אֲבֹרָתָם, יִצְחָק,
וַיַּעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעִם
שְׂאֵר צְדִיקִים וְצַדִּיקָנוֹת שְׁבָגוּ עָדָן,
וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

In memory of a mother

יִזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמַת אִמִּי מוֹרֵתִי
שְׁהֲלֹכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ. בְּעָבוּר שְׁאַתֵּן צְדָקָה
בְּעָדָהּ, בְּשֹׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶה נִפְשָׁהּ צְרוּרָה
בְּצָרוּר הַחַיִּים עִם נְשָׁמוֹת אֲבֹרָתָם,
יִצְחָק, וַיַּעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל,
וְלֵאָה, וְעִם שְׂאֵר צְדִיקִים וְצַדִּיקָנוֹת
שְׁבָגוּ עָדָן, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

In memory of a father:

May God remember the soul of my
beloved father, who has gone to his
eternal home, just as I recall the needy
among us and pledge to give charity in
my father's memory. May his soul be
bound up in the bond of life everlasting
with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob,
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and
with the righteous men and
women of every generation
who live on in paradise.
And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of a mother:

May God remember the soul of my
beloved mother, who has gone to her
eternal home, just as I recall the needy
among us and pledge to give charity in
my mother's memory. May her soul be
bound up in the bond of life everlasting
with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob,
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and
with the righteous men and
women of every generation
who live on in paradise.
And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of a husband

יִזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמַת בַּעֲלִי שְׁהִלָּךְ
לְעוֹלָמוֹ. בַּעֲבוּר שְׁאַתֶּן צְדָקָה בַּעֲדוֹ,
בַּשֹּׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶה נַפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בַּצָּרוּר
הַחַיִּים עִם נְשָׁמוֹת אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק,
וַיַּעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רַבֵּקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעִם
שָׂאֵר צַדִּיקִים וְצַדִּיקָנוֹת שְׂבָנֵי עֲדֵן,
וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

In memory of a wife

יִזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמַת אִשְׁתִּי שְׁהִלָּכָה
לְעוֹלָמָהּ. בַּעֲבוּר שְׁאַתֶּן צְדָקָה בַּעֲדֶיהָ,
בַּשֹּׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶה נַפְשָׁהּ צְרוּרָה בַּצָּרוּר
הַחַיִּים עִם נְשָׁמוֹת אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק,
וַיַּעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רַבֵּקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעִם
שָׂאֵר צַדִּיקִים וְצַדִּיקָנוֹת שְׂבָנֵי עֲדֵן,
וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

In memory of a husband:

May God remember the soul of my beloved husband, who has gone to his eternal home, just as I recall the needy among us and pledge to give charity in my husband's memory. May his soul be bound up in the bond of life everlasting with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the righteous men and women of every generation who live on in paradise. And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of a wife:

May God remember the soul of my beloved wife, who has gone to her eternal home, just as I recall the needy among us and pledge to give charity in my wife's memory. May her soul be bound up in the bond of life everlasting with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the righteous men and women of every generation who live on in paradise. And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of a brother

יִזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים נְשִׁמַּת אָחִי שְׁהֶלֶךְ
לְעוֹלָמוֹ. בְּעֶבֶר שְׁאֵתָן צְדָקָה בְּעָרוֹ.
בְּשֹׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶה נַפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בְּצָרוּר
הַחַיִּים עִם נְשִׁמוֹת אֲבֹרָהִם. יִצְחָק.
וַיַּעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רַבֵּקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעַם
שְׂאָר צְדִיקִים וְצְדִקְנִיּוֹת שְׂבִגֵּן
עָדֹן, וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

In memory of a sister

יִזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים נְשִׁמַּת אֲחוֹתִי שְׁהֶלְכָה
לְעוֹלָמָהּ. בְּעֶבֶר שְׁאֵתָן צְדָקָה בְּעָרָהּ.
בְּשֹׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶה נַפְשָׁהּ צְרוּרָה בְּצָרוּר
הַחַיִּים עִם נְשִׁמוֹת אֲבֹרָהִם. יִצְחָק.
וַיַּעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רַבֵּקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעַם
שְׂאָר צְדִיקִים וְצְדִקְנִיּוֹת
שְׂבִגֵּן עָדֹן, וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

In memory of a brother:

May God remember the soul of my beloved brother, who has gone to his eternal home, just as I recall the needy among us and pledge to give charity in my brother's memory. May his soul be bound up in the bond of life everlasting with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the righteous men and women of every generation who live on in paradise. And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of a sister:

May God remember the soul of my beloved sister, who has gone to her eternal home, just as I recall the needy among us and pledge to give charity in my sister's memory. May her soul be bound up in the bond of life everlasting with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the righteous men and women of every generation who live on in paradise. And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of a son:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נְשִׁמַּת בְּנֵי הָאָהוּב,
מִחֲמַד עֵינֵי, שְׁהִלֵּךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. בְּעֶבֶד
שְׁאֵתֵן צְדָקָה בְּעַדּוֹ, בְּשֹׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶה
נִפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים עִם
נְשִׁמוֹת אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק, וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה,
רֵבֶקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעַם שְׂאֵר צְדִיקִים
וְצְדִקְנִיּוֹת שְׂבָגָן עַדָּן, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

In memory of a daughter:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נְשִׁמַּת בְּתֵי הָאָהוּבָה,
מִחֲמַד עֵינֵי, שְׁהִלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ. בְּעֶבֶד
שְׁאֵתֵן צְדָקָה בְּעַדָּהּ, בְּשֹׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶה
נִפְשָׁהּ צְרוּרָה בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים עִם
נְשִׁמוֹת אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק, וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה,
רֵבֶקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעַם שְׂאֵר
צְדִיקִים וְצְדִקְנִיּוֹת שְׂבָגָן עַדָּן, וְנֹאמַר
אָמֵן.

In memory of a son:

May God remember the soul of my beloved son, who has gone to his eternal home, just as I recall the needy among us and pledge to give charity in my son's memory. May his soul be bound up in the bond of life everlasting with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the righteous men and women of every generation who live on in paradise.

And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of a daughter:

May God remember the soul of my beloved daughter, who has gone to her eternal home, just as I recall the needy among us and pledge to give charity in my daughter's memory. May her soul be bound up in the bond of life everlasting with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the righteous men and women of every generation who live on in paradise.

And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of other relatives and friends

יִזְכּוּר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמֹת כָּל קְרוֹבֵי וְרֵעֵי
שְׁהָלָנוּ לְעוֹלָמָם. בְּעֵבוֹר שְׁאֵתָן צִדְקָה
בְּעָדָם, בְּשֹׁכֵר זֶה תִּהְיֶינָה נַפְשׁוֹתֵיהֶם
צָרוּרוֹת בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים עִם נִשְׁמֹת
אֲבֵרָהֶם, יִצְחָק, וַיַּעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רַבֵּקָה,
רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעִם שְׂאֵר צְדִיקִים
וְצִדְקָנִיּוֹת שְׂבָגוּ עֲדָן, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

In memory of our martyrs

יִזְכּוּר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמֹת כָּל אֲחֵינוּ
בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁמָסְרוּ אֶת נַפְשָׁם
עַל קְדוּשַׁת הַשֵּׁם. בְּעֵבוֹר שְׁאֵתָן
צִדְקָה בְּעַד הַזְכָּרָת נִשְׁמֹתֵיהֶם,
תִּהְיֶינָה נַפְשׁוֹתֵיהֶם צָרוּרוֹת בְּצָרוֹר
הַחַיִּים עִם נִשְׁמֹת אֲבֵרָהֶם, יִצְחָק,
וַיַּעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רַבֵּקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה, וְעִם
שְׂאֵר צְדִיקִים וְצִדְקָנִיּוֹת שְׂבָגוּ עֲדָן,
וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

In memory of other relatives and friends:

May God remember the soul of my dear relatives and friends, who have gone to their eternal home, just as I recall the needy among us and pledge to give charity in their memory. May their souls be bound up in the bond of life everlasting with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the righteous men and women of every generation who live on in paradise. And let us all say, Amen.

In memory of our martyrs:

May God remember the souls of the martyrs of the Jewish people, who gave their lives for the sanctification of God's name, just as I recall the needy among us and pledge to give charity in their memory. May their souls be bound up in the bond of life everlasting with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the righteous men and women of every generation who live on in paradise. And let us all say, Amen.

אֵל מֵלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן
בְּמִרוֹמִים, הַמָּצֵא מְנוּחָה
נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת פְּנֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה
בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים וּמַהוֹרִים,
בְּזֹהַר הַרְקִיעַ מְזֻהָרִים,
לְנִשְׁמוֹת כָּל אֵלֶּה שֶׁהוֹפְרָנוּ
הַיּוֹם לְבִרְכָּה שֶׁהִלְכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם.
בְּגֵן עֶדֶן תִּהְיֶה מְנוּחָתָם. אָנָּה,
בַּעַל הַרַחֲמִים, הַסְתִּירָם
בְּסֶתֶר כְּנָפֶיךָ לְעוֹלָמִים,
וַצְרוֹר בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת
נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. יְיָ הוּא נִחַלְתָּם,
וַיְנַוְחוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל
מִשְׁכְּבוֹתֵיהֶם, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

In memory of all the dead:

May God full of compassion
Who dwells on high find an
appropriate resting spot
beneath the sheltering wings of
God's holy Presence, among the
holy and the pure, for the souls
of all those whose names we
have mentioned here today.
May their resting place be in
paradise! We beseech You, O
Master of mercy, shield them
for all eternity beneath the
sheltering wings of Your holy
Presence and may their souls
be bound up in the bond of life
everlasting. May they all rest in
peace. And let us say, Amen.

אֵל מִלֵּא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְרוֹמִים,
הַמָּצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת בְּנֵי
הַשְּׁבִינָה בַּמַּעֲלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים
וּמְתוֹרִים, בּוֹהֵר הַרְקִיעַ מְזֻהָרִים,
לְנִשְׁמוֹת כָּל אֲחֵינוּ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל,
אֲנִשִּׁים נָשִׁים וְטָף, שְׁנִמְכְּחוּ
וְשִׁנְחָנְקוּ וְשִׁנְשָׁרְפוּ וְשִׁנְהָרְגוּ עַל
קְדוּשַׁת הַשֵּׁם בִּימֵי הַשּׁוֹאָה. בְּגֵן
עֶדֶן תִּהְיֶה מְנוּחָתָם. אָנָּה, בַּעַל
הַרְחָמִים, הַסְתִּירָם בְּסֶתֶר כְּנָפֶיךָ
לְעוֹלָמִים וָצָרוֹר בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים
אֶת נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. יְיָ הוּא נִחַלְתָּם,
וַיְנוּחֵם בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכְּבוֹתֵיהֶם,
וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

In memory of the victims of the Shoah:

May God full of compassion
Who dwells on high find an
appropriate resting spot beneath
the wings of God's holy Presence
among the holy and the pure, for
the souls of our brethren of the
House of Israel, men, women and
children, who were mercilessly
murdered during the dark days
of the Holocaust, yet all of whose
deaths were acts of sanctification
of the name of God. May their
resting place be in paradise! We
beseech You, O Master of mercy,
shield them for all eternity
beneath the wings of Your
Presence and may their souls be
bound up in the bond of life
everlasting. May they all rest in
peace. And let us say, Amen.

*In memory of members of the Israel Defense Force who fell
in defense of the State of Israel:*

May God full of compassion Who dwells on high grant rest in God's holy Presence, among the holy and the pure, to the souls of all those who have given their lives in defense of the State of Israel, both in the struggle leading to independence and in the years since independence was declared. Their deaths were all acts of sanctification of God's name, of the Jewish people and of the Land of Israel. May their resting place be in paradise! We beseech You, O Master of mercy, shield them for all eternity beneath the sheltering wings of your Presence and may their souls be bound up in the bond of life everlasting. God be their portion forever and paradise, their resting place. May they all rest in peace and may their sacrifice and their personal merit strengthen the resolve of the Jewish people to defend itself and its land. May God redeem them all, and let us say. Amen.

*In memory of the Fallen Members of the
Armed Forces of the United States*

May God on high grant eternal rest, honor, and dignity to the members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America who have given their lives in the service of our country. We remember with special respect those who died fighting the forces of evil during the Second World War, and who thus played a key role in bringing the war to an end before an even greater percentage of European Jewry was annihilated. But we also remember those who died for our freedom during the other wars in which our country has engaged over the years, beginning with the Revolution that established our country as a worthy member of the family of nations and continuing through the wars of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. May they all rest in peace.

A special place in our hearts is occupied by more than 7500 American service men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan during these last years. All put their lives on the line so that our great country could know victory and we are thus all diminished by their passing. May they always be remembered for good and may God grant comfort to their bereaved families.

God Bless America!

The Twenty-Third Psalm

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד, יְיָ רֹעִי לֹא אֲחָסֶר.
בְּנֵאוֹת דֹּשָׁא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי, עַל מִי
מִנְחוֹת יִנְהִלֵנִי.
נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבָב, יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי
צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ.
גַּם כִּי אֵילֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת,
לֹא אִירָא רָע כִּי אֶתָּה עִמָּדִי.
שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעֲנֶתְךָ הִפָּה יִנְחַמְנִי.
תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שְׁלֹחַן נֶגֶד צָרָרִי.
דֹּשֵׁנֶת בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי, בּוֹסִי רוּיָהּ.
אֵךְ טוֹב וַחֲסֵד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל יְמֵי
חַיִּי, וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית יְיָ
לְאַרְךָ יָמִים.

The Twenty-Third Psalm

A psalm of David. I want for nothing, for the Lord is my shepherd. It is God Who lets me lie down in pastures of grass and Who leads me to calm waters to restore my spirit. And it is God too Who walks me in level pastures as befits a shepherd of sound reputation. Even though I must sometimes pass through dark valleys, I fear no harm for You are with me; indeed, Your crook and Your walking stick are sources of constant comfort for me. You set a table for me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with so much fine oil that I feel like an overflowing cup. Nothing but goodness and mercy pursue me all the days of my life; indeed, I feel certain that I shall dwell in the House of God for days without end.

The Mourner's Kaddish

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא בְּעָלְמָא דִּי
בְּרָא בְּרַעְיוֹתָהּ וַיְמַלִּיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיִּיכוֹן
וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעַגְלָא
וּבְזֶמֶן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי
עָלְמֵיָא.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּבַּח, וַיִּתְפָּאֵר וַיִּתְרוֹמֵם
וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂא וַיִּתְהַדָּר וַיִּתְעַלֶּה וַיִּתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ
דְּקֻדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא

Except on Yom Kippur, say:

לְעָלְמָא מִן כָּל

On Yom Kippur, say:

לְעָלְמָא לְעָלְמָא מְכַל

בְּרַבְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא, תִּשְׁבַּחְתָּא וְנִחַמְתָּא,
דְּאִמְרִין בְּעָלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה
שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל,
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

The Mourner's Kaddish

Yitgadal veyitkadash shmei rabba be'alma di
vra chirutei veyamlich malchutei bechayeichon
uvyomeichon uvechayei dekhof beif yisrael,
ba'agala uvizman kariv, ve'imru amen.

Yehei shmei rabba mevorach
le'alam ule'almei 'almaya.

Yitbarach veyishtabach,
veyitpa'ar veyitromam veyitnasei
veyithadar veyitaleh veyithalal
shmei dekudsha brich hu

Except on Yom Kippur, say
le'eila min kol

On Yom Kippur, say
le'eila le'eila mkol

birchata veshirata, tushbechata venechemata
da'amiran be'alma,
ve'imru amen.

Yehei shlama rabba min shmaya vechayim
aleinu ve'al kol yisrael,
ve'imru amen.

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom
aleinu ve'al kol yisrael,
ve'imru amen.

We reverently dedicate this page

to the families

of Shelter Rock Jewish Center

whose loved ones

are no longer with us.

May their memories be for a blessing.

