YIZKOR
MEMORIAL SERVICE
The History and Halachot of Yizkor

The custom of remembering the dead is mentioned in Midrashim and was originally practiced only on Yom Kippur. One interpretation suggests that its purpose was to make the worshippers more vulnerable and to inspire them to repent. Another suggests that the name of the day is in the plural, Yom Ha’Kippurim, because atonement applies to both the living and the dead and on such a day it is appropriate to pray on their behalf.

The custom of reciting Yizkor on Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot developed in the eighteenth century in Ashkenazic communities.

In the Ashkenazic tradition, the name of the deceased is mentioned by his/her Hebrew name, the son/daughter of the father. In the Sephardic tradition, the deceased is mentioned as the son/daughter of the mother.

The essential part of the Yizkor service is the pledge to donate tzedakah in the merit of the deceased. Such a pledge is included in the traditional Yizkor formula. Some have the custom of lighting memorial lamps on the eve of those days on which Yizkor is said. Yizkor may be recited even during the year following a relative’s death. Yizkor may be recited for one’s deceased spouse even after one is remarried.
I Believe with Perfect Faith

I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and, though he tarry, I will wait daily for his coming.

In Memory of our Six Million Martyrs

O G-d, full of mercy, dwelling on high, grant perfect 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, to the souls of our six million martyrs who were brutally and tortuously murdered, gassed, cremated, or buried alive, for the sanctification of Your Name by the Nazi’s and their collaborators. Holy and pure were they all. 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 they rest in the Garden of Eden, Hashem is their heritage, May they rest in peace and let us respond: Amen.
David Ben Gurion - May 4, 1949

Let us stand silently in memory of our dearly beloved sons and daughters who gave their lives for the liberation of our homeland and the security of our people. They gave all they had. They poured out their lifeblood for the freedom of Israel, even as the living waters quench the thirst of the arid soil. Not in monuments of stone or trees shall their memories be preserved, but in the reverence and pride which fill the hearts of our people when their memory is recalled until the end of time.

In Memory of Members of Israel’s Defense Forces

O G-d, full of mercy, Who dwells on high, grant perfect 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, to the souls of the members of Israel’s Defense Forces who gave their lives for the sanctification of Your Name and for the conquest and defense 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. May they rest in the Garden of Eden in peace. Hashem is their heritage, may they rest in peace, and let us respond: Amen.

What Can I Do?

What can I do? I can talk out when others are silent.  
I can say man when others say money.  
I can stay up when others are asleep.
I can keep working when others have stopped to play.
I can give life big meaning when others give life little meanings.  
I can say love when others say hate.
I can try events by a hard test when others try by an easy test.
What can I do?
I can give myself to life when other men refuse themselves to life.

— Horace Traubel
Prelude to Yizkor “We Recall”

Eternal G-d, we have come to sanctify our fleeting lives by linking them with Yours, O Life of all Ages. In You generations past, present, and future are united in one bond of life.

At this sacred hour, we are aware of those souls through whom we have come to know of Your grace and love. All the wisdom, beauty, and affection that have enriched our lives are the garnered fruits of our communion with others.

Many of those to whom we owe so much are alive with us today; and we pray that we may be able to reward their goodness and their devotion to us by acts of love and loyalty.

But others have passed forever from our midst, leaving us a heritage of tender memories which now fill our minds.

Some of us recall today beloved parents who watched over us, nursed us, guided us and sacrificed for us.

Some of us lovingly call to mind a wife or a husband with whom we were truly united - in our hopes and our pains, in our failures and our achievements, in our joys and our sorrows.

Some of us remember brothers and sisters who grew up together with us, sharing in the play of childhood, in the youthful adventure of discovering life’s possibilities, bound to us by a heritage of family tradition and by years of comradeship and love.

Some of us call to mind children, entrusted to our care all too briefly, taken from us before they reached the years of maturity and fulfillment, to whom we gave our loving care and from whom we received a trust which enriched our lives.

All of us recall beloved relatives and friends whose affection and devotion enhanced our lives, and whose visible presence will never return to cheer, encourage or support us.

Though they are gone from us we are grateful for the blessings they brought and were to us. Now, by giving to others the love which our departed gave to us, we can partly repay the debt we owe them.

We are sustained and comforted by the thought that the goodness which they brought into our lives remains an enduring blessing which we can bequeath to our descendants.

We can still serve our departed by serving You. We can show our devotion to them by our devotion to those ideals which they cherished.

O G-d of Love, make us worthy of the love we have received by teaching us to love You with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our might and to spread the light of Your divine love on all whose lives touch ours.

Give us strength to live honorably and, when our time comes, to die serenely, cheered by the confidence that You will not permit our lives to be wasted, but will bring all our worthy strivings to fulfillment. Amen.
**Responsively**

Lord, what are we humans, that You have regard for us,  
Mere mortals, that You take account of us?  

We are like a breath,  
Our days are like a fleeting shadow.

Teach us to number our days,  
That we may attain a heart of wisdom.

The Lord redeems the life of His servants,  
And those who trust in Him shall not feel forsaken.

**I Have Set G-d Before Me**

I have set G-d before me always,  
Because He is at my right hand, I shall not fail.  
Therefore my heart rejoices, my whole being exults,  
And my body rests secure.

**The Yizkor Prayer**

When we recite Yizkor (“May He remember”), we ask G-d to remember the souls for whom we pray. Of course, G-d never forgets and, in fact, we acknowledge this in the Musaf prayer on Rosh Hashanah: “Ata Zocheir Ma-aseiy Olam” -- “You remember everything.”

Yizkor is therefore our opportunity to recreate and reinforce the connections between ourselves and our loved, deceased ones, and draw inspiration and comfort from their memories.

Traditionally, we pledge charity (Tzedakah) at this time, in memory of our loved ones. Performing this mitzvah “protects from death” (“U’tzedakah tatziil mimavet”) that is, we share the credit of giving tzedakah with our loved ones and enhance the status of their memory. This is especially significant on Yom Kippur, when we ask for atonement for ourselves and past generations.
Personal Memorial Prayers

In Remembrance of a Father

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת אֶבֶן מּוֹרִי (Father's Name), שֶׁהָלַךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ בַּעֲבוּר שֶׁאֲנִי נוֹדֵר צְדָּקָה בַּעֲדוֹ, בִּשְׂכַר זֶה תְּהֵא נַפְשָׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים עִם נִשְׁמַת אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה, וְעִם שְׁאָר צַדִּיקִים וְצִדְקָנִיּוֹת שֶׁבְּגַן עֵדֶן, וְנָאֵמֵר אָמֵן.

May G-d remember the soul of my beloved father who has gone to his eternal rest. In tribute to his memory I pledge to perform acts of charity and goodness. May my deeds and prayers keep his soul bound in the bond of life as an enduring source of blessing, Amen.

In Remembrance of a Mother

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת אִמִי מּוֹרָתִי (Mother's Name), שֶׁהָלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָה בַּעֲבוּר שֶׁאֲנִי נוֹדֵר צְדָּקָה בַּעֲדוּהָ, בִּשְׂכַר זֶה תְּהֵא נָפְשָׁהּ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים עִם נִשְּׁמַת אַבְרָהָם, יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב, שָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה, וְעִם שְׁאָר צַדִּיקִים וְצִדְקָנִיּוֹת שֶׁבְּגַן עֵדֶן, וְנָאֵמֵר אָמֵן.

May G-d remember the soul of my beloved mother who has gone to her eternal rest. In tribute to her memory I pledge to perform acts of charity and goodness. May my deeds and prayers keep her soul bound in the bond of life as an enduring source of blessing, Amen.

In Remembrance of a Husband, Son, Brother

I pray, O G-d you remember and bless with peace and happiness in the company of the upright and the good the soul of * my husband * my son * my brother

whom you have called to his (their) eternal home. Let his soul (their souls) be bound up in the bond of eternal life and grant that my life on earth be worthy of my loved ones whom I recall in your presence in this sacred hour, Amen.

for brother for son for husband

בֵּין אָחִי

כָּל דְּבָרָי. שְׁבֵעֲמַת אֵאָתִים-פָּנֶיךָ נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךָ נֶצַח. אָמֵן.

I pray, O G-d you remember and bless with peace and happiness in the company of the upright and the good the soul of * my husband * my son * my brother

whom you have called to his (their) eternal home. Let his soul (their souls) be bound up in the bond of eternal life and grant that my life on earth be worthy of my loved ones whom I recall in your presence in this sacred hour, Amen.
In Remembrance of a Wife, Daughter, Sister

לַיְּמֹר אֱלֹהִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת

for sister            for daughter            for wife

אשתי                  בתי                  אחותי

שֶׁהָלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ.  אִָֽנָּא תְהִי נַפְשָׂהּ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי

מְנֻחָתָהּ כָּבוֹד.  שׂבַע שְׂמָחוֹת אָת

- פָּנֶיךָ.  נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךָ נֶצַח.  אָמֵן.

I pray, O G-d you remember and bless with peace and happiness in the company of the upright and the good, the soul of

* my wife          * my daughter          * my sister

whom you have called to her (their) eternal home.  Let her soul (their souls) be bound up in the bond of eternal life and grant that my life on earth be worthy of my loved ones whom I recall in your presence in this sacred hour, Amen.

Congregational Memorial Prayer

אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְּרוֹמִים הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי

הַשְּׁכִינָה.  בְּמַעֲלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים וּטְהוֹרִים כְּזִֹֽהַר הָרָקִִֽיעַ מַזְהִירִים אֶת

- נִשְׁמוֹת כָּל

אֵלֶּה שֶׁהִזְכִַּֽרְנוּ הַיּוֹם לְעוֹלָמִים.  אָנָּא בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים

תַּסְתִּירם בְּסֵתֶר כְּנָפֶיךָ לְעוֹלָמִים.  וְתִצְרוֹר בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת

- נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם וְיָנִֽוּחוּ עָל

מִשְׁכְּבֹתָם בְּשָׁלוֹם.  וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן:

Grant perfect peace to the souls of our dearly beloved who have gone to their eternal rest.  Shelter them in Your divine Presence among the holy and pure, whose radiance is like the brightness of the firmament.  May they be bound up in the bond of eternal life and their souls be at peace, and let us say, Amen.

Prayer for a Living Father or Mother

לָו מֶלֶךְ רַחֲמִים שֶׁנֶּאֱכַל בְּמִשְׁכְּבּוֹת טוֹמֶן מַעֲשֵׂה בְּמַעֲשֵׂה שֶׁיְּשָׁרוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם גְּדוֹלָה בָּהֶם-

הַשְּׁכִינָה.  בְּמַעֲלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים וּטְהוֹרִים כְּזִֹֽהַר הָרָקִִֽיעַ מַזְהִירִים אֶת-

עָשָׂר הַיָּמִים בֶּן עָסָר שֵׁמֵי עָדִים.  וְתִיצְרוּ בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת-

עָשָׂר הַיָּמִים בֶּן עָסָר שֵׁמֵי עָדִים.  וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן:  אָמֵן.

Lord of the Universe,  In whose hand are the souls of the living and the dead.  You have favored me by keeping alive my dear father/mother.  For this I express my deep felt gratitude and humble thanks.  At this solemn moment (when I recall the memory of my late father/mother) I pray that you grant me the privilege of keeping my dear father/mother alive for many years to come.  It is my sincere desire and wish to do all that is within my power to bring sunshine, happiness and tranquility into his/her life. Grant him/her a long blessed and blissful life with joy, success and satisfaction in all his/her endeavors, Amen.
Thoughts on Yizkor

Written by Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks --- October 1, 2002

Judaism gave two majestic ideas their greatest religious expression: memory and hope.

Memory is our living connection to those who came before us.
Hope is what we hand on to the generations yet to come.

Those we remember live on in us: in words, gestures, a smile here, an act of kindness there, that we would not have done had that person not left their mark on our lives.

That is what Yizkor is: memory as a religious act of thanksgiving for a life that was, and that still sends its echoes and reverberations into the life that is.
Poetic Thoughts

by Marilyn Gottesfeld

**We Must Listen**

We must Listen to Each other and the Stories that we Tell
We must listen to Each other and listen very well
We must Listen to Each other The differences as well
We must listen to Each other and find some new insights
We need not reject those different thoughts between us
I can learn from you
You can learn from me
Adding here and there
Together we can meet the World because we are a listening pair

**My Tears**

The tears that fall upon my face
Are warm and salty to the taste
They stay with me in warm embrace
Those tears that fall upon my face
I cannot stop them as
They flow so freely from
My eyes
Nor can I hide them
In disguise
They come that is all I know
One and one they come
Side by side
Glad am I that I have cried.

**The Gift of Memory**

We thank You, O God of live and love,
For the resurrecting gift of memory
Which endows Your children, fashioned in Your image,
With the Godlike sovereign power
To give immortality through love.
Praised be You, O God,
Who enables Your children to remember.

*Morris Adler*

**Prelude to Prayer**

Lord Almighty, Here I am,
Sending up my prayers again,
Keeping faith and holding fast,
Not to the future nor to the past,
But to this moment, This sacred day,
This time I have chosen to open my heart and pray.

*Andrea Hyatt*
The Crown of a Good Name

There are three crowns our Sages taught:
The crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of royalty;
But the crown of a good name excels them all.

“Blessed is the person who lives with a good name
And departs this world with a good name, ”

Of such a person did the Bible say;
“A good name is to be treasured above precious oil.”

Wealth, like health, may pass away,
But a good name can live on forever.

It can adorn a person throughout life;
It can be bequeathed as a precious inheritance,

Conferring honor on family and friends,
Inspiring and challenging those who carry on.

Therefore our ancient Sages taught:
“The righteous need no monuments;
Their good deeds are their memorials.”

The earth of the grave does not cover them;
The hand of time does not erase them.

The kindness they have shown, the love they have given,
Remain in everlasting remembrance.

Their achievements are more lasting than granite,
Their devotion is an enduring legacy.
**When 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 blueness of the skies 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 when it ends
we remember them.*

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

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 part of us,
as we remember them.*

For when Jews remember, they do so for the future, the place where, if
we are faithful to it, the past never dies.

**Kaddish Translation**

Magnified and sanctified may His great name be, in the world He
created by His will. May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and
in your days, and in the lifetime of all the house of Israel, swiftly and
soon - and say: Amen.

May His great name be blessed for ever and all time.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, raised and honored, uplifted
and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He, beyond any
blessing, song, praise and consolation uttered in the world - and say: Amen.

May there be great peace from heaven,
and life for us and all Israel - and say: Amen.

May He who makes peace in His high places,
make peace for us and all Israel - and say: Amen.
Kaddish


Y’hein sh’mei raba m’varach l’alam ul’almei almayah.

Yit-barach v’yishtabach v’yishtpa-ar v’yitromam v’yitnasei, v’yithadar v’yitaleh v’yithalal, sh’mei d’kud-sha, b’rich hu. L’ela (l’ela) min kol birchata v’shirata, tushbechata v’nechema-ta, da-amiran b’alma, v’imru amen.

Y’hein shlama raba min shemaya, v’chayim, Aleinu v’al kol Yisrael, V’imru amen.

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya-ase shalom, Aleinu v’al kol Yisrael, v’imru amen.
Our Congregation is open 365 days a year. We hold daily morning and evening services with a minyan in the Adelman Chapel. For all service times please contact our office at 303-388-4203 or visit our website calendar at www.bmh-bj.org.

Contributions to our Rose Saper Memorial Flower Fund are graciously accepted throughout the year in times of celebration or commemoration of Yahrzeits.

Please contact our clergy office at 303-951-8231 to update Yahrzeit information.

Please contact Jay Siegel, Mt. Nebo Administrator, at 303-951-8236 for memorial plaque information.
Please do not destroy or discard this
Yizkor Memorial Service

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