



Supporting psychological approaches to enhancing Jewish identity and defeating antisemitism

October 7th Commemoration 2026

The Association of Jewish Psychologists presented the 2026 Commemoration of the October 7th, 2023 massacre, the bloodiest in Israel's history and the deadliest for Jews since the Holocaust.

As we commemorate, we especially remember those who were brutally murdered on that day and on subsequent days, and those who survived. We remember the suffering and the heroism. We remember the families who lost loved ones and those who tearfully embraced their loved ones who returned. Tremendous suffering continues in both Israel and Gaza but we look forward to a day when swords can become plowshares and flowers can once again grow in fertile fields.

Program

Welcome by **Beth N. Rom-Rymer, Ph.D.**, AJP President.

Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Executive Director and Jewish Chaplain, Center for Jewish Life (CJL), Princeton University Hillel, Princeton, New Jersey. Rabbi Steinlauf spoke on the role of authentic, shared, collective memory in Jewish Life.

Ellen Miriam Blau, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Cantorial Soloist. Miriam sang: El Maleh Rahamim and Sha'alu Shalom Yerushalayim.

Esti Cole, Ph.D., AJP Director, Executive Committee, recited Yzkor and read: I remember.

Kohenet Harriette Wimms, Ph.D., Founder and Executive Director, The Jews of Color Mishpacha, Baltimore, Maryland, spoke on the topic: לדור ודור L'dor V'dor (from generation to generation).

Lenore E. Walker, Ed.D., AJP Treasurer and Shayna E. Davis, Psy.D., AJP Secretary, presented on the AJP Handbook (in progress), *Jewish Identity, Trauma, and Resilience: Clinical Psychology Perspectives*.

Closing reflections by **Beth N. Rom-Rymer, Ph.D.**, AJP President.

Following a Moment of Silence, AJP community members were invited to share their thoughts.