Overview of Yizkor:

This was the most powerful, moving service of our High Holy Days in 5776. The new service with its sensitive readings; the ritual lighting of yahrzeit candles; and the deliberate pauses for reflection really impacted people.

A few additional comments: the service itself was an hour. I led the service along with our cantorial soloist, our choir, and two superb lay readers. Also, just prior to the service, our Temple Administrator invited seven people to participate by coming-up to the bimah to light one of the seven yahrzeit candles.

Yizkor

Yom Kippur 5776 – September 23, 2015
Temple Beth Torah – Fremont, California
Rabbi Avi M. Schulman

On Bimah: Deborah R. and Laura G.

538  Rabbi    Opening Words
540  Rabbi    Entering Yizkor
540  Choir    Eli Eli
541  Rabbi    This is the hour of memory
544  Cantor   Shiviti
549  Laura    The death of a loved one
553  Deborah  The death of a parent
554  Rabbi    Separation
554  Rabbi    Words of Healing

...What kind of moments make me most aware of what I have lost?

Pause for Reflection
All Blessed are those

Light 1st Candle

Cantor/Choir Adonai, Mah-Adam

All Adonai, how hard to fathom

Rabbi From the prison of grief

All Esa Einai

Laura In my darkness, be a light

Rabbi Words of Healing

…and Where do I find ‘green pastures and ‘still waters’?

Pause for Reflection

All Blessed is the life force

Light 2nd Candle

Rabbi The soul is Yours

Cantor/Choir HaN’shamah Lach

Deborah I needed to talk with my sister

Laura Prayer for the Dead

Rabbi Words of Healing

…How do my memories help me to live a better life?

Pause for Reflection
All Blessed are the memories

Light 3rd Candle

567 Rabbi Yeish Kochavim
There are stars up above

568-577 Silently (5-7 minutes)

578 Rabbi Words of Healing
…What would I like each of them to know about me now?

Pause for Reflection

All Blessed is the light of every soul

Light 4th Candle

579 All Psalm 90

581 Deborah & Laura Forgiveness and the Afterlife

584 Rabbi Words of Healing
…What have I learned?

Pause for Reflection

All Blessed is the path to acceptance --

Light 5th Candle

587 Rabbi Hayah Lanu
Ours was a secret treasure

All One leaf left on a branch
Rabbi Words of Healing

…Who is a blessing in my life today?

Pause for Reflection

All Blessed is the pilgrimage

Light 6th Candle

Rabbi No other psalm

Rabbi Mizmor L’David

All With God as my shepherd

Rabbi Words of Healing

…How has my community been a source of renewal and strength for me?

Pause for Reflection

All Blessed is peace

Light 7th Candle

Rabbi Recitation of Names

Reading of names of those who have died in the past year

Rabbi El Malei Rachamim

All Merciful God

Rabbi Our thoughts turn to loved ones…

All Mourner’s Kaddish

Rabbi Let perfect peace abound

All Sing Oseh Shalom
Rabbi Ner Adonai Nishmat Adam

Closing reflection