

הקמת מציבה

Unveiling Service

We thank God for the gift of our beloved who enriched our lives while they walked beside us.

We revere their memory in death even as we loved them in life.

We are grateful for the opportunity afforded us by this unveiling service to reach back into time and to remember the moments, days and years we shared with all whom we remember this day.

May their lives indeed be bound up in the bond of everlasting life.



Beth El Synagogue

Psalm 23

יְיָ רֹעִי לֹא אֶחָסֵר.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

בְּנֵאוֹת דְּשָׁא יִרְבִּיצָנִי,

God makes me lie down in green pastures.

עַל מֵי מְנַחֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי. נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבָב,

God leads me beside the still waters
to revive my spirit.

יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי-צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ.

God guides me on the right path, for that is God's nature.

גַּם כִּי אֵלֶּךְ בְּגִיא צְלֻמוֹת
לֹא אֵירָא רָע כִּי אַתָּה עִמָּדִי,

Though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no harm, for You are with me.

שִׁבְטְךָ וּמַשְׁעַנְתְּךָ הִמָּה יִנְחַמְנִי.

Your rod and Your staff comfort me.

תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שִׁלְחֹן נֶגֶד צָרָרִי,

You prepare a banquet for me in the presence of my enemies.

דִּשְׁנַתְּ בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי, כּוֹסִי רֹנְהָ.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

אֵךְ טוֹב וְחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל-יְמֵי חַיִּי,

Surely goodness and kindness shall be my portion all the days of my life.

וְשַׁבְתִּי בְּבַיִת יְיָ לְאָרְךָ יָמִים.

And I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

Psalm 121

אֲשָׂא עֵינַי אֶל־הַהָרִים מֵאֵין יְבֵא עֲזָרִי?

I will lift up mine eyes to the mountains;
from where will my help come?

עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה עֲשָׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ.

My help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

אֶל־יָתֵן לַמּוֹט רַגְלֶךָ אֶל־יָנוּם שֹׁמֵרְךָ.

Adonai will not allow your foot to give way;
Your guardian will not slumber.

הֲנֵה לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל.

For the guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.

יְהוָה שֹׁמְרֶךָ יְהוָה צִלְּךָ עַל־יַד יְמִינֶךָ.

Adonai is your protection,
A guardian at your right hand.

יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא־יִכָּכֶּה וַיָּרַח בַּלַּיְלָה.

The sun shall not smite you by day,
Nor the moon by night.

יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל־רָע יִשְׁמַר אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ.

Adonai shall keep you from harm and guard your life.

יְהוָה יִשְׁמַר־צֵאתְךָ וּבואְךָ מֵעַתָּה וְעַד־עוֹלָם:

Adonai guards your going and your coming,
Now and forever:

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.

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

Meditations

MEDITATION AT THE GRAVE OF A FATHER

The memory of your life, dear father, rises before me. I recall your devotion and sacrifice for my welfare, the many lessons that you taught me. You rejoiced in my achievements, and strengthened me in my trials and disappointments. The passing of years cannot dim the blessed memories you have left behind. O God, Creator of All, grant that the memory of my father's life may inspire me to reach for the best that is in me. Amen.

MEDITATION AT THE GRAVE OF A MOTHER

As I stand here, dear mother, I feel the closeness of your spirit. What I have achieved is due to your influence; what I am, I have become through you. O God, Creator of All, may I ever keep in mind that my highest tribute to the memory of my mother is to emulate her virtues and remain faithful to the teachings she imparted to me. Amen.

MEDITATION AT THE GRAVE OF A HUSBAND OR WIFE

As I stand here, companion of my heart, I fondly recall the sacred bonds formed in God's presence, our love and companionship, the hardships and pleasures, trials and triumphs, joys and sorrows that we shared together. May the sweet memories of our life together remain for a blessing and strengthen all that is good and noble in me. Amen.

MEDITATION AT THE GRAVE OF A CHILD

Dearly beloved child, I recall the happiness that filled our home and joys you afforded us during your lifetime. Though death has cut short your life, the bond which unites us cannot be severed. God of Compassion, endow me with strength so that in gratitude for the joy which my child brought me, I too, may bring love and joy into the lives of others. Amen.

MEDITATION AT THE GRAVE OF OTHER RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Though death has separated us, the memories of your life on earth remain ever vivid. May God grant that I shall emulate all that was good and lovely, true and righteous in your life. Remembering your example, may I always endeavor to live purely and uprightly. Amen.

El Malei Raḥamim

In memory of a male

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים. הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה
תַּחַת כְּנָפֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה. בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזֶהר
הַרְקִיעַ מְזֻהָרִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת _____ בְּ-
שְׁהֶלֶד לְעוֹלָמוֹ, בְּגֵן עֵדֶן תִּהְיֶה מְנוּחָתוֹ.
אָנָּה בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים הַסְתִּירָהּוּ בְּסִתְרָה כְּנִפְיָךְ לְעוֹלָמִים.
וַיִּצְרֹר בְּצִרּוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמָתוֹ. יְיָ הוּא נִחַלְתָּהּ. וַיְנַחַח
בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבוֹ. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

Exalted, compassionate God, grant infinite rest in Your sheltering presence, among the holy and the pure, to the soul of our beloved _____, who has gone to his eternal home. Merciful One, we ask that our loved one find perfect peace in Your tender embrace, his memory enduring as inspiration for commitment to his ideals and integrity in our lives. May his soul thus be bound up in the bond of life. May he rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.

In memory of a female

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים. הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה
תַּחַת כְּנָפֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה. בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזֶהר
הַרְקִיעַ מְזֻהָרִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת _____ בֵּת-
שְׁהֶלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ, בְּגֵן עֵדֶן תִּהְיֶה מְנוּחָתָה.
אָנָּה בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים הַסְתִּירָהּ בְּסִתְרָה כְּנִפְיָךְ לְעוֹלָמִים.
וַיִּצְרֹר בְּצִרּוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמָתָהּ. יְיָ הוּא נִחַלְתָּהּ. תְּנַחֵם
בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָהּ. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן

Exalted, compassionate God, grant infinite rest in Your sheltering presence, among the holy and the pure, to the soul of our beloved _____, who has gone to her eternal home. Merciful One, we ask that our loved one find perfect peace in Your tender embrace, her memory enduring as inspiration for commitment to her ideals and integrity in our lives. May her soul thus be bound up in the bond of life. May she rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.

Mourner's Kaddish

Mourners and those observing Yahrzeit
יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֶלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ,
וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיָמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית
יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּעִגְלָא וּבְזַמַּן קָרִיב וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:

Congregation and mourner:
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעַלְמֵי וּלְעַלְמֵי עֵלְמַיָּא:

Mourner:
יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא
וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקַדְשָׁא
בְּרִיךְ הוּא
לְעֵלְא (לְעֵלְא מְכַל) מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא,
תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא, דְאִמְרִין בְּעֶלְמָא, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל,
וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל,
וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:

Mourners and those observing Yahrzeit:

*Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba b'alma di v'ra khir'utei,
vyamlikh malkhutei b'hayeikhon u-v'yomeikhon u-v'hayei d'khol beit yisrael, ba-agala u-vi-z'man
kariv v'imru amen.*

Congregation and mourner:

Y'hei sh'mei raba v'vorakh l'alam u-l'almei almaya.

Mourner:

*Yitbarakh v'yishtabach v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam v'yitnasei, v'yithadar
v'yit'aleh v'yit-halal sh'mei d'kudsha, b'rikh hu l'ela (l'ela mi-kol) min kol birkhata v'shirata,
tushb'hata v'nehemata da-amiran b'alma, v'imru amen.*

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya v'hayim aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen.

*Oseh shalom bi-m'romav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol
yisrael, v'imru amen*

The *Mitzvah* of *Kever Avot*: Visiting the Grave of a Loved One

It is a *mitzvah* to visit the grave of one's ancestors. Many people visit the grave of a loved one on the yearly *yahrzeit* as well as in the days leading up to a family life-cycle event. In addition, it is customary to perform the *mitzvah* of visiting family graves (known as *kever avot*) before the High Holy Days. Graves are not visited on Shabbat or holidays.

People find the experience of visiting graves meaningful for different reasons. Some visitors to graves are absolutely silent, absorbed in their private memories. Others "talk" to the deceased, sharing concerns, hopes and prayers. Often, Psalms and readings such as those found in this booklet are recited.

At the grave, many follow the ancient custom of placing a stone on the marker. As opposed to flowers which fade and wither, the stone is solid and permanent. The stone, therefore, serves as a sign of hope that the memories of our loved ones never fade.

According to Jewish tradition, it is forbidden to eat in a cemetery. When walking in a cemetery, we try to avoid walking directly on the graves. Upon leaving the cemetery, it is customary to wash one's hands (no *b'rakha* is recited). Finally, some have the custom of plucking grass on leaving the burial grounds. This act symbolizes the frailty of life and reminds us that though "we are as dust" (Ps. 103:14), never-the-less, we hope for the time of resurrection when the righteous "shall blossom out of the city like grass of the earth" (Ps. 72:16).

Further information on the *mitzvah* of *kever avot* is available on request.