

Since last Yom Kippur, we mourn the loss of 2 members of our congregation:

Esther Werba

Irma Samrick

We are not only members of individual families, but also members of the Jewish people and citizens of the world. Therefore, at this moment before Yizkor, we remember also the following people whose lives made a difference to the world.

Eddie Fisher, son of Jewish immigrant parents, singer and entertainer, whose career never completely recovered from his scandalous divorce and subsequent marriage to Elizabeth Taylor.

Jimi Heselden, owner of the Segway company, who died when he accidentally drove his Segway over a cliff.

Johnny Sheffield, boy on Tarzan.

Barbara Billingsley, best remembered as the pearl wearing housewife, June Cleaver.

Tom Bosley, best remembered as Howard Cunningham.

Joseph Stein, the Playwright who turned a Yiddish short story into the classic Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof" and later wrote the screenplay for its successful movie adaptation.

Ted Sorensen, Special counsel, advisor, and speechwriter to President John F. Kennedy.

George Lee "Sparky" Anderson, Baseball Hall of Fame manager, with three World Series titles with the Cincinnati Red and Detroit Tigers, the first manager to lead teams from both the American and National Leagues to World Series titles.

Leslie Neilson, surely one of the best deadpan comedy actors - but don't call him "Shirley!"

Agathe von Trapp, the eldest daughter of the von Trapp family made famous in "The Sound of Music"

Peter Cook, who enriched the communities of West Michigan through his philanthropy.

Elizabeth Edwards, author and wife of Senator, Vice-Presidential and Presidential candidate John Edwards, who handled cancer, politics, and her husband's infidelity with grace and dignity.

Richard Holbrooke, diplomat and US Ambassador to the United Nations, whose major accomplishment was as chief negotiator to end the Bosnian civil war in 1995.

Fred Foy, an announcer best known for his booming lead-in to "The Lone Ranger."

Debbie Friedman, whose music healed and inspired.

Jack LaLanne, fitness guru, who inspired millions to eat well and exercise.

Frank Buckles, 110, the last surviving American veteran of the First World War.

Elizabeth Taylor, the often married Hollywood star, who became a Jew by choice before her marriage to Eddie Fisher, lifelong supporter of Israel and humanitarian causes.

Geraldine Ferraro, the first major party female vice presidential candidate.

Moshe Landau, age 99, the presiding judge at the trial of Adolf Eichman.

Claude Stanley Choules, age 110, the last surviving combat veteran of WWI.

Harmon Killebrew, Minnesota Twin and Baseball Hall of Fame power hitter with more home runs in the 60's than any other major leaguer, known as the loudest bat and the quietest mouth in baseball.

Paul Baran, one of the pioneers behind "packet switching," a way to transmit information in chunks, a foundation for the modern Internet.

Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian, who raised the level of the conversation about end of life issues by introducing "assisted suicide."

Mietak Pemper, Who typed Oskar Shindler's famous list.

Al Schwimmer, who disregarded an Arms embargo, shipped aircraft, ammunition, and pilots to Israel, and thus helped win the War of Independence and eventually created the Israeli aircraft industry.

Peter Falk, the rumpled detective Columbo.

George Ballas, the inventor of weed wacker.

Betty Ford, perhaps the most outspoken first lady in history, speaking out on feminism, breast cancer awareness, and her own struggles with alcoholism.

Sherwood Schwartz, creator of Brady Bunch, and Gilligan's Island

Ed Flesh, the designer of the Wheel of Fortune.

Steve Jobs, the visionary behind the iPad, iPhone, iPod, and the iconic look of the Macintosh computers.

All these do we remember, together with the ones who were so close to us, for they too are a part of our world.