

YIZKOR ON YOM KIPPUR

The Honorary Executive delivered this explanatory paper at the AGM. In order that members may fully understand the change in the Yiskor Service, the paper is set out below.

- The concept of Z'chor (Remembering) is deeply embedded in the Jewish psyche. We are instructed countless times in the Torah to remember, for example "remember the Shabbat", "the exodus from Egypt", "the creation of the World" and "Amalek". The act of remembering our dear departed relatives is also an age old practice.
- The Hon Executive and Board of Management have considered carefully how best we could deal with the situation of the reading out of extremely lengthy lists of names in the various services during the Yom Kippur Yizkor Service. We approached this matter with the careful and sensitive deliberation that it deserved. We have fully consulted Rabbi Lew over the intended change.
- The custom of publishing memorial books goes back many centuries and this initiative at Stanmore & Canons Park will mean our community will now join many others who have perpetuated the memory of their loved ones in the tangible form of a booklet. We believe this will be more dignified than the calling out of a long list of names when Yizkor is recited.
- The many communities that produce a memorial book each Yom Kippur include Finchley, Edgware, Hendon, St Johns Wood, Belmont, Kenton, Western Marble Arch, The Central, Cockfosters and Young Israel of Netanya.
- The Book of Remembrance will be placed on each seat in all adult services and may be taken home after Yom Kippur has concluded.
- After the personal Yizkor prayers are recited by members, the officiating Rabbi in each service will ask members to sit in silence for a few minutes to look at the names of their departed relatives and this will allow a respectful contemplation as befits the mood of the Day of Yom Kippur and the Yizkor service.
- Finally the Hon Executive wish to emphasise that this change is motivated by our hope that the Book of Remembrance will make the Yizkor service more meaningful. We wish to emphasise that it has not been introduced because of the work entailed previously in the preparing of lists of names for different services.