

Before Kaddish

We remember especially the Jewish lesbians and gay men who loved their lives and even gave their lives for us, so that our struggles would never have to be as hard as their struggles.

Harvey Milk, mayor of San Francisco, one of the first openly gay officials ever to be elected in the USA, assassinated in 1978
the countless individual who lost their lives to HIV-AIDS in the times before new medicines made life liveable with the virus, including so many deeply loved members of our own families and communities
our beloved teachers Rabbis Sheila Shulman and Lionel Blue

We remember especially those people who did not live, as we do, in times when we are freer to hold our heads high, in times when we can envisage a more complete liberation. We think of those who lived quiet lives in the shadows, who never really lived, and who were forced to live in shame

And we remember our artists, our musicians, our composers and writers, our philosophers and our scientists, whose brilliance perhaps grew out of their difference.

May all of their memories be for a blessing

Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu

29th October 2017, 9th Cheshvan 5778