The soul of man is the flame of G-d

(Proverbs 20:27)

The ancient custom of recalling the souls of the departed and contributing to charity in their memory is rooted in the fundamental Jewish belief in the eternity of the soul. When physical life ends, only the body dies, but the soul ascends to the realm of the spirit where it regularly experiences higher levels of purity and holiness.

When this life is over, the soul can no longer perform good deeds; that method of attaining merit is the sole province of the mortal man who must struggle with the baseness and selfishness of his animal nature. But there is a way that the disembodied soul can derive new sources of merit. History is a continuum. If we, the living, give charity or do good deeds due to the lasting influence or in memory of a departed parent or other loved one, the merit is truly that of the soul in its spiritual realm. Moreover, God in His mercy credits our deed to the departed one because he or she too would have done the same were it possible. But mere intentions do not suffice; only accomplishment can achieve this purpose. The intention to give and the fulfillment of that intention are both necessary.

The earliest source of the Yizkor custom is Midrash Tanchuma, Haazinu, which cites the custom of recalling the departed and pledging charity on their behalf on Yom Kippur.
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Beloved Wife, Mother and Grandmother
Helen Chaiken Blum

Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather
Bennet Blum

Our Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins killed in the Holocaust

Lovingly Remembered by
David and Vivian Blum and family
Nancy Blum, Joseph Blum and Dr. Peter Scragg

Beloved Grandparents and Great-Grandparents
Rose and David Kaplan

Beloved Fathers and Grandfathers
Mandel Dodek
Nathan Epstein

Beloved Mother and Grandmother
Edith Epstein

Beloved Aunt and Great-aunt
Molly Kaplan Schachter
Ann Rosenthal

Lovingly Remembered by
Elaine and Edward Epstein
Alana & David and Andrea & Daniel
FOR ONE'S MOTHER

יהוה May God remember* the soul of my Mother, my teacher, (name of the deceased) who has gone on to her world, because, without making a vow, I shall give to charity on her behalf. As reward for this, may her soul be bound in the Bond of Life,* together with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah; and together with the other righteous men and women in the Garden of Eden.* Now let us respond: Amen.

FOR A RELATIVE

יהוה May God remember* the soul of my grandfather/grandmother/uncle/aunt/brother/sister/son/daughter/husband/wife (name of the deceased) who has gone on to his/her world, because, without making a vow, I shall give to charity on his/her behalf. As reward for this, may his/her soul be bound in the Bond of Life,* together with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah; and together with the other righteous men and women in the Garden of Eden.* Now let us respond: Amen.

FOR ONE'S EXTENDED FAMILY

יהוה May God remember* the souls of my grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters both on my father's side and on my mother's side, who went on to their world, because, without making a vow, I shall give to charity on their behalf. As reward for this, may their souls be bound in the Bond of Life,* together with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah; and together with the other righteous men and women in the Garden of Eden.* Now let us respond: Amen.

FOR MARTYRS

יהוה May God remember* the souls of (all my relatives, both on my father's side and on my mother's side), the holy and pure one who were killed, murdered, slaughtered, burned, drowned and strangled for the sanctification of the Name, because, without making a vow, I shall give to charity on their behalf. As reward for this, may their souls be bound in the Bond of Life,* together with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah; and together with the other righteous men and women in the Garden of Eden.* Now let us respond: Amen.

FOR MEMBERS OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE

יהוה May God remember the souls of the fighters of the Israel Defense Force who gave their lives for the sanctification of the Name, the People and the Land; who died a heroic death in missions of liberation, defense and security. They were quicker than eagles and stronger than lions as they volunteered to assist the people and with their pure blood soaked the cloths of our holy earth. The memory of their self-sacrifice and heroic deeds will never perish from us. May their souls be bound in the Bond of Life with the souls of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and with the souls of the other Jewish heroes and martyrs who are in the Garden of Eden. Amen.

Lovingly Remembered by Rich, Stacy, Erin and Lindsey Gilmore

Beloved Grandparents
Sam and Fannie Aranyos
Sam and Anna Goldstein

Beloved Parents
Gerald and Lillian Gilmore

Beloved Sister
Joyce Gilmore Gould

Beloved Aunts and Uncles
Walter and Rose Arnold
Joe Aranyos
Ralph and Gloria Bauer
Herman and Esther Frankel
Lewis and Rita Gilmore
Leon Green
Bill and Eileen Kahn
Morris and Gussie Kroot
Max and Jean Rosenblum

Beloved Cousins
James Arnold
Marcia Halpert
Wayne Gilmore
Earl Green
Larry Peizer
Barbara Peizer
Kenneth Peizer
Mark Peizer

Lovingly Remembered by Rich, Stacy, Erin and Lindsey Gilmore
Beloved Mothers
Naomi Benjamin, Chana Michla Bas Yaacov
Carolyn Wegodsky, Sara Pnina Bas Yaacov
Lovingly Remembered by
Kim and Richard Benjamin and Family

Beloved Father
Samuel “Solly” Sank
Beloved Stepfather
Avraham Israel ben Lev
Lovingly Remembered by
Janet, Menachem, Nathan Rochon and Liora Katz

Beloved Father
Elazar Ben Hechacham Moshe Betzalel Scharhon
Lovingly Remembered by
Stan & Esther Morhaime and Morris & Lee Scharhon

Beloved Mother
Barbara Gross, Bayla bat Sarah
Lovingly Remembered by
Howie Goldstein

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After reciting Yizkor it is customary to recite the following prayer(s).

for a woman

אל קלה הרוחudiant שבעה言えばנים תأمل והנחתה בנגעים. על כל
בכורות, במטבעות כלשהים, כל יום ויום,egrity והמשימה.

for a man

אל קלה הרוח海淀 שבעה言えばנים תأمل והנחתה בנגעים. על כל
בכורות, במטבעות כלשהים, כל יום ויום,egrity והמשימה.

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FOR MARTYRS

אל קלה הרוח海淀 שבעה言えばנים תأمل והנחתה בנגעים. על כל
בכורות, במטבעות כלשהים, כל יום ויום,egrity והמשימה.

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FOR MEMBERS OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE

אל קלה הרוח海淀 שבעה言えばנים תأمل והנחתה בנגעים. על כל
בכורות, במטבעות כלשהימן, כל יום ויום,ertainty והמשימה.

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because it implies spiritual perfection and bliss.
by — O God, ... great proper rest. The fact that a soul is in Paradise
does not guarantee it complete contentment. Its
dept depends on its prior achievements here on earth; consequently there are as many
degrees there as there are degrees of righteousness on earth. Through our prayers and
deeds, we hope to earn God’s compassion upon the departed soul.

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— On the wings of the Divine Presence. When this term is used to mean
After reciting Yizkor it is customary to recite the following prayer(s).

לֵךְ לֶאֱלֹהִים מַשֶּׁלֶם, לְאִישׁ אוֹר הָאָרֶץ, בְּמַעֲנֵי רְשֵׁית, אָמַרְתָּ לָהוּ מִיָּדָיו הָרוּץ הָרוּץ קֻדְשָׁא בָּרוֹאָה.

O God, full of mercy, Who dwells on high, grant proper rest* on the wings of the Divine Presence* — in the lofty levels of the holy and the pure ones,* who shine like the glow of the firmament — for the soul of

for a man
(name of the deceased) who went on to his world, because, without making a vow, I will contribute to charity in remembrance of his soul. May his resting place be in the Garden of Eden — therefore may the Master of mercy shelter him in the shelter of His wings for eternity; and may He bind his soul in the Bond of Life. HASHEM is his heritage, and may he repose in peace on his resting place. Now let us respond: Amen.

for a woman
(name of the deceased) who went on to her world, because, without making a vow, I will contribute to charity in remembrance of her soul. May her resting place be in the Garden of Eden — therefore may the Master of mercy shelter her in the shelter of His wings for eternity; and may He bind her soul in the Bond of Life. HASHEM is her heritage, and may she repose in peace on her resting place. Now let us respond: Amen.

FOR MARTYRS

לֵךְ לֶאֱלֹהִים מַשֶּׁלֶם, לְאִישׁ אוֹר הָאָרֶץ, בְּמַעֲנֵי רְשֵׁית, אָמַרְתָּ לָהוּ מִיָּדָיו הָרוּץ הָרוּץ קֻדְשָׁא בָּרוֹאָה.

O God, full of mercy, Who dwells on high, Defender of widows and Father of orphans, grant proper rest* on the wings of the Divine Presence* — in the lofty levels of the holy and the pure ones,* who shine like the glow of the firmament — for the souls of millions of Jews, men, women and children, who were brutally and torturously murdered, gassed and cremated, or buried alive, for the sanctification of Your Name. Holy and pure were they all, among them scholars and saints as majestic in Torah as the cedars of Lebanon. May the Master of Mercy shelter them in the shelter of His wings for eternity and may He bind their souls in the Bond of Life. May their resting place be in the Garden of Eden. HASHEM is their heritage. May He remember their martyrdom, and may their righteousness stand in merit for us and all Israel. Earth, do not cover their blood! Do not silence their cries! In their merit may the scattered ones of Israel be gathered to their possession. May the martyrs' righteousness forever be before HASHEM. May they repose in peace in their resting places and rise at the end of days to life. Now let us respond: Amen.

FOR MEMBERS OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE

לֵךְ לֶאֱלֹהִים מַשֶּׁלֶם, לְאִישׁ אוֹר הָאָרֶץ, בְּמַעֲנֵי רְשֵׁית, אָמַרְתָּ לָהוּ מִיָּדָיו הָרוּץ הָרוּץ קֻדְשָׁא בָּרוֹאָה.

O God, full of mercy, Who dwells on high, grant proper rest* on the wings of the Divine Presence* — in the lofty levels of the holy and the pure ones,* who shine like the glow of the firmament — for the souls of the members of the Israel Defense Force, who gave up their lives for the sanctification of Your Name and for the conquest of the Land. May the Master of Mercy shelter them in the shelter of His wings for eternity and may He bind their souls in the Bond of Life. HASHEM is their heritage. May their resting place be in the Garden of Eden. May they repose in peace in their resting places. Now let us respond: Amen.

Heavenly protection from danger, we say הָרוּץ, under the wings, using the analogy of a bird spreading its protective wings over its young. In this prayer, where we speak of spiritual elevation, we reverse the analogy, comparing God's Presence to a soaring eagle that puts its young on top of its wings and carries them aloft.

The holy and the pure ones, a reference to the angels.

Beloved Parents
Markus and Adele Reibscheid
Karl and Golda "Olga" Schiller

Beloved Sisters
Harriet Weitzman
Marlene Robinson

Beloved Aunts and Uncles
Leon and Sophie Kempler
Morris and Tobey Reibscheid
Sam and Bertha Bankendorf
Anabelle Schiller
Masha and Gregor Topirovsky
Rose and Irving Rumack
Belle and Jack Siegel
Bob and Evelyn Roberts
Pearl and Joe Rosensweet
Mary and Hy Sherman

Beloved Cousins
Yanka Schmuel
Greisha Topirovsky

Our Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins killed in the Holocaust.

Lovingly Remembered by
Babette and Irwin Schiller and family

The L"rd is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on Him sincerely.

(Psalm 145:18)
Beloved Parents
  Audrey I. Meyers  Paul Meyers
  Anna F. Horwitz  Harold J. Horwitz

Beloved Grandparents
  Rebecca and Harry Meyers
  Augusta and Harry Eglowstein
  Marcus and Betty Horwitz
  Morris and Jennie Goldman

Beloved Uncle
  Julius Horwitz

Beloved Aunts
  Tillie Horwitz  Olga Feiler
  Anna Gilden

Beloved Cousin
  Mort Hurwitz

Lovingly Remembered by
  Bev and Eddie Horwitz

Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather
  Alvin Jacob Jacobson

Lovingly Remembered by
  Barbara and Les Leon and family

Beloved cousin and nephew
  Steven Mirsky

Lovingly Remembered by
  The Negrin and Mirsky families
May His illustrious name become increasingly great and holy
In the world that He created according to His will,
and may He establish His kingdom
In your lifetime and in your days
and in the lifetime of all the house of Israel
Speedily and soon. And let us say amen.
May His illustrious name be blessed always and forever.
Blessed, praised, glorified, exalted, extolled
Honoured, raised up and acclaimed
be the name of the Holy one blessed be He
beyond every blessing hymn, praise and consolation
that is uttered in the world. And let us say amen
May abundant peace from heaven, and life
Be upon us and upon all Israel. And let us say amen.

May He who makes peace in His high places
Make peace upon us and upon all Israel,
And let us say amen

Yisgadal veyiskadash shemey rabo
Be'olmo di'vero chir'usey
Veyamlich malchusey
Bechayeychon u'veyomeychon
U'vechayey di chol beys yisroel
Ba'agolo u'vizman koriv ve'imru omeyn

Yehey sh'mey rabo mevorach le'olam u'le'olmey olmayo
Yisborach ve'yshtabach ve'yispo'ar ve'yisromam ve'yisnasay
Ve'yis'hadar ve'yis'aleh ve'yiyis'halol
She'mey dikudsho b'rich hu
Le'eylo min kol birchoso ve'shiroso tushbechosho ve'nechemoso
Da'amiron be'olmo ve'imru omeyn

Yehey sh'lomo rabo min shemayo ve'chayim
Oleynu ve'al kol yisroel ve'imru omeyn

O'seh sholom bimromov
Hu ya'aseh sholom oleynu ve'al kol yisroel
Ve'imru omeyn

Beloved Father and Grandfather
Kenneth Waldbaum

Lovingly Remembered by
Alan and Kim Waldbaum and Family

Beloved Brother
Josh Friedman, Yehoshua Aryeh

Beloved Father
Earl Friedman, Yisroel Avraham

Lovingly Remembered by
Jon and Miriam Friedman and Family

Beloved Grandparents
Emanuel and Mamie Gamoran
Maurice and Edith Halperin

Beloved Sister-in-Law
Sherry Shuwal Gamoran

Lovingly remembered by
Devorah and Saul Gamoran and Family
Beloved Parents
Arthur and Marilyn Keebler
Lovingly Remembered by Craig Keebler and family

Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather
Rabbi William H. Greenberg
Ze’ev Tsvi ben Shmuel Abba
Lovingly Remembered by Rosa Greenberg, Sarah, Allan, Lee and Matt Goldman

Henrika’s Beloved Parents
Markus & Bronia Wiederkehr
Mordechai ben Shmuel and Bracha bas Sigmond

Michael’s Beloved Parents
Jeno and Esther Sandorffy
Moshe Yaakov ben Yitzchok and Esther bas Yitzchok
Lovingly Remembered by Michael and Henrika Sandorffy and family

Beloved Father
Dov Weidenfeld
Lovingly Remembered by Yarden F. Weidenfeld

The L”rd is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the L”rd forever.
Then, of course, there were the majority of middle-aged worshippers who at some point in their lives were forced to confront the reality of loss.

A strange oneness pervaded all of us standing in that room during yizkor. The connection did not need to be articulated in words; you could see it when you peered into the eyes of the person standing near you. It took me one time till I put my finger on what that connection consisted of: A piece of each of us was not to be found any longer in this world. An integral part of each of our hearts was elsewhere.

I understood why for 33 years I was asked to leave the synagogue during yizkor. Life for those who stay behind in the synagogue has a very different meaning, one that cannot be shared by those who have not seen the earth close up on a loved one.

This Yom Kippur I will again stand in the synagogue during yizkor. I will think of my Dad, which will make me both laugh and cry at the same time. I will ask him to look out for me and my family. And I will pray that I merit to internalize my beloved father’s zest for life and for truth.

But those who hope in the L’rd will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles:
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not be faint.

(Isaiah 40:31)
Beloved Father and Mother
Shragga Faivel Ephraim ben Henoch Aria Yehuda Laib
Sarah bas Jaakov Cymring
Lovingly Remembered by
Shirley Korman and Dovid Sinclair

Beloved Parents
Mindy and Phillip Silverman

Beloved Uncles
Ben Silverman    Norman Smook
Larry Silverman

Beloved Grandfathers
Paul Goodman    Robert Silverman

Beloved Grandmothers
Jennie Pianin    Esther Silverman

Beloved Aunts
Lillian Silverman    Honey Parker
Jean Silverman

Beloved Cousins
Joel Silverman    Jessica Ann Silverman

Lovingly Remembered by
Marc, Patricia and Michal Silverman

Then came time for yizkor. More than half the people in the synagogue left. The sacred Torah scroll was brought to the center of the room. One of the worshippers made sure all that all who had to leave left and that the door was solidly shut so no one could enter. He then gave a knock on the table to signify that the yizkor service would now begin.

Suddenly, an eerie silence filled the room. A vibrant space, just moments ago pulsating with social zest and heated debate, was transformed. A sense of mystery, awe and dormant pain surfaced. You could cut the rawness of the emotions with a knife. Something profoundly authentic united all those standing in the room.

My heart shifted to my late father, whom I loved and adored so deeply. My flow of tears found solace in the knowledge that his was a life well lived. My dad was a man who utilized his journalistic wisdom and skills to become a voice for causes others left behind; he was a man of conviction, and a truly original personality, one hell of a guy. I recalled my father’s last hours and the dignity with which he departed on his final journey. And I wept for my children who would not have the privilege to know the unique grandfather they had.

I lifted my eyes and gazed around at the people in the room. Near me stood a young man, my age, who lost his mother at the tender age of 5. Life without yizkor was inconceivable to him. Near him, stood others who lost parents in their teens or in college and needed to struggle to fill the unfillable void. Then there were the older men, in their 70s and 80s, whose parents perished more than six decades earlier in Stalin’s gulag or Hitler’s crematoriums. They are in a class of their own.
My First Yizkor

By Yosef Y. Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief of Algemeiner.com, a website of Jewish news and commentary in English and Yiddish.

For the first 33 years of my life I was lucky enough to be expelled from the synagogue during yizkor services, when congregants pray for the souls of loved ones who have passed on and those with both parents alive leave the synagogue.

I never probed the reason for this custom. As a child, even as an adult, I was happy to be legally expelled from the synagogue, to catch a fresh breath of air and enjoy a schmooze with a fellow yizkor-evacuee. As children, it often meant that my friends and I could return an hour or two later without our fathers getting angry.

All of that changed this year for me. My father, a pioneer of the Yiddish press in America, died at 70. Two weeks later came the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, when we commemorate the giving of the Torah at Sinai. It is also a day when synagogues throughout the world hold yizkor services.

Synagogues, unlike churches, are often noisy. The synagogue I attended for that holiday and yizkor service was small, but particularly diverse, opinionated and loud. One hundred people filled this humble, 60-year-old synagogue in Brooklyn, and at every pause in the prayers they were engaged in vibrant conversation and debate.

As the congregation was finishing the reading of the Torah, the arguments—typical Jewish arguments—reached a crescendo. In one corner, a fierce debate ensued about Israel’s pending withdrawal from Gaza. In another corner, an item of religious law was being heatedly argued. Children were kvetching, older men were getting annoyed. Others were attempting to concentrate on their prayers with closed eyes and open hearts.
Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather  
Morris Frimer

Beloved Parents  
Margarita Halfon  
Eduardo Halfon  
Bertha Shutzberg  
Jacob Shutzberg  
Salomon Frimer

Beloved Brother  
Salomon Halfon

Beloved Aunt  
Violeta Typermass

Lovingly Remembered by Mary Frimer and family

Beloved Fathers and Grandfathers (papu)  
Azaria Scharhon  
Israel Halfon

Beloved Mothers and Grandmothers (nona)  
Rachel Scharhon  
Jean Halfon

Lovingly Remembered by  
Marie, Alan, Jean, Andrew & Nichole Scharhon

Beloved Father  
Phil Boguch

Lovingly Remembered by Sharon Nancy Boguch

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
We remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
We remember them.

When we have joy we crave to share,  
We remember them.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make,  
We remember them.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs,  
We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

-Sylvan Kamens and Jack Riemer (The New Machzor)
We Remember Them

At the rising of the sun and at its going down, We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter We remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, We remember them.

At the shining of the sun and in the warmth of summer, We remember them.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, We remember them.

At the beginning of the year and at its end, We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.
Island Synagogue Yizkor Book

Beloved Parents
Mark (Moshe ben Ruben)
and Frances (Tziporah bas Binyamin) Stevens

Beloved Grandparents
Benjamin & Lina Cherniak

Beloved Brother and Sister-in-Law
Michael & Beverly Stevens

Lovingly Remembered by
Lyne Johnston and family

Beloved Son
Steve Manger

Lovingly Remembered by Faye Manger

Beloved Brother
Steve Manger

Lovingly Remembered by Joy Maskart and family

Every word of G-d is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. (Proverbs 30:5)

Beloved Parents, Grandparents & Great Grandparents
Helly Engelstein
Isidor Engelstein

Beloved Wife, Mother & Grandmother
Barbara Ann Engelstein

Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather & Great Grandfather
Mathew Weissman

Lovingly Remembered by
Jacob Engelstein
David Engelstein
Rachael, Roy, Chana and Zev Schnitzer
Marge Weissman

Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather
Jerry Gordon

Beloved Father, Grandfather & Great Grandfather
Jerry Heilweil

Beloved Grandparents, Great & Great-Great Grandparents
Sarah and Abe Levin
Jean and Max Heilweil

Beloved In-Laws, Grandparents, Great Grandparents
Helene and Eddie Gordon

Lovingly Remembered by
Margo Gordon Engelstein
Adam and Bryan Gordon
Maren, Jory and Levi Wolf