

5785 - 2024

Temple Beth-El of Jersey City

The Temple Beth-El Family lovingly remembers our member who passed away since last Yom Kippur.

Jeremy Farrell, husband of Sarah Farrell and father of Aiden Farrell

The Temple Beth-El Family lovingly remembers our family members who passed away since last Yom Kippur.

Leonard Caminer, father of Joel Caminer
Carol Chernick, mother of Lisa Chernick Hysen
Shirley Cuttler, mother of Gary Cuttler
William Robert Edgar II, brother of Lauren Kushner
Alfred Fiori, father of Alissa Weil
Dorene Haenick, mother of Jamie Lieberman
Shirley Rivo, mother of Phil Rivo

Karen Kravtin Shadrick, aunt of Philip Gary Germaine Vindigni, mother of Frank Vindigni

Zichronam livracha. May their memory be a blessing.



Jaymie & Doug Berger

Henry & Rena Berger, *Parents* Stephanie Pinson, *Mother* Jackie Ecker, *Aunt*

Lisa Berkowitz

Marvin Berkowitz, Father

Arnold and Renee Bettinger

Florence Bettinger, Mother
Samuel Bettinger, Father
George St. Peter, Father
Louise St. Peter, Mother
Sarah Bettinger, Grandmother
Jack Bettinger, Uncle
Carolyn Bunomo, Aunt
Abe & Doris Janowitz, Uncle & Aunt
Benjamin Janowitz, Grandfather
Blanche Janowitz, Grandmother
Lynn Bettinger, Sister-in-law

Rabbi Kenneth L. Brickman

Maurice A Brickman, Father Libbie I. Brickman, Mother Neal F. Kessman, Partner

Merrick and Tina Brodsky

J. Leon Brodsky, Father/Grandfather
Silvia Brodsky, Mother/Grandmother
Lennox McKell, Father/Grandfather
Louis & Leah Rubin, Grandparents
Samuel & Lena Brodsky, Grandparents
Celia & Daivid Braham, Aunt & Uncle
Constance Gordon, Aunt
Franklin Gordon, Uncle
Barbara McKell, Aunt
Terrence McKell, Cousin
Lloyd McKell, Cousin
Cindy Rubin, Cousin
Randolph Herr, Friend
Allan Evans, Friend
Bruce Sanders, Friend

Lynn Brownstein

Joseph & Roslyn Brownstein, *Parents* Ida & Louis Staloff, *Grandparents*

Joel Caminer and Ellen Simon

Joanne Osher Caminer, *Mother* Leonard Caminer, *Father*

Guillermo & Meagan Cancio

Pearl Sackett, *Grandmother* Celia Weinstein, *Grandmother* Guillermo L. Cancio, *Father*

Stephanie Chaiken

Bradley Fields, Boyfriend Mary Chaiken, Aunt Lionel Chaiken, Father Pamela Chaiken, Sister Mona Lubin, Friend

Stuart, Tyler, and Trevor Cohen

Jeanette Cohen, Mother/Grandmother Harry Cohen, Father/Grandfather Millene Pinkney, Grandmother David Solomon, Grandfather

Adrienne Cohn

Abraham Cohn, Father Sharry Deutsch, Sister Ellen Rubenstein, Friend

Sarah Colker and Joe Moskowitz

Janice Seiner Colker, *Mother*James Colker, *Father*Blossom Moskowitz, *Mother*

Gary and Karen Cuttler

Mark Cuttler, *Brother* Isador & Shirley Cuttler, *Parents* Barbara & Harry Schwartzbard, *Parents*

Rachel Edricks

Betty & Harold Jacobs, *Grandparents* David Jacobs, *Uncle*

Robin and Terry Ewert & Family

Elaine Sandlaufer, Mother
Harry Sandlaufer, Father
Douglas Sandlaufer, Brother
Sarah Sandlaufer, Grandmother
Abraham Sandlaufer, Grandfather
Rachel Newman, Grandmother
Sigmund Arthur Newman, Grandfather
Shirley Porte, Aunt
Elliott Porte, Uncle
Phyllis Newman Green, Aunt
Adolph Green, Uncle
Lily and Max Malamud, Aunt & Uncle
Anna & Isadore Goldberg,
Aunt & Uncle
Marion Weiss Baron, Aunt

Andrea Gaines

Walter Gaines, Father
Sheila Gaines, Mother
Cymbaline Rossman, Sister-in-law
Alison Sebesky, Sister-in-law
Janet Sebesky, Mother-in law
Don Sebesky, Father-in-law
Lolita Takli, Friend

Cathy Gale

Jim Rothwell, *Husband*Ronald Gale, *Father*Judith B. Gale, *Mother*

Philip Gary

Michelle Kravtin Gary, Mother
Ruth & Maruice Kravtin, Grandparents
Gloria Gary, Grandmother
Alfred Gary, Grandfather
Karen Kravtin Shadrick, Aunt
Thomas Gary, Uncle

Claire Glasspiegel

Leon "Lonny" Weisburgh, Grandfather

Stacey and Elliott Goldstein

Charles Goldstein, Father Lewis Dars, Father Rosalind Dars, Mother

Suzanne Goldstein Smith & John Thompson

Mary Lou Goldstein, Mother Laurence Goldstein, Father Rose Links Sarason, Grandmother Marjorie Thompson, Mother Francis John Thompson, Father Alice Thompson, Sister

Meredith & Jeff Goodman

Richard Epstein, Father/Grandfather

Bonnie and Jay Heyman

Shirley & Elliott Porte, Parents
Sylvia & Sidney Heyman, Parents
Rachel & Sigmund Newman,
Grandparents

Jane & Benjamin Porte, *Grandparents*Elaine & Harry Sandlaufer, *Aunt & Uncle*Phyllis & Adolph Green, *Aunt & Uncle*Rose & Bill Aarons, *Aunt & Uncle*Syd Porte, *Aunt*Marsha Altschule Heyman, *Sister-in-law*



Rita Hornstein

Joseph Leonard Hornstein, Husband
Benjamin Rausch, Father
Helen Rausch, Mother
Isidore Hornstein, Father
Sadie R. Hornstein, Mother
Bernard Lelling, Father
Hilda Gottlieb, Sister
Samuel Ruskin, Grandfather
Tillie Ruskin, Grandmother
Elias Hornstein, Grandfather
Mary Hornstein, Grandmother
Joseph Fass, Grandfather
Sadie Fass, Grandmother
Selwyn Gross, Husband

The Hysen Family

Murray Hysen, Father/Grandfather Arlene Hysen, Mother/Grandmother Arnold Chernick, Father/Grandfather Carol Chernick, Mother/Grandmother

Mark & Deborah Kahn

Joseph Kahn, Father
Herbert Weininger, Father
Anita Weininger, Mother
Dorothy Kahan, Mother
Jordan C. Miller, Dear Friend
Mae Jacobs, Dear Friend

Jeffrey Kaplowitz

Herman Kaplowitz, Father Sadie Kaplowitz, Mother

The Kirschner Family

Rochelle Kirschner, Mother/Grandmother
Cecilia Rotsztejn, Grandmother/
Great-Grandmother
Claudia Rotsztejn, Aunt
Linda Kirschner, Aunt

Renee Klein

Pola Fluss, *Mother*Malwina Pohoryles, *Grandmother*Herman Pohoryles, *Grandfather*

Seth & Jamie H. Lieberman

Dorene Haenick, *Mother* Howard Baker, *Uncle* Joel Freeman, Uncle

Seth Lubin

Shirley Lubin, *Mother* S. Lloyd Lubin, *Father*

Sara Merin and Tom Stein

Jerome L. Merin, Father Annie Veitch, Grandmother

Joanna Metelitsa

Marshall E. Bloomfield, Esq, Father

Rabbis Leana Moritt and Steven Kushner

Fred G. Moritt, Father Laura Moritt Katz, Aunt Aid Kushner, Father Miriam Kushner, Mother

Sharon Paster

Julius & Helen Paster, *Parents* Francis Chaplan, *Grandmother* Roberta Chaplan, *Aunt*

Karen and Jonathan Pinn

Marvin Pinn, Father
Susan Straus Pinn, Mother
Marvin Pinkowitz, Stepfather
Evelyn Straus, Grandmother
David Straus, Grandfather
David Seemen, Grandfather
Sydney Pinn, Grandmother
Oscar Pinn, Grandfather
Ellen Straus, Aunt
Augusta Seemen, Grandmother
Steven Pinkowitz, Stepbrother
Evan Meisler, Friend



Stuart Portney

Bernice & Herbert Portney, Parents
Sylvia Fireman, Aunt
Abby Portney, Sister
Minnie & Louis Portney, Grandparents
Abraham & Mollie Fireman, Grandparents
Morton & Shari Fireman, Uncle & Aunt
Ruth Foster, Aunt
Fern Foster, Cousin
Abraham Pearlman, Second Cousin
Rosie Westman, Mother-in-law
Leslie Westman, Father-in-law
Rebecca Lord, Aunt-in-law

Alan Porwich

Martin & Bernice Porwich, *Parents* Stephen Porwich, *Brother* Nancy Katzman, *Sister*

The Rivo Family

Henry Kufert, Father Julian Rivo, Father Jesse Shapiro, Stepfather

Irwin Rosen

Etta & Isadore Rosen, Grandparents
Cecelia Wahl Cohen & Joseph Wahl,
Grandparents
Arthur A. Levine, Friend
Kerry Acker, Friend
Ken Eisler, Friend
Michael Cordero, Friend
Brenda Swissman, Friend
Howard Feintuch, Friend

Toby & Harold Rosen, Parents

Tom Rosensweet, Barbara E. Hines, & Vanessa Rosensweet

Alvin Rosensweet, Father
Beatrice Rosensweet, Mother
Bryan Hines, Brother
Willis Hines, Father
Dora Monserrate, Dear Friend
Jana Young, Dear Friend
Dan North, Dear Friend
Janet Kain, Dear Friend

Harvey and Shirley Roter

Sol & Esther Rose Smith, Parents
Sol & Anna Roter, Parents
David Roter, Brother
Eric Waller, Brother-in-law
Bertha & Max Smith, Grandparents
Tillie & Jacob Segal, Grandparents
Judith Nadler, Dear Friend
Sidney Shenkman, Father of
Daughter-in-Law

Nancy and Nathan Sambul

Jack & Rose Baritz Gurwitz, Parents Anna & David Gurwitz, Grandparents Morris & Anna Baritz, Grandparents Leon Sambul, Father Bernice T. & Murray Pollner, Parents Irene T. & Harry Vogelman, Grandparents Nathan Trachman, Grandfather Jonathan Elousa, Brother-in-law Sylvia B. & Moses Kadish, Aunt & Uncle Pauline B. & Harry Dollin, Aunt & Uncle Sally B & Al Faller, Aunt & Uncle Joey Boston Gurwitz, Uncle Bernice G. & Gerald Rothstein, Aunt & Uncle Harriet G. & Harold Suvalle, Aunt & Uncle Elaine Aarons, Cousin Robert Suvalle, Cousin Gerald Kadish, Cousin Marvin Dollin, Cousin Burt Faigen, Cousin Susan Rothstein, Cousin Mel Krakowski, Cousin Mel Pollner, Cousin Martin Wachs, Cousin



The Rosenzweig/Schkrutz Family

Maxwell Rosenzweig, Father/Grandfather
Alex Schkrutz, Father/Grandfather
Roy Rosenzweig, Brother/Uncle
David & Eva L. Blatt, Grandparents
Molly G. & Morris Rosenzweig,
Grandparents
Zischa Rosenzweig, Great Uncle & Family
Yetta & Leiser Blatt, Great-Grandparents
Samuel & Ida Leff, Great-Grandparents
Morris & Ester Rose Grinberg,
Great-Grandparents
Michel & Cipora Rosenzweig,
Great-Grandparents
David & Mollie Leff,
Great-Grandparents

Mae Rosenzweig, Mother/Grandmother

Ria & Rum DasGupta & Eric Schkrutz

Anupam Dasgupta, Father/Husband

Fred and Karen Schnur

David Marshall Schnur, Son Ruth Golin, Mother Hyman Golin, Father Nathan Schnur, Father Lily Schnur, Mother Ronnie Gross, Brother-in-law Scott Gross, Nephew

Henry and Patricia Schulman

James Girardo, *Grandfather* Dorothy Pulver, *Mother* Selma Schulman, *Mother*

Lari Schwartz

Lynne Winograd, *Wife*Nathan Schwartz, *Father*Rose Schwartz, *Mother*

Jane Shapiro

Steven Herbert Shapiro, Husband

Michael Shuchman

Lisa Shuchman, Wife Leon & Henrietta Shuchman, Father Henrietta Shuchman, Mother Herman Nemet, Father-in-law Frieda Nemet, Mother-in-law

The Silver Family

Sondra & Morton Silver, *Grandparents*Jane Scanlon, *Grandmother*Jay Silver, *Brother*

Robert Spencer

Pola Fluss, Grandmother

Sam Violante

Arnold Kiepner, Father

Barbara Wolkoff

Stanton L. Wolkoff, Father Marjorie Frishberg, Mother Robert Weiner, Brother-in-law



Temple Beth-El remembers

Rabbi Samuel A. Berman April 21, 1998 &

Cantor Abraham Berman March 6, 1986

for their many years of devoted service to Temple Beth-El.



Eili, Eili — Hannah Szenes

אֵלִי, אֵלִי שָׁלא יִגְמֵר לְעוֹלָם הַחוֹל וְהַיָם, רְשְרוּש שֶל הַמַּיִם בְרָק הַשָּמֵיִם, תְפִילַת הָאָדָ.

Eili, eili, shelo yigameyr l'olam, hachol v'ha-yam, rishrush shel ha-mayim, b'rak ha-shamayim, filat ha-adam.

Oh God, my God, I pray that these things never end. The sand and the sea, the rush of the waters, the crash of the heavens, the prayer of the heart.

Dear Cynthia,

This is a very beautiful question and I am grateful that you have asked it. It seems to me, that if we love, we grieve. That's the deal. That's the pact. Grief and love are forever intertwined. Grief is the terrible reminder of the depths of our love and, like love, grief is non-negotiable. There is a vastness to grief that overwhelms our minuscule selves. We are tiny, trembling clusters of atoms subsumed within grief's awesome presence. It occupies the core of our being and extends through our fingers to the limits of the universe. Within that whirling gyre all manner of madnesses exist; ghosts and spirits and dream visitations, and everything else that we, in our anguish, will into existence. These are precious gifts that are as valid and as real as we need them to be. They are the spirit guides that lead us out of the darkness.

I feel the presence of my son, all around, but he may not be there. I hear him talk to me, parent me, guide me, though he may not be there. He visits Susie in her sleep regularly, speaks to her, comforts her, but he may not be there. Dread grief trails bright phantoms in its wake. These spirits are ideas, essentially. They are our stunned imaginations reawakening after the calamity. Like ideas, these spirits speak of possibility. Follow your ideas, because on the other side of the idea is change and growth and redemption. Create your spirits. Call to them. Will them alive. Speak to them. It is their impossible and ghostly hands that draw us back to the world from which we were jettisoned; better now and unimaginably changed.

With love, *Nick*(written by Nick Cave after the death of his son)

You'll Never Walk Alone — Rodgers & Hammerstein

When you walk through a storm Hold your head up high And don't be afraid of the dark

At the end of a storm There's a golden sky And the sweet silver song of a lark

Walk on through the wind Walk on through the rain For your dreams be tossed and blown Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone

Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone

Psalm 23 Adapted by Danny Siegel

Because God is my shepherd, I have everything I want, and, more, everything I need.

I need neither wander for fulfillment nor grope for meaning.

God allows me to find rest in lush meadows and valleys. *Wherever I am — God leads me.*

Wherever God leads me,

it is as if I am by a river whose waters are so still, my mind is at ease, my soul at rest.

God guides me on the right path of tzedakah, of justice, right, goodness, compassion, and caring, for this is of benefit to God as well as to human beings.

You have set life before me as a royal banquet, even if there are present those who would harm me. *I am safe.*

I am a guest in Your household.

This life is so abundant, my cup of wonder overflows.

I am grateful and bless You for Your generosity.

O, even if I walk in places so profoundly frightening it feels as though the Angel of Death is in the darkness, Still, I fear no harm, for You, God, are with me, wherever I find myself.

I am grateful for Your compassion and care, always.

Most certainly I shall continue to live in Your home, in this life and after.



I am unwritten
Can't read my mind, I'm undefined
I'm just beginning
The pen's in my hand, ending unplanned

Staring at the blank page before you
Open up the dirty window
Let the sun illuminate the words that you cannot find
Reaching for something in the distance
So close you can almost taste it
Release your inhibitions

(Chorus) Feel the rain on your skin
No one else can feel it for you
Only you can let it in
No one else, no one else
Can speak the words on your lips
Drench yourself in words unspoken
Live your life with arms wide open
Today is where your book begins
The rest is still unwritten, yeah

I break tradition

Sometimes my tries, are outside the lines yeah, yeah We've been conditioned to not make mistakes But I can't live that way oh, oh Staring at the blank page before you Open up the dirty window

Let the sun illuminate the words that you cannot find Reaching for something in the distance

So close you can almost taste it

Release your inhibitions

(Chorus)

The rest is still unwritten The rest is still unwritten The rest is still unwritten

Eileh Ezk'rah (These I Will Remember)

Martyrs of the Israeli Massacre, October 7, 2023

Lior Ben Yaakov, 44 was a father of three who was slain by Hamas terrorists while protecting his home on October 7. The deputy chief of his community's local security team, he was called up to the neighboring Moshav Mivtahim at 6:30 that morning when news broke of a terrorist invasion of the area. There, the small security team encountered dozens of terrorists trying to invade the seven small communities clustered together. Lior was slain there alongside his close friend Tal Maman. The pair were buried side by side.

Lior owned a company that worked on developing products used in emergency medicine. His sister-in-law described him as "the man who marveled at combining unfathomable seriousness with a spirit of silliness, the man who my sister loved so much. We are left broken." Her husband recalled that between couscous and coffee at Tzippy and Moshe's "we would talk about the kids, fight about politics, show each other YouTube videos of [Pink Floyd guitarist] David Gilmour." His sister said: "My dear brother leaves behind tons of personal charm, laughter, a spirit of silliness, caring, bravery, a loving wife, three sweet and brave children, a pained mother and father, and two sisters with a hole in their hearts and many broken hearts."

His wife said that Lior was a deeply devoted and involved father. "He's incredibly smart, he was the main parent, he changed the diapers and combed their hair and made the ponytails and packed the bags for kindergarten, made the sandwiches for school — everything, all of it was him," she said. "He was present, in so many things, for that reason his loss is felt so much."

Igor Kurtser, 73, was one of 13 people aboard a minibus of senior citizens heading for a day trip to the Dead Sea who were slain that day. The bus got a flat tire next to Sderot and stopped next to a bus stop in the city to try and fix it. While they were standing there, sirens began to ring out, and the shelter at the bus stop, which was supposed to electronically unlock, did not, and remained inaccessible.

In a photo taken minutes before his death, Igor, wearing a white shirt and a blue baseball hat with sunglasses around his neck and crocs on his feet, can be seen trying to open the door of the shelter. Moments later, a pick-up truck of terrorists drove by and shot dead all 13 travelers. Only the driver emerged alive.

Images of the group of pensioners lying dead at the bus stop were among the first to circulate on the morning of the Hamas onslaught, shocking Israelis and the world with the brutality of the assault.

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Igor is survived by his three children and three grandchildren. Born and raised in Mazyr, Belarus, Igor served in the Soviet army in an anti-aircraft warfare unit. He studied carpentry, later working in a refinery and number of other factories. In 1973, he married Berta and the couple had three children. In 1997 he followed all his children who moved to Israel.

His daughter, Lena, said that her father grew up in a home of Holocaust survivors "and grew up on Holocaust stories, which he also passed on to us." Seeing how he was killed, she said, evoked the Holocaust for her: "They just shot them like in the Holocaust at point-blank range, this whole group of old people."

Brother and sister Eli and Sharon Refai, 42 & 27, were murdered near the Supernova festival on October 7 by Hamas terrorists. Eli had set out for Supernova music festival in an attempt to save Sharon, but both were ultimately murdered. Sharon was attending the festival with her boyfriend, Shahar Manzor, when the Hamas attack began. When the rocket fire started, they left for their car and had gone some way when Shahar was shot by Hamas terrorists, and the car flipped.

Sharon called her brother Eli in a panic. He immediately set out to try and help her, although when Sharon realized how many terrorists were lying in wait, she told him to turn back, but he didn't listen. When he neared her, he was shot by a cell of terrorists. The family believes Sharon was on the phone with him at the time and heard the gunfire.

Her mother said she later spoke to her on the phone as she was trying desperately to escape alive: "Sharon said she was sorry she called Eli... 'Sorry I ruined your life, we're going to try and escape but I don't know if I'll make it out," she said on the call. That was the last her family heard from her. Shahar was also killed that day.

After several days, the Refai family was informed that Sharon's body had been identified. Several days later, Eli's body was identified, and he was buried alongside her. They are survived by their parents and four other siblings.

Eli worked as a logistics manager for a cosmetics company, while Sharon, who was finishing her studies in information systems, worked for a chain of party goods stores. Sharon was volunteering with at-risk youth and looking for a steady job, "planning to get married and to build a family. Shahar was the love of her life. We are left heartbroken."

Their older sister, Livnat, said that Sharon and Shahar had been dating for about a year and had only recently moved in together while planning their future: "The day she met Shahar she knew he was the one for her. She introduced him to the family as 'my future husband,' and we were so happy for her."

Livnat said Eli was the heart of the house. "We could barely ask for something and he was

already ready and waiting for us. She said Sharon was a calm, steady influence, and even when she knew she had lost both Eli and Shahar, she stayed calm and warned her other friends at the festival not to come to the same area. She saved their lives even when her life was in danger, when she just lost the two men who were her whole world," said Livnat. "That's how she was her whole life, brave and heroic, in control and taking care of everyone. She was always optimistic and believed that the end will be good. But this time it ended in a great tragedy."

Ilai Baram, 27 was an ice bath expert who lit up every place. He was murdered at the Supernova music festival on October 7 by Hamas terrorists. Ilai attended the festival with two friends, Yonatan Zeidman and Liam Shrem, who were both also killed. Ilai was considered missing for three days before his body was found. He is survived by his parents, as well as his two siblings and several loving aunts and uncles, including TV host Guy Zu-Aretz.

Ilai was an instructor at Ice Therapy, a Tel Aviv-based wellness center that provides therapeutic ice baths. He reached a worldwide audience when he demonstrated his techniques on the 2021 season of Ninja Israel. He was later interviewed by Israeli TV about the health benefits of ice bathing.

Ilai was known for putting rubber ducks in his ice baths, an act of whimsy that exemplified his fun-loving nature. During his funeral, friends handed out rubber ducks for mourners to place on the gravestone instead of the customary stones that Jewish mourners place on graves to show respect.

Since Ilai was killed, friends and family have launched a number of social media campaigns to bring people together and submerge in freezing water as a way to memorialize him. He was described as a magnetic presence, drawing others in. He was very close with his extended family. "It's much quieter without him," Guy Zu-Aretz and his brother Roi joked in a radio interview in February. "The family is much too polite now."

Moshik Galamin, a TV personality and friend of Ilai's, wrote on Facebook: "You lit up every place you went. Everywhere. It is a great privilege for me to have known a soul like yours." "You were one of a kind. Everyone who knew you fell in love with you." His father Amos called him, "A child of endless love, our sun went out, and we are left with a big, painful black hole in the middle... There is no replacement for you."

Itzik Kozin, 72, was a Kibbutz fixture who had all the gossip. He was murdered in his home in Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7 by Hamas terrorists. He is survived by his only daughter, Ela, 14.

Ela said that she was told by authorities her father was shot and then set on fire. "I'm holding on to the hope with all my heart that he died from being shot... His house wasn't burned,

I know that he was taken out of his house after he was shot because I've seen the blood... I just want to hope that he was dragged out when he was no longer alive. I just want to hope it was quick." She told the news anchor that her father "was a good man, and I think everyone knew it... I'm really proud of who he was, being his daughter, and I loved him."

Itizk was born in Israel a few years after his parents, both Holocaust survivors, arrived in the Jewish state with his older sister. His parents did not speak much about their wartime experiences, but his father lost his entire family in the Holocaust, including his first wife and his son. He moved to the kibbutz at age 16 with a wave of youth pioneers. For several decades, he worked in farming, and then at the famed Be'eri printing press, until he retired.

His sister's husband wrote, "My dear brother-in-law, I will no longer have the chance to grumble about the brother-in-law who saw the world differently than me and lived in another world, I won't be able to enjoy the cholent served in the cafeteria on Shabbat," he added. "I won't get to encounter those wonderful people who were your good and loyal friends for your whole life."

Wrote Adi Zohar, the daughter of Haim Zohar, another Be'eri victim, "you were more than family, you were always part of us. Together with my father... You both arrived at the kibbutz without any family, and became family by choice to each other, and were never parted — even in death. To us, you were a friend, an uncle and sometimes, especially in the last few years, a father," she added. "We could talk to you about anything. You knew everybody and it was the most fun to gossip with you. You were significant to us and to so many others and I hope you knew that."

Nurit Berger, 59 was an avid bird watcher and mother of four daughters She was murdered in her home in Netiv Ha'asara on October 7 by Hamas terrorists.

She was slain when a Hamas terrorist threw a grenade inside the bathroom of the house very early that morning, just at the start of the attack. Her town is less than 300 meters from the border with Gaza, and was one of the first to be targeted. Her husband, Alon, said that he ran to the bathroom with the sound of the explosion and found her already dead, "and I kissed her a few times." The rest of the family was wounded by gunfire and shrapnel from the terrorist assault, but managed to survive. "I loved her so much," Alon sobbed. "I really, really loved her." In addition to her husband, she is survived by their four curly-haired daughters, her parents and her sister. On the same day, Alon's brother-in-law, Haim Bennaim, was also murdered, as was Alon's father's partner.

The couple were avid bird watchers, and their home was decorated all over with bird symbols. They also loved to do puzzles, and had a large bird puzzle framed and hanging on the wall. A family of farmers, they loved animals and had a large aquarium in their home,

which Alon said saved them from being more seriously hurt since shrapnel passed through the water, slowing it down.

The child of French immigrants, Nurit grew up in a Kibbutz in the Negev. She met Alon at age 17, and the two were inseparable ever since. She was a dedicated mother to her four daughters and taught tai chi with her husband," It was impossible not to love her. Alon said the family has no doubt they will one day return to live in Netiv Ha'asara: "It is important to Nurit, it is important to us that we will keep living here, because this is our country, this is our home."

Benyamin Gavriel 19, Yona, helped his struggling parents pay He was killed by Hamas terrorists on October 7 en route to restock an Iron Dome battery. Jerusalemite Benyamin Yona was a heavy-load truck driver in the Israeli Air Force. That day, Yona drove two soldiers to restock the defense battery with interceptor missiles a few hours into Hamas's deadly onslaught. Their base was in the same area as the Supernova Festival, where hundreds were killed. The missiles are stored nearby, not far from the battery. All three were shot dead in their vehicle. Their bodies were recovered and identified several days later.

In his last moments, Yona sent a message to his family members, telling them to lock their doors and hide in their homes. He is survived by his parents, as well as his older sister.

Yona is remembered as someone who was always there for his family and helped his parents at every available opportunity. He and his sister had a difficult childhood, with both their parents falling ill and incurring large amounts of medical debt. All throughout high school, Yona worked various odd jobs to help pay his parents' bills.

According to Israel's Army Radio, Yona also had a soft spot for animals. He once drove to an army base near Bethlehem to rescue four puppies, cared for an injured bird he found on the street, and took in an abandoned rabbit.

He wanted to propose to his girlfriend once he finished his military service and had already begun purchasing equipment to live his dream of becoming a DJ.

Hava Ben Ami, 78, was killed on October 7 during the Hamas invasion of Kibbutz Be'eri. Her daughter said that she had told her mother to hide in a closet as Hamas terrorists were rampaging through her neighborhood. Around noon, Noam said, Hava texted her: "They were just in the house. I'm so terrified." And I told her 'Don't worry, we'll be there soon to get you out. I promise we'll be there soon. Somebody will get you out."

An hour or so later, they lost contact with her entirely. The family later discovered that the terrorists kidnapped Hava and forced her to the home of a neighbor, where dozens of

gunmen were holed up inside with 14 hostages. The terrorists had already killed some of those inside when IDF forces showed up later in the day and engaged in a standoff with the Hamas gunmen. The terrorists used the hostages as a bargaining tool to demand safe passage to Gaza, intending to bring the hostages with them and threatening to kill them if the IDF opened fire. According to the two survivors from inside the house, the terrorists positioned the hostages between themselves and advancing IDF troops as a gun battle blazed. She is survived by her three children, eight grandchildren and three sisters.

Hava was born in Aleppo, Syria, with the name Evelyn Yehezkel. She fled with her family on foot to Israel in early 1948, amid violence and unrest in the period before the establishment of the State of Israel.

Hava was later sent to Be'eri to get an education and remained there for close to 70 years. During that time, she worked in many different jobs in the kibbutz before, at age 45, she decided to seek out a new path and became a cosmetician.

She had a musical ear, singing at ceremonies and celebrations and playing the accordion, the piano and the flute. In her later years, she took up pilates, swimming, bike riding and yoga. Her grandson noted, "we live not just with the memories she leaves behind, but we memorialize her spirit in every basic thing she taught us — language, food she made for us — or of course, music."

Warrant Officer Ibrahim Kharuba, 39, "fought until his last breath," and was killed battling Hamas terrorists in the Nahal Oz IDF outpost on October 7. The base was the site of the slaughter of 14 unarmed female observation soldiers, and the kidnapping of another 7, in a battle that became one of the symbols of the Hamas assault on southern Israel.

Ibrahim was called to the border area with news of the Hamas invasion. There he fought against terrorists storming into Israel, before he was alerted that a large group had reached the Nahal Oz outpost. He engaged in a gun battle with dozens of terrorists inside the base, trying to protect the young recruits who were huddled in the bomb shelter, before he was killed.

He is survived by his wife, Asmaa, their four children, Rafif, Leen, Muhammad and Jan, his parents, Hassan and Hamda, and his siblings Noura, Mahmad, Sleiman, Ahmed, Anwar and Azhar.

The father of one of the slain observation soldiers met with Ibrahim's family and said he must be remembered as one of the people who fought. We heard that throughout the morning he was still fighting and trying to protect the girls." His brother, Sleiman, said that "it's very important that the story of Ibrahim — that the country will understand and know what happened."

"Ibrahim fought until his last moment," he said. "Until his last breath. Until he fell in the bomb shelter."

His brother recalled that Ibrahim enlisted in the IDF in 2002 and served initially in the Paratroopers Brigade, before setting off on a path as a career officer. "Ibrahim was a great man, he loved to live," he said, noting that he was also a devoted family man to his wife, children, siblings and parents. He loved to help, wherever anyone needed... he helped me in every sense... He is so missed by us, at home, to his kids, they keep asking where he is."

Ari Zenilman, 32, was a dedicated father with a brilliant mind. He was an American-Israeli who moved from New York to Israel with his family during his adolescent years.

On the morning of October 7 Zenilman, a reservist, hurried to Israel's south to help fend off Hamas's invasion with the rest of his unit. He and his fellow soldiers initially fought in Kissufim, and were later deployed to Kibbutz Re'im, Kfar Aza and Nahal Oz. He was killed later in Khan Younis.

He left behind his widow and three children. The couple's youngest child was born only a week before Hamas launched its devastating attack on Israel.

"Everyone seemed to know really early on that Ari was blessed with a brilliant mind," his mother said. Said a friend, "he was always the smartest person in the room, but he just never wore it as a badge. It was just a tool he used to be a better person and a better Jew." After high school, Zenilman enrolled in a program that enabled him to combine his army service with Torah study. "He wanted to go to yeshiva, and he wanted a combat role," his mother said. "That really mattered to him."

Zenilman married while at Hebrew University, studying philosophy, political science and economics while working as a research assistant at the Kohelet Policy Forum. He began working at the Central Bureau of Statistics after graduating, and later on made the switch into the high-tech industry working for Mobileye, a vehicle tech company.

His widow recalled that despite working in the demanding high-tech industry requiring long hours, her husband would always make time for family, saying, "He brought the kids to preschool in the morning. He made the effort to leave work a little earlier to see the kids every day, to eat dinner with them and read them a goodnight book." She added that even when he started his master's degree while working a full-time job, he still found time for his children. "He was my inspiration. When we met, I knew that I married someone who will be my best friend, the love of my life... but also he was so inspiring to me," she said. "I experienced him as a role model, that's why I wanted him to be the father of my kids."

Yehudit Itzchaki, 76, was a child of Holocaust survivors and a doting Grandma. She was murdered in her home on October 7 by Hamas terrorists. Her son Gidi said she texted that morning scared and hiding in her reinforced room. The last message she sent was a heart emoji to her grandson.

Her family was informed of her death only 11 days later. They were told that she was most likely taken outside of her house and shot dead in her garden, where her body was found. She is survived by her three sons and eight grandchildren.

Born in 1947 in a displaced persons camp in Italy to two Holocaust survivors from Austria who lost most of their families, Yehudit came to Israel in 1948. "The most painful thing is that she had to experience such fear and terror, when they took her out of her house with great violence, the way that they killed her grandparents."

Yehudit lived in Be'eri for almost 50 years. She worked as the secretary at the kibbutz printing house and later as a school administrator. She was dedicated to her work, but also the "heart of the family — always in the center, always remembering birthdays, feeding and spoiling." She loved to read and also loved music — everything from Barbara Streisand to Dolly Parton and Yehoram Gaon.

Her grandson recalled visiting Yehudit on the kibbutz and riding around in her electric scooter, or when "I would cover myself in a blanket which smelled like you, a smell I will never forget. Or how every Friday you and Saba would come to us for dinner and we would sit and eat and laugh and enjoy. You were always there for me, even in my most difficult years," he added. "Now I understand how meaningful every minute and second with you was."

Reuven Heinik, 56, was a dairy farmer wouldn't abandon his cows, and was murdered at the dairy farm in Kibbutz Kissufim on October 9. As the longtime manager of the kibbutz's dairy, he set out for Kissufim two days after the start of the Hamas onslaught to tend to the cows. His family and friends begged him not to go, but he refused to leave the cows without care. He was shot dead by a terrorist who had been hiding inside the barn.

He is survived by his wife, and their three daughters as well as his parents. Kissufim's chairman said the kibbutz was sealed off as a closed military zone amid the attack but Heinik "asked to go to the barn to feed the cows and give them water and try to milk them," and received approval from the IDF. "Reuven showed devotion to his mission and fulfilled the most basic principles of Zionism and agriculture. He said he couldn't leave the cows without food and water."

Heinik "was a central figure in Kissufim. A beloved man, smiling and optimistic, a first-rate professional who was well known in the dairy industry in Israel." Before he managed the

teaching dairy farm, Heinik educated generations of future dairy farmers. "Everyone who spoke about him mentioned immediately his big smile, his good heart and his great love for dairy farming. Being a dairy farmer "was his life's work. He really loved the work, the cowshed and of course the kibbutz."

His sister said that "Reuven was dedicated to his family and friends. He was a man of nature, trips and adventures, he loved the land of Israel and traveled and got to know every corner of it. Reuven loved life and knew how to live it at full power. He had a certain magic and a contagious joy for life."

His wife, Dorit, said at a ceremony "Our dear Reuven died in the place he loved the most, in the dairy farm which was his life's work. We feared for his life, and to our great sadness he paid with his life for his dedication to the barn and the cows."

Shachar Zemach was a peace activist who defended his kibbutz until last bullet. He was killed fighting a Hamas invasion of Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7 at the age of 39. He and Eitan Haddad, another member of the Be'eri security team, were guarding the kibbutz dental clinic, which became an ad hoc triage center, with several wounded people laying inside. They were being treated by Dr. Daniel Levi and paramedic Amit Mann.

But they ran out of ammunition and retreated inside the clinic. One survivor heard Zemach shout in English: "Please, I'm not your enemy," before there was more shooting and another grenade was thrown. Haddad, Levi and Mann were also slain alongside him inside the clinic. Zemach's is survived by his wife, their two children, 4 and 2, as well as his parents and younger siblings.

A native of Kibbutz Be'eri, Zemach after his army service got a degree in economics and politics. He worked for many years at the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem, until three years ago when he became the Chief Financial Officer at the Be'eri print shop.

"His friends said he was the ultimate combination of serious and lighthearted: By day he wore the suit of a CFO, at night he lit a bonfire with the kids, and when they went to sleep, he would invite his friends over to smoke hookah," the eulogy reads. "Shachar was a man with a thirst for life, who loved others, an optimist, brave who saw every challenge in life as an opportunity. This is how we will remember him, and this is how we will continue to talk about him to his children."

Zemach was at one point a prominent left-wing activist, member of Meretz and participant of Breaking the Silence, a group of IDF veterans who speak out about what they say are abuses against Palestinians they witnessed while carrying out during their service. The organization noted that Zemach was a "man of peace, beloved and kind," who worked with them in the past in organizing tours in Hebron for activists and journalists. "He was killed with an M16 [rifle] in his hand, but in his other hand there was always an olive branch."

Vivian Silver, 74, was a Canadian-Israeli peace activist who had been presumed kidnapped by Hamas, but was declared dead after her remains were found at her home six weeks after October 7. Her house had been burned to the ground; she was identified through DNA. She had previously been presumed kidnapped.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, she was the longtime director of the Arab Jewish Center for Empowerment, Equality, and Cooperation, which organized projects joining communities in Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In 2014, after the last major war between Israel and Hamas, she helped found Women Wage Peace, which promotes peace-building actions among women from all communities and across the political spectrum. She held a meeting of international supporters of the organization just a few days before the Hamas attacks.

"Vivian was always persistent in the pursuit of peace and justice," said Shifra Bronznick, a Jewish social justice activist and lifelong friend of Silver's. "She was a lifelong feminist, a committed activist, a fearless leader, an exceptional friend and a loving mother, wife and grandmother."

She is one of several peace activists to have been killed or captured by Hamas on Oct. 7. Hayim Katsman, 32, who worked with Palestinians in the southern West Bank, was killed in his home in another community on the Gaza border. Yocheved Lifschitz, who helped ferry Palestinians from Gaza to medical care in Israel, was taken captive by Hamas. Her husband Oded, also involved in peace work, remains a hostage in Gaza.

Anat Saragusti, an Israeli writer and feminist activist, wrote that Silver was "a woman of infinite, deep, ongoing compassion, humanity and dedication to Arab-Jewish partnership and peace. Yes. Peace." According to the Washington Post, on the day of the massacre Silver took a call with a radio station where she pushed back against the idea that the Palestinians were "insane." In messages with her son, she expressed fear, frustration and love. "I'm with you," he responded. Her last response was "I feel you." She is also survived by four grandchildren.

Speaking to Forbes in 2021 for a series on women who assist the vulnerable, Silver said she remembered feeling relief after the government-built bomb shelters in Kibbutz Be'eri, which had been subject to rocket fire from Gaza for more than a decade. "Now we have them, so psychologically we feel better, and we feel safer, and in fact, we are safer, we're a lot safer than the people in Gaza."

At a 2018 Women Wage Peace event on the Gaza border in 2018, Silver said that the Israeli government needed to change its approach in order to bring peace to the area. "Show the required courage that will bring changes of policy that will bring us quiet and security," she said then, addressing the government. "Returning to the routine is not an option." Appealing to women across the border, she said, "Terror does not make anything better for anyone, you too deserve quiet and peace."

Her friend Bronznick said back in November, "She would be passionately advocating for peace right now," referring to Israel's war against Hamas, launched following the Oct. 7 attack. "She never gave up on bridge-building. She never gave up on making change. She never gave up on people... She always focused on people, children, what motivated them, what meant something to them."

Hersh Goldberg-Polin / The Rafa 6 The bodies of six hostages who were abducted alive by Hamas on October 7 were recovered from a tunnel in southern Gaza's Rafah this past August 31, shortly after they were murdered by terrorists.

The murdered hostages were Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23, Eden Yerushalmi, 24, Ori Danino, 25, Alex Lobanov, 32, Carmel Gat 40, and Almog Sarusi, 27. Goldberg-Polin, Yerushalmi, Lobanov, Sarusi and Danino were abducted from the Nova music festival near Kibbutz Re'im, while Gat was taken from Kibbutz Be'eri. Their bodies were found with multiple gunshot wounds, Israel's Health Ministry said, citing an examination carried out by Abu Kabir Forensic Institute.

IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the six were "brutally murdered" by Hamas shortly before troops arrived. Autopsies indicated they were likely shot from "close range" 1–2 days before their bodies were found. Later forensic evidence indicated that several of them had physically struggled with their captives soon before they were killed, likely fighting for their lives.

The IDF released photographs of the entrance to the tunnel from which their bodies were extracted. The entrance to the tunnel was located in a children's room in a private home with walls painted with images of Mickey Mouse and Snow White and there were also teddy bears in the vicinity. According to the military, there were many Hamas terrorists in the surrounding area, along with many booby traps that they had set up. The IDF added that day that "this is yet another example of Hamas's cynical use of civilian areas for terror activity."

The youngest of the six victims was Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a 23-year-old American-Israeli who was among the hundreds of young people killed while attending the Nova music festival in southern Israel on October 7. He was forced to hide in a bomb shelter with his friends as Hamas militants launched a surprise attack which killed more than 1,200 innocent people, men, women, children, babies, grandparents -- murdering, maiming, raping, beheading and burning them in cold blood and taking about 250 hostages.

As Hamas militants began to lob grenades into the bunker, Goldberg-Polin rushed to throw them out before his arm was blown off from the elbow down, according to a firsthand account from his friend. When the gunfire settled, Goldberg-Polin was forcibly taken by Hamas gunmen. That was the last time his friend saw him.

About a week before he was killed, his parents, Rachel Goldberg and Jonathan Polin spoke at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, saying:

"At this moment, 109 treasured human beings are being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza. They are Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists. They are from 23 different countries. The youngest hostage is a 1-year-old, red-headed baby boy, and the oldest is an 86-year-old mustachioed grandpa. Among the hostages are eight American citizens. One of those Americans is our only son. His name is Hersh. He's 23 years old, and like Vice President Kamala Harris, Hersh was born in Oakland, California. Hersh is a happy-go-lucky, laid-back, good-humored, respectful and curious person. He is a civilian. He loves soccer, is wild about music and music festivals, and he has been obsessed with geography and travel since he was a globes, little boy. His bedroom overflows with atlases, maps and National Geographic magazines.

On Oct. 7, Hersh and his best friend, Aner, went to a music festival in the south of Israel. It was advertised as celebrating peace, love and unity. They also went to celebrate Hersch's 23rd birthday. As rockets began to fall, Hersh, Aner and 27 other young festival-goers took refuge in a 5-foot by 8-foot bomb shelter. Terrorists began to throw grenades into the shelter.

Aner stood in the doorway and repelled seven of those grenades before the eighth one killed him. All together at the Nova music festival, 367 young music lovers were killed. This was just one of the many attacks on neighborhoods and communities in southern Israel on that terrible day. In total, 1,200 were killed, including 45 Americans. Hersh's left forearm—his dominant arm—was blown off before he was loaded onto a pick-up truck and stolen from his life, and me, and Jon, into Gaza. And that was 320 days ago."

About a week after she gave this speech, and after 330 days in captivity, almost 11 months, Hersh was murdered.

From the beginning of their nightmare, Goldberg-Polin's family and friends launched a media and diplomatic campaign to secure his release. They spoke to and petitioned a slew of politicians and others in regards to their son. They spoke to the United Nations in New York and Geneva, Pope Francis, Elon Musk, President Joe Biden, US Secretary Antony Blinken, 25 US senators, seven governors and multiple different celebrities and influencers.

At the UN, Hersh's mother delivered an emotional speech imploring for the release of her son and the other hostages from Hamas, asking: "Why is no one crying out for these people to be allowed access to the Red Cross? Why is no one demanding just proof of life? This is a global humanitarian catastrophe." She also addressed the March for Israel in Washington, D.C. last November, asking, "Why is the world accepting that 240 human beings from almost 30 countries have been stolen and buried alive?"

At her son's funeral, Goldberg recounted how she and her husband often used to wonder what Hersh Goldberg-Polin would be like be like into adulthood. "What you would do? What you would look like? What kind of parent you would be," she said. "But now you will forever be our beautiful boy. You will stay the energetic, kind, patient, curious, sunny, irreverent, pensive, forever handsome, forever young, forever my sweet boy."

Before he was abducted, Hersh was working with an initiative that was using soccer to bring Israeli and Palestinian children together.

As of September 11:

Of the 251 kidnapped and taken hostage on October 7, four were released unilaterally by Hamas. 105 were released in a prisoner exchange in November. Eight have been rescued alive by the IDF. The bodies of 37 killed hostages have been recovered. 97 are still missing.

At least 34 of those 97 are thought to be dead.

May the hostages be spared in body and spirit and be brought home to their families in safety immediately. May the memories of the murdered always be for blessing.

Hatikvah (The Hope)

Kol 'od balevav penimah Nefesh Yehudi homiyah, Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah, Ayin leTziyon tzofiyah;

Od lo avdah tikvatenu, Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim, Lihyot 'am chofshi be'artzenu, Eretz Tziyon v'Yerushalayim.

כל עוד בַלֵבָב פְנִימָה ,נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָה, וּלְפַאֲתֵי מִוְרָח קָדִימָה, עִין לְצִיוֹן צוֹפִיָה; עוד לא אָבְדָה תִקְנְתֵנוּ, הַתִּקְנָה בַת שְנוֹת אַלְפַיִם, לִהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִי בְאַרְצֵנוּ, אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָלַיִם.

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart, With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,

Then our hope
-the two-thousand-year-old hopewill not be lost:
To be a free people in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Neilah — by Beth Achenbach

The sun is beginning to set, its rays fading into orange and pink, spreading outward like arms of the horizon opening up to embrace the last hour of the day.

It's not our time to waste anymore, actual lives are on the line... one is gone now....another one now... Souls are being handed over for inspection, we failed, we stumbled, we lashed out, reliving, unraveling, as we stand knocking on our hearts trying to empty out the remnants of our mistakes.

We sing the same words as millions of Jews, but appeal with various levels of urgency. Some just go through the motions, their thoughts somewhere else. Others revealing truths of the difficult year lived, trying to get their admissions through the ancient gates well-oiled by ancestral expiation, and hinged on our faith. The arms of the horizon closing them as the light dissipates each increment minutes lost, the last moments to try and let go, unzip our shells and bare who we really are. Proving we are worthy of another chance to right ourselves, using that knowledge of all we have learned to try and fix our inherent brokenness.

Better to have the gates close shut with our hearts unburdened, than have them locked with the darkness written on our souls.

The judgments inked in time and sealed as the night heralds in a new day.

El Nora Alila אֵל נוֹרָא עַלִילָה

El nora alila, El nora alila, Ha-m'tzi lanu m'chilah, bi-sh'at ha-ne'ilah.

O, Awesome One of praise,
O, Awesome One of might,
Grant us pardon at this hour,
As Your gates are closed this night

We, who are very few, raise our eyes to heaven's height Trembling, fearful in our prayer, As Your gates are closed this night

Pouring out our soul we pray, That the sentence You will write Shall be one of pardoned sin, As Your gates are closed this night

Our refuge strong and sure, rescue us from dreadful plight Seal our destiny for joy, As Your gates are closed this night

Grant us favor, show us grace, but those who deny our right And oppress -- You be the judge, As Your gates are closed this night

Generations of our kin, Strong in faith walked in your light As of old, renew our days, As Your gates are closed this night

O, Awesome One of praise, O, Awesome One of might, Grant us pardon at this hour, As Your gates are closed this night.

