



Kahal B'raira /
community of choice

Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

MEMORIAL SERVICE





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Welcome

Shalom. We will begin with a soft chant:

(First musicians, and then all sing)

Ma to-voo A-ha-le-kha ya-a-kov

Mish-ke-no-te-kha Yis-ra-al

(repeat)

How beautiful are your tents, Jacob

And your dwelling places, Israel

We have gathered here to acknowledge the death of _____ whom we have known and loved. When someone we have cared for dies, family and friends gather with sorrow in their hearts. At these times, when we must face death and loss, we need one another's company for understanding and support. Just to be together, to look into one another's faces, takes away some of our loneliness and draws our hearts together in the healing which we can offer one another.

So we are gathered here today in grief and sorrow, but we have also gathered to celebrate a life. We have come together to give thanks we knew this vibrant person, to express our gratitude for the days and years we were able to share with _____.

The book of Ecclesiastes teaches us "Let us now praise famous men." But in truth all people – men and women, children and adults in their prime and the elderly – all merit our praise. It is a hard thing to live a life, to grow and thrive and care for others and be open to caring. Each of us learns so much about finding peace and joy that any death is a loss of great wisdom. Each of us touches so many lives that every death creates a void.



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Today, in coming together to honor _____, we are face to face with our grief and loss. George Santayana wrote this sonnet, "To W.P.," as his expression of how a loss affected him:

With you a part of me hath passed away;
For in the peopled forest of my mind
A tree made leafless by this wintry wind
Shall never don again its Green array.
Chapel and fireside, country road and bay,
Have something of their friendliness resigned;
Another, if I would, I could not find,
And I am grown much older in a day.
But yet I treasure in my memory
Your Gift of charity, and young heart's ease,
And the dear honor of your amity;
For these once mine, my life is rich with these.

And I scarce know which part may Greater be,
What I keep of you, or you rob from me.





Candle Lighting

We now light a single candle to represent the life that we have come to honor and remember. While this candle burns we can imagine that our friend and colleague and loved one is here with us.

Barukh ha-or sheh-b'khol eh-khod.

Radiant is the light in each of us

dAxe' lOwakJbeH rOwah
™FwrGAb

Barukh ha-or b'olam.

Radiant is the light of the world

£AlOw, Gb rOwah *™FwrGAb*

Barukh ha-or ha-atid.

Radiant is the light of the future

dÓta'ah rOwah *™FwrGAb*

Barukh ha-or ba-zeh-car-own shel

_____.

Radiant is the light in the memory of

leH §OwrJakÓzaJb rOwah
™FwrGAb _____

(Light Candle)

Responsive Reading

Leader: The eye is never satisfied with seeing; endless are the desires of the heart.

Congregation: No mortal has ever had enough of riches, honor and wisdom when death ends his career.

Man devises new schemes on the grave of a thousand disappointed hopes.

Discontent abides in the palace and in the hut, rankling alike in the breast of the prince and the pauper.

Death finally terminates the combat: grief and joy, success and failure, are all ended.

Like children falling asleep over their toys, we loosen our grasp on earthly possessions only when death overtakes us.

The manager and the worker, the rich and the poor, the strong and the feeble, the wise and the simple, are all equal in death;

The grave levels all distinctions and makes the whole world kin.

After the Union Prayer Book

Let us read this poem in unison:



When I die
Give what's left of me away to children
And old men that wait to die
And if you need to cry,
Cry for your brother
Walking the streets beside you.
And when you need me,
Put your arms
Around anyone
And give them
What you need to give me.

Look for me
In the people I've known
Or loved,
And if you cannot give me away,
At least let me live in your eyes
And not on your mind.

You can love me most
By letting
Hands touch hands,
By letting
Bodies touch bodies,
And by letting go of children
That need to be free.

Love doesn't die,
People do.
So, when all that's left of me
Is love
Give me away.

I'll see you at home
In the earth.

Merrit Malloy



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Song: **Zaykher Tsadakeem**

Zay-kher tsadakeem
Lee-v'ra-kha

לִּזְכוֹרֹת רַעְזֵי
לִּיחָאֵר, בִּיל

The memory of good people blesses us

No one person can sum up the life of another. All those who loved and watched and shared must have a voice. We are the living memories of _____; we are now the chronicles of this life. To hold and share and build upon these memories is the greatest gift one person can give another. Let us share these memories with one another through readings and poems and personal recollections. Each of us saw _____ in a way that no one else ever did. By bringing these separate views together into a full picture of a three-dimensional person we will create an enduring monument in our hearts and minds. The poet Karl Shapiro said "Laughter and grief join hands." Do not hesitate to remember times of laughter and times of grief.

We will have a period of silence. Let each of us use these moments to remember. Let us enter this meditation with reverence and with love.

Silent Meditation

Now, as your friendship and love moves you to do so, please share your living memories of _____ with all of the family and friends gathered here.





Song: **Ayfo Oree**

Ay-fo oree? O-Ree Bee	<i>yKib yirOw' ?</i>
	<i>yirOw' \$ wpy~'</i>
Ay-fo tikva-tee ? Tikva-tee bee.	<i>yKib</i>
	<i>iyxjwΩqGt\$?iyxjwΩqG</i>
	<i>t\$ wpy~'</i>
Ay-fo ko-khee? Ko-khee bee?	<i>yKib yix-k ?yix-k\$</i>
	<i>wpy~'</i>
V'gam bakh.	<i>™√Kb £agΩw</i>

Where is my light? My light is in me.
 Where is my hope? My hope is in me.
 Where is my strength? My strength is in me.
 And in you.

Rabbi Sherwin Wine

The Native American Ishi people of the Pacific Northwest imagined that their dead spoke to them, saying,

When I am dead, cry for me a little, think of me sometimes, but not too much. It is not good for you to allow your thoughts to dwell too long upon the dead. Think of me now and again as I was in life, at some moment which is pleasant to recall, but not for too long. Leave me in peace, as I shall too leave you in peace. While you live, let your thoughts be with the living.

(Together)

_____, your memory will be an everlasting memory to us. We will grant renewed life to your finest ideals. We will act as your personal representative to the living. Where you lifted the burden of worry from another person, we can give encouragement and help. Where you brought cheer and care, so shall we. Where the light that you gave to the world has dimmed, we will endeavor to replenish it.

It is done. We are profoundly glad that _____ lived, and have now bid loving farewell. We extinguish the candle as a sign that we accept the loss of the physical being we loved. Look at it now, and hold its image within yourself.



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(Extinguish Candle)

The candle now burns within us. Sometimes a flame, sometimes a spark, it will be an eternal light for our path, a beacon for our hopes, and warmth upon our faces. May we also on this day rekindle in our hearts an appreciation for the gifts of each other, and all the others in our lives. Let us honor the life of _____ by living, ourselves, more nobly and loving in the days ahead. As we return to our lives, let us go in love, and may these memories go with us.



Let us now proceed from this place in comfort and peace, assured that even in this time of loss and sorrow, life remains precious and good.