

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

HOME SERVICE FOR KINDLING THE YAHRZEIT LIGHT

The Yahrzeit marks the anniversary of the death of a near relative. Traditionally held on the Hebrew date, many families choose to observe the *Yahrzeit* on the secular anniversary. It is customary to light a special candle on the evening preceding the day of the *Yahrzeit*. The candle should be kept burning for the twenty-four hours of the observance.

On the Shabbat prior to the *Yahrzeit* it is customary to attend services at the synagogue and to recite *Kaddish*. Besides the *Yahrzeit*, Jewish tradition provides four occasions when special memorial services are held in Temple. These services are called *Yizkor*, and are held on Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret (the last day of Sukkot), the last day of Passover and on Shavuot.

LIGHTING THE YIZKOR CANDLE

The candle is lit, then say

“The human spirit is the light of the Eternal God.” I (We) light this candle in loving memory of _____. As this light burns brightly, so may *his/her* memory continue to shine as a source of blessing for me (all of us).

תְּהִי נִשְׁמָתוֹ (נִשְׁמָתָהּ) צְרוּרָה בְּצִרוּר הַחַיִּים.

Te-hi nish-ma-to [male] nish-ma-tah [female] tze-ru-rah bitz-ror ha-cha-yim.

May *his/her* soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

Almighty God, Eternal Creator, I am (we are) thankful for the life of _____, for the years which *he/she* was granted and for the privilege of having shared those years. May the memory of *his/her* devotion, goodness, warmth and friendship continue to inspire, that all who knew *him/her* may live a better life. Amen