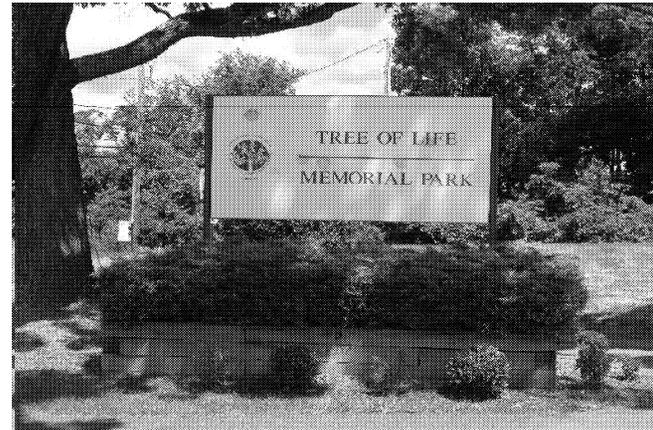


קֶבֶר אָבוֹת

Kever Avot



Memorial Service
at the
Cemetery

Tree of Life
5898 Wilkins Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

שׁוֹיִתִּי ה' לְנִגְדֵי תְּמִיד כִּי מִיְמֵנִי בַל־אֶמּוֹט:
לְכֵן שָׂמַח לְבִי וַיִּגַּל כְּבוֹדֵי אֶת־בְּשָׂרֵי יִשְׁכַּן לְבַטָּח:

I have set the Eternal always before me. God is at my side; I shall not be moved. Therefore does my heart exult and my soul rejoice; my being is secure. For You will not abandon me to death, nor let Your faithful ones see destruction. You show me the path of life; Your presence brings fullness of joy; enduring happiness is Your gift. (Psalm 16)

Source of all life, we pray for life. Bless us, once more, with a year of life, so that we may be privileged to complete the year we will begin.

Despite the burdens and the heartbreaks, the pains and perils, we want to live; we ask to be inscribed in the Book of Life.

But even as we pray that years may be added to our lives, we ask, too, that true life may be added to our years.

May the new year be for us a time for enhancing the quality of our lives, enriching their content, deepening their meaning.

Help us to keep our minds alive. May we be open to new ideas, entertain challenging doubts, re-examine long-held opinions, nurture a lively curiosity, and strive to add to our store of knowledge.

Help us to keep our hearts alive. May we develop greater compassion, be receptive to new friendships, sustain a buoyant enthusiasm, and grow more sensitive to the beauty which surrounds us.

Help us to keep our souls alive. May we be more responsive to the needs of others, less vulnerable to consuming greed, more attentive to the craving for fellowship, and more devoted to truth.

Help us to keep our spirits alive. May we face the future with confidence, knowing that every age has its unique joys and satisfactions, each period in our lives a glory of its own.

Help us to keep our faith alive. May we be sustained by the knowledge that You have planted within us life eternal and have given us the power to live beyond our years.

Whether our years be few or many, help us to link our lives to the life of our people and to our eternal faith.

What Death Cannot Take From Us

Death has cast its dark shadow over many homes in this past year. It has left us all deeply bereft.

A voice has been stilled, a heart has been stopped,
Laughter has departed, joy has fled.

Gone are the warmth and the glow of a loved one's presence;
The chain of love has lost a vital link.

Death has taken a life which was precious;
It has brought pain, loneliness, and sorrow.

And yet there is so much which death cannot touch,
So much over which it has no dominion.

Death cannot rob us of our past:
The years, the dreams, the experiences which we shared.

Death cannot take from us the love we knew;
It is woven into the tapestry of our lives.

The lessons we were taught we shall continue to cherish;
We shall cling to the wisdom which lives on.

What we have had, we shall always possess;
What we have known, we shall always hold dear.

Death cannot take from us our abiding trust,
That God will give us strength to endure what we must.

Death cannot take from us our sustaining hope—
That darkness will yield to light, and hurt give way to healing.

Death cannot take from us the comforting faith,
That with God every soul is precious; none is ever lost.

Thus, even in sorrow, we thank the Lord our God,
For our memories and our hopes, for our trust and our faith.

For these, we believe, need never be lost;
These, and so much more, death cannot take from us.

Their Memory is a Blessing

O God, this hour revives in us memories of loved ones who are no more. What happiness we shared when they walked among us! What joy, when, loving and loved, we lived our lives together!

Their memory is a blessing forever.

Months or years may have passed, yet we feel near to them. Our hearts yearn for them. Though the bitter grief has softened, a duller pain remains, for the place where they once stood is empty now forever. The links of life are broken. But the links of love and longing cannot break.

Their memory is a blessing forever.

We see them now with the eye of memory, their faults forgiven, their virtues grown larger. So does goodness live, and weakness fade from sight. We remember them with gratitude and bless their names.

Their memory is a blessing forever.

And we remember as well the men and women who but yesterday were part of our congregation and community. To all who cared for us and labored for the well-being of our people and of humanity, we pay tribute. May we prove worthy of carrying on the tradition of our people and our faith, for now the task is ours.

Their souls are bound up in ours forever.

In gratitude for all the blessings our loved ones--friends, teachers, and the martyrs of our people--have brought to us, to our people Israel and to all humanity, we dedicate ourselves anew to the sacred faith for which they lived and died, and to the tasks they have bequeathed to us. Let them be remembered for blessing, O God, together with the righteous of all peoples, and let us say: Amen.

May God forever remember our dear ones who have gone to their eternal rest--at one with the One who is life eternal. May the beauty of their lives shine always, and may our lives always bring honor to their memory. Their love and deeds live on with us. We recall them now with gratitude.

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים, הַמְצִיא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה
תַּחַת כַּנְּפֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה, עִם קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזֶהָר הַרְקִיעַ
מְזַהְרִים, אֶת נַשְׁמוֹת יְקִירֵינוּ שֶׁהֵלְכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם. בְּעַל
הַרְחָמִים יִסְתִּירָם בְּסֶתֶר כַּנְּפֵיו לְעוֹלָמִים, וְיִצְרוֹר בְּצָרוֹר
הַחַיִּים אֶת־נַשְׁמָתָם. ה' הוּא נַחְלָתָם. וְיִנוּחוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל
מִשְׁכָּבָם, וְנֹאמֵר: אָמֵן.

Merciful God, Eternal Spirit of the universe, grant perfect rest in Your sheltering presence to our loved ones, who have entered eternity. O God of mercy, let them find refuge forever in the shadow of Your wings, and let their souls be bound up in the bond of eternal life. The eternal God is their inheritance. May they rest in peace, and let us say: Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He guides me in straight paths for His name's sake.
Yea, 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 have anointed my head with oil; my cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Mourners' Kaddish

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּה. בְּעֶלְמָהּ דֵּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ,
וְיִמְלֹךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיָמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֶגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וְלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדָּר
וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקָדְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעֶלְמָא
מִן כָּל בְּרַכָּתָא וְשִׁירָתָא, תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמָתָא
דְאָמִירָן בְּעֶלְמָא, 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.

*Yit-ga-dal v'yit-ka-dash sh'-mei ra-ba, b'-al-ma di-v'-ra
chir-u-tei, v'yam-lich mal-chu-tei b'-cha-yei-chon
u-v'-yo-mei-chon u-v'cha-yei d'-chol beit Yis-ra-el
ba-a-ga-la u-viz-man ka-riv, v'-im'-ru: Amen.*

*Ye-hei sh'-mei ra-ba m'-va-rach l'-a-lam
ul-al-mei al-ma-ya.*

*Yit-ba-rach v'yish-ta-bach, v'yit-pa-ar v'yit-ro-mam
v'yit-na-sei, v'yit-ha-dar v'yit-a-leh v'yit-ha-lal sh'-mei
d'kud-sha, b'rich hu, l'ei-la min kol bir-cha-ta v'-shi-ra-ta,
tush-b'-cha-ta v'-ne-che-ma-ta, da-a-mi-ran b'-al-ma,
v'-im'-ru: Amen.*

*Y'-hei sh'la-ma ra-ba min sh'ma-ya v'cha-yim aleinu
v'-al kol Yisra-el, v'im'-ru: Amen.*

*O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav, hu ya-a-seh shalom aleinu
v'-al kol Yisra-el, v'im'-ru: Amen.*