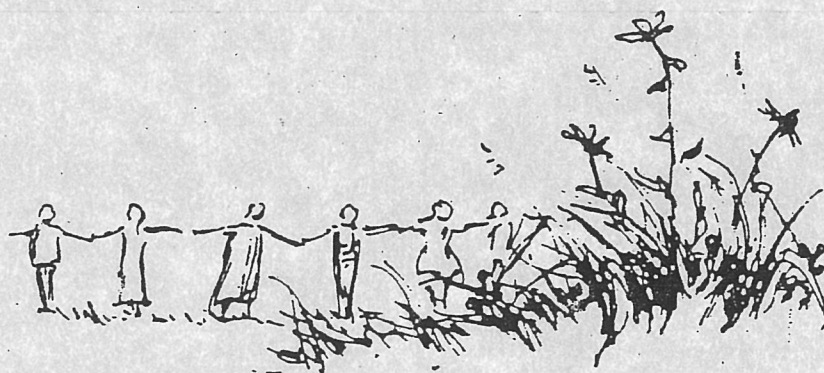


Memorial Service



Kehilat Chaverim

THE CYCLE OF LIFE

THE LIGHT OF LIFE

The light of life is a finite flame. Like a candle, life is kindled; it burns, it glows, it is radiant with warmth and beauty. But soon it fades; its substance is consumed, and it is no more.

In light we see; in light we are seen. The flames dance and our lives are full.

But as night follows day, the candle of our life burns down and sputters. There is an end to the flames. We see no more and are no more seen.

Yet we do not despair, for we are more than a memory slowly fading into the darkness. With our lives we give life. Something for us can never die: we move in the eternal cycle of darkness and death, of light and life.

LIFE IS A JOURNEY

Birth is a beginning
And death a destination.
And life is a journey:

*From childhood to maturity
And youth to age;
From innocence to awareness
And ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to discretion
And then, perhaps, to wisdom.*

From weakness to strength
Or strength to weakness --
And, often back again:
From health to sickness
And back, we pray, to health again;
From offense to forgiveness,
From loneliness to love.

*Birth is a beginning
And death a destination.
And life is a journey,
A sacred pilgrimage --
To life everlasting.*

OUR CONNECTION TO OTHERS

WE DEPEND ON EACH OTHER

Strange is our situation here upon earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that we are here for the sake of each other, above all; for those upon whose smile and well-being our own happiness depends, and also for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy. Many times a day I realize how much my own outer and inner life is built upon the labors of others, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received and am still receiving.

Albert Einstein (adapted)

OUR FAMILY HERITAGE

We recognize our connection to those who came before us. We see the obvious physical resemblances which are the shared genetic blueprint of our past. It is our hope to inherit from our forebears all the best qualities of humanity: sweetness, simplicity, zest for living, love of learning, commitment to hard work and family, longevity, compassion, empathy, wisdom, and humor.

May the recollections of our departed family members be warm and dear to us. May we pass on to our children the stories of those they did not know so that their family folklore is rich and so that they will feel a part of those incredibly strong connections between the past, the present, and the future: the very essence of FAMILY. May the remembering bring us warmth and peace. Amen.

Marsha Levinson Mason
(from Peri's Bat Mitzvah Service)



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 lost and sick at heart,
We remember them.*

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

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

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

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

PIECES TO THE PUZZLE

Each lifetime is the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.
Some seem to be born with a nearly completed puzzle.
For some there are more pieces.
For others the puzzle is more difficult to assemble.

And so it goes.
Souls going this way and that,
Trying to assemble the myriad parts.

But know this:
No one has within themselves
All the pieces to their puzzle,
Like before the days
When they used to seal jigsaw puzzles in cellophane,
Insuring that all the pieces were there.

Everyone carries with them
At least one and probably many pieces
To someone else's puzzle.
Sometimes they know it.
Sometimes they don't

And when you present your piece
Which may be worthless to you,
To another, whether you know it or not,
Whether they know it or not,
You are a messenger from the Most High.

THE KADDISH

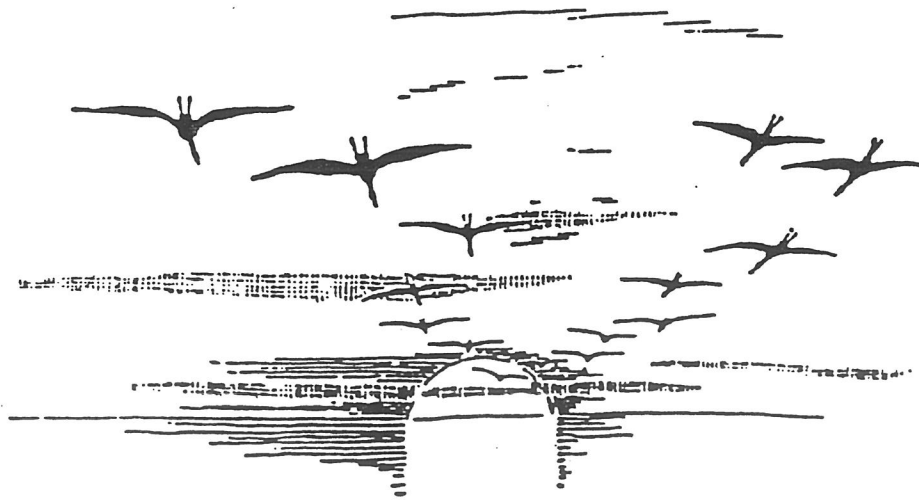
ON THE MOURNER'S KADDISH

The Kaddish was not originally intended as a prayer for mourners. Although it is popularly known as the mourner's prayer, the Kaddish does not include a syllable about death or immortality. And yet, the Kaddish makes several vital affirmations which relate directly to the mourner.

The first of these is reflected in the name of the prayer. Kaddish means "sanctification." From beginning to end, the Kaddish sanctifies the essence of God. Despite our loss, we praise God. The Kaddish thus helps to restore our perspective. In the midst of grief, we maintain a sense of gratitude. Death cannot erase the years of shared experience and adventure; memory remains our eternal possession.

The Kaddish proclaims further that this is a world "created according to God's will." Though sorrow may temporarily dull our vision or threaten to rob life of meaning, we affirm that there is a plan and a purpose to life. Moreover, sorrow can help us to become more sympathetic to the hurt of others, more compassionate toward the afflicted, more sensitive to life's spiritual values -- realities which never die.

The Kaddish offers the reassurance that the mourner can find inner peace and serenity, and challenges us to work for the fashioning of a better world. Reciting the Kaddish is a link with the past; but the Kaddish itself looks forward. It sounds a call to action on behalf of that world for whose advent we pray.



We invite all who wish to say the Kaddish to rise now:

Yitgadahl v-yitkadash sh'mey
rabah B-almah div'ra
chirutey v-yamlich malchutey
B-chayechon yv'yomeychon
Uv'chayey d'chol Beyt Yisra'el
ba-agalah u-vi-z'man kariv, v-imru
ameyn.

Y'hey sh'mey rabah m'vorach
l'olam ul'almey almaya.

Yitbarachch v-yishtabahch,
v-yitpa'ahr v-yitromahm v-yitnasey,
v-yit'hahdar v-yit'ahleh v-yit'hahlal
sh'mey d'kud'sha, b'rich hu,
l-eyla min kol birchahta v-shirahta
tushb'chahta v-nehchehmahta
da'amirahn b-alma v-imru ameyn.

Y'hey shlahma rabah min sh'maya
v-chayim, aleynu v-al kol Yisra'el v-imru
ameyn.

Oseh shalom bim'romahv, hu yah'ahseh
shalom aleynu v-al kol Yisra'el,
v-imru ameyn.

יתגדל ויתקדש שמה רבא בעלמא
די ברא ברעותה; וימליך מלכותה
בחיכון וביומכון. ובחיי דכל בית
ישראל. בעגלא ובזמן קריב. ואמרו
אמן.

יהא שמה רבא מברך לעלם
ולעלמי עלמיא.

יתברך וישתבח ויתפאר ויתרומם
ויתנשא ויתהדר. ויתעלה ויתהלל
שמה דקדשא. בריך הוא. לעלא
(לעלא) מן כל ברכתא ושירתא.
תשבחתא ונחמתא. דאמירן.
בעלמא. ואמרו אמן.

יהא שלמא רבא מן שמיא. וחיים
עלינו ועל כל ישראל. ואמרו אמן.

עשה שלום במרומי. הוא יעשה
שלום עלינו ועל כל ישראל. ועל
כל יושבי תבל. ואמרו
אמן.

Look around us, search above us, below, behind.
We stand in a great web of being joined together.
Let us praise, let us love the life we are lent
passing through us in the body of Israel
and our own bodies, let's say amen.

Time flows through us like water.
The past and the dead speak through us.
Blessed is the earth from which we grow,
Blessed the life we are lent,
blessed is the spirit that shines through us and remains to shine
flowing past distant suns on the way to forever.
Let's say amen.

Blessed is the light, blessed is the darkness,
but blessed above all else is peace
which bears the fruits of knowledge
on strong branches, lets say amen.

Peace that bears joy into the world,
peace that enables love, peace over Israel
everywhere, blessed and holy is peace, let's say amen.

Marge Piercy (adapted)

Please be seated.

PRAYER FOLLOWING THE MOURNER'S KADDISH

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Magnify and sanctify holiness throughout the world! Establish Peace and Harmony; share the suffering; reach out to those in need, helping them lay down their burden or shoulder it more powerfully. There is a suffering that is natural to Life, but so much of what we bear is an unnecessary burden, an unnecessary suffering arising not from Life but from fear, not from Love but from lust, not from living with death but from dying to Life. May we learn to accept the necessary suffering and find comfort in the awesome simplicity of Life. May we learn to put down the unnecessary suffering and let go the jagged hurts that we have created for ourselves. May we allow our pain to give rise to compassion — compassion for ourselves, compassion for others, and so link us to all Life and thus bring us Peace. May the Power that makes for Peace throughout the heavens be the Power upon which we draw to make for Peace in our own lives. And let us say: Amen.

GATES

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

At each moment of our lives
we encounter gates behind which beckon the unknown.
We have little choice but to enter, and as we do,
the gates swing shut behind us. We can never go back.
The known, the comfortable, the safe, all these are in the past.
Only the unknown, the dangerous,
the mysterious and the terrifying lay ahead.
Moving on makes us human,
doing so lightly and at peace makes us divine.

Eventually, we come to the final gate, the final closing.
The trail ends, leaving behind only memories
of steps taken, leaps tried, grace achieved and shared.
How do we honor this final gate?
With tears and stories, with memories and love,
with food and friends,
and with silence.

Silence is the heart of death, and silence alone does it justice.
But silence does not mean passivity,
and our tradition speaks of four virtues that form the core of silence.

The first is hearing:

hearing the inner voice of our pain and love,
rejoicing that nothing, not even the grave,
can rob us of that supreme human emotion.

The second is memory:

reclaiming the past by refusing to forget the joys it once held.

The third is action:

we must honor our dead by continuing to live ourselves.
Their memory is quickened only in the fullness of our own lives -
our own futures, our own ongoing struggles
to make sense out of an often senseless world.

The fourth is wisdom:

every life is a teaching, every person a guide to truth.

Hearing, memory, action, wisdom...
May each of these find a place in our silence, our grief,
and our moving out again into the world
where yet another gate beckons wide.

תהלים Psalms Chapter 23

A Psalm of David

- א** מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד: יְהוָה רֹעִי, לֹא אֶחְסָר.
- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ב** בְּנֵאוֹת דֶּשָׁא, יִרְבִּיצֵנִי; עַל-מֵי מְנַחוֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי.
- 2 The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside the still waters.
- ג** נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב; יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְּלֵי-צֶדֶק, לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ.
- 3 The Lord revives my spirit and guides me in paths of righteousness for the Lord's namesake.
- ד** גַּם כִּי-אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת, לֹא-אִירָא רָע-- כִּי-אַתָּה עֲמָדִי; שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעֲנֶתְךָ, הֵמָּה יִנְחֲמֵנִי.
- 4 Though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and your staff comfort me.
- ה** תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי, שִׁלְחֹן-- נֶגֶד צֹרְרִי; דִּשְׁנֶתְךָ בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי, כּוֹסֵי רוּיָהּ.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my foes; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- ו** אַךְ, טוֹב וְחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי-- כָּל-יְמֵי חַיִּי; וּשְׁבִתִּי בְּבֵית-יְהוָה, לְאֻךְ יָמִים.
- 6 Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

CLOSING PRAYERS

THE 23RD PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said she won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever. Amen.

interpreted by Bobby McFerrin

Please sing together:

עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמִרְמֵי הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל-
יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

*Oseh shalom bim'romahv, hu yah'aseh shalom aleynu
v-al kol Yisra'el, v-imru v-imru ameyn.*

May the peace that reigns in the high heavens
descend on us, on all Israel, and on all the world. Amen.

Kehilat Chaverim
Revised 2019

