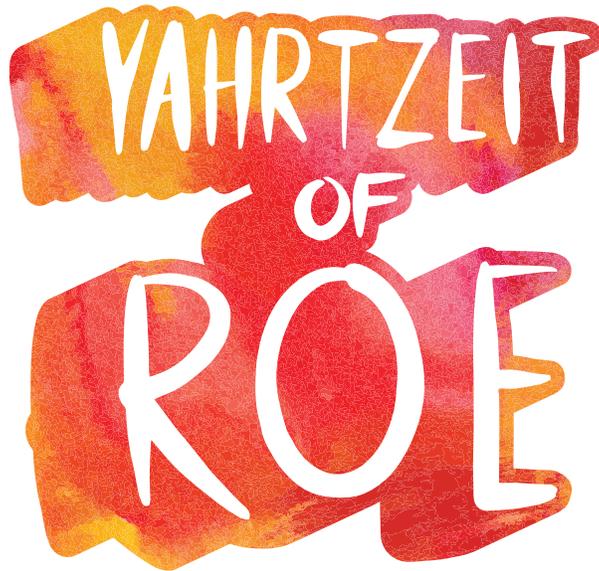


A PRAYER TO MARK THE



On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, which had guaranteed our federal right to abortion access for half a century.

In Judaism, there is a custom to mark the anniversary date of a death, the *yahrtzeit*, as a time to mourn, to remember, and to honor. We light a *yahrtzeit* candle to symbolize the *neshama*, the soul of the departed, allowing it to burn until it naturally goes out. The light serves as a reminder of the loss and to bring light into your home during a dark period.

Join National Council of Jewish Women advocates, allies, and partners around the country to mourn all those who have been harmed and killed by bans on their bodies by lighting this *yahrtzeit* candle before sundown of Friday, June 23, 2023.

Introduction

Light the *yahrzeit* candle and then read the following two prayers out loud. If you are doing this in community or at a synagogue, consider assigning people to recite sections or to read responsively.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE HARMED BY ABORTION BANS

As we light this candle, we mourn everyone harmed by abortion bans.

We mourn for millions of people, stripped of agency and dignity.

We mourn those brought into or trapped in poverty, and those unable to leave abusers because they could not access abortion care.

We mourn those who haven't had access for decades – denied essential care by structural misogyny, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and hate.

We mourn for those mandated by the state to be pregnant and give birth.

We mourn for those whose health was endangered by abortion bans.

We mourn for those facing legal consequences for providing, or helping someone seek, abortion care.

We mourn for those who wanted to bring a child into this world and have been impacted by bans—including those now scared to get pregnant, those denied miscarriage care, and those now with barriers to fertility treatment.

We mourn for those who died giving birth, disproportionately Black women, and for all those who suffered pregnancy complications.

We mourn for those killed by abusive partners – since the leading cause of death of pregnant women in the United States is, in fact, homicide.

We mourn for all those whose stories we know and for all those whose stories we don't.

Abortion access saves lives.

*With this light, we recommit to the fight for reproductive freedom for all.
Amen.*

Mourner's Kaddish

The Mourner's Kaddish is a traditional Jewish prayer recited by those mourning a loss. Please read the Hebrew text, the transliteration, or either English translation out loud.

Hebrew text:

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעַלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיִּיכוּן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיֵּי
דְּכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן

יְהִי שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעַלְמֵי עַלְמַיָּא

וְיִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקֻדְשָׁא. בְּרִיךְ הוּא.
לְעַלְמָא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְּאִמְרֵיךְ בְּעַלְמָא. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן

יְהִי שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן
עוֹשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּעַשִׂי"ת: הַשְּׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן

Transliteration:

*Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba b'alma di v'ra chir'utei; v'yamlich malchutei
b'hayeichon u-v'yomeichon, uv'hayei d'chol beit yisrael, ba-agala u-vi-z'man
kariv, v'imru amen.*

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach l'alam u-l'almei almaya.

*Yitbarach v'yishtabah, v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam, v'yitnasei v'yit-hadar, v'yit'aleh
v'yit'halal sh'mei d'kudsha, b'rich hu, l'ela min kol birchata v'shirata, tushb'hata
v'nehemata, da-amiran b'alma, v'imru amen.*

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya, v'hayim, aleinu v'al koi yisrael, v'imru amen.

*Oseh shalom bi-m'romav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru
amen.*

Traditional translation:

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name in the world which God created, according to plan. May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime and the life of all Israel -- speedily, imminently, to which we say Amen.

Blessed be God's great name to all eternity.

Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded be the name of the Holy Blessed One, beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort. To which we say Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and all Israel, to which we say Amen.

May the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace to us and to all Israel.

To which we say: Amen.

Humanistic translation:

Wonderful is peace in the world.

Let us create a peaceful world and let us establish its kingdom now and in the future.

May peace come to bless our lives.

May we always continue to honor peace in the world even though no praise can equal the importance of its reality.

May peace and life prevail for us and for all Israel.

Let us work to create peace here on earth for all people.

And let us say, Shalom.