

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

David Mandel
Lenore Bear
Alan Reider
Elaine Lipshutz
Mort Hoffman
Hermina Sikkema
Marilyn Roth
Sue Remes
Shelley Knape
Gerry Hoffman

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

Colin Powell, the first Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State.

Stephen Sondheim, who reinvented musical theater from a vehicle for light-hearted diversion to shows that wrestled with the complexity of human experience.

Phil Saviano, one of the first survivors of clergy abuse who refused to stay silent.

Lee Elder, who broke a golf color barrier but wanted to be known as for his accomplishments on the course.

Edward Shames, the US soldier to enter Dachau after its liberation, who entered Hitler's Eagles's Nest, took a few bottles of Cognac labeled "for the Fuhrer's use only," and used them to toast his oldest son's Bar Mitzvah.

Bob Dole, House Leader and Presidential candidate, whose trademarks were loyalty, consensus, and care for wounded veterans.

Al Unser, four time Indy 500 winner, the only driver to win the "Triple Crown" of 500 mile races in a single season.

Michael Nesmith, intellectual songwriter, also known as the Monkey in the green wool cap.

Anne Rice, who reinvigorated the vampire genre with "The Vampire Chronicles."

Richard Marcinko, founder of Seal Team 6.

Sarah Weddington, who successfully argued the 1973 landmark Roe v. Wade before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Prize winning anti-apartheid champion of human rights, who identified with Jews but frequently criticized Israel.

John Madden, the Super Bowl winning football coach who became an exuberant broadcaster and a video game icon.

Yoram Taharlev, Israel's most prolific songwriter.

Harry Reid, the terse, combative Senator from Nevada who shepherded and defended the Affordable Care Act through the Senate.

Betty White, Sue Ann Nivens, Golden Girl ... comedy genius.

Lawrence Brooks, oldest man in the United States, oldest WWII veteran, whose advice to those who want to live a long life is "Serve God and be nice to everyone you meet."

Sidney Poitier, the first Black person to win an Oscar, who symbolized and challenged how Black men were seen in the world.

Magawa, a heroic African giant pouched land mine-detecting rat, who found more than 100 mines and other explosives during his five-year career.

Lena Meijer, whose love of children inspired the Children's garden at Meijer Garden.

Emilio Delgado, who played Luis on Sesame Street, one of the first two humans added to the cast and an icon for generations of kids.

Madeleine Albright, the first woman to serve as Secretary of State, who helped steer US foreign policy post cold war, raised Catholic, who claimed not to have known that both parents were born Jewish.

Rabbi Everett Gendler, the "father of Jewish environmentalism."

Raanan Lurie, Israeli war hero and the world's most widely syndicated political cartoonist.

A.B. Yehoshua, Israel Prize winning author and peace activist.

Rabbi David Weiss Halivni, foremost academic Talmud scholar of his generation, who also wrote powerfully and sensitively about his Shoah ordeals.

Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest serving prime minister, a polarizing figure whose vision of Japan strained relations with South Korea and built a coalition against an increasingly assertive China.

Nichelle Nichols, Lieutenant Uhura, who blazed a trail for female Black actors with talent, fire, and an onscreen kiss with William Shatner.

Bill Russell, legendary athlete, the first Black head NBA coach, and outspoken advocate for civil rights.

Mikhail Gorbachev, who initiated a campaign of glasnost, openness, to achieve perestroika, restructuring, which led to the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Queen Elizabeth II, who served 70 years, the longest of any British monarch.

Jean-Luc Godard, a visionary leader of the New Wave of French filmmaking.

Harriet Bograd, leader of the Kulanu organization that has supported emerging Jewish communities around the world including the Abayudaya community in Uganda.

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