Yom HaZikaron Program

**Goal**

To analyze the development of memorial songs throughout the years and to understand their meaning

**Introduction**

Over the years, we have seen a variety of ways to memorialize the fallen. There have been statues, books, and movies, made in their memory. The need to memorialize is a psychological need that has been true throughout human history, and always will be. Parents want to memorialize the memory of their children. If the child loved to ride bikes, there will be a bike ride established. If the child loved songs, an album will be produced. From the time of the establishment of the State of Israel, there arose a saying, “their deaths command our lives,” and this command encapsulates our promise to memorialize them.

We will examine this premise through the music and songs of Yom HaZikaron in Israel. We will see how the style of memorial songs has changed over the years, and how the songs are influenced by the spirit of the country.

**Trigger**

Ask the group if they can narrate the ways in their lives that memory is commemorated.

Does someone guard memory through music? Writing? Poetry? Have them share with the group.

Ask if someone knows memorial songs in English.

*Where did all the flowers go?*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRN-XgnMn7g>

*Tears In Heaven- Eric Clapton*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRsJlAJvOSM>

Explain the background of Yom HaZikaron in Israel. If you have personal experiences from a ceremony that you went to in Israel, please share here. You can also contrast Yom HaZikaron to Memorial Day in the US.

For extra information: The fourth of Iyar, the day preceding Indepence Day, was declared by the Israeli Knesset to be a Memorial Day for those who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for all military personnel who were killed while in active duty in the IDF.  *Yom Hazikaron*, the Israeli Memorial Day, is different in its character and mood from the American Memorial Day. For 24 hours (from sunset to sunset) all places of public entertainment (theaters, cinemas, nightclubs, pubs, etc.) are closed. The most noticeable feature of the day is the sound of siren that is heard throughout the country twice, during which the entire nation observes a two-minutes "standstill" of all traffic and daily activities. The first siren marks the beginning of Memorial Day at 8:00 P.M., and the second is at 11:00 A.M., before the public recitation of prayers in the military cemeteries. All radio and television stations broadcast programs portraying the lives and heroic deeds of fallen soldiers. Most of the broadcasting time is devoted to Israeli songs that convey the mood of the day.  Yom Hazikaron is not conceived as a religious commemoration by the majority of Israelis, but as part of the civil culture. The siren sound seems to inspire awe and sanctity no less than any traditional religious ceremony.

**The Establishment of the State - HaReut**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZVNkNDnJYM>

Written in the middle of the War of Independence, the song speaks to a socialist concept of collective memory prevalent in that time. “We will remember them all” indicates that there is no place for individual bereavement; instead, the pain of mourning belongs to everyone. At that time, the State was much smaller, and so mourning did affect almost everyone. The song is full of pathos and even the melody is connected to the Soviet style of the time. Even the word “reut” – the camaraderie of everyone together.

**After 1967 – Song for Peace**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz8O0OcAA3c>

“Song of Peace” was written in 1969 and is a slightly different type of memorial song. The Song speaks in the name of the fallen- “the prayers will not bring us back.” The song tries to say that it is unnecessary to sanctify the fallen with memorials, but instead, the best outcome would be working on a path to peace. The original song included a line, “sing a song of love and not memorial,” but because the song was performed by the IDF troop, they changed the word “memorial” to “wars.” This of course ties into the spirit of the 1960s, with the phrase, make love not war.

**Yom Kippur War – The are the children of the winter of 73**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33UrxPLLd4w>

This song also does not sound like a classic memorial song and was also written many years after the war. The song mourns the failure of the promise that the Yom Kippur War generation made to their children that there would be peace and no more wars. “You conceived us in love in the winter of 73 and you wanted to fill your bodies with what you lost in the war,” comes from the same generation of that wrote “Song of Peace” and believed that 67 would be the last war. The song immortalizes the promise, and the children promise their parents to support them. The children understand now how hard it is to keep all these promises while serving in the army. This is the Oslo generation, and they are also telling the Israeli leadership that they stand behind them- “if you ask for strength, we will give it”- with the intention of fulfilling the promise of peace for the next generation.

**The 90s – To cry for you**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekXFOjIzLAA> (English)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7a0xmomSO0> (Hebrew)

This song was not originally written for a fallen soldier. Aviv Gefen wrote this song in memory of a friend who died in a car accident in 1991. Like many songs of longing or of love, this song has become associated with Yom HaZikaron. Many people connect to the personal pain expressed in this song. If in Reut we saw collective mourning, this song speaks in the singular. Here we see the development and changes over the years of the Israeli psyche. The song is crying for one person in particular. There is no name mentioned so the song is open to personal interpretation, but the song certainly speaks to a personal relationship.

**Post 2000 – A million stars**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyHQNTNhQMY> (English)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDDq6DYRD2o> (Hebrew with photos)

In the year 2006 during the second Lebanese war Tom Farkash was killed when his helicopter crushed. His best friend Yiftach Kazar wrote a song in his memory and his sister Amit Farkash sung the song at his funeral. The song was then recorded and became the most identified song of the second Lebanese war. In this song we see a Reverse process when someone sung a very personal song to her brother and became a star overnight. Much like this generation and it’s over night’s stardom. In the song Amit sings to her brother “You wanted to fly, you wanted to go further” and throughout the whole song there is a longing for “just give me another second to say bye to you”

**2008- Nothing Can Hurt Me**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Quv3vgzyjyI>

Nothing Can Hurt Me was written by Erez Shtark, melody by Yoram Chazn, and performed by Kneesat HaSechel on their album “We Will Soon Switch To Song.”

We Will Soon Switch To Song is an album dedicated to Israel’s Fallen Soldiers, an initiative of the radio station Galei Tzhahal. The project selected a number of songs whose lyrics were written by fallen soldiers or victims of terror, and then performed by famous Israeli singers. The recorded songs are broadcast on Yom HaZikaron in commemoration.

This song was written by Commander Erez Shtark, who was killed in a helicopter crash when he was twenty years old. Erez left a notebook of poems and a diary. His sister Oshrit claimed in an interview that words were found in the end of the notebook. She and her brother Ilan found the words and were astounded, as though he had known.

The singer Yoram Hazon from Kneesat HaSechel said in the same interview: “I chose a song that speaks the clearest way about tragedy. The song is about the anxiety that characterizes Israelis, parents who all the time worry about their children. Moreover, the facts of the song were a prediction fulfilled, which makes it all the more difficult. In my life I have never sung a text so direct. It is unbelievable that a man could write these kind of words. Soldiers experienced hard things around them, and this shows a type of cynicism related to what happens to them.

If “Song of Peace” was written as though from the voices of the fallen, this project actually compiles the words of the fallen, as though they were writing songs about themselves. This speaks to today’s interactive age, as we feel the voices of the fallen still with us.

**Conclusion**

We return to the song “Reut”. This time with a modern take, from the band Polyanna Frank. The lyrics didn’t change, or the melody, but even so, this performance changes the song and it almost feels like a very intimate experience with a very personal story.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDmeZYBpPIs>

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| |  | | --- | | **HARE'UT** | | http://www.hebrewsongs.com/spacer.gif | | Al hanegev yored leil hastav  Umatzit kochavim cheresh cheresh  Et haru'ach over el hasaf  Ananim mechalhim al haderech.   Kvar shana, lo hirgashnu kim'at  Eich avru hazmanim besdoteinu. Kvar shana, venotarnu me'at  Ma rabim she'einam kvar beineinu.   Chorus Ach nizkor et kulam  Et yafei hablorit vehatohar  Ki re'ut shekazot le'olam  Lo titen et libenu lishko'ach  Ahava mekudeshet bedam  At tashuvi beinenu lifro'ach.   Hare'ut, nesanucha bli milim  Afora, akshanit veshoteket  Milelot ha'eima hagdolim  At noteret adira vedoleket   Hare'ut, kinarayich kulam  Shuv bishmech nechayech venelecha  Ki re'im shenaflu al harbam  Et chaich hotiru lezecher   Chorus Ach nizkor et kulam  Et yafei hablorit vehatohar  Ki re'ut shekazot le'olam  Lo titen et libenu lishko'ach  Ahava mekudeshet bedam  At tashuvi beinenu lifroach. | |  | |  | | --- | | THE FRIENDSHIP | | http://www.hebrewsongs.com/spacer.gif | | In the Negev, the autumn night falls,  And it kindles the stars in the quiet,  As the breeze rustles outside the door  And the clouds settle on the path.   Already a year, we almost didn’t feel it, How the months have gone by one by one. Already a year, there are few of us left,  And so many we once knew are gone.   Chorus  Yet we remember them all,  Their laughter, their youth and their splendor.  A friendship like that doesn’t ever Let our hearts forget,  Love made holy by blood,  You return to us and blossom.   Oh, the friendship we bore without words,  It was stubborn and grey and silent.  From the great fearful nights,  You remains with us, ardent and yearning.   In the name of that friendship we know,  In its name we'll go on, every forward,  For those friends, those who fell on their swords,  Left us this precious gift to recall them.   Chorus  Yet we remember them all,  Their laughter, their youth and their splendor.  A friendship like that doesn’t ever Let our hearts forget,  Love made holy by blood,  You return to us and blossom. | | | |
| |  | | --- | | **SHIR LASHALOM** | | http://www.hebrewsongs.com/spacer.gif | | Tnu lashemesh la'alot laboker le'ha'ir Hazaka shebatfilot otanu lo tachzir Mi asher kava nero u've'Afar nitman Bechi mar lo ya'iro lo yachziro le'chan  Ish otanu lo yashiv mibor tachtit a'fel -  kan lo yo'ilu -  lo simchat hanitzachon Velo shirei hallel  Lachen rak shiru shir lashalom al tilhashu tfila lachen rak shiru shir lashalom bitze'aka gdola  Tnu lashemesh lachador miba'ad laprachim al tabitu le'achor hanichu la'holchim  S'u eina'yim betikva lo derech kavanot shiru shir la'ahava velo lamilchamot  Al tagidu yom yavo havi'u et hayom -  ki lo chalom hu -  uve'chol hakikarot hari'u rak shalom | | |  | |  | | --- | | SONG OF PEACE | | http://www.hebrewsongs.com/spacer.gif | | Let the sun rise light up the morning The purest of prayers will not bring us back He whose candle was snuffed out and was buried in the dust bitter crying won't wake him up and won't bring him back  Nobody will bring us back from a dead and darkened pit here,  neither the victory cheer nor songs of praise will help  So just sing a song for peace don't whisper a prayer Just sing a song for peace in a loud shout  Allow the sun to penetrate through the flowers don't look back let go of those departed  Lift your eyes with hope not through the rifles' sights sing a song for love and not for wars  Don't say the day will come bring on that day -  because it is not a dream -  and in all the city squares cheer only for peace! | | |
| |  | | --- | | **CHOREF SHIV'IM VESHALOSH** | | YELADIM SHEL CHOREF 73 | | http://www.hebrewsongs.com/spacer.gif | | Anachnu hayeladim shel choref shnat shiv'im veshalosh  Chalamtem otanu larishona im shachar betom hakravot Hayitem gvarim ayefim shehodu lemazalam hatov Hayitem nashim tze'irot mud'agot veratziten kol kach le'ehov Uchsheharitem otanu be'ahava bechoref shiv'im veshalosh  Ratzitem lemale begufchem et ma shechisla hamilchama  K'shenoladnu hayta ha'aretz ptz ' ua va'atzuva Hibatetem banu chibaktem otanu nisitem limtzo nechama K'shenoladnu berchu hazkenim be'enayim dom'ot Amru hayeladim hae'leh halevai lo yelchu el hatzava Ufnechem batatzlum hayashan mochichot  shedibartem mikol halev Kshehivtachtem la'asot bishvilenu hakol  lahafoch oyev le'ohev  Hivtachtem yona  aleh shel zayit  hivtachtem shalom Babayit hivtachtem aviv ufrichot  hivtachtem lekayem havtachot hivtachtem yona  Anachnu hayeladim shel choref shnat shiv'im veshalosh Gadalnu anachnu achshav batzava  im haneshek kasda al harosh Gam anachnu yod'im la'asot ahava tzochakim veyod'im livkot Gam anachnu gvarim gam anachnu nashim  gam anachnu cholmim tinokot Velachen lo nilchatz velachen lo nidrosh  velachen lo ne'ayem  K'shehayinu k'tanim amartem havtachot tzarich lekayem Im darush lachem ko'ach niten  lo nach'soch  rak ratzinu lilchosh Anachnu hayeladim shel hachoref hahu shnat shiv'im veshalosh   Hivtachtem yona  Aleh shel zayit  Hivtachtem shalom babayit Hivtachtem aviv ufrichot Hivtachtem lekayem havtachot Hivtachtem yona | | | |  | |  | | --- | | WINTER OF '73 | | CHILDREN OF WINTER 1973 | | http://www.hebrewsongs.com/spacer.gif | | We are the children of winter 1973 You dreamt us first at dawn at the end of the battles  You were tired men that thanked their good luck You were worried young women and you wanted so much to love When you conceived us with love in winter 1973 You wanted to fill up with your bodies that what the war finished  And we were born the country was wounded and sad You looked at us you hugged us you were trying to find comfort When we were born the elders blessed with tears in their eyes They said:" we wish those kids will not have to go to the army" And your faces in the old picture prove That you said it form the bottom of your hearts When you promised to do every thing for us To make an enemy into a loved one  You promised a dove, an olive tree leaf,  you promised peace You promised spring at home and blossoms  You promised to fulfill promises, you promised a dove  We are the children of winter 1973 We grew up and now in the army  with our weapon and helmet on our heads We know how to make love to laugh and cry We are men we are women  and we too dream about babies This is why we will not pressure you we will demand of you  And we will not threaten you  When we were young you said promises need to be kept We will give you strength if that is what you need  We will not hold back  We just wanted to whisper  We are the children of that winter in the year 1973  You promised a dove, an olive tree leaf,  you promised peace You promised spring at home and blossoms  You promised to fulfill promises,  you promised a dove | |

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| |  | | --- | | **LIVKOT LECHA** | | LANETZACH ACHI | |  | | Ani holech livkot lecha,  tihyeh chazak lema'ala  Ga'aguai  k'mo d'latot sheniftachot balaila.  Lanetzach achi  ezkor otcha tamid  Venipagesh basof ata yode'a. veyesh li chaverim  aval gam hem kavim  El mul orcha hameshage'a.  Kshe'atzuvim holchim layam  Lachen hayam maluach  Vezeh atzuv shelehachzir tziud efshar  Lo ga-aguah   Lanetzach achi …  Uchmo hagalim  anachnu mitnaptzim  El hamezach  el hachayim   Uchmo hagalim  anachnu mitnaptzim  El hamezach  el hachayim   Lanetzach achi  ezkor otcha tamid  Venipagesh basof ata yode'a. veyesh li chaverim  aval gam hem kavim  El mul orcha hameshage'a. | |  | |  | | --- | | TO CRY FOR YOU | | FOREVER MY BROTHER | |  | | I'm on my way to cry for you;  be strong up in the heavens My longing is like doors that open at nighttime  Forever my brother I’ll always remember you And we will meet at the end, you know I have friends But they seem extinguished Against your crazy light  When we are sad, we walk to the sea  And so the sea is salty And tears will fall because  there's nothing else to stop my lonely sighing  Forever my brother…  And like the waves We crash, collide With the rocks With real life  And like the tide We crash, collide With the rocks With real life  Forever my brother I’ll always remember you And we will meet at the end, you know I have friends But they seem extinguished Against your crazy light | |

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| |  | | --- | | **MILION KOCHAVIM** | |  | | Ratzita la'uf, ratzita kvar hal'ah  im chatzi chiyuch alita lemalah  milion kochavim bashamaim  tof'sim et hatzava shelcha ba'einaim  ten rak od shniyah achat lomar lecha shalom   Ratzita la'uf, halachta rachok midai  betoch hateruf ein mi sheyish'mor alai  milion kochavim bashamaim  tof'sim et hatzava shelcha ba'einaim  ratziti shniyah achat lomar lecha shalom   Ani ratziti lashir  atah heramta gitarah  mal'ach menagen li achshav  az itcha ani sharah  milion kochavim bashamaim  tof'sim et hatzava shelcha ba'einaim  ratziti lashir lecha, lomar lecha shalom  ratziti shniyah achat lomar lecha shalom  ten rak od shniyah achat lomar lecha shalom | |  | |  | | --- | | A MILLION STARS | | http://www.hebrewsongs.com/spacer.gif | | You wanted to fly, you wanted to go further already  with a half-smile you went up  a million stars in the sky  catching the color in your eyes  just give me another second to say bye to you   You wanted to fly, you went too far  in the midst of the madness there's nobody to guard me  a million stars in the sky  catching the color in your eyes  I wanted a second to say bye to you   I wanted to sing you picked up a guitar an angel plays for me now so with you I sing a million stars in the sky catching the colour in your eyes I wanted to sing for you, to say bye to you I wanted a second to say bye to you just give me another second to say bye to you | |