

Blessings of Gratitude

as We Embrace Better Times

Shehecheyanu

Wondrous is the eternal unfolding of the seasons which has brought us to this joyous occasion.

N'va-rekh et ha-olam she-he-che-yanu v'kee-y'manu v'hi-gee-yan-oo la-z'man ha-zeh.

בְּרַךְ אֶת הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֵחַיֵנו וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

Blessing for Friendship

Blessed is the light of friendship that brings joy and fulfillment in my life.

Ashray or ha-cha-va-root sheh-may-vee sim-cha v'hag-sha-ma b'cha-yie.

אֲשֵׁרִי אֹרֵ הַחֲבֵרוֹת שֶׁמְבִיא שִׂמְחָה וְהִגְשָׁמָה לְחַיֵי.

Rabbi Eva Goldfinger

The New Year 5782

It's a new year like no other.

We've been huddled in our pods reaching out and relating through phone or video.

Zoom has become a household name.

How good and pleasant it has been to see the faces of family, friends and community members.

But now we are ready for more.

We are ready for hugs and in-person conversation.

We are ready to see the smile on your lips, not just in your eyes.

We are ready for the new normal – whatever that may be, whenever that may be.

Welcome 5782 – Happy New Year.

How good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together.

Hinnay ma tovu ma naim shevet achim gam yachad.

הִנֵּה מָה טוֹב וְיָמָה נְעִים שֶׁבֵּת אַחִים גַּם יַחַד.

(Psalm 133:1)

Rabbi Miriam Jerris



Always Remember

May we always remember
we inhabit this whole world together.

May we always remember those whom we lost to Covid!

May we always be grateful to
those who nursed us back to health.

May we always be grateful to
those who developed and tested vaccines.

May we always be grateful to those who wore masks.

May we always be grateful that
we survived this pandemic and remain whole.

May we always remember
to not take our lives for granted.

Always, always, we will never forget! One world wholly joined!

Rabbi Susan Averbach

Memory

The Jewish New Year ends with a moment of memory.

As Yom Kippur fades, our thoughts turn to loss. We are here for many reasons. Some have lost a loved one during the year just concluded. Others have mourned for many years. We have all lost someone, someone we loved, someone who loved us. Loss is an inescapable experience of the human condition.

We face two paths: to remember and weep for what we have lost, or to remember and smile at what remains with us. Both paths are human, both are appropriate, both are healthy, and we make space here and now for tears and for consolation. Just as our New Year celebration evolves from joy to self-reflection to mourning and then back into life, so too does the human heart change from day to day, from moment to moment.

We, who live, remember. We, who live, live on.

Rabbi Adam Chalom

Society for
Humanistic
Judaism

For more information or to get
involved, please contact:

Paul Golin
Executive Director

paulgolin@shj.org
(248) 478-7610