

# YOM HASHOAH READINGS AND PRAYERS 2003

Temple Rodef Shalom, Falls Church, VA  
Compiled by Cantor Allen Leider

A-ni ma-a-mIn be-e-mu-na she-lei-ma  
be-vi-at ha-ma-shi-ach.  
Ve-af al pi she-yit-ma-he-mei-a,  
Im kol zeh a-ni ma-a-mIn,  
im kol zeh a-cha-keh lo  
be-chol yom she-ya-vo.

אני מאמין באמונה שלמה  
בביאת המשיח.  
ואף על פי שיתמהמה,  
עם כל זה אני מאמין,  
עם כל זה אחכה לו  
בכל יום שיבוא.

I believe with perfect faith in the Messiah's coming.  
And even if he be delayed, I will await him.

## *Lighting of the Yom HaShoah Candles*

How can we fathom this enormity of loss?  
Our hearts try to gather in the countless faces.  
You, Holy One, summon each, images burned in Your remembrance.  
Help us to recall.

Help us to recall their lives and their destruction;  
Bring us to Your sacred place of memory,  
Not only to bear witness, but to reassemble faith,  
To recover the defiled and make it holy.

These slender flames are a promise and a charge,  
Calling us to honor and to imitate righteousness;  
These flames illuminate truth's horror and hope's future,  
Your searing reminder: do not forget.

Let us bless You, Holy One, touching fire to wick,  
Six candles to burn in testimony;  
Let us bless You, Holy One for You dry our tears,  
You comfort martyred souls, You bring us shalom.

- "Two Hundred Fourteen: Kindling the Lights of Remembrance", by Debbie Perlman, psalmist in residence, Beth Emet The Free Synagogue

## אֲשֶׁרִי הַגִּפְרוֹר Blessed is the match

אֲשֶׁרִי הַגִּפְרוֹר	Blessed is the match
שֶׁנִּשְׂרַף וְהִצִּית לְהַבּוֹת.	consumed in kindling flame.
אֲשֶׁרִי הַלְהָבָה	Blessed is the flame
שֶׁבְעָרָה בְּסִתְרֵי לְבָבוֹת.	that burns in the heart's secret places
אֲשֶׁרִי הַלְבָבוֹת	Blessed is the heart
שֶׁיִדְעוּ לְחַדֵּל	with strength to stop its beating
בְּכָבוֹד.	for honour's sake.
אֲשֶׁרִי הַגִּפְרוֹר	Blessed is the match
שֶׁנִּשְׂרַף וְהִצִּית לְהַבּוֹת.	consumed in kindling flame.

- Hannah Senesh

The human spirit is the light of God. As we look at these lights, try to imagine six million candles, each one with the name of another Jew. Each one would signify a unique and precious soul, who struggled and had hope, who was part of a family, an orphan, a widow, or a widower. They worked, studied, took walks—the ordinary things of life....They all were part of the Jewish people. Each one suffered. Each and every one was murdered. They are lost forever, their light extinguished. We are the light now. Only by our remembering can they live again in our hearts and minds.

- Adapted from *An Everlasting Name: A Service for Remembering the Shoah*, by Adam Fisher (Behrman House, 1991).

## YIZKOR

When Rabbi Meir died, there were no more makers of parables.  
When Ben Zoma died, there were no more expounders.  
When Rabbi Joshua died, goodness departed from this world.  
(*Mishna Sota IX*)

When Kalman the shoemaker died, there were no more craftsmen.  
When Berl the musician died, artistry departed from the world.  
When Jonah the wagon driver went up in smoke, the roads washed  
away and troubles grew.  
When Avreml the orphan died, goodness departed from this world.  
(*David Roskies*)

## PSALM 23

יְהוָה רֹעִי, לֹא אֶחְסָר. בְּנְאוֹת דְּשָׂא, יְרַבֵּיצֵנִי; עַל-מֵי מְנוּחֹת יְנַהֲלֵנִי. נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב; יְנַחֲנֵי בְּמַעְגְלֵי-צֶדֶק, לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ. גַּם כִּי-אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת, לֹא-אֵירָא רָע-- כִּי-אַתָּה עִמָּדִי; שִׁבְטֶךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ, הִמָּה יְנַחֲמֵנִי. תַּעַרְךָ לִפְנֵי, שְׁלַח־וּ-- נֶגְדַ צַרְרֵי; דִּשְׁנַתָּ בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי, כּוֹסֵי רְנוּהָ. אֲךְ, טוֹב נְחֻסָּד יְרַדְפוּנִי-- כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֵּי; וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבַיִת-יְהוָה, לְאֶרְךְ יָמִים.	The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in great pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul He guideth me in striaght paths for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou are with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparast a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou hast annointed my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in The house of the Lord forever.
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## THE BUTTERFLY

The last, the very last  
So richly brightly dazzling yellow  
Perhaps if the sun's tears could sing against a white stone.

Such, such a yellow is carried lightly way up high  
It went away, I'm sure,  
Because it wished to kiss the world good-bye.

For seven weeks I've lived in here pent up inside this ghetto.  
But I have found my people here.  
The dandelions call to me and the white chestnut candles in the court.  
Only I never saw another butterfly.

(based on a poem by Pavel Freedman who died at the age of 14 in Theresienstadt)

## **BIRDSONG**

He doesn't know the world at all, who stays in his nest and won't come out;  
He doesn't know what birds know best, nor what I want to sing about.

**What I want to sing about (3X)  
is that the world is full of loveliness.**

When dewdrops sparkle in the grass and earth's aflood with morning dew;  
A blackbird sings upon a bush to greet the dawning after night.

**To greet the dawning after night (3X)  
then I know how good it is to be alive.**

Open up your heart to beauty and go to the woods someday,  
And weave a wreath of memories there; and if the tears obscure your way;

**If the tears obscure your way (3X)  
you will know how good it is to be alive.**

(anonymous, from the Terizin Concentration Camp 1942-1944)

O God of Israel, we remember the countless numbers of our people who have suffered unspeakable agonies and death. Some were silent sufferers, some rebelled, all were murdered. Some are still remembered by friends and loved ones, others have vanished with no earthly remembrance. We plead that You will remember all of them, that you will hold them in Your heart, that they will find their peace with You.

*God of our fathers and mothers, our eyes are now witnesses for the suffering of Israel; our hearts have been torn as we mourn for our people. We will not forget one single thing, not forget to the last generation, lest we ignore threats to our people and all human degradation, or we've learned nothing, nothing at all.*

(Unknown)

## אל מלא רחמים

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה  
תחת כנפי השכינה במעלות קדושים וטהורים כזהר הרקיע  
מזהירים, את-נשמות כל-אחינו בני ישראל, אנשים נשים  
וטף, שנטבחו ושנחנקו ושנשרפו ושנהרגו, בגן עדן תהי  
מנוחתם. אנא בעל הרחמים, הסתירם בסתר כנפיהם  
לעולמים וצרר בצרור החיים את-נשמותיהם. יהוה הוא  
נחלתם, וינחחו בשלום על משכבותיהם. ונאמר אמן.

Exalted, compassionate God, grant perfect peace in Your sheltering Presence, among the holy and the pure, to the souls of all our brethren, men, women, and children of the House of Israel who were slaughtered and suffocated and burned to ashes. May their memory endure, inspiring truth and loyalty 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.

## Eili, Eili (A Walk to Caesarea)

Eili, Eili,	אלי, אלי
shelo yigamer l'olam;	שלא יגמר לעולם
Hachol v'ha-yam,	החול והים,
Rish-rush shel ha-mayim,	רשרוש של המים,
B'rak ha-shamayim,	ברק השמיים,
T'filat ha-adam	תפילת האדם.

O 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.

- Hannah Senesh