

# Graveside Reflections

The Hebrew word for funeral is “levaya” – which means to escort, to accompany  
It draws attention to those who come to the grave to the family and friends  
who do not abandon the deceased.

We who come are witnesses of the goodness and immortal remembrances  
of a life lived.

We who come to the “levaish” are Levites,  
loyal attendants who serve the mourners, who come with stories, anecdotes,  
events recalled of the person now deceased but whose words and embraces  
are part of our own life.

We Levites are the keepers of the sanctuary of the soul, the remembrances,  
the living testimony that this person made a difference to us and ours.

We who escort the deceased to the resting place escort the mourners as well  
to the graveside and back to the home and synagogue  
to the land of the living we help light the candle  
in honor of the deceased we help light the candles  
to lead the bereaved out of the darkness into the sun  
into the promise  
into tomorrow.

