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DEFINITION AND CONTEXT

On the fourth of Iyar, the “Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism” is commemorated in Israel. This day of national mourning is commemorated the day preceding Independence Day demonstrating the terrible cost we must pay for having a sovereign Jewish state. Although it started in 1951 as a remembrance day for the soldiers who gave their lives for the state of Israel, in 1998, the Israeli government decided to add the victims of terrorism. Undoubtedly, this is one of the saddest days of the year for the Israeli society.



DID YOU KNOW?

- On this day, we remember with pride and recognition Dvora Epstein, Abraham Geller and Yaakov Kroch, chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni, who lost their lives fighting and defending our newly emerged national home, Israel, during the War of Independence, and Moshe Nauhaus, who fell fighting against the Egyptians during the course of the bloody combats along the Suez Canal in 1969.
- Dvora, as Madricha, chalutza, magshima and combatant, who identified with the Zionist ideal and our national dream, took up arms to defend her Kibbutz, Nitzanim, until the last moment. The fact that this happened at a time when a woman’s role was far from the battlefield emphasizes her singular pioneer role. For this reason, seventy years after this tragic event, in the 2018 version of the Darkenu and after having been approved in the Veida Olamit of 2017, Dvora Epstein was included as one of our sources of inspiration.
- In 1950, Olim of Hanoar Hatzioni from South America founded a new Kibbutz and named it “Ein HaShlosa” – meaning “Spring of the Three” in memory of the chaverim who fell during the war. In the book *The Challenge of Realization* the authors explain:
“These three fallen youths were the ones who inspired the rest of the group and those who came after the War of Liberation and the ones who gave the definitive push to form a Kibbutz of their own, which is not only a demonstration of the strength of the Latin American movement, but also a living monument that perpetuates the glorious memory and makes the legacy of these three youths a reality. And that is the origin of the name of Kibbutz Ein HaShlosa “Spring of the Three” – a spring whose flowing waters irrigate the fields of the Negev Desert and form new generations of youths who perpetuate the legacy of Dvora, Yaakov and Abraham.”
(E. Katz-Grunewald and A. Cramsky)
- David Volpin (z”l), chaver of Hanoar Hatzioni B’Argentina, was assassinated on January 26, 1951, by a terrorist, while watching the flock of sheep in the desert-land of the newborn Kibbutz Ein HaShlosa (November 1949). Before making Aliyah, he persuaded his father to allow him to come to Israel saying, “Look Dad: in all the wars no more than ten percent of the combatants die. Why am I going to be one of them? And if I die, it better be there, because if we lose, how are we going to show our faces living here?”
- Diego Ladovsky (z”l), chaver of Hanoar Hatzioni B’Argentina, was assassinated on July 31, 2002, in the “Frank Sinatra” cafeteria of the Har Hatzofim campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Diego grew up in the “Moshe Nauhaus” Ken (named in honor of the chaver who fell during the War of Attrition) in Buenos Aires, holding the position of madrich and member of the local Hanhaga. He was an enthusiastic and indefatigable activist and made Aliyah at the age of twenty. He was tragically separated from us, becoming one more victim of Israel’s terrible and tireless struggle to live in peace in its land.
May the memory of our chaverim and of all the soldiers and Israeli citizens who lost their lives in the pursuit of the dream “to be a free nation, in our land” be blessed, honored and never forgotten.



SYMBOLS AND CUSTOMS

• DAY OF NATIONAL GRIEF

Yom Hazikaron is characterized as a day of national grief. It opens on the fourth of the Hebrew month of Iyar at 20:00 with a siren that lasts for one minute. During this time, all Israelis stand in silence paying tribute to the fallen. On the following morning, a two-minute siren is sounded, marking the opening of the official memorial ceremonies in the different cemeteries of the country where soldiers and terrorist victims are buried. All businesses and places of entertainment (such as restaurants, cafeterias and cinemas) are closed by law, as are public institutions, which lower their flags to half-staff and place a large lamp in the form of a red flame in the entrance of the buildings. Regular media cease their activities for the day and broadcast documentaries and movies that deal with the personal stories of the fallen and their families.

• THE “DAM HAMACABIM” FLOWER

One of the symbols of Yom Hazikaron is the flower “Dam HaMacabim” (the Red Everlasting) since, according to the legend, this flower grows in every spot where a drop of the Maccabees’ blood has spilled on the earth. It is common seeing people with a sticker of this flower on their lapels during this day.



QUOTES RELATED

“Dear chaverim, we are fighting because we want to plow, build and live, and they, on the contrary, fight to kill, steal and destroy, simply to sow evil. If they had wanted to live, as we do, they would not have fought. Therefore, we have no other option than fighting to live.”
Yaakov Kroch, a letter to the chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni B’Argentina. Nitzanim, 1948.

“We have suffered a huge loss. Young Dvora was one of the pillars of our garin. She believed with all her heart that we would make our dream come true. The dream is now turning into reality, and the heart hurts as Dvora is not with us.”
Abraham B. “Nitzanim Under Siege and in Battle”, Edition of Kibbutz. Nitzanim, 1949.

“We know that Abraham fell in the Negev on October 5 and that he was buried in Mishmar HaNegev. The first one in the family to receive the news through an official letter was Mom. She was at home alone, and it is needless to mention that pain and sadness we experienced, while the only consolation was that Abraham’s death has not been in vain and that he fought, lived and worked for the ideal of the redemption of his people in their homeland. He took part in fulfilling thousands of people’s dreams....”
Marcos Geller, brother of Abraham Geller, a month after receiving the news of his brother’s death.



YOM HAZIKARON

Batnua



"A sharp pain hit the Israeli society for every person who had fallen or was injured. And that pain was incomparably more acute when one of our friends, with whom we dreamed and fulfilled dreams, with whom we shared the hope and dream of an approaching PEACE, was the man whose life was taken by enemy fire. Moshe (Nauhaus) fell fighting, with a weapon in his hand, without ceasing or turning back, with the full consciousness of being a link in the chain of the Jewish people and of the generation that fought for ensuring our right to a sovereign state, for peace and national security."



ARTICLES RELATED

AARON ENGUELHARD, ROSH CHINUCH HANOAR HATZIONI B'PERU

Yom Hazikaron is genuinely an important day. The strength and courage of each one of our brothers who is not among us today are remembered in all parts of the world. In Hanoar Hatzioni, we see this day as one of the most solemn days of our calendar, but... why? Since its creation, our Tnua fought for the freedom of the Jewish people and their return to Israel, their national home. Many of our chaverim decided to be protagonists in the realization of this dream and did so in different ways; some of them are among our current sources of inspiration, personalities who crystallized our ideals and made us a solid movement. Unfortunately, some of them gave their lives for our safety. I am proud to call Israel my home.

MATI DILEVA, MAZKIRUT OLAMIT OF HANOAR HATZIONI

"I dare say that this, without a doubt, is one of the saddest memorial days in Israel... Sirens that, for one minute, paralyze the world, the streets, the roads, every passerby regardless of his destination. This minute of "eternal" silence allows us to remember those who fell in defense of our state, our homeland. No matter where it finds us, it grants us the possibility to pay tribute, remember and commit to act to ensure that these lives were not lost in vain."

DREAMERS OF AN IDEAL, SERGIO EDELSTEIN

"Dvora, Yaakov, Abraham, Moshe, Chaim, David: they had marked us. They marked a path for us to follow. They guided us. They guided us with their personal example. They remind us. They remind us the objective of their fulfillment. They served us on a silver platter, the Jewish people's dream for generations. They dreamed. They dreamed of an ideal."



ZMAN LE PEILUT

HOW DO YOU COMMEMORATE YOM HAZIKARON IN YOUR KEN?

Take a picture and share it with the rest of the chaverim of Hanoar Hatzioni across the world.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE COMPLETE
VERSIONS OF THE ARTICLES:

www.hholamif.org.il

