

IN
MEMORIAM



Temple B'nai Or
CONNECTING TRADITION to LIFE

Morristown, New Jersey
2020/5781

So many deaths this year, or, as we should say, so many people to remember. It is our obligation to remember the individuals whose lives made our lives what they are. The individuals who shaped us with their love. In love we continue their lives through remembrance. This is *Yizkor*.

This year when we come to the *Yizkor* service during *Yom Kippur*, we will not physically be together. Some of us might be at home alone in our grief. COVID-19 has changed the way our community can mourn, but we are still a community. We are still here for each other even though when are separated by a screen. Compassion and remembrance are stronger than that distance.

A *Yizkor* Prayer for Those Who Have Died of COVID-19
By Rabbi Sonja K. Pilz, PhD

Merciful God, God Most High,
May You remember all those Who died of COVID-19,
Of old age and known preconditions,
And those who died
Entirely surprised
By the terrible fragility
Of our human bodies.
With love we repeat the words
Of an old *Yizkor* book:
"I had a dream. I returned to the town of my childhood.
Everyone there was still alive!"
Dreamers we are,
Of a world in which
You are still alive,
Living among us, going about the life
We once knew as normal.
May your memory be a blessing
And a reminder,
To shelter those who are fragile,
Even in times of fear.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Michael Satz

WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES:

We all have had someone we love die. It is a painful and challenging time and sometimes we are just not ready for it to happen. As a kehillah, a sacred community, we do not just pray together, we live out our love for one another with caring, loving actions. If someone you love in your life dies, please know that you are not alone, your kehillah is here for you. Of course, you need to call the funeral home, but you should also call one of our clergy. If it is after hours, or you get the answering machine, please listen to the message. It will give you directions to be directed to the line for family emergencies. If you have some advance warning of an impending death, you may want to call Rabbi Satz or Cantor Galit beforehand to do end of life planning so that you are more prepared. They will help you make decisions about the funeral, *shiva*, and other mourning practices you may want to consider. After the notice goes out to the community, our Caring Committee springs into action. Be prepared to receive a call from them offering help with your *shiva* or anything else you might need. They have a good-sized group of volunteers but could always use more as sometimes they are called upon to help with very short notice. If you would like to join the Caring Committee, contact office@templebnaior.org.

MEMORY LIGHTS THE WORLD

There are stars whose light reaches the earth only after they themselves have disintegrated. And there are individuals whose memory lights the world after they have passed from it. These lights shine in the darkest night and illumine for us the path...

FACING DEATH

The contemplation of death should plant within the soul elevation and peace. Above all, it should make us see things in their true light. For all things which seem foolish in the light of death are really foolish in themselves. To be annoyed because so-and-so has slighted us or has been somewhat more successful in social distinctions – how ridiculous all this seems when we couple it with the thought of death! To pass each day simply and solely in the eager pursuit of money or fame, this also seems like living with shadows. Surely when death is at hand we should desire to say, “I have contributed my grain to the great store of the eternal. I have borne my part in the struggle for goodness.” And let no man or woman suppose that the smallest social act of goodness is wasted for society at large. All our help, petty though it be, is needed, and though we know not the manner, the fruit of every faithful service is gathered in.

LIFE IS NOT FAIR

Life is not fair. The wrong people get sick and the wrong people get robbed and the wrong people get killed in wars and in accidents. Some people see life's unfairness and decide, "There is no God, the world is nothing but chaos." Others see the same unfairness and ask themselves, "Where do I get my sense of what is fair and unfair? Where did I get my sense of outrage and indignation, my instinctive response of sympathy? Don't I get these things from God? Doesn't God plant in me a little bit of the divine outrage at injustice and oppression, just as God did for the prophets of the Bible? Isn't my feeling of compassion for the afflicted just a reflection of the compassion God feels in seeing the suffering of God's creatures?" Our responding to life's unfairness with sympathy and righteous indignation, God's compassion and God's anger working through us, may be the surest proof of God's reality.

WE LOVE WHAT DEATH CAN TOUCH

It is a fearful thing
to love
what death can touch.

A fearful thing
to love,
hope, dream: to
be –

to be,
and oh! to lose.

A thing for fools, this,
and
a holy thing,
a holy thing
to love.

For
your life has lived in me,
your laugh once lifted me,
your word was gift to me.

To remember this
brings painful joy.

'Tis a human thing, love,
a holy thing,
to love
what death has touched.

TRADITION

By Example and Deed

From generation to generation the wisdom of living is handed down.

From parents to children, from grandparents to grandchildren.

Life's messages, both great and small, are carved deeply in our hearts.

Not by wonder alone but by the most ancient communication of all: love.

Love of truth and justice is handed down not by words alone.

But by example, deed and personal involvement.

Love of Judaism is not generated by teachings and exhortations alone.

But by being role models in observance, practice, and participation.

Love for family is not based on verbal commands and spoken instructions.

But by affection, loyalty and warmth in demonstration and deeds.

We teach effectively not by what we say, but by what we are and do.

As we watch the flow of life, we learn the skill of living in God's good time.

IN MEMORY OF A FATHER

Your memory, my dear father, fills my soul at this solemn hour. It rekindles in me thoughts of the love, wisdom and friendship with which you blessed my life. The thought of you inspires me to a life of virtue; and when my pilgrimage on earth is ended and I shall arrive at the throne of mercy, may I be worthy of you in the sight of God and humankind. May the Merciful One reward you for your faithfulness and kindness which yet live in my heart and may God grant you eternal rest and peace. Amen.

IN MEMORY OF A MOTHER

I remember you in this solemn hour, my dear mother. I remember the days when you lived on this earth, and your tender love watched over me like a guardian angel. You have gone from me, but the bond which unites our soul can never be severed; your image lives within my heart. May the all Merciful Parent reward you for the faithfulness and kindness which you showered upon me; may God's holy light ever shine upon you, and grant you eternal peace! Amen.

IN MEMORY OF A HUSBAND

I remember you in this solemn hour, dear companion of my life. I remember the happy days we lived and loved together; I remember your tender affection and self-denial while hand in hand we trod the path of our wedded life, when your love and fidelity were my comfort and your counsel and aid were my support. Though death has taken you from my side, your image still lives in my heart; and continues to be an inspiration to me. May God have you in safe keeping and give you bliss eternal! Amen.

IN MEMORY OF A WIFE

Your memory, dear companion of my life, now fills my soul. It revives in me the thought of the love, fidelity and self-denial which sweetened the days of my life. I treasure it in my heart and strive to become worthy of you. Though death has summoned you from my side, your image still lives within me and continues to be an inspiration to me. May God keep you close and give you bliss eternal! Amen.

IN MEMORY OF A CHILD

I remember you in this solemn hour, my beloved child. I remember the days, when I watched your body and mind unfolding, and fostered beautiful hopes for your future. You have been taken from me, yet in my heart the fond remembrance of your love and your life can never die. You rest, now in God's presence; God's parental love is my solace, my staff and support. As a parent has mercy on his or her children, so may God ever look with compassion upon you and grant you eternal rest, bliss, and peace. Amen.

OR

I remember you now, in this solemn hour, my beloved child. I recall the joy when you joined our family. God has called you early to return to the reservoir of souls. Although my hopes and dreams for your future are for naught, you live on in my heart. I find comfort in the memories of the time we had together. May God grant you eternal rest and eternal peace. Amen.

IN MEMORY OF A BROTHER, A SISTER, OR A FRIEND

I remember you in this solemn hour, my beloved brother / sister / friend. I remember the days when we lived together in happy companionship and your loving friendship was my delight and support. Though you have gone from me, your image and your smile are my constant companions. I think of you with gratitude and bless your memory for all the years of devotion. May God bless you with everlasting peace, keeping you safe, and granting you eternal bliss. Amen

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