

**Unveiling Ceremony**  
**Compiled by Rabbi Brian Glusman**

**1. Introduction and Welcome**

**2. Readings and Poetry**

*(Begin with one or more of the following readings, then continue with No. 3)*

***Companions - inspired by the poetry of Russia***

When we think of those companions who traveled by our side down life's road,  
let us not say with sadness that they left us behind,  
but rather say with gratitude  
that they once were with us

***Hold On - from Many Winters - Nancy Woods***

Hold on to what is good  
even if it is  
a handful of earth.  
Hold on to what you believe  
even if it is  
a tree which stands by itself.

Hold on to what you must do  
even if it is  
a long way from here.  
Hold on to life even when  
it is easier letting go.  
Hold on to my hand even when  
I have gone away from you.

***To Everything There Is A Season - Ecclesiastes***

To everything there is a season;  
A time for everything under the sun.  
A time to be born and a time to die,  
A time to laugh and a time to mourn,  
A time to seek and a time to lose.  
This is a time we gather to remember  
someone who gave meaning to our lives.  
This is the time we recall  
the bonds that hold us, the love we shared,  
the memories that sustain us.

***Birth Is A Beginning - Alvin I. Fine***

Birth is a beginning  
And death a destination.  
And life is a journey:  
From childhood to maturity  
And youth to age;  
From innocence to awareness  
And. ignorance to knowing;  
From foolishness to discretion  
    And then perhaps to wisdom.  
From weakness to strength  
Or strength to weakness-  
    And, often back again;  
From health to sickness.  
    And back., we pray, to health again;  
From offense to forgiveness,  
From loneliness to love,  
From joy to gratitude,  
From pain to compassion,  
And grief to understanding-  
    From fear to faith;

From defeat to defeat to defeat-  
Until, looking backward or ahead,  
We see that victory lies  
Not at some high place along the way,  
But in having made the journey, stage by stage,  
    A sacred pilgrimage.

Birth is a beginning  
And death a destination.  
But life is a journey,  
A sacred pilgrimage-  
    To life everlasting.

***We Are Loved By An Unending Love - Rabbi Rami Shapiro***

We are loved by an unending love.  
We are embraced by arms that find us even when we are hidden from ourselves.  
We are touched by fingers that soothe us even when we are too proud for soothing.  
We are counseled by voices that guide us even when we are too embittered to hear.  
We are loved by an unending love.  
We are supported by hands that uplift us even in the midst of a fall.  
  
We are urged on by eyes that meet us even when we are too weak for meeting.  
We are loved by an unending love.  
Embraced, touched, soothed, and counseled,  
Ours are the arms, the fingers, the voices;  
Ours are the hands, the eyes, the smiles;  
We are loved by an unending love.

### *Knowing Love*

I will allow all things to come and go  
To be as supple as the wind  
and to take everything that comes with great courage  
Life is right in any case  
and my heart will remain as open as the sky...

### *After a While*

After a while, you learn the subtle difference  
Between holding a hand and chaining a soul.  
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning,  
And that company doesn't always mean security.  
And you learn that kisses aren't contracts,  
And presents aren't promises.

And you begin to accept your defeats  
With your head up and your eyes straight ahead,  
With the grace of a woman or a man,  
Not the grief of a child  
And you learn to build all your roads on today,  
Because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans,  
And futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight.

After a while you learn that even sunshine burns  
If you ask too much.  
So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul,  
Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.

And you learn that you really can endure,  
And that you really are strong,  
And that you really have worth,

And you learn, and you learn...  
With every goodbye, you learn

### *There are Stars - Hannah Szenes*

There are stars whose light reaches the earth  
only after they themselves have disintegrated and are no more.

And there are people whose scintillating memory  
lights the world after they have passed from it.

These lights which shine in the darkest night  
are those which illumine for us the path.

### ***Prayer For Those Not With Us***

As we stand here, full of pride and love,  
our hearts and thoughts recall others who are not with us.  
And yet, they are so much a part of us and our lives, that it is hard not to feel them present.  
A child's gesture recalls that of a grandparent he never knew.  
An act of kindness and generosity reminds us of the example of a much loved aunt or uncle.  
The laugh of one recalls for us the joy of another.  
A chain of memory and blood binds us one to the other  
thru the years and thru the generations,  
and now, with a full heart, we pause and remember and proudly add to that chain.

### **3. Unveiling and Dedication**

*(Remove the cloth from the stone and read from the stone's inscription)*

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_, we establish and consecrate this monument.  
It is a token of our deep love and respect.  
He / She is remembered now, and forever, part of the good in each of us.  
May his soul be bound up in the bonds of life.

### **4. Sharing of memories**

Take this opportunity to share stories and memories about your loved one. Allow time for family and friends to talk or read prepared remarks.

### **5. 23rd Psalm**

God is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
You cradle me in green pastures;  
You lead me beside tranquil waters.  
You restore my soul;  
You guide me in the paths of righteousness.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, For you are with me;  
Your rod and your staff comfort me.  
Surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of God, forever.

### **6. My Hereafter - Juniata De Long**

Do not come when I am dead  
To sit beside a low green mound,  
or bring the first gay daffodils  
Because I love them so  
For I shall not be there.  
You cannot find me there.

I will look up at you from the eyes  
Of little children;  
I will bend to meet you in the swaying boughs  
Of bud-thrilled trees,  
And caress you with the passionate sweep  
Of storm-filled winds;  
I will give you strength in your upward tread  
Of everlasting hills;  
I will cool your tired body in the flow  
Of the limpid river;  
I will warm your work-glorified hands through the glow  
Of the winter fire;

I will soothe you into forgetfulness to the drop, drop  
Of the rain on the roof;  
I will speak to you out of the rhymes  
Of the masters;  
I will dance with you in the lilt  
Of the violin,  
And make your heart leap with the bursting cadence  
Of the organ;  
I will flood your soul with the flaming radiance  
Of the sunrise,  
And bring you peace in the tender rose and gold  
Of the after-sunset.

All these have made me happy  
They are a part of me;  
I shall become a part of them.

### **7. El Malei Rachamim - God Filled with Compassion**

Let God remember the soul of \_\_\_\_\_  
who went to his place of eternal rest.  
Please let his / her soul be bound up with living in the continuum of life,  
and may his rest be honorable.  
Grant him / her abundant joy in your presence,  
and sweet pleasures at your right hand for eternity. Amen.

God filled with mercy  
dwelling in the heavens' heights,  
grant perfect peace beneath the wings of your Shechinah,  
amid the ranks of the holy and the pure,  
illuminating like the brilliance of the skies  
the souls of our beloved and our blameless  
who went to their eternal place of rest.  
May you who are the source of mercy

shelter them beneath your wings eternally,  
and bind their souls among the living,  
that they may rest in peace.  
And let us say: Amen.

### **8. Mourner's Kaddish**

Mourners: Yit-ga-dal ve-yit-ka-dash she-mey ra-ba  
Be-al-ma div-ra chir-u-tey  
Ve-yam-lich mal-chu-tey  
Be-cha-yey-chon uv-yo-me-chon uv-cha-yey de-chol beyt yis-ra-el  
Ba-a-ga-la u-viz-man ka-riv  
ve-im-ru a-men.

Congregation: Ye-hey she-mey ra-ba me-va-rach  
le-a-lam ul-al-mey al-ma-ya.

Mourners: Yit-ba-rach ve-yish-ta-bach ve-yit-pa-ar ve-yit-ro-mam  
ve-yit-na-sey  
Ve-yit-ha-dar ve-yit-a-leh ve-yit-ha-lal she-mey de-kud-sha

Be-rich hu  
Le-ela le-ela mi-kol bir-cha-ta  
ve-shi-ra-ta tush-be-cha-ta  
ve-ne-che-ma-ta da-a-mi-ran  
be-al-ma  
ve-im-ru a-men.

Ye-hey she-la-ma ra-ba min  
she-ma-ya  
Ve-cha-yim a-ley-nu ve-al kol  
yis-ra-el ve-im-ru a-men.

O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav  
hu ya-a-seh sha-lom a-ley-nu  
ve-al kol yis-ra-el  
ve-al kol yosh-vey tevel  
ve-im-ru amen.

*May the one who creates harmony above, make peace for us and for all Israel,  
and for all who dwell on earth. And say: Amen*