

Beit Ahavah Yizkor Memorial Candles 5781 2020

*This is a Kaddish for the family and friends we lost,
And for those lost to all of humanity.*

- From "A Covid Kaddish For High Holy Days,
5781/2020," by Rabbi Debra Hachen



"Yizkor" - "Remember" - is the name of the Memorial prayer we recite on Yom Kippur with the Kaddish prayer, and other holy days of the year. One of the beautiful and longstanding customs of Judaism is honoring the memories of loved ones by observing the anniversary of their passing and Yizkor on our High Holydays. A Yartzheit or memorial candle is lit at sundown on Yom Kippur, before lighting the Yom Tov holiday candles and before Kol Nidrei prayer is sung. The candle burns for 25 hours, until Yom Kippur is over. **We will hold our Yizkor service of remembrance in the afternoon of Yom Kippur (Monday, Sept. 28, 5:30 p.m.) dedicated to remembrance and space for grieving in the holiest day of our Jewish year.**

This year the Yizkor Memorial service can include photos in addition to recitation of names. You can add names, with optional pictures and the custom of contributions, [here](https://form.jotform.com/202335837212045):
<https://form.jotform.com/202335837212045>.

This year we include a Yizkor memorial candle in our High Holyday bags for you to use on Yom Kippur in your home. We ask you to light this candle, for your own beloved loved ones whom you have lost this year or in seasons past, or for others. We ask you to light also dedicated to the remembrance of the lives lost in the past six months due to COVID-19, of Black Lives lost to racial injustice, of lives lost to persecution and prejudice who have no one to remember or whose names we do not know, and for lives, species and animals lost in fires in Australia, in California, and other devastations of global climate change.

So much of these holidays is about remembering. Another name for Rosh Hashanah, in fact, is "Yom Hazikaron," the day of Remembrance.

We will not be all together in the Sanctuary this Yom Kippur with one Yartzheit candle lit through the night and rest of the day. But our memorial lights will be lit with all of us, throughout our community, as we support, process, grieve and begin this new year with this mitzvah to remember and honor them. ***May their memories be blessed.***