
COMMUNAL PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

O God, remember today those members of our family who were martyred in years past because of their sexual or gender identity: those murdered by fanatics in the Middle Ages, those who perished in the Holocaust, and those struck down in our own cities, in our own time. Remember also those who took their own lives, driven to despair by a world that hated them. And in mercy remember those who lived lives of loneliness, repressing their true nature and refraining from sharing their love with one another. O God, watch over the souls of these beloved ones: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and help us bring an end to hate and oppression of every kind.

This prayer was composed from an amalgamation of sources in the earliest years of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, by members who recognized the importance of remembering those for whom Kaddish may not have been said.

The phrase "in our own cities, in our own time" was added in loving memory of San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected public official, immediately following his assassination on November 27, 1978.

These words are still living for us, and so have been adapted to reflect ways in which our community and our understanding of identity have changed and evolved. We continue to honor this tradition and recognize that honoring the memory of those who do not have someone to say Kaddish for them is a responsibility that we all share as a community.



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This prayer – as well as many others which speak to broader inclusion, LGBT awareness and the richness of our Jewish tradition – can be found in Siddur Sha'ar Zahav, © 2009 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

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