

# Remembering Fallen Victims

While visiting the American cemetery in Normandy, France, I was moved by the discovery that each and every grave is adopted by a French citizen. Thousands of Americans gave their lives to liberate the French people. To show their gratitude and respect, and to make sure these soldiers are not forgotten on the date of the soldier's birthday or death, the French make a pilgrimage bringing flowers to the gravesite to remember them.

This act of kindness led me to think about the Holocaust victims who have no one to memorialize them as individuals. We observe the *Shoah* collectively but how much kinder it would be to remember the individual by a name and date and observe a yearly *yahrzeit*.

Six million men, women, and children, six million of our brethren are no more. Where shall we find them? There is not a mound, headstone or stick marking the graves of those slaughtered. Who is there to mourn them, to observe *yahrzeits*, to say *kaddish*?

I am a Holocaust survivor. I lost my family and became an orphan when I was four years old. I have no shared memories or memorabilia of my family. Each year I observe the *yahrzeits* for my parents and grandparents and other family members. This is the only way I have of feeling connected. If each and every one of us would take on the obligation to memorialize just one fallen innocent victim, what a great mitzvah that would be.

Dear Beth El member, I appeal to you to join me in remembering. We have a list of names and dates of individuals who were killed in Auschwitz. Please adopt a *yahrzeit* of one or more of these individuals by completing and returning the attached form.

*Lea Selig*

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## Observing *Yahrzeits* for Victims of the Holocaust

Yes, please include me as a participant in memorializing a Holocaust victim. I understand that I will be receiving an annual *yahrzeit* reminder from Beth El Temple so that I can attend *minyan* and recite *kaddish*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of names I would like to request: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Lea Selig at 860-521-6717 or email the information above to [leabernie@comcast.net](mailto:leabernie@comcast.net).

You can also mail this form to Beth El Temple, "Attention Holocaust Remembrance"  
at your earliest convenience.

*Committee: Lea Selig, Chair, Judy Borus, Ellen Donshik, Diane Lieberfarb*