

## Fifth Annual Community Memorial Service Draws Nearly 200



*The gazebo at the Garden of Remembrance was the setting for the Community Memorial Service.*

The fifth annual Community Memorial Service was held at the Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park on Sunday, September 25. Many families, some with representatives of three generations in attendance, gathered in and around the gazebo in the Founders' Garden for the ceremony.

Assembling each year at the cemetery to honor those of blessed memory is a tradition that sets Judaism apart from many other religions, as does our custom of taking time for sorrow. As Rabbi Bruce M. Lustig, of Washington Hebrew Congregation, told attendees, it is important to talk, to cry and to remember people you loved.

Rabbi Mark Raphael of Kehilat Shalom spoke of recent hurricanes Katrina and Rita reminding us of the fragility and temporary nature of life.

As a prelude to speaking of life's many transitions, Rabbi Jack Luxemburg of Temple Beth Ami led the congregation in reading Psalm 121, "I will lift mine eyes up to the mountains..." Once again, as he has every year since the first Community memorial Service, Cantor Manevitch, of Washington Hebrew Congregation, graced the service, singing in both Hebrew and English.

The simple prayer book used for the Community Memorial Service was compiled in 1990 by the Washington Hebrew Congregation Worship and Music Committee. It incorporates prayers and other material from the Central Conference of American Rabbis in New York and the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues, London.

The beautiful grounds of the Garden of Remembrance are particularly serene at this time of year, inviting us to pray and quietly remember those who live on in our hearts.

*If you have questions about the Garden of Remembrance, contact Sheldon Grosberg at 301-428-3000, or visit [www.gardenofremembrance.org](http://www.gardenofremembrance.org).*