



Machar: The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism
תַּשְׁלִיךְ - 2017/5778 - Tashlikh Service

Greeting One Another

As we come together, let's greet one another with a familiar song: *Hinnei Mah-Tov*.

הִנֵּה מַה-טוֹב וַיָּמָה נָעִים שְׁבֶת עַמִּים גַּם-יַחַד.

Hi-nei mah tov u-mah na'im, she-vet amm-im gam ya-chad.

Hi-nei mah tov, she-vet ach-im gam ya-chad.

See how good it is - how wonderful! - when peoples come together. (Psalms 133:1, adapted)

Why Now?

When you think about it, fall is an odd time in which to mark a New Year—even the Torah says that the New Year happens in the spring!

Not while the snow-shroud round dead earth is rolled,
And naked branches point to frozen skies.—

**When orchards burn their lamps of fiery gold,
The grape glows like a jewel, and the corn
A sea of beauty and abundance lies,
Then the new year is born.**

As all these pass on, we look at our lives,
Renewing before the dark of winter.

*(First two stanzas from Emma Lazarus, "The New Year"; final stanza by
Jeremy Kridel)*

Something to think about: why *do* we celebrate Rosh Hashanah in the fall?

Tashlikh Reflection

**We arrive bearing the last year's load of leaven.
Triumphs and failures,
Missed chances,
Joys and sorrows.**

*At tashlikh, we cast away the staler bits;
Throw aside our regrets,
Like so many breadcrumbs
Carried off in water.*

**If we cast away our ills, what do we lose?
Can we learn from mistakes?
Might good turn bad?
Might bad be made good?**

*This tashlikh let's not cast our selves away.
We'll keep the crumbs of our pasts,
Hold tight these few morsels -
The bread of our lives.*

(Jeremy Kridel)

*(Now we'll do the core of the tashlikh ceremony by
casting bits of bread to be carried away in the water.
As you cast the bread, consider what negative aspects of
the prior year you'd like to cast away.)*

Humanistic Al Cheit

Having symbolically cast away the pains and regrets of the prior year as individuals, let us now acknowledge our errors to one another with a secular humanistic version of the traditional *Al Cheit*, the High Holidays confessional:

Let this be our confession.
For the sin I committed against *you*.

For the sins we've committed against one another.

For indifference.
And for interference.

**For minor slights.
And for outrageous affronts.**

For forgetting.
And for reminding.

**For ignoring.
And for pointing out.**

Forgive me; pardon me - as I pardon you.

(Jeremy Kridel)

Wishing Each Other Peace

As we conclude our *tashlikh* service, let us wish one another peace—and may we work together for peace in the coming year.

נַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּעוֹלָם. נָא נַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל
הָעוֹלָם. וְאַמְרוּ שְׁלוֹם.

*Na'a-seh sha-lom ba-ol-am. Na na'aseh sha-lom a-lei-nu v'al kol ha-ol-am.
V'im-ru sha-lom.*

Let us work to create peace here on earth, for us and for all peoples. And let us say, "Shalom."

*Please feel free to enjoy our surroundings.
May they bring you a sense of peace and comfort
as we begin the New Year.*