



**Remarks by Steven Dishler at Yom HaZikaron Ceremony, April 27, 2009
Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah**

I.D. number 4302863. Despite the many years since I was last called up to the Reserves, that number is etched on my brain.

Service in the I.D.F. unifies us. The army allowed me, as a new immigrant, to integrate into a new society and feel like a full citizen of the country I chose to live in.

I always knew, as did my fellow soldiers, that just as we protect the State, the State protects us.

No other People care so much for their soldiers.

Tonight, we are gathered to remember those who paid the ultimate price for the security of Israel.

And yet, we have an obligation as well to remember those soldiers who today are paying a price that we cannot begin to comprehend.

One thousand thirty seven days Gilad Shalit is in captivity.

We have not forgotten you.

At JUF, we raise your name before Members of Congress, the diplomatic corps, and before heads of state.

And you are part of all of our prayers:

“Save him with Your Salvation and mercy, together with all the kidnapped and imprisoned Jews of your People, Israel.

Most Able Freer-of-Prisoners: he will redeem him from amongst the kidnapped, and take him from slavery to freedom, from servitude to redemption, from darkness into light and fully heal his wounds physical, psychological and spiritual; Give him courage and spirit, strengthen his resistance and resilience, surround him with happiness and laughter, and then he shall strengthen himself and will heal, and enjoy everlasting joy.”

7704387: this is Gilad's I.D. number. This number too shall be engraved in my heart until the day that he is reunited with his family.