

*Remembering TBZ members & those who died from Covid*

*Yizkor Service, 5782*

*Rabbi Claudia Kreiman*

As we gather this year for Yizkor, we remember our loved ones.

This year has been a year when 6 TBZ friends and members passed away and I want to lift up their memory.

Our dear **Janice Weiss** died in Jerusalem two weeks ago. She was a longtime Brookline resident. During her last years in Brookline she lived at 1550 Beacon and became a regular at TBZ. Janice was loved by all, especially children who felt tremendous pride when they grew taller than her. We send our love to TBZ members and friends who were part of her family: Jonathan, Nikki, Lila, Ari Decter. David and Carole Decter, Mikki Brown and Sheila Decter.

**Fred Alman** died last March. He and his late wife Marcia were long time members of our community. Fred and Marcia were very involved in the creation of TBZ's beautiful faith quilts. His daughter Alyssa continues to be part of our community from afar and we send you Alyssa our love and condolences.

**Devorah Steinberg** died last february. Devorah and Josh were members of TBZ for a long time. Devorah and Josh loved the TBZ retreat and had many friends in our community. We send our love to Josh.

**David Buchsbaum** died last January. He was a long time TBZ member. He was ninety one and was loved by many in our community. He was here at TBZ from the beginning, and was actively involved in our community, especially shaping the adult

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education committee for many years and he was actively involved in the Men's group. Betty continues to be part of our community and we send our deepest love and support.

**Aida Belansky**- we heard from Bernie, about Aida. She died early January. Aida, sweet and full of life, and color. We already miss you. Siempre en nuestro corazón Aida.

**Stuart Books**- Stuart and Judith have been part of TBZ since 2002. Tradition and Judaism was so important to him. He would always discuss matters of tradition and liturgy. If you knew Stuart, you knew that he had a wonderful sense of humor, a big smile and a special presence. Stuart died last November. We hold Judith Haber close and Stuart's sister Roberta who, after Stuart died, joined TBZ to say kaddish for him and is a regular part of our Boker Tov community.

**And ....**

**Mort Berenson**- who died last November. I have to say that I still wait for him, to walk in the middle of service, in the middle of the aisle and say good shabbos. Mort was a dedicated Member of TBZ for SIXTY years!! Mort was one of a kind. Elegant, funny, just a unique guy! Friend of everyone here. Heidi, Mort's daughter is with us today. Heidi, our community is not the same without your dad! But now we carry his legacy, we will always.

We remember each of them. They were part of our community and their memory is a blessing to all of us.

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As we say Yizkor, we remember today all those who have died of COVID  
4.55 million souls that have died so far in the world and 662,000 in the US.

God of consolation,  
Surely you count in heaven,  
Just as we count here on earth,  
In shock and in sorrow,  
The souls sent back to You,  
One-by-one,  
The dead from the Covid pandemic,  
As the ones became tens,  
The tens became hundreds,  
The hundreds became thousands,  
Then hundred-thousands,  
And now millions upon millions.  
Each soul, a heartbreak,  
Each soul, a life denied.

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים,  
הַמְצִיא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה עַל פְּנֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה,  
בְּמַעֲלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים וְטְהוֹרִים כְּזוֹהַר הַקָּרִיעַ מִזְהָרִים,

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לְכֹל הַנְּשָׁמוֹת שֶׁנִּסְּפוּ בְּמַגִּיפַת הַקֹּוֹבִיד

El malei rachamim, shochayn bam'romim,  
Ham-tzay m'nucha n'chona al kanfay Hash'china,  
B'maalot k'doshim uthorim k'zohar harakia mazhirim,  
L'kol haneshamot sheneisfu b'mageifat ha'Covid.

God, full of mercy, who dwells on high,  
Provide a sure rest on the wings of the Divine Presence,  
Among the holy, pure and glorious, who shine like the sky,  
To the souls of all who died in the Covid pandemic.  
God of wisdom,  
We pray for the souls of those taken too soon,  
Those who were vulnerable and unprotected,  
Those who were sacred and forsaken,  
Those who died on ventilators,  
Whose funerals were lonely,  
Who didn't need to die,  
And those who died alone,  
God of healing,  
Put an end to this pandemic,  
And all illness and disease.  
Bless those who stand in service to humanity.  
Bless those who grieve.

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Bless the dead,  
So that their souls are bound up in the bond of life eternal.  
And grant those still afflicted  
With disease or trauma  
A completed and lasting healing,  
One-by-one,  
Until suffering ceases,  
And we can stop counting the dead,  
In heaven  
And on earth.

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