

Yom Hazikaron

יום הזֵכָּרון

Observance

Yom Ha'atzma'ut יום העצמאות

Celebration



 SOCIETY HILL  
SYNAGOGUE

4-5 Iyar 5785 • April 30, 2025

## Israel Connections Subcommittee

David Levine, Chair

Ana Atach

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Rachel Howe

Felise Nagelberg

Holden Nagelberg

Carter Reich

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Michael Yasner

Valerie Yasner

# Yom Hazikaron Observance and Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebration

4-5 Iyar 5785 • April 30, 2025

Welcome	David Levine
Yahrzeit Candle Lighting	Valerie Yasner and Ira Kauderwood
Fallen Soldiers Since October 7, 2023	Friends of the Israel Defense Forces Video
Yizkor for Yom Hazikaron (English)	Rob Einhorn
Yizkor for Yom Hazikaron (Hebrew)	Sahar Oz
El Maleh Raḥamim (English)	Fran Gallun
El Maleh Raḥamim (Hebrew)	Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
Letter from Ben Zussman z"l	Michael Yasner
Letter from Joseph Gitarts z"l	Lisa Eizen
"Yoram"	Rafi Licht
The Siren	Friends of the Israel Defense Forces
Hatikvah	Ana Atach and the Community

We are grateful to the Israel Connections Subcommittee  
for generously sponsoring the dinner this evening at the Yom Ha'atzma'ut celebration.

## Yizkor for Yom Hazikaron • יִזְכֹּר לַיּוֹם הַזִּכָּרוֹן

May the nation of Israel remember its sons and daughters,  
the faithful and courageous, the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces,  
and all the fighters of the undergrounds and the brigades  
in the nation's battles, and all the members of the intelligence community  
and all the security personnel, and all the police officers who gave their lives in the battle for  
Israel's existence and all those who were murdered in Israel and outside of Israel by  
murderers from the terrorist organizations.

May the nation of Israel remember and be blessed by its people,  
and may it mourn the brilliance of youth,  
and the preciousness of heroism, and the purity of their will,  
and the self-sacrifice of those who fell in the heavy battle.

May the fallen of the wars of Israel be decorated with victory,  
and may they be inscribed upon the heart of Israel for all generations.

Yizkor am Yisra'el et banav uv'notav,  
hane'emanim vecha'amitzim,  
hayalei tzva hahaganah leYisra'el,  
vekhlo lohamei hamahtarot vahativot halo hamim  
bema'arkhot ha'am, vekhol anshei kehilot  
hamodi'in vehabitakhon ve'anshei hamishtarah,  
asher herfu nafsham bamilhamah  
al t'kumat Yisra'el  
vekhlo eleh shenirtzehu ba'aretz umihutzah lah  
biydei meratzhim me'irguni hateror.

יִזְכֹּר עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת בָּנָיו וּבָנוֹתָיו,  
הַנְּאֻמָּנִים וְהַאֲמִיצִים,  
חֵילֵי צָבָא הַהֲגָנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל,  
וְכָל לוחָמֵי הַמַּחְתָּרוֹת וְחֻטִּיבוֹת הַלּוֹחָמִים  
בְּמַעֲרֻכּוֹת הָעַם, וְכָל אַנְשֵׁי קְהִילוֹת  
הַמּוֹדִיעִין וְהַבִּטְחוֹן וְאַנְשֵׁי הַמִּשְׁטָרָה,  
אֲשֶׁר חָרְפוּ נַפְשָׁם בְּמִלְחָמָה  
עַל תְּקוּמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל  
וְכָל אֵלֶּה שֶׁנִּרְצְחוּ בָּאָרֶץ וּבַחוּצָה לָהּ  
בְּיַד מְרַצְחִים מְאֻרְגָּנֵי הַטֵּרֹר.

Yizkor Yisra'el veyitbarakh bezaro veye'eval al ziv  
ha'alumim vehemdah hagvurah  
uk'dushat haratzon um'sirut hanefesh  
shel hanispim bama'arakhah hakvedah.

יִזְכֹּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיִתְבָּרַךְ בְּזָרוֹ וּבְעָוָל עַל זֵיו  
הָעֲלוּמִים וְחֵמְדַּת הַגְּבוּרָה  
וְקִדְשַׁת הָרָצוֹן וּמִסִּירוֹת הַנֶּפֶשׁ  
שֶׁל הַנִּסְפִּים בְּמַעֲרָכָה הַכְּבֵדָה.

Yihyu halelei ma'arkhot Yisra'el aturei hanitzahon  
hatumim belev Yisra'el ledor dor.

יִהְיוּ חֲלָלֵי מַעֲרֻכּוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲטוּרֵי הַנִּצָּחוֹן  
חַתוּמִּים בְּלֵב יִשְׂרָאֵל לְדוֹר דּוֹר.



## אל מלא רחמים • El Maleh Raḥamim

God who is full of mercy and dwells on high,  
grant true rest on the wings of the Divine Presence  
among the holy, the pure, and the heroic ones who shine as brightly  
as the brilliance of the sky  
to the souls of the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces  
and all of the security personnel who gave their lives for the State of Israel  
and all those who were murdered in Israel and outside of Israel  
by murderers from the terrorist organizations.

The Garden of Eden will be their resting place.  
We beseech the Merciful One to shelter them  
in the shelter of the Merciful One's wings forever,  
and to bind their souls in the bond of life.  
The Lord is their heritage, and they shall rest in peace,  
and let us say, Amen.

El Maleh Raḥamim shokhen bamromim,  
hamtze menuḥah nekhonah al kanfei hash'khinah  
b'ma'alot k'doshim, tehorim, vegiborim,  
k'zohar haraki'a mazhirim lenishmot  
ḥayalei tzva hahaganah le'Yisra'el vekhol anshei  
habitakhon sheḥerfu nafsham lema'an  
medinat Yisra'el ul'khol eleh shenirtzeḥu  
ba'aretz umiḥutzah lah biydei meratzḥim  
me'irgunei hateror.

B'gan eden tehe menuḥatam. Ana Ba'al  
Haraḥamim yastirem b'seter knafav le'olamim,  
ve'yitzror bitzror haḥayim et nishmoteihem.  
Adonai Hu naḥalatam, ve'yanuḥu beshalom  
al mishkavam, v'nomar amen.

אל מלא רחמים שוכן במרומים,  
המצא מנוחה נכונה על כנפי השכינה  
במעלות קדושים, טהורים, וגבורים,  
כזהר הרקיע מזהירים לנשמות  
חילי צבא ההגנה לישראל וכל אנשי  
הבטחון שחרפו נפשם למען  
מדינת ישראל ולכל אלה שנרצחו  
בארץ ומחוצה לה בידי מרצחים  
מארגוני הטרור.

בגן עדן תהא מנוחתם. אנא בעל  
הרחמים יסתירם בסתר כנפיו לעולמים,  
ויצרור בצרור החיים את נשמותיהם.  
י הוא נחלתם, וינוחו בשלום  
על משכבם, ונאמר אמן.

## Letter from Sergeant First Class Ben Zussman z”l to his Family

Ben was from Jerusalem, the son of Sarit and Tzvi, and the older brother to Mika and Boaz. Ben was killed in battle in Gaza on December 3, 2023. He was 22.

I’m writing you this notice on the way to base. If you’re reading this, it seems something happened to me. As you know me, there is probably nobody happier than me right now. I am happy and thankful for the privilege that I had of protecting our beautiful country and the people of Israel.

Even if something happens to me, I won’t allow you to wallow in sadness. I had the privilege of achieving my dream and my goal, and be sure that I am watching you from above and smiling a huge smile. I will sit next to grandpa and fill in a few blanks; each of us will share our experiences and what changed from war to war.

If God forbid you are sitting shivah, turn it into a week of friends, family and fun. There should be food, meat of course, beer, sweet drinks, sunflower seeds, tea, and of course, mom’s cookies. Laugh, tell stories, meet with the rest of my friends you haven’t seen yet. I’m jealous. I would want to sit there and see everyone.

I will say it once more: I left the house before I was even called to reserves. I am full of pride and a sense of mission, and I always said that if I have to die, I hope it will be protecting others and the country.



## Letter from Sergeant First Class Joseph Gitarts z”l to his Parents

Joseph was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in Russia and Israel. He was the son of Larissa and Ya’akov, and had four siblings from his parents’ previous marriages. Joseph was killed in battle in Gaza on December 25, 2023, five days before the scheduled end of his reserve duty and his return to undergraduate studies in computer science at Reichman University. He was 25.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I love you very much. Everything is as it is supposed to be. I have chosen this. I had a good and interesting life. And yet, I was never afraid of death. I could have skipped reserve duty and hid. But this would contradict everything I believe in and appreciate, and who I consider myself to be. So I didn’t really have a choice, and I would do the same if I could choose again. I came to this decision by myself and stuck with it until the end. I fell proudly for the sake of my people. I have no regrets.

I love you very much, and I am proud that you are my parents. You gave me a lot. I had a very interesting, happy, unique life. My death only highlights it. Undoubtedly, you are in deep pain. But you will manage it. I would like that a lot. It is the main thing that I want. Both of you have many close people who will support you. Please, find something positive in all of this. Spend time with your grandchildren. Help Israel. I am okay.



# “Yoram” • “יוֹרָם”

Lyrics: Eli Mohar | Music: Yehuda Poliker | Performed by Yehuda Poliker

Israeli songwriter and journalist, Eli Mohar, wrote “Yoram” about his friend, Yoram Bialer. Eli and Yoram met in high school and served in the same infantry brigade. Private Yoram Bialer fell in battle during the War of Attrition in 1969; he died on the 4th of Iyar, Yom Hazikaron.

He stayed twenty years old  
and the time passed,  
time that did not touch his face  
time without him

Hu nishar ben esrim  
vehazman ḥalaf,  
zman shelo naga befanav  
zman biladav

הוא נשאר בן עשרים  
והזמן חלף,  
זמן שלא נגע בפניו  
זמן בלעדיו

He was lost in the sands  
to this day he has not returned,  
only now it is possible to talk  
to him for a moment

Hu avad baḥolot  
ad hayom lo shav,  
rak akhshav efshar ledaber  
rega elav

הוא אבד בחולות  
עד היום לא שב,  
רק עכשיו אפשר לדבר  
רגע אליו

Yoram, tell me, you:  
What do we do with a friend like you  
What do we do with your death  
With the memory of your being  
and with the forgetfulness

Yoram, tagid li atah:  
mah osim im ḥaver shekmoṭkha  
mah osim im moṭkha  
im zikhron heyotkha  
ve'im hashikheḥaḥ

יוֹרָם, תגיד לי אתה:  
מה עושים עם חבר שקמותך  
מה עושים עם מותך  
עם זכרון היותך  
ועם השכחה

Back then you wrote a diary  
and a letter remains,  
and you laugh from the page  
on the shelf

Az katavtah yoman  
venishar mikhtav,  
ve'atah tzoḥek min hadaf  
al hamadaf

אז כתבת יומן  
ונשאר מכתב,  
ואתה צוחק מן הדף  
על המדף

Yoram, tell me, you:  
What do we do with a friend like you  
Who is neither there nor here,  
Who was and is not,  
Yet still is

Yoram, tagid li atah:  
mah osim im ḥaver shekmoṭkha  
shelo sham velo po,  
shahayah ve'eino,  
uv'khol zot yeshno

יוֹרָם, תגיד לי אתה:  
מה עושים עם חבר שקמותך  
שלא שם ולא פה,  
שהיה ואינו,  
ובכל זאת ישנו

Because with time it faded  
the pain subsided,  
Sometimes an old wound  
returns and opens

Ki im hazman zeh da'akh  
hake'ev shakhakh,  
lifamim gam petza yashan  
shav veniftaḥ

כי עם הזמן זה דעך  
הכאב שכך,  
לפעמים גם פצע ישן  
שב ונפתח

Yoram, tell me, you:  
What do we do with a friend like you  
What do we do with your death  
With the memory of your being  
With a friend like you  
Who stayed twenty years old

Yoram, tagid li atah:  
mah osim im ḥaver shekmoṭkha  
mah osim im moṭkha  
im zikhron heyotkha  
im ḥaver shekmoṭkha  
shenishar ben esrim

יוֹרָם, תגיד לי אתה:  
מה עושים עם חבר שקמותך  
מה עושים עם מותך  
עם זכרון היותך  
עם חבר שקמותך  
שנשאר בן עשרים



## The Siren

The siren on Yom Hazikaron is a powerful symbol of national remembrance. At 8:00 pm on the evening Yom Hazikaron begins, a one-minute siren sounds across Israel, signaling a moment of silence. During this time, people everywhere — whether in cars, on the street, at home, wherever they may be — pause whatever they are doing to stand, as they are able, and honor Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism.

This collective act of silence is a way for the entire nation to come together in respect and mourning, highlighting the deep personal connection many Israelis have with the losses endured. The siren acts as a unifying moment, reflecting the country's shared grief and remembrance.

The following day at 11:00 am, another siren sounds for two minutes, prompting the country to once again stop and reflect.

## Hatikvah • התקוה

Kol od balevav p'nimah  
nefesh Yehudi homiyah,  
ulfa'atei mizrah, kadimah,  
ayin leTziyon tzofiyah

כל עוד בלבב פְּנִימָה  
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה,  
וּלְפָאֵתִי מִזְרָח, קְדִימָה,  
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה

Od lo avdah tikvatenu,  
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim,  
Lihyot am hofshi be'artzenu,  
Eretz Tziyon vi'Yerushalayim

עוד לא אבדה תקותנו,  
התקוה בת שְׁנֹת אֲלָפִים,  
לִהְיוֹת עַם חֲפָשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ,  
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

As long as within our heart,  
The Jewish soul yearns,  
And toward the eastern edges, onward,  
An eye gazes toward Zion

Our hope is not yet lost,  
The hope of two thousand years,  
To be a free nation in our land,  
The land of Zion and Jerusalem



Our Israel Committee helps nurture our connection to Israel by fostering education and promoting meaningful engagement with the Jewish homeland through programs, activities, and fundraising.

If you have an question or concern about Israel and our congregation, or if you're interested in getting involved in the committee, please reach out to [israel@societyhillsynagogue.org](mailto:israel@societyhillsynagogue.org).

# COMING UP AT SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE:



## Goal! An Evening with Israeli Soccer Star Tai Baribo

Thursday, May 8 @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Admission:** Free for Members • \$36 per person for the General Public  
**Registration Required - No Walk-ups**

Our **Coolanu Committee** invites you to a very special evening with **Tai Baribo**, striker for the Philadelphia Union and the Israeli men's national team! Recently selected as Major League Soccer's Player of the Month for February and March, Baribo currently leads the league in goals scored. In conversation with *Philadelphia Inquirer* Soccer Reporter **Jonathan Tannenwald**, he will share his soccer journey from Israel to Austria to Philadelphia and answer audience questions. Admission includes a kosher dairy dinner.

**You can win a signed Tai Baribo Voltage Kit Philadelphia Union Jersey!** Raffle tickets cost \$20 each, or 3 for \$50, and all proceeds benefit *Magen David Adom*, Israel's emergency medical, ambulance, and blood bank service. Tai will also gladly sign one item per person at the end of the event, so bring your Union gear. **Get your tickets today!**

[societyhillsynagogue.org/goal](https://societyhillsynagogue.org/goal)



## Lag Ba'Omer Celebration and Barbecue

Thursday, May 15 @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Admission is **free for Society Hill Synagogue members**, and for the **general public** costs **\$30** for ages 13+ and **\$15** for kids under 13. **Advance registration is required of everyone.**

Lag Ba'Omer, the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the counting of the Omer, is celebrated with bonfires and outdoor parties — our courtyard is the perfect venue for this! Our **Coolanu Committee** invites you to come grill kosher meat and vegetarian burgers and hot dogs, enjoy s'mores, and sip drinks together. There will be arts and crafts projects and nerf archery.

[societyhillsynagogue.org/lag-baomer](https://societyhillsynagogue.org/lag-baomer)

