

יום כּפּוּר
YOM KIPPUR



MACHAR

THE WASHINGTON CONGREGATION
FOR SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

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This and other Machar services are available through the “Holidays” link on our website:
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Revised by Rabbi Nehama Benmosche and Machar’s Liturgy Committee, 2014

YOM KIPPUR

יום כּפּוּר



COMMUNITY AND UNITY

AWAKEN OURSELVES

COMMITTED TO PEACE

COMMITTED TO CHANGE

REMEMBERING OUR PAST

BELIEVING IN OUR FUTURE



COMMUNITY AND UNITY

Unity

Our congregation is more than a congregation. It is more than a collection of people. It is a community of friends, an alliance of believers. We are engaged in shared work. We are moved by shared ideals. There is a solidarity of purpose, a unity of goals. When we celebrate, we celebrate together. And when we need support, we support each other.

Our congregation is more than an institution. It is more than a casual assumption. It is a family of choice, a fellowship of like-minded people. Our bonds are more than convenience and tradition. We have chosen to be here because we want to be here. We have chosen to be here because we need to be here – because standing alone is never as inspiring as standing together.

-Rabbi Sherwin Wine

Identity

The Day of Atonement is a time when we seek to feel at one with all the sources of our being. . .

. . . with the living world of nature, as the splendid days of autumn emerge out of the lush abundance of summer . . .

. . .with our selves in our search for the integrity of belief and action, mind and body. . .

. . .with family and friends, whose encouragement strengthens our resolve.

Above all, on this special day, we strive to feel at one with a living people whose unique experience gives us a rich identity.

Most of us do not choose to be Jewish. We discover our Jewishness in countless ways as we learn about self and family. For some of us, being Jewish is a minor enterprise, subordinate to larger concerns. For many of us, Jewishness is a central commitment, demanding a major allocation of energy and time.

All of us come together to celebrate our kinship. We belong to an ancient family whose story still unfolds in lands we shall never see, and in our own homes and lives.

At this moment, distance and time collapse. We are at one with our people.

- Rabbi Daniel Friedman

SONG: HEVEINU SHALOM ALEIKHEM

HEVEINU SHALOM ALEIKHEM

הִבְּאֵנוּ שְׁלוֹם עַל יְכֶם

HEVEINU SHALOM ALEIKHEM

הִבְּאֵנוּ שְׁלוֹם עַל יְכֶם

HEVEINU SHALOM ALEIKHEM

הִבְּאֵנוּ שְׁלוֹם עַל יְכֶם

HEVEINU SHALOM SHALOM

הִבְּאֵנוּ שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם

SHALOM ALEIKHEM

שְׁלוֹם עַל יְכֶם

Let there be peace.

Folk Song

No Man is an Island

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.

-John Donne

Philosophy

A strong community needs a strong focus. It needs a focus of intention to mobilize its energies.

Our purpose is our philosophy. Our purpose is a unique set of ideas, which we call Humanistic Judaism. We do not have fixed beliefs, but we have strong beliefs. We believe in the use of human reason. We believe in the necessity of human dignity. We believe in the value of Jewish identity. If we look at human problems, we also look at the human power to solve them. If we look at Jewish history, we also look for the human ingenuity that made it all possible.

The philosophy gives meaning to all the things we do together. It explains the words we say, the tributes we make, the projects we chose. It explains the literature we love, the songs we sing, the causes we embrace. It is our message and our self-image, defining the essence of our community.

Although it is a barrier to those who do not share our convictions, it is an open door to those who do.

Our philosophy is our integrity.

-Rabbi Sherwin Wine

SONG: MA TOVU

MA TOVU O'HALECHA YAAKOV מָה טוֹבוֹ אֹהֶל יְיָ יַעֲקֹב
MISHKENOTECHA YISRAEL מִשְׁכְּנוֹת יְיָ יִשְׂרָאֵל
VA'ANI B'ROV KHASDECHA וְאֲנִי בְּרֹב חֶסֶד יְיָ
AVO VEITEICHA אָבוֹא בֵּיתְךָ.

How goodly are your tents, my brother, Jacob
Your dwelling places, Israel.
I love the place your glory dwells,
the place wherein your glory dwells.

~Numbers 24:5

Come, Unity

When we come together
Those deeply rooted in the Jewish story
And those who have just begun to walk along this path
Those who worried that they may not be welcomed
Because everyone already knew almost everyone else
Because old hurts told them that these Jews would ignore them too.

We are in this place
Forming this community today
And these exact people
Will never be together again
Someone will be missing
Somebody is already walking in late
Some of us won't be able to join this group
 This time
 Next year

So come, be here now
Stand in unity with the new member on your left
And your old best friend on your right
With your children in front of you
And your great-great grandparents behind you
Come with all your hopes and your dreams and your wishes
And your disappointments and your fears and your losses
And let us hold hands
And share in the project of living
Come, Unity
Because we are all facets and prisms
Of Humanity.

~Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

AWAKEN OURSELVES

This much I know is true

This much I know is true
That Eve was right to have picked the apple
And Lot's wife for having looked back
That gratitude and forgiveness are great willow trees
Shading the path to inner peace.
That the Buddha was right for having stated, "Life is hard,"
as one of the principles of his universe
And Shammai was wrong for having maintained in his debate with Hillel that,
ultimately, life is not worth living.
I agree with the Talmud where it says, "A person should live as if the world
was created for him alone," and say at the same time,
"I am nothing but dust."
This much I know is true.

I know that religion is neither this sun nor that moon
But the great well of wonder and despair that is the tidal wave of the human
heart.

I know that we must bend to our children
Cup their faces in our hands
Throw open wide the windows of childhood
And let in moonbeams and starlight.

I know that the world needs more tenderness
That people need to be more consistently kind
Take time.
Take time.

I know that each October I grieve the end of summer
And then rediscover the beauty of autumn.
Sometimes I find that I am even ready for winter.
This much I know is true.

I know that my father taught me compassion and my mother taught me
strength
And you taught me joy.
And it is this that I want more in my life -
More joy -
To feel more of it
Like it falls down on me like the beads of rain
Transforming sorrow to joy.
More strength
More compassion
More joy
This much I know is true.

~ Rabbi Tamara Kolton

SONG: TZADIK KATAMAR

TZADIK KATAMAR YIFRACH

K'EREZ BALVANON YISGEH

SH'TULIM B'OLAMEINU

B'CHATZROT SHECHUNOTAINU YAFRICHU

צָדִיק כַּתָּמַר יִפְרַח

כְּאֶרֶז בַּלְבָּנוֹן יִשְׁגֶּה

שְׂתוּלִים בְּעוֹלָמֵינוּ

בְּחֻצוֹת שְׂכוֹנוֹתֵינוּ יִפְרִיחוּ

OD YENUVUN B'SAIVAH

D'SHAINIM V'RA'ANANIM Y'HIYU

L'HAGGID, KI YESH HAMON D'RACHIM

V'DARKI Y'SHAYRAH U'MALAYT AHAVAH

עוֹד יִנוּבּוֹן בְּשֵׂיבָה

דְּשָׁנִים וְרַעֲנָנִים יִהְיוּ

לְהַגִּיד כִּי יֵשׁ הַמּוֹן דְּרָכִים

וְדַרְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּמִלֵּאת אֲהַבָּה

The righteous will bloom like the date palm
Grow tall like the cedars of Lebanon
Planted in our world
They will blossom in the courtyards of our neighborhoods
They will bear fruit in their old age
They will be green and fresh
Saying: There are many paths
And my path is just and filled with love.

~adapted from Psalms 92:12 by Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

Look to this day

Look at this day,
For it is life,
The very life of life.
In its brief course lie all
The realities and verities of existence,
The bliss of growth,
The splendor of action,
The glory of power -
For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision.
But today, well lived,
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to this day.

-Kalidasa, Sanskrit Proverb

The Shofar Blasts

The shofar sounds our wake up call. We awake ourselves to change through those familiar sounds.

(invite up shofar blower)

TEKIAH!

The first crisp sound opens our eyes and brings our focus to the task of opening ourselves to this day.

SHEVARIM!

Three shorter wails now, announcing that the wheels will continue to turn as we turn and return on this Yom Kippur day.

Each call urging us: Listen! Pay attention!
Be inspired!



T'RUAH!

Nine short staccato blasts this time. We are crying together for all the pain that we have seen in this last year. The loss we have felt in our own lives and the loss we see in the world around us. It's the cry of disbelief and the commitment to heal ourselves and work again for tikkun olam, for repairing our broken world.

TEKIAH!

SHEVARIM!

T'RUAH!

TEKIAH!

-Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

SONG: TIKU BASHOFAR

(Sing each verse twice)

<i>TIKU BASHOFAR</i>	תִּקְעוּ בְּשׁוֹפָר
<i>HASHMI'U EMET</i>	הַשְׂמִיעוּ אֱמֶת
<i>HASHMI'U BINAH</i>	הַשְׂמִיעוּ בִּינָה
<i>TIRU BASHOFAR</i>	תִּרְעוּ בְּשׁוֹפָר
<i>HASHMI'U BINAH</i>	הַשְׂמִיעוּ בִּינָה
<i>HASHMI'U EMET</i>	הַשְׂמִיעוּ אֱמֶת

Blow the shofar.
Proclaim truth and understanding.

-Rabbi Sherwin Wine

A Humanistic Sh'ma

(first sung by the cantor and then repeated by the community)

SH'MA YISRAEL
ECHAD AMEINU
ADAM ECHAD

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶחָד עֲמֻנו
אָדָם אֶחָד

Hear O Israel, our people is one, humanity is one.

-Rabbi Sherwin Wine

SONG: KAMAYEEM

KAMAYEEN HAPANEEM LAPANEEM (2 times)

כַּמִּים הַפְּנִים לַפְּנִים

KEN LEV HA'ADAM LA'ADAM (2 times)

כֵּן לֵב הָאָדָם לְאָדָם

As one face mirrors another
So one human heart is mirrored in another

-Rabbi Sherwin Wine

A Humanistic Amidah: Standing meditation

OMDIM ANCHNU YACHAD

עוֹמְדִים אֲנַחְנוּ יַחַד

We stand here, together

Yet each of us is alone—in our thoughts, and in our wishes and hopes

We stand as the tree trunk with our deep roots in the ground

Those who came before us and influenced us

On our spiritual paths

The different roots that brought us to this physical place

Our birth parents, our adoptive parents, our chosen parents and our mentors.

We stretch out from our trunks into branches of influence on the world:

Our children, our works, our influence on others.

Who have we lifted up? Who are we giving to? Who will remember us as their roots as they seek to create their own trunks on the great Banyan tree of human existence?

Stand for the meaning that you wish to make of this world and stand for the work that it takes to bring that vision into reality every day.

Take this moment to be grateful for the place you hold on the infinite chain of existence into the ever-regressing past and the infinite possibility of tomorrow.

Becoming that instance in the span of infinity will bring you to a deep inner peace that you can radiate back into the world. Radiate the hope that every person in this room, that every person honoring this Yom Kippur day, and everyone whose lives are touched by those honor the tradition of finding that compass of true north and seeking to begin the year anew and fresh—that they will all become *rodfei shalom*, those who seek to chase after peace. And perhaps one day we will all be able to stand together, even if just for a moment, in fulfillment of that constant dream: Peace. *Shalom*.

-Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

COMMITTED TO PEACE

If there is to be peace

If there is to be peace in the world,

(All) There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,

(All) There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,

(All) There must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors,

(All) There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,

(All) There must be peace in the heart.

~Lao Tse

SONG: YERUSHALAYIM SHEL ZAHAV

The olive trees that stand in silence
Upon the hills of time
To hear the voices of the city
As bells of evening chime.

The shofar sounding from the temple
To call the world to care
The shepherd pauses in the valley
And peace is everywhere

YERUSHALAYIM SHEL ZAHAV
V'SHEL NECHOSHET V'SHEL OR
HALO L'CHOL SHIRAYICH
ANI KEENOR

(Repeat chorus)

Jerusalem of gold
of bronze and of light
To all of your songs
I am the violin.

יְרוּשָׁלַיִם שֶׁל זָהָב
וְשֶׁל נְחֹשֶׁת וְשֶׁל אוֹר
הֲלֹא לְכֹל שִׁירֶיךָ
אֲנִי כִנּוֹר

~Naomi Shemer

We seek peace

We seek peace. It is the most precious gift we can bestow upon ourselves. May we find the will to proclaim its message to all the peoples of the earth. May our country always be a stronghold of peace, and its advocate among the nations. May contentment reign within its borders, health and happiness within its homes. May we strengthen the bonds of friendship among the inhabitants of all lands, and may the love of humanity permeate every home and every heart. May we labor for righteousness and in so doing author a new book of life, blessing and peace. For we alone are the source of peace.

~Union Prayer Book II, adapted

Peace

Peace is more than an ideal. It's an achievement. There is no divine power that will give it to us for nothing. There are no laws of history that will guarantee its arrival.

Peace is hard work. The forces of war and violence are very strong in our world. They hide in the deep unconscious of our mind. They attach themselves to personal greed. They find a friend in the lust for power.

Too often our mouth prefers peace, but our behavior prefers war. We praise love and harmony, but we indulge hate and hostility. We endorse kindness, but we subsidize cruelty.

We have to work for peace in the same way that we work for a living. In the age of nuclear destruction, it may be even more important.

~Rabbi Sherwin Wine

Neutrality

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

~Archbishop Desmond Tutu

COMMITTED TO CHANGE

Keeping quiet

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still
For once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for a second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness
Fisherman in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would not look at his hurt hands.
Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes

and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.
What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about; . . .
If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death.
Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead in
winter and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count to twelve

~Pablo Neruda

Vidui—The alphabet of our wrongs

Our misdeeds constitute a veritable alphabet of unethical behaviors:

(All) The offense of arrogance, bigotry and cynicism; of deceit and egotism, flattery and greed, injustice and jealousy.

Some of us kept grudges, were liars, malicious or narrow-minded.

(All) Others were obstinate or possessive, quarrelsome, rancorous or selfish.

There was violence, weakness of will, xenophobia:

(All) We yielded to temptation and were zealous for questionable ends.

~Gates of Repentance, adapted

SONG: TS'REEKHEEM ANAKHNOO

Ts'REEKHEEM ANAKHNOO צְרִיכִים אֲנַחְנוּ
L'TAHAYR LIBAYNOO לְטָהֵר לְבָנוּ
Ts'REEKHEEM ANAKHNOO צְרִיכִים אֲנַחְנוּ
L'TAHAYR LIBAYNOO לְטָהֵר לְבָנוּ
KEE AYN BANOO MASPEEK MA'ASEEM כִּי אֵין בָּנוּ מְסַפִּיק מַעֲשִׂים

T'HEE EEMANU TZEDAKAH VA'CHESD תְּהִי עֲמָנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד
T'HEE EEMANU TZEDAKAH VA'CHESD תְּהִי עֲמָנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד
VI'SHUA HADADEET וְיִשׁוּעָה הַדְּדִית

(repeat this verse twice)

We need to purify our hearts,
for we have not done enough good deeds.
May our righteousness and kindness save us from destruction.

~Sherwin Wine, Music Avinu Malkeinu

Meditation: Making peace

For remaining silent when a single voice would have made a difference

(All) We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

For each time that our fears have made us rigid and inaccessible

(All) We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

For each time that we have struck out in anger without just cause

(All) We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

For each time that our greed has blinded us to the needs of others

(All) We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

For losing sight of our unity

(All) We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

For those and for so many acts both evident and subtle which have fueled
the illusion of separateness

(All) We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love.

~Robert Eller-Isaacs

Forgiveness

All people try and fail. The wise learn to forgive and try again.

We can be too slow to forgive others. We are long to remember injuries and short to forget assistance.

Anger and memory have their place, and forgiveness does not require forgetting.

We forgive by choosing not to avenge, by being open to second chances.

Forgiving others brings us peace.

We can be too quick to forgive ourselves. We celebrate our successes and quickly explain away our failures.

Dwelling on our shortfalls is not healthy, but neither is whitewashing them.

Self-forgiveness requires honesty about the sides of ourselves we would rather not face.

Forgiving ourselves brings us peace.

Let us pause for a moment of true forgiveness.

Let us forgive others, and let us forgive ourselves.

~Author Unknown

TEACHING: INVITATION TO OUR SPEAKER

REMEMBERING OUR PAST

(lighting of yahrzeit candles)

SONG: NAEH HAOR

<i>NA-EH HAOR BA'ADAM</i>	נָאֵה הָאוֹר בְּאָדָם
<i>NA-EH HAOR MIKOL KOKHAVIM</i>	נָאֵה הָאוֹר מְכֹל כּוֹכָבִים
<i>NA-EH HAOR MIKOL OLAMIM</i>	נָאֵה הָאוֹר מְכֹל עוֹלָמִים
<i>NA-EH HAOR BA'ADAM</i>	נָאֵה הָאוֹר בְּאָדָם

Marvelous is the light within us.
More wonderful than all the stars.
More wonderful than all the galaxies.
Marvelous is the light within us.

-Rabbi Sherwin Wine



A Meditation on Memory

Morrie: Someone asked me an interesting question yesterday.

Mitch: What was the question?

Morrie: If I worried about being forgotten after I died?

Mitch: Well? Do you?

Morrie: I don't think I will be. I've got so many people who have been involved with me in close, intimate ways. And love is how you stay alive, even after you are gone.

Mitch: Sounds like a song lyric - "love is how you stay alive."

Morrie: Maybe. But, Mitch, all this talk that we're doing? Do you ever hear my voice sometimes when you're back home? When you're all alone? Maybe on the plane? Maybe in your car?

Mitch: Yes.

Morrie: Then you will not forget me after I'm gone. Think of my voice and I'll be there.

Mitch: Think of my voice. . . .

Morrie: And if you want to cry a little, it's okay.

Mitch: That Morrie. He had wanted to make me cry since I was a freshman.

Morrie: One of these days, I'm gonna get to you.

Mitch: Yeah, yeah.

Morrie: I decided what I wanted on my tombstone.

Mitch: I don't want to hear about tombstones.

Morrie: Why? They make you nervous?

Mitch: *(shrugs it off)* Aghhhh...!

Morrie: We can forget it. . . .

Mitch: No, go ahead. What did you decide?

Morrie: I was thinking of this: A Teacher to the Last.

Mitch: *(pauses to absorb the idea)* A Teacher to the Last.

Morrie: Good?

Mitch: Yes. Very good.

*~from Tuesdays with Morrie,
– by Mitch Albom, adapted for staged reading*

SONG: SAHAKEE

SAHAKEE SAHAKEE

AL HAHALOMOT

ZOO ANEE HAHOLAYM SAKH

שִׁחְקֵי שִׁחְקֵי
עַל הַחֲלוּמוֹת
זוֹ אֲנִי הַחֹלֵם שָׁח

SAHAKEE KEE

VAADAM AAMEEN

KEE ODENNEE MAAMEEN BAKH (2x)

שִׁחְקֵי כִּי
בְּאָדָם אֲאָמִין
כִּי עוֹדְנִי מֵאֲמִין בְּךָ

Laugh at all my dreams, my dearest.
Laugh and I repeat anew.
That I still believe in people.
As I still believe in you.

~Shaul Tchernikovsky

Kaddish

Look around us, search above us,
Below, behind.
We stand in a great web of being
Joined together.
Let us praise, let us love the life we are lent
Passing through us in the body of Israel
And our own bodies, let's say amen.
Time flows through us like water.
The past and the dead speak through us.
We breathe out our children's children, blessing.
Blessing is the earth from which we grow,
blessed is the life we are lent,
blessed are the ones who teach us,
blessed is the word that cannot say the story
that shines through us and remains to shine
flowing past distant suns on the way to forever.
Let's say amen.

Blessed is light, blessed is darkness,
but blessed above all else is peace
which bears the fruits of knowledge
on strong branches, let's say amen.
Peace that bears joy into the world,
peace that enables love, peace over Israel
everywhere, blessed and holy is peace.
let's say amen.

~Marge Piercy

Birth is a beginning

Birth is a beginning and death a destination;
But life is a journey.
A going, a growing from stage to stage:
From childhood to maturity and youth to old age.
From innocence to awareness and ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to discretion and then perhaps, to wisdom.
From weakness to strength or strength to weakness and often back again.
From health to sickness and back we pray, to health again.
From offense to forgiveness, from loneliness to love,
From joy to gratitude, from pain to compassion.
From grief to understanding, from fear to faith;
From defeat to defeat to defeat, until, looking backward or ahead:
We see that victory lies not at some high place along the way,
But in having made the journey, stage by stage, a sacred pilgrimage.
Birth is a beginning and death a destination;
But life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage,
Made stage by stage...To life everlasting.

~ Alvin Fine

Roses

My grandmother always used to say
“Give people their roses while they can smell them”
instead of piling them on her grave
where she couldn’t enjoy them anymore.

The other day I looked at a basket filled with dried roses
And I thought of you
How all your sayings and all of those memories
Bring beauty to the room
Bring smiles
and sometimes bring tears
And how each loss
In life
Becomes the thorn
The inevitable piercing of our delicate hands
When we hold our precious roses
With all of our hearts.



~Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

A Humanistic Kaddish

NITGADAL V'NITKADASH B'RUACH HA'ADAM

נִתְגַדַּל וְנִתְקַדַּשׁ בְּרוּחַ הָאָדָם

Let us enhance and exalt ourselves in the spirit of humanity.

Let us acclaim the preciousness of life.

Let us show gratitude for life by approaching it with reverence.

Let us embrace the whole world, even as we wrestle with its parts.

Let us, each in our own way, take up our share in serving the world and seeking truth.

May our commitment to life help us to strengthen healing of spirit and peace of mind.

May healing and peace permeate and comfort all of Israel and all those who dwell on earth.

And let us say:

KEN YEHI

May it be so

כֵּן יְהִי

~Jon Dickman and Congregation Kol Shalom, inspired by Rabbi Rami Shapiro



BELIEVING IN OUR FUTURE

A Leap of Future

There is a time in every generation when some Jews are afraid

When some Jews are threatened

When some Jews are attacked

Because they are Jews

But that is not our only story

There are stories of survival

Stories of success

Stories of new beginnings

Stories of laying down new roots

Because another generation becomes the future

I do not stand up and ask for a leap of faith

To the unknown

To the unknowable

To believe with me in anything

But one undeniable fact

The future is coming

And we must leap into it

Carrying our jars of fallen tears

Our pockets filled with Hebrew letters

And our hope

As the new day dawns

-Rabbi Nehama Benmosche



SONG : OIFEN PRIPETSHOK

OIFEN PRIPETSHOK

BRENT A FIEREL

UN IN SHTUB IZ HAYS

UN DER REBBE LERENT

KLAYNE KINDERLAKH

DEM ALEF BAYS (2x)

אויפן פריפעטשיק
ברענט אַ פֿיערעל
און אין שטוב איז הייס

און דער רבי לערענט
קליינע קינדערלעך
דעם אלף ביז

ZAYT SHE KINDERLAKH

GEDENKT SHE TIERE

VOS ER LERENT DO

ZOGT SHE NOKH AMOL

UN TAKE NOKH AMOL

KOMETZ ALEF AW (2x)

זעט זשע קינדערלעך
געדענקט זשע טייערע
וואָס איר לערענט דאָ

זאָגט זשע נאָך אַ מאָל
און טאַקע נאָך אַ מאָל
קמץ אלף אַ



It is snug and warm in the little house
by the fireplace

Where the rebbe teaches little children
the Alef Beis (2x)

Listen children and remember
how the letters go

Say it once again, repeat it once again
"Kometz Alef Aw" (2x)

Because here inside these letters
You will see our tears

You will also grow and learn the stories
to tell throughout the years (2x)

~Mark Warshavsky,
English adapted by Rabbi Nehama Benmosche

The Carob Tree



One day Rabbi Yohannan was on a journey and he noticed a man planting a carob tree. He asked him: “How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?” “Seventy years,” the man replied. He then asked him: “Are you sure you will be alive in seventy years?” The man replied, “I found the world ready with previously planted carob trees.

As my forefathers planted them for me, I will plant them for my children.”

Today we stop to consider what is growing in the orchard of our lives. What have we planted that generations beyond ourselves can reap? Today we stop to consider the impact of our lives on future generations knowing that in time we, too, will be ancestors.

Today I stand back and survey my land. Today I tend to the soil of my life. Today I plant so that generations to come can reap.

*~Rabbi Tamara Kolton
loosely based on Talmud Ta'anit 23a*

SONG: YEHI SHALOM

YEHI SHALOM TOVA U'VRACHAH

יְהִי שְׁלוֹם טוֹבָה וּבְרָכָה

HAYN HAYN HAYN VA'CHESED

חַן חַן חַן וְחֶסֶד

CHESED V'RACHAMIM

חֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים

May there be peace and goodness and blessing
grace and kindness and mercy.

~Siddur Adapted

We Learn Little

We learn little from spoken rules and written advice. Words can inspire us, but rarely do they transform our lives.

We learn from people, from the living example of living teachers. A father's integrity, a mother's warm encouragement, a famous leader's determination...

People enter our lives and guide us by what they do, not by what they say. They embody the ideal and make it real enough for us to understand.

Memory keeps alive the example of great men and women who taught us through action.

It also preserves the behavior of more modest guides who touched our lives in simpler ways.

We, too, shall be examples in a future world that we shall never visit. We are teaching others for a tomorrow that is beyond our grasp. Our actions will move others long after our words are forgotten.

We are the children of love. We are the heirs of generous hope. Parents and peers, family and friends are forever joined to us by bonds of affection and mutual experience.

The pain of separation never completely disappears, nor does the fond memory of their lives.

They are constantly with us, even when we do not think of them. Their influence brings us here, today, that we may honor them by sharing our memories, silently, as a community of caring friends.

~ Rabbi Daniel Friedman

Resolution

Now is the time to do what we need to do.

Now is the time to think about our lives, to think about our behavior, to think about the people we admire and love.

Now is the time to gather our strength, to deepen our understanding, to discover our power.

Now is the time to choose first things first, to place our family, our education, and our health above mere fun and play.

Now is the time to become the masters of our lives and to rule our feelings.

Now is the time to discover our excuses and to take responsibility for all that we do.

Let us say together:

We will be honest about our behavior.

We will protect our family.

We will make learning important.

We will guard our health.

We will control our feelings.

We will take responsibility for all that we do.

~Rabbi Sherwin Wine

SONG: NAASE SHALOM

NA-ASE SHALOM BAOLAM

NA-ASE SHALOM ALEYNNOO

V'AL KOL HAOLAM

V'EEMROO EEMROO SHALOM.

נַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּעוֹלָם

נַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ

וְעַל כָּל הָעוֹלָם

וְאָמְרוּ אָמְרוּ שְׁלוֹם

NA-ASE SHALOM, NA-ASE SHALOM

SHALOM ALEYNNOO

V'AL KOL HA-OLAM (5 X's)

נַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם נַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם

שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ

וְעַל כָּל הָעוֹלָם

We shall make peace in the world.
We shall make peace for everyone all over the world.
And let us say, "Shalom."

~Traditional Adapted

TEKIYAH GEDOLAH!!