Memorial Service

Hazzan:

ָיִי מָה־אָדָם וַתִּדְעֵהוּ בֶּן־אֶׁנוֹשׁ וַמְחַשְּׁבָהוּ:

אָדָם לַהָבֶל דָּמָה יְׁמָּׁיו כְּצֵל עוֹבֵר:

בַּבֹּקֶר יָצִיץ וְחָלָף לָעָּרֶב יְמֹוֹלֵל וְיָבֵשׁ:

ָּתָשֵׁב אֲנוֹשׁ עַד־דַּכָּא וַתֹּאמֶר שִׁוּבוּ בְנֵי־אָדֶם:

שוּבָה יֵי עַד־מָתָי וְהנָּחֵׁם עַל־עֲבָדֶיךְ:

Rabbi: There is a time for everything; there is a time for all things

under the sun:

Community: a time to be born and a time to die.

Rabbi: a time to laugh and a time to cry

Community: a time to dance and a time to mourn.

Rabbi: a time to seek and a time to lose

Community: a time to forget and a time to remember.

Rabbi: This day in sacred convocation we remember those who

gave us life.

Community: This day we remember those who enriched our life with

love and with beauty, with kindness and compassion, with

thoughtfulness and understanding.

יאָוּיתִי יְי לְנֶגְדָּי תָמֵיד כִּי אֲימִינִּי בַּל־אָמְוֹט:

לָבֶן שָׂמַח לֻבִּי נִיָגֶל כְּבוֹדֵי אַף־בְּשָׂרִי יִשְׁכָּן לָבֶטַח:

We Remember Them

Rabbi: At the rising of the sun and at its going down

We remember them.

Community: At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter

We remember them.

Rabbi: At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring

We remember them.

Community: At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer

We remember them.

Rabbi: At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn

We remember them.

Community: At the beginning of the year and when it ends

We remember them.

Together: As long as we live, they too will live;

for they are now a part of us

as we remember them.

Rabbi: When we are weary and in need of strength

We remember them.

Community: When we are lost and sick at heart

We remember them.

Rabbi: When we have joy we crave to share

We remember them.

Community: When we have decisions that are difficult to make

We remember them.

Rabbi: When we have achievements that are based on theirs

We remember them.

Together: As long as we live, they too will live;

for they are now a part of us

as we remember them.

Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer

The deaths of those we remember leave gaping holes in our lives, but we are grateful for the gift of their lives. We are strengthened by the blessings which they left us and by precious memories which comfort and sustain us as we recall them this day.

Each of us reads silently the appropriate passages among those which follow. Personal meditations may also be added.

We rise.

In Memory of a Father

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת אָבִי מוֹרִי שֶׁהָלֵךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. הָנְנִי נוֹדֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתוֹ. אָנָּא הְּהִי נַפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתוֹ כָּבוֹד. שֹׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת כָּנֶיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְ נָצַח. אָמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my dear father who has gone to his eternal home. In loving testimony to his life, I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to him. Through such deeds, and through prayer and memory, his soul is bound up in the bond of life. May I prove myself worthy of the gift of life and the many other gifts with which he blessed me. May these moments of meditation link me more strongly with his memory and with our entire family. May he rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In Memory of a Mother

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת אִמִּי מוֹרָתִי שֶׁהָלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָה. הִנְנִי נוֹדֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתָה. אָנָּא הְּהִי נַפְשָׁה צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתָה כָּבוֹד. שֹבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת פָּנֶיךָ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְּ נָצַח. אָמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my dear mother who has gone to her eternal home. In loving testimony to her life, I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to her. Through such deeds, and through prayer and memory, her soul is bound up in the bond of life. May I prove myself worthy of the gift of life and the many other gifts with which she blessed me. May these moments of meditation link me more strongly with her memory and with our entire family. May she rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In Memory of a Husband

יִזְכּוֹר אֶלהִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת בַּעֲלִי שֶׁהָלֵךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. הָנְנִי נוֹדֶרֶת (נוֹדֵר) צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתוֹ. אָנָּא הְּהִי נַפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתוֹ כָּבוֹד. שֹׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת כָּנֶיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְ נָצַח. אָמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my husband who has gone to his eternal home. In loving testimony to his life, I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to him. Through such deeds, and through prayer and memory, his soul is bound up in the bond of life. Love is strong as death, deep bonds of love are indissoluble. The memory of our companionship and love leads me out of loneliness into all that we shared which still endures. May he rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In Memory of a Wife

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת אִשְׁתִּי שֶׁהָלְכָה לְעוֹלְמָה. הִנְנִי נוֹדֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָקֵה בְּעַד הַזְכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתָה. אָנָּא תְּהִי נַפְשָׁה צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתָה כָּבוֹד. שֹבֵע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת כָּנֶיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךָ נֶצַח. אָמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my dear wife who has gone to her eternal home. In loving testimony to her life I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to her. Through such deeds and through prayer and memory, her soul is bound up in the bond of life. "Many women have done superbly, but you surpass them all." Love is strong as death, deep bonds of love are indissoluble. The memory of our companionship and love leads me out of loneliness into all that we shared which still endures. May she rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In Memory of a Son

יִזְכּוֹר אֶלהִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת בְּנִי הֶאָהוּב מַחְמַד עֵינַי שֶׁהָלַךְּ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. הָנְנִי נוֹדֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתוֹ. אָנָּא חְּהִי נַפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתוֹ כָּבוֹד. שֹבֵע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת פָּנֶיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְ נָצַח. אָמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my beloved son who has gone to his eternal home. In loving testimony to his life, I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to him. Through such deeds, and through prayer and memory, his soul is bound up in the bond of life. I am grateful for the sweetness of his life and for what he accomplished. May he rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In Memory of a Daughter

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים אֶת נִשְׁמַת בִּתִּי הַאָּהוּכָה מַחְמֵד עֵינִי שֶׁהָלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָה. הָנְנִי נוֹדֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתָה. אָנָּא חְּהִי נַפְשָׁה צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתָה כָּבוֹד. שֹבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת פָּנֶיךּ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינָךְ נֵצַח. אַמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my beloved daughter who has gone to her eternal home. In loving testimony to her life, I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to her. Through such deeds, and through prayer and memory, her soul is bound up in the bond of life. I am grateful for the sweetness of her life and for what she accomplished. May she rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In Memory of Other Relatives and Friends

יִזְכּוֹר אֶלהִים אֶת נִשְׁמוֹת קְרוֹבֵי וְרֵעֵי שֶׁהָלְכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם. הָנְנִי נוֹדֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְכָּרת נִשְׁמוֹתִיהֶם. אָנָּא תִּהְיֶנָה נַפְשׁוֹתִיהֶם צְרוּרוֹת בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתָם כָּבוֹד. שֹבֵע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת פָּנֶיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְ נֶצַח. אָמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my dear relative/my dear friend and all relatives and friends who have gone to their eternal home. In loving testimony to their lives, I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to them. Through such deeds, and through prayer and memory, their souls are bound up in the bond of life. May these moments of meditation link me more strongly with their memory. May they rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In Memory of a Baby

May God remember the soul of my beloved child who has gone to eternal rest. Their life was but the briefest flicker of a flame, extinguished before they had time to shed their light on the world - but not before sharing their warmth with me. Through the months of their gestation, I prepared to nurture and to love them. For the times that they lived, I gave to them everything a parent could have given and received everything I could have expected.

May the memory of the joy they brought to me in the short time that we were together strengthen me. For the gift of their life without transgression, I pledge to do acts of righteousness and charity that they may merit eternal life and that I may find comfort in this world. May they rest in peace.

In Memory of the Six Million

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְרוֹמִים. הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי הַשְׁכִינָה בְּמַצְלוֹת הַקְדוֹשִׁים וְהַטְהוֹרִים שֶׁנָפְלוּ בִּיְדֵי רוֹצְחִים וְנִשְׁפְּכוֹ דְּמָם בּאוּשׁווִיץ, מָאידָאנֶכְק, טְרֵעבְּלִינְקָא וּבִשְׁאָר מַחֲנוֹת הַשְׁמָם בְּאֵירוֹפָּה. שֶׁנָהֶרְגוּ, וְשֶׁנִשְׁרְפוּ, וְשֶׁנִשְׁחְטוּ, וְנִקְּרְבוּ חַיֹּיָם בְּכָל מִתּוֹת מְשׁוּנוֹת וְאָכְזָרִיוֹת עַל קְדוּשַׁת הַשֵּׁם. בַּעֲבוּר שֶׁאָנַחְנוּ בְּנֵייהֶם, בְּנוֹתִיהֶם אָחֵייהֶם וְאַחָיוֹתייהֶם נוֹדֵרִים צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָּרת נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. בְּנַנְיוֹ לְעוֹלְמִים, תְּהָא מְנוּחָתָם. לְכֵן בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים יַסְתִּירִם בְּסֵתֵר בְּנָפִיו לְעוֹלְמִים, וְיִצרוֹר בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. יְיָ הוּא נַחֲלָתָם. וְיַנוּחוּ בְשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָם. וְנֹאִמַר אָמֵן.

Exalted, compassionate God dwelling on high, grant perfect peace in Your sheltering Presence among the holy and the pure who shine and gleam like the lights of the firmament, to the souls of all our brothers and sisters who fell to the hands of murderers and whose blood was spilled at Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka and the other concentration camps of Europe; who were killed, burned and slaughtered, sacrificing their lives in all manner of strange and cruel ways for Your sake, Holy One. And because we, their children and family, pledge charity to perpetuate their memories, let them dwell in the Garden of Eden forever. Merciful One, shelter them always under Your wings and bind them in the bond of life. You are their inheritance; may they rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.

This is the Kaddish taught to Leopold Sher by his father Joseph Sher z"l. When visiting graveyards, Joseph would walk from grave to grave chanting these words. May his memory be for a blessing.

In Memory of All of the Dead

אֵל מָלֵא רַחָמִים, שׁוכֵן בַּמְרומִים, הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכונָה, תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי הַשְּכִינָה, בְּמַצְלות קְדושִׁים, וּטְהוֹרִים כְּזֹהֵר הָרָקִיעַ מַזְהִירִים, אֶת נִשְׁמוֹת כָּל אֵלֶה שֶׁהִזְכַּרְנוּ הַיּוֹם לִבְרָכָה שֶׁהָלְכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם, בְּגַן עֵדֶן תְּהִי מְנוּחָתָם. אָנָּא בַּעַל הָרַחָמִים הַסְתִירֵם בְּסֵתֶר כְּנָפֶיךְּ לְעוֹלְמִים, וּצְרוֹר בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. יְיָ הוּא נַחֲלָתָם, וְיָנוּחוּ בְשָׁלום עַל מִשְׁכִּבוֹתֵיהֶם, וְנֹאֹמֵר אָמֵן.

//, to the souls of all our beloved who have gone to their eternal home. May their memory endure as inspiration for deeds of charity and goodness in our lives. May their souls thus be bound up in the bond of life. May they rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.

Mourner's Kaddish

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵה רַבָּא. בְּעָלְמָא דִּי בְרָא כִרְעוּתֵה, וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵה בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בַּעְגָלָא וּבִזְמַן קָרִיב, וְאִמְרוּ אַמֵּן.

ָרָג שָׁמָה רַבָּא מְבָרך לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמִי עָלְמַיָּא.

יִתְבָּרַדְּ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאַר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְּהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלְּל שְׁמֵה דְּקֵדְשָׁא בְּרִידְ הוּא, לְעֵלָּא מִן כָּל בִּרְכָתָא וְשִׁירָתָא תִּשְׁבְּחָתָא וְנֶחֱמָתָא, דַּאֲמִירָן בְּעַלְמָא, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן.

יָהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא, וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן. עֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בִּמְרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Yit-gadal ve-yit-kadash shmei raba, b'alma divra khir'utei ve-yamlikh mal-khutei be-hayei-khon uve'yomei-khon uve-hayei di-khol beit yisrael ba-agala u-vizman kariv v'imru amen.

Ye-hei shmei raba meva-rakh l'alam ul'almei 'almaya.

Yit-barakh ve-yish-tabah ve-yitpa'ar ve-yitromam ve-yitnasei ve-yit-hadar ve-yit'aleh ve-yit-halal shmei di-kudsha brikh hu, l'eila l'eila mikol bir-khata ve-shirata tush-be-hata ve-nehemata da-amiran b'alma, v'imru amen.

Ye-hei shlama raba min shmaya ve-hayim aleinu v'al kol yisrael v'imru amen.

Oseh shalom bimromav hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol yisrael v'imru amen.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

מַזְמָוֹר לְדָוָד יִי רֹעָי לֹא אָחָסֶר

God makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside the still waters.

בָּנָאָוֹת דֵּשֵׁא יַרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל־מֵי מִנְחָוֹת

Restores my soul and guides me in straight paths for the sake of God's name.

נַפִּשִׁי יִשׁוֹבֶב יַנְחֲנִי בִמַעִּגְלִי־צַּׁדָק לַמַעַן שָׁמִוּ

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 com-

גַם כִּי־אָלָדְ בָּגֵיא צַּלְמַׁוַת לא־אִּירָא רָע כִּי־אַתַּה עִמָּדִי שִׁבְטְךָ וֹּמִשְׁעַנְהָּדְ הַמָּה יִנַחַמֵנִי

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 for ever.

מַּעַרֹדְ לִפַנַּי ו שִׁלְחַוֹ נֵגֶד צֹרְרֵי

דּשַׁנָתַ בַשֵּׁמֵן רֹאשִׁי כּוֹסִי רְוַיָה

אַך טוֹב וַחֵסֶד וַרְדִּפוּנִי כַּל־יִמֵי חַיַּי

שבתי בבית־ני לארד ימים

To give thanks, even in grief

O Lord, our Lord, how great is Your name, How manifold are Your blessings.

Even in the midst of our pain and sorrow, We are mindful of Your goodness to us.

We are grateful for the strength to carry our burden, For friends and loved ones who are near to help.

We are grateful for the promised healing to follow, After we walk through the valley of the shadow.

And we are grateful for the memories of our loved ones, Which death can never take from us.

Help us, we pray, to be mindful always, Of the many blessings in our lives;

For the blessings of the earth,
For the yield of the land and the waters;

So that we may ever be among those Who reverently offer gratitude to You,

And strive to share Your blessings With all Your children everywhere.