

Facing Forward, Looking Back: Torah Rededication
Parshat Terumah
February 25, 2023
Rabbi Rory Katz

Prayer for Survivors

שומר ישראל

Guardian of Israel

שמור שארית ישראל

Guard the survivors of Israel

Strengthen the work of their hands and enkindle the energies of their hearts

ואל יאבד ישראל

And do not forget Israel

Do not forget those who cruelly perished in the Holocaust

Nor those who lived out the fullness of their days

Nor everyone in between

May their memories bless each of us who are here today right now

And may that blessing flow into each person who hears the story of what has happened here today:

That out of our grief of our lost brethren,

we have followed in Your holy ways

by participating in the sacred act of

מחיה מתים

Of reviving the dead

Of awakening what was sleeping

Of bringing voice to this formerly silent scroll

May what we do here today inspire us in the days to come
to honor our deceased by bringing their aliveness into our world,

As it says in the Psalms

“You turned my lament into dancing,

you undid my sackcloth and girded me with joy

So that my whole being might sing hymns to You endlessly;”

May we see the day

when all of our heartache turns to joy

When our tragedy is replaced with celebration

When all of our laments turn to dance

And all of our sighs turn to song.