

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Commemorating & Celebrating Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut

By Mor Green, Community Shlichah

Understanding interpretations of the past have shaped Jewish identity and collective memory throughout the ages. Jews are known as history-centered people representing a unique fusion of history, memory and peoplehood.

Yom Hazikaron is a day in Israel dedicated to the memory of family and friends who lost their lives defending their homeland. "Zakhor" (remember) appears multiple times in the Hebrew Bible, and the Israelite nation is taught not to forget.

With the reality in Israel of 18-year-olds joining the army to defend the state of Israel, every-

body knows how it feels to lose a loved one during the wars of Israel. When I was almost 12, my neighbor, Shahar, was killed by enemy fire during a battle in south of Lebanon. He was only 21.

Ada Minnes, his sister, wrote this piece in the memory of Shahar:

"He did not return. How much time has passed, and he has still not returned. And the heart that cannot go on has also died. Died from missing you.

"The fight with the time that disillusioned me, the time that lies to me, just a minute ago we played together ... just a minute ago I hugged you ... just a moment ago I heard your steps

as I recognized them from afar.

"I promised you that I would always remember you. But life is stronger than I am...and even if I want to stop time, the time does not take that into consideration. Everything passes so fast, and the world that you loved being part of continues without you...to my disappointment.

"Don't be upset with me, but I also continued to live without you. And that does not mean that it is easier, to continue to live. Instead the opposite; it is harder. Pangs of consciousness that do not heal, moments of joy that are followed by tears, hidden after everyone leaves. And moments of elation have no meaning without you. Maybe time does heal all wounds. And after a long time, I still don't know if things are easier or harder. Because, despite everything, when I wake up, I continue to move forward in my life. And with you, everything is frozen. The wheels of time do not move ... they are not hurrying anywhere.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 6 PM
Yom Hazikaron Memorial Ceremony
Location: Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 4-6 PM (NEW TIME)
Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration with Yuval Halaf
Location: Camp Mindy at Shalom Park

"And how, how did this happen, that suddenly your image faded away? I am searching for an additional memory of you. I am trying to remove the dust from the memories that I have ... of our shared childhood, and the phone does not ring from you. You don't call to tell me if you are cold, or if things are hard, or just to say you miss me ...

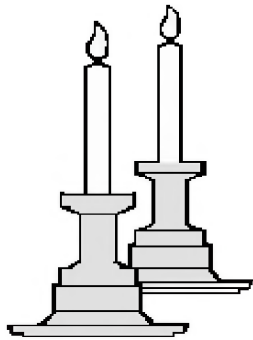
"And I who misses you, and wants to talk to you again, just to hear one more little story, I know that you will not return."

In April we will be celebrating Israel's 64th Independence Day, only two days after Israel's Memorial Day. It is difficult to explain to others why the happiest day of the nation follows the saddest day of the year. The thing is that Israel is the country where happiness comes with tears.

Please stand with me on April 25 for Israel's Memorial Day Ceremony to show your support and join us on April 29 in celebration of Israel's Independence Day. ☆ See page 7.

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR APRIL 2012

- Friday, April 6, 7:31 PM
- Saturday, April 7, 2nd Night Pesach, 8:28 PM
- Thursday, April 12, 7th Night Pesach, 7:35 PM
- Friday, April 13, 7:36 PM
- Friday, April 20, 7:42 PM
- Friday, April 27, 7:48 PM



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