Yom Hazikaron ceremony Carmel Academy & UJA Federation Greenwich

**Matan and Itamar YE**

**Opening:**

Today, April 22nd, 2015, ג' באייר ה'תשע"ה, we are marking Yom HaZikaron, the memorial service for the fallen soldiers and terror victims of Israel. Every year the people of Israel remember those who sacrificed their lives for Israel’s inalienable right for independence. Yom HaZikaron, is a day of remembrance for those who died in the struggle for the establishment of the State of Israel, its defense and innocent civilians by acts of terror.

This day is held during the 24 hours preceding Yom Ha’Atzmaut – Israel’s Independence Day. On Yom HaZikaron, the entire nation remembers its fallen soldiers and expresses their eternal gratitude to its sons and daughters, honors those who gave their lives for the achievement of the country’s independence and its continued existence

**Tzahal Shalom & K-2 reception:**

We are honored to have with us today the Israeli soldiers of the Tzahal Shalom delegation. We extend to them our deepest, heartfelt thanks for their service to the Israeli Defense Forces and protecting the Jewish people all over the world and would like to ask them to introduce themselves.

(After their introductions ……..)

We now the kindergarten through 2th grade to give note of thanks to each of the soldiers.

Music playing- Yemey binyamina

(K-2 hand cards to soldiers and leave.)

**Intro Tzefira:**

There is a moment in Israel that all the people, all over the country are doing the same thing. No matter what they are doing, they stop - everything. They stop, and stand silently to think… to think about the people who gave their lives in order to protect our land and our people, our beloved country of Israel.

Now, we take a moment to remember.

Please rise for the “Tzefira”, the memorial siren.

------------------------------Tzefira with video ----------------------------

Link : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj1vQRENhwY>

**Intro Yizkor**

Please remain standing for the reading of the special Yizkor memorial prayer. This special Yizkor is a prayer for the fallen Israeli soldiers and for all of the people who have died in Israel as part of its fight to exist.

**יזכור**

**יִזְכֹּר עַם יִשׂרָאֵל אֶת בָּנָיו וּבְנוֹתָיו,  
הַנֶּאֱמָנִים וְהָאַמִּיצִים, חַיָּלֵי צְבָא-הֲגָנָה לְיִשׂרָאֵל,  
וְכָל לוֹחֲמֵי הַמַּחְתָּרוֹת וַחֲטִיבוֹת הַלּוֹחֲמִים  
בְּמַעַרְכוֹת הָעָם, וְכָל אַנְשֵי קְהִילִיַּת הַמּוֹדִיעִין  
וְהַבִּטָּחוֹן וְאַנְשֵי הַמִּשְׁטָרָה אֲשֶׁר חֵרְפוּ נַפְשָׁם  
בָּמִלְחָמָה עַל תְּקוּמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל,   
וְכָל אֵלֶּה שֶׁנִּרְצְחוּ בָּאָרֶץ וּמִחוּצָה לָהּ  
בִּידֵי מְרָצְחִים מֵאִרְגּוּנֵי הָטֶּרוֹר.  
  
יִזְכֹּר יִשׂרָאֵל וְיִתְבָּרַך בְּזַרְעוֹ וְיֶאֱבַל עַל זִיו הָעֲלוּמִים  
וְחֶמְדַת הַגְּבוּרָה וּקְדֻשָׁת הָרָצוֹן וּמְסִירוּת הַנֶּפֶש  
אֲשֶׁר נִסְפּוּ בַּמַּעֲרָכָה הַכְּבֵדָה.  
  
יִהְיוּ חַלְלֵי מַעַרְכוֹת יִשְֹרָאֵל עֲטוּרֵי הַנִּצָּחוֹן  
חֲתוּמִים בְּלֵב יִשְֹרָאֵל לְדוֹר דּוֹר.**

**Intro Flags:**

In Israel, it is a tradition on days of national mourning to lower every flag.

All over the country we are lowering the flags to half-mast.

Lowering the flag is a symbol which recognizes those Israelis who were lost in the struggle to keep Israel safe.

Please remain standing, while we lower the Israeli flag.

------------------Lowering the flag----------------------

Please be seated.

Music during the lowering of the flag :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4XTofykcos&spfreload=10>

**Words about Max Steinberg:**

Today we are honoring a soldier who gave his life to protect Israel - Max Steinberg.

Max Steinberg was a lone soldier from Los Angeles; he had father and mother, a sister and a brother. He was an outstanding athlete, he loved football and played well. Upon making aliyah, Max lived in the city of Beersheva in the Negev. Max volunteered to become a soldier in the IDF and served in the elite Golani Brigade.

He died last summer in Operation ”Tzuk Eyetan”, Protective Edge, in Gaza on Sunday, July 20, 2014. Thirty-thousand people came to his funeral in Jerusalem on Mount Herzl, the military cemetery in Jerusalem.

He was 24 years old when he was killed defending the country and the people he loved.

**Intro Dance – "Arim Roshi":**

*Arim Roshi*, translated to "I will raise my head," is the first line of the psalm "Shir LaMalot" from Tehilim.

This prayer is traditionally said in a moment of danger, where a human asks for aid from God.

The song *Arim Roshi*, was written and sung by the Israeli singer Shay Gabso. The chorus of the song features a few lines from Tehilim.

“ I will raise my head,

I'll gaze at the mountains, in the distance,

and my voice will be heard as a scream,

as a prayer of a human

and my heart will call out

"where will my aid come from"

**--- Dance "Arim Roshi “---**

**Play – Friends Talk about Max:**

Frined 1: Look this is a picture from Purim. He looks so happy…

Friend 2 : And this is from the trip that we took together. We had such a great time..

Friend 3 : It has been a long time since we met each other.

Friend 4 : Since Max is not here anymore…

Friend 5 : I miss Max.

Friend 6 : Me too. You remember what a great athlete he was. We played football together all the time.

Friend 4 : Even when we went (came) to Israel he couldn’t stop to talking about football.

Friend 2 : (Sigh ) .. Max loved Israel.

Friend 1 : He believed in Israel, that’s why he chose to serve at the IDF – the Israeli Defense Forces.

Friend 6 : And he met some great friends in Israel.

Friend 3 : Thirty thousand Israelis came to honor him at his funeral since he was a Lone Soldier and didn’t have family in Israel.

Friend 5 : They united together, came from different places all over Israel, to honor his decision to serve in the IDF.

**Video- Max’s Life :**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CkIZ4xR6Ffk&feature=youtu.be>

**Play – Speech Writing:**

How did Max, a normal American boy, became a hero in Israel? How did the boy who grew up in the United States, collected baseball cards, and was a fan of Bob Marley, become a symbol who will forever be remembered as one of the greatest of the nation of Israel?

Max could have easily choosen to continue his life, a peaceful life with the love of his friends and family. But Max was different from everyone else. Unlike the young boys of his age, Max decided not to live only for himself. Max not only chose to protect us, but he made us all think about what is really important in life. Do we live for ourselves alone? Or do we live our life to help others? He just decided to do what he felt to be true and make him a better person. God bless the memory of Max. God bless the two countries which to Max brought a lot of respect - Israel and America. I hope and wish for all of us to live according to Max’s example – to change ourselves in order to live to give and to help others

And so, like Max, we can change the world to be a better place.

“Yehi Zichro Shel Max Steinberg Baruch” .

* Part of a speech of Knesset member in the Memorial Service of Max.

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**Intro Song – *Mi Sheberach*:**

*Mi Sheberach* is a prayer that we say for the safety of the solodiers of the Israeli Defense Forces. Today we are going to sing the prayer to remember and to wish for Pease and pray for the safety of our solders.

**---- Song *Mi Sheberach* ----**

**Intro Teachers:**

At Carmel Academy, there are teachers who served in the Israel Defense Forces, and even some of them, like many other Israelis, experienced the pain of loss. As we call each of their names, we invite them to the stage to get a flower for the service that they have done for Israel and to light a candle in the memory of our beloved soldiers.

* Song at the background “Milyon kochavim”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKettLssm8g>

**Teachers- flowers and candles:**

Morah Livia

Morah Anat

Moreh Noham

Morah Iris

Morah Tali

Morah Shira

Morah Rivka

Morah Sonia

Morah Havi

We also honor our Emissaries from previous years that served or are still serving in the IDF. And we are honoring the alumni from Carmel Academy who are serving or have served in the Tzhal: Noam Sohn who ended his service yesterday, Tali Schulman, Orly Tamir, who has just entered the officer training course, Avi Tamir, Phil Steinmetz, and Ruth Turkel.

**Hatikvah**

We invite the soliders of Tzahal Shalom to join us on stage as we rise for the singing of HaTikvah – The Hope – the national anthem of Israel.