

Yom Haazikaron memorial ceremony

(first presented at JW3, London, 2014)

Needed:

- Projector, screen, sound system, computer
- Microphones
- Powerpoint presentation
- Copies of readings for all readers

The ceremony begins with the audience seated and the first film commences.

<Screening: A Green Salad>

Narrator (female):

Welcome to our Yom HaZikaron memorial ceremony.

This opening film was "A Green Salad", about the memories of Sherry Ansky during the Yom Kipur war of 1973 in which she lost her brother, Reuven Gevaryahu. Today Sherry Ansky is a well-known food writer who has published multiple cookbooks. Though she grew up in a religious home, today she is no longer observant.

Reuven Gevaryahu, 22 April 1947 - 17 October 1973

In the memorial book written by Reuven's father, you can discern a sense of surprise: *"We the parents of our heroic sons, we are simple, unremarkable folk. And yet, from the stories we've collected... an image emerges and solidifies of our children as daring, fearless warriors. And among the parents of the fallen, some of us are amazed: Who raised these children who selflessly offered themselves up through their astonishing acts of heroism? ... The truth is that our sons too, like their parents, like all of us, were*

simple unremarkable folk. But they harbored a great love for the State of Israel, their native homeland, the inheritance of their forefathers, and when they sensed that their state, their homeland, and their inheritance was in peril, they elevated themselves to a higher plane of combat readiness, resourcefulness, and bravery. This ability to elevate ourselves is the eternal infrastructure, the basis upon which we defend ourselves, and is the existential foundation of the State of Israel."

Narrator (male):

Yom HaZikaron is always a complicated time, in particular when we mark it outside of Israel. For those of us brought up in Israel, we feel very far away. For those of us who have lost loved ones, there are endless levels of pain and – to an extent – loneliness as we attempt to share what cannot be shared. And for those of us who are born and bred Brits/Americans/Canadians/etc - we struggle with our desire to connect, respect, and mourn – in the awareness that there are emotional chasms between us.

With the help of four of Bet Avi Chai's commissioned short films, we'd like to aim for a different way of touching Yom HaZikaron. Through experiencing the creativity of Israelis, and the personal stories of civilians – the non-combatants left behind - together we'll piece together our own delicate mosaic of loss and memory.

Narrator (female):

Slide: Nimrod Segev_23 October 1977 - 9 August 2006

Nimrod Segev was inducted into the Israeli army in 1996 and served in the IDF Armored Corps. He loved life, especially its simpler pleasures, and was intimately connected to nature, his roots, and the landscape of his native land.

On 9 August, 2006 he fell in combat in Southern Lebanon. He was 28 years old. He is survived by his parents, his brother, his widow and his son.

His wife Iris wrote of him: "Nimrod insisted on going to war though I begged him not to. When he was called up and there was no water to be found, his father Chezi arrived at the staging site with bottles of drinking water. Nimrod, always thinking of others first, handed out all the bottles to his fellow soldiers and ended up dehydrating and requiring hospitalization. Despite that, he refused to be sidelined from active service in the war.

Slide: Nimrod Lookout

Because of his great love for his hometown Rosh Pina and his love of nature, we decided to honor his memory by creating the Nimrod Lookout – a memorial park that is both an observation point overlooking the Galilee and the Golan."

Slide: Nimrod Lookout

<Screening: A Chilling Prophecy>

Slide: Ezra Asher – 19 September 1968 - 7 October 2011

Narrator (male):

The next film is based on a story entitled *Paper Boats* written by one of Ezra's friends, Asael Kahana. Through Asael's poignant tale, we wanted to touch – very gently – upon the circumstances leading to Asher's death, and at the same time to explore the way a child first comes to terms with the meaning of the words: "Abba is going to war."

<Screening: Paper Boats >

On 24 May 1993, Ezra was fatally wounded by friendly fire in the Kabrikha region of southern Lebanon. In the same action, three soldiers of his company were also killed: First Sergeant Dvir Yaakov Mor Hayyim, Sergeant Ehud Halamish, and Sergeant Yaakov Gabai. Ezra is survived by his parents, his sister and his two brothers. He was 22 years old.

Narrator (female):

Slide: Yuval Glick 18 May 1969 - 5 May 1991

Rachel Glick writes of the period after her son Yuval's death:

After some time passed, I decided I needed to go to the Sea of Galilee to view the place where Yuval fell. For many years, I had had a very special relationship with the Galilee. In the beginning we lived in Kibbutz Ginegar and I remember as a teenager the place from where I first spotted the sea. Now I felt like I couldn't forgive that body of water, but I decided I had to deal with it, so I got into my car and started to drive. I stopped at every possible point, at every single kiosk. I tried to make my way forward through a veil of tears.

The car radio was playing Ehud Banai's album "The Third" over and over, but I wasn't listening. And then, right before I got to the place where years before I had seen the sea for the first time, I heard a voice singing: "*What's the use in talking, what is there to say, here I am sinking, but I'll rise elsewhere someday.*" I rewound the tape and listened to the words over and over again. And while these lines were ringing inside of me, I sat on the beach of Kibbutz Degania and the Sea of Galilee was perfectly still – as still as on the day Yuval was killed.

<Screening : The Gates of Heaven>

Narrator (Male):

For the reciting of the Kaddish I would like to invite _____.

The *Kadish Yatom* prayer is usually recited by direct mourners, with all other congregants offering their symbolic support by saying "Amen". In this way we all express our sorrow as a community, each of us together in our different levels and depths of personal connection.



Please rise.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמִיּהוּ רַבָּא. אַמֵּן בְּעֶלְמָא דִּי בְרָא, כְּרַעוּתָהּ.
 וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ, וְיַצְמַח פּוּרְקָנָהּ, וְיִקְרַב מְשִׁיחָהּ. אַמֵּן בְּחַיִּיכוּן
 וּבְיִוְמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאַמְרוּ
 אַמֵּן. אַמֵּן וְיִהְיֶה שְׁמִיּהוּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ, לְעַלְמֵי עֲלַמְיָא. יִתְבְּרַךְ יְיָ הוּא שְׁמִיּהוּ רַבָּא
 מְבָרַךְ, לְעַלְמֵי עֲלַמְיָא. יִתְבְּרַךְ, וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר, וְיִתְרוֹמֵם,
 וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדָּר, וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל, שְׁמֵהּ דְּקוּדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ
 הוּא. אַמֵּן לְעֵלְא מִן-כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא, תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמָתָא,
 דְּאַמְרִין בְּעֶלְמָא, וְאַמְרוּ אַמֵּן. אַמֵּן
 יְיָ הוּא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים טוֹבִים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל
 וְאַמְרוּ אַמֵּן : אַמֵּן עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם (בעשרת ימי תשובה: הַשְּׁלוֹם) בְּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא
 יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ, וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאַמְרוּ אַמֵּן. אַמֵּן

Narrator (female):

Finally, a prayer for peace from Rabbi Nachman of Breslav:

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that You abolish all wars and bloodshed from this world and extend a great and wonderful peace in the world. Nations shall not lift up the sword against one another, neither shall they learn to make war any more. May all the inhabitants of this universe acknowledge the one great truth; that we have not come into this world for conflict and dissension, nor enmity and jealousy and vexation and bloodshed. We have come into the world solely that we might know You, eternally blessed One.

"Let justice well up like water, righteousness like an unfailing stream." (Amos.5:24)

Narrator (male):

The ceremony is concluded.