

YOM HA'ZIKARON Israeli Remembrance Day

In the UK, people often choose to wear a poppy and to remember the fallen, who they may not have known personally. In Israel, personal grief for those who fallen is shared publically at Yom HaZikaron. The mood of the country is sombre. As the sun sets at Yom HaZikaron – the celebrations for Yom Ha'Atzmaut begin.

Want to reflect? The following are titles, topics, and factors of war that people might commemorate:

- ✚ Fallen soldiers
- ✚ Sites of battles
- ✚ Particular divisions/forces within the army
- ✚ Civilian contribution
- ✚ Personal stories
- ✚ Discuss the different styles of commemoration;
- ✚ Monuments
- ✚ Art (abstract, of soldiers/civilians during wartime...)
- ✚ Walls of names
- ✚ Rolling videos
- ✚ Exhibitions
- ✚ Museums & interactive education

Have a look at two different memorials. What do you like/dislike about them?

Memorial of the Roaring Lion

- ✚ The memorial is place between the courtyard of Tel Chai and the Kibbutz Kfar Giladi.
- ✚ This is the first of the memorials created in the new Yishuv. It is cut from stone weighing tens of tonnes from the Naftali mountains. It was made at the hands of the sculptor Aharon Melnikov and was erected in 1932.
- ✚ Its form was influenced by bas-reliefs of lions found in archaeological excavations in the Middle East. A roaring lion also appeared in the bas-relief created by Boris Shatz, the Director of Betsalel Art school after the events of Tel Chai. The lion represents the strength of the fighters of Tel Chai who fell in its defence. Its head is pointed towards the Hula valley and the



Hermon.

- The sculpture is six metres high and on its base are engraved the words of Yosef Trumpeldore: "It is good to die for our country." At the side is written the names of eight soldiers who died defending Tel Chai on 11th Adar 5680 (1920)

Memorial to the Defenders of the Road to Jerusalem

- The memorial is placed on the hill opposite Moshav Shoeva at Shaar HaGay. This hill was one of the points used to ambush the road to Jerusalem.
- The memorial looks like it is leaping forth from the hill upon which it is placed. Six steel tubes emerge from the base, crossing its vertical axis. The tubes have different lengths, the longest ones being 12 metres.
- Two shapes dominate the memorial: One is sharp and narrow, the other is jagged. The thing that unites them is their pointing to Jerusalem. This expresses the tendency of all generations to return to Jerusalem.
- The base of the memorial is from limestone, upon which it is written: "Memorial to those who broke through a road to Jerusalem and those who defended it in the War of Independence 1948"
- The sculptress Naomi Henrik designed the memorial, unveiled on 15th March 1967



Yehuda Amichai

Yehuda Amichai is recognized as one of Israel's finest poets. His poems—written in Hebrew—have been translated into forty languages. Born in Germany in 1924, Amichai left that country at age twelve with his family and journeyed to Palestine. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli war he fought with the Israeli defense forces. The rigors and horrors of his service in this conflict, and in World War II, inform his poetry, although he is never ideological. In an interview with the *Paris Review*, Amichai noted that all poetry was political: "This is because real poems deal with a human response to reality, and politics is part of reality, history in the making," he said. "Even if a poet writes about sitting in a glass house drinking tea, it reflects politics. After the war, Amichai attended Hebrew University. He taught in secondary schools, teachers' seminars, Hebrew University, and later at American institutions such as New York University, University of California-Berkeley, and Yale. In Israel, his books were frequently bestsellers, and in 1982, Amichai received the prestigious Israel Prize

for Poetry for effecting “a revolutionary change in poetry’s language.” Among his many other honors and awards, he was nominated for the Noble Prize. Yehuda Amichai died in Jerusalem on September 22, 2000.

An Arab Shepherd Is Searching For His Goat On Mount Zion By Yehuda Amichai

An Arab shepherd is searching for his goat on Mount Zion
and on the opposite hill I am searching for my little boy.
An Arab shepherd and a Jewish father
both in their temporary failure.
Our two voices met above
the Sultan’s Pool in the valley between us.
Neither of us wants the boy or the goat
to get caught in the wheels
of the “*Chad Gadya*” machine.
Afterward we found them among the bushes,
and our voices came back inside us
laughing and crying.

Searching for a goat or for a child has always been
the beginning of a new religion in these mountains.