

In the beginning... all we have to do is hear those words and we know we are hearing our story. That the story of the Jewish people is being shared.

I know many of you, like me, love a good story. Colum McCann who wrote the brilliant book *Apeirogon*, which I referenced this morning, about an Israeli Dad whose daughter died in a bombing and a Palestinian Dad whose daughter was killed by a rubber bullet, helps us to see that in telling their stories, the two dads, and others, have been able to find what they have in common. To find each other, in a way that gives solace, through the Parents Circle.

What did they do there? “The members tell their stories...in order to ensure that the lives of their loved ones will not drift into oblivion.”

McCann reflects of *The Power of Story* (Colum McCann *O Magazine* April 2020) “Because our stories by necessity involve the complicated territory of the human heart. What occurs in one place-when told aloud and listened to-occurs everywhere. P. 98

I now offer each of you a chance to tell your families' stories. To keep their memories alive in a new way by participating in our interactive memorial board. After Sally Rabine passed away I brought this idea to her family. “We will have a touch screen in the lobby with all our yahrzeit plaques on it, and families can submit pictures and write the stories of their loved ones. This will help to make each person more than a name on the wall. Now people will be able to click on the name and see the person, when they were young, on a special day in their lives and then be able to read their story.”

Joel Rabine knew right away that this was the perfect way to honor his beloved Sally and his other relatives and that he would be giving a gift to each of you but giving you the same opportunity.

So please, while the screen for the lobby has been delayed due to supply issues, you can start submitting your pictures and your stories so that when you bring your children and grandchildren into the Temple you can take them over to the screen, push a button, and share the tale the person who they were named after, the reason he was so grumpy, the story of how she came to America and changed the course of your family's life.

Maybe your story will start with

I remember her smile...

It began in 1926....

He always had a candy in his pocket...

Her life was cut short, but let me tell you how she made it count.

Maybe your story will start with "In the Beginning...."

So as you sit here right now, close your eyes and begin to write the stories you will share. Let them fill your heart and soon ours.

Some will make you smile and others will make you cry. But nothing is more important than remembering and sharing these moments. I look forward to hearing all your stories.