

Notable Deaths of 5765

In the past year, we mourn the loss of 13 members of our congregation.

[Read names]

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.

1. Christopher Reeves, an unknown actor who played Superman in the movies, and following a tragic horseback riding accident became a real life superman, teaching courage and perseverance, and giving hope of recovery from spinal cord injuries.
2. Johnny Carson, who brought us smiles and laughter for over 30 years, and who once said that he'd like his epitaph to read, "I'll be right back!"
3. Ephraim Kishon, a leading Israeli humorist, whose sharp eye observed the positive and negative aspects of the young state and the young Sabra generation.
4. Ehud Manor, Israel's best-known lyricist, who wrote the classic "Bashana Haba'a" a bittersweet song expressing the impossible hope of uniting with his father and his younger brother, Yehuda, who was killed during the 1968 War of Attrition.
5. Ezer Weizman, the swashbuckling and acerbic former president of Israel, who built the country's air force and guided it in the startlingly swift victory over the Arab forces in the 1967 war, and who in his later years transformed himself into a dovish politician.
6. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who according to his ideological opposite, Justice Stevens, performed the special responsibilities of his high office with efficiency, good humor, and absolute impartiality."
7. Bob Denver, who as Gilligan reminded us that no matter how angry people are, they can always forgive you by the end of a 1/2 hour show.
8. Robert Wise, who brought the sound of music into our lives.
9. Simon Wiesenthal, the conscience of the Shoah, the "deputy for the dead" for whom "never again" was not just a slogan, but his life's work.
10. Pope John Paul II, who used the high power of his office to sanctify God's name by devoting more time and attention to repairing the Church's relationship with the Jewish community than any other Pope in history.
11. Sam Lender, who along with his brothers turned a tiny Connecticut bakery into the national company Lender's Bagels.
12. Morris Gold, who helped make his mother's horseradish a household name. On Passover, his 70's slogan can still be heard: "We do the crying for you."
13. More than 210,000 men, women, and children who died in the past year as a result of devastating earthquakes, tsunamis, and hurricanes.

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14. Max Fisher, president of the Detroit Jewish federation from 1959 to 1964, and founding chairman of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel.
15. Terri Schiavo, whose death by removal of her feeding tube led to a national debate on the meaning of life.
16. Saul Bellow, Nobel Prize winning author, who brought the American Jewish experience to a wider audience in North America.
17. Kenneth B. Clark, the psychologist and educator whose 1950 report showing the destructive effect of school segregation influenced the United States Supreme Court to hold school segregation to be unconstitutional.
18. George Mikan, the first superstar in modern professional basketball and a big player so dominant that college and pro rules were changed to handcuff him.
19. Robert F. Maguire Jr., the chief pilot of Operation Magic Carpet, which evacuated more than 40,000 Jewish refugees from Yemen to the newly created state of Israel, and who David Ben-Gurion was reported to have called "the Irish Moses."
20. Rabbi Dr. Nahum Sarna, a leading Bible scholar devoted to making biblical scholarship accessible to general audiences.
21. Vice Adm. James Stockdale, a highly decorated Navy pilot who inspired fellow prisoners of war in North Vietnam and later ran for vice president as Ross Perot's running mate in 1992.
22. James Doohan, who played Commander Scott, the chief engineer of the Starship Enterprise in the original "Star Trek" TV series and motion pictures, who inspired the phrase, "Beam me up Scotty!"
23. Peter Jennings, a high school dropout from Canada who transformed himself into one of the most recognizable journalists on American television.
24. Alexander Gomelsky the legendary Jewish coach of Russia's national basketball team who put together the team that dealt the United States its first Olympic defeat in basketball.
25. Milton Green, a US Jewish athlete who refused to compete in the 1936 Nazi Olympics.
26. Johnnie Cochran, the attorney who gained fame and notoriety as the lawyer for O.J. Simpson, who coined the phrase, "If the glove doesn't fit, you must acquit."
27. Peter Zvi Malkin, the former Israeli Intelligence agent who in 1960 captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Argentina.
28. Maurice Hilleman, the microbiologist who developed vaccines for mumps, measles, chickenpox, pneumonia, meningitis, and other diseases accounting for the saving of tens of millions of lives.
29. Rabbi Cynthia Culpeper: A wonderful rabbi and an inspiring teacher and friend who developed HIV from a needle stick in her nursing career, and devoted the next 10 years not counting down her days, but making every day count.

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

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1. Anne Bancroft, the stage and film star whose signature triumphs in a 50-year career ranged from the courageous Annie Sullivan in "The Miracle Worker" to the hungrily seductive Mrs. Robinson in "The Graduate."
2. Jerry Orbach stage veteran and star of NBC's venerable Law & Order franchise.
3. Luther Vandross, Grammy award winning singer and song writer.
4. Don Adams, best known for his role as the comical spy Maxwell Smart on the 60's sitcom, "Get Smart!", credited with coining the phrase, "Would you believe!?"
5. Rodney Dangerfield, born Jacob Cohen, he became the comedian who "got no respect."
6. Pierre Salinger, the debonair investigative reporter who became famous as John F. Kennedy's White House press secretary at the height of the cold war and went on to work as a prize-winning television correspondent for ABC News in Europe.
7. Jay Schulberg, the advertising executive who put milk mustaches on the famous and beautiful, invented the slogan, "Don't leave home without it," and declared that the worst headaches are "Excedrin headaches."
8. Yitzhak Levi, the next-to-last Afghan Jew.
9. Arthur Miller, the Pulitzer-Prize winning Jewish playwright who wrote such notable plays as "Death of A Salesman" and "The Crucible."
10. Samuel Alderson, inventor of the famous automotive crash test dummy.
11. Jack Kilby, the inventor of the integrated circuit - the microchip, and arguably the father of the information age.
12. Gerry Thomas, who invented the TV Dinner.