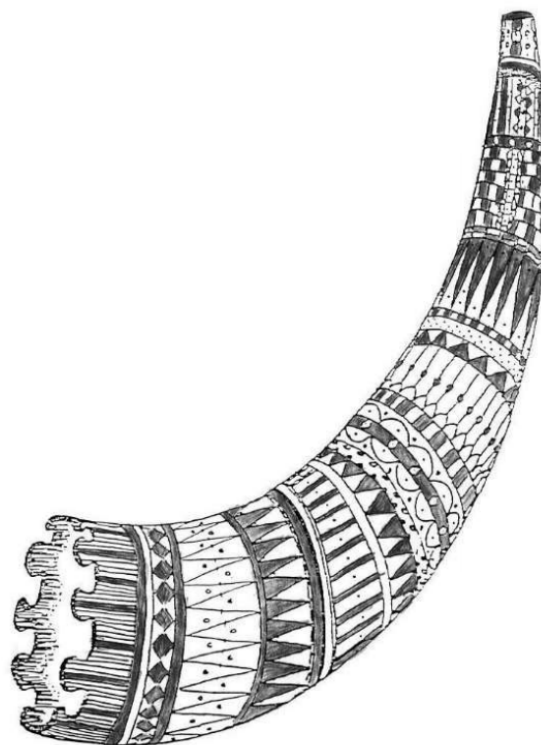
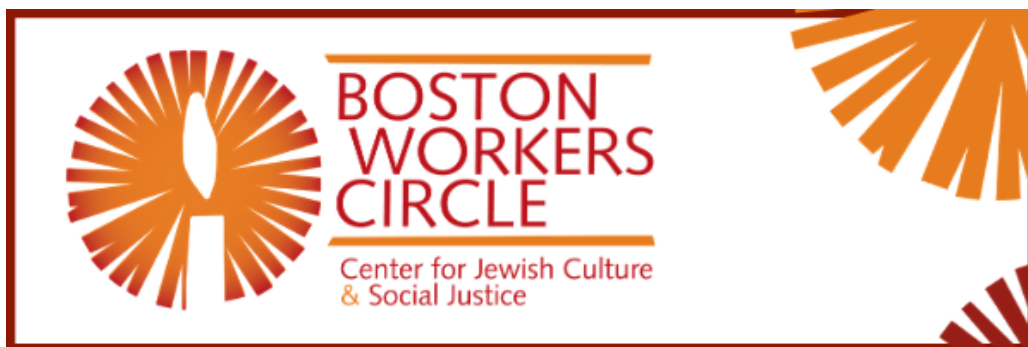


Rosh Hashonah

ראש־השנה



2023 ~ 5784



**Happy New Year! *Gut Yontef! Anyada buena!*
Welcome to the High Holidays with Boston Workers Circle.**

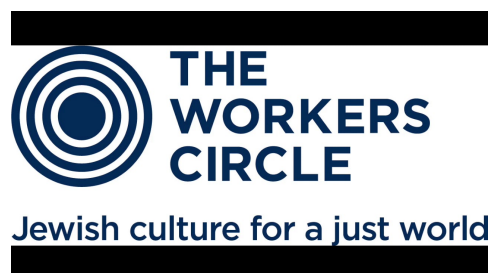
The Boston Workers Circle Center for Jewish Culture and Social Justice is a multigenerational, multiracial, and multicultural community where Jewish identity is rooted in cultural heritage and the pursuit of a better world.

*We welcome your suggestions and comments on this event.
Please see the request for feedback on the last page of this program.*

We gratefully thank countless sources and the many individuals who provided inspiring and thoughtful text, poems, art, and music to this rich and moving annual community event.

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AN AFFILIATE OF:



1.

Sholem Aleykhem (*Peace Be With You*)
(*instrumental, followed by nign*)

2.

Welcome!

3.

Leshone Toyve. Welcome to the New Year, 5784. For thousands of years the Jewish people have marked the New Year with the rituals of Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur and the ten days between them, a time of reflection, forgiveness, and turning to do better.

As a secular, progressive Jewish community, today we are here to continue that tradition and provide time and space for introspection and growth, assessment and healing, receptiveness and renewal.

We ask ourselves,
How can I open my heart to the possibilities of the year to come?

We ask,
What has transpired this past year?
What am I grateful for?
What must I apologize for?
What has been my responsibility?
What adjustments can I make for the next year?

4.

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Massachusett people. We pay respect to Massachusett peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in their homeland and throughout the Massachusett diaspora.

5.

Candle Lighting

May these lights bring happiness, warmth, and a sense of unity with all who are celebrating Yontef.
May these lights guide our way in this New Year.

(*Light candles*)

(*All*)

For the Hebrew blessing, we say:

Borukh ato adonoy elohenu melek ho'olom
asher kidishonu b'mitzvosov vetsivonu l'hadlik ner shel yom tov.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של יום טוב

In Ladino, we say:

Saludamos el Muevo Anyo sigun la tradision de nuestro pueblo.
Ke empese kon el sonido del shofar un anyo de paz i de liberta para todos.

6.

In Yiddish, we say:

Mir bagrisn dem nay yor.
Zol der klang fun trua onheybn a yor fun sholem un frayhayt far ale mentshn.

מיר באַגריסן דעם נײַ יאָר
זאָל דער קלאַנג פֿון תרועה אָנהײבן אַ יאָר פֿון שלום און פֿרייהייט פֿאַר אַלע מענטשן

In English, that means:

We welcome the New Year in the tradition of our people.
May the sound of the shofar begin a year of peace and freedom for all people.

7.

Today, we come together as a community to consider the world as it is, and the better world we hope to build together. In this past year the deep divisions in our country have escalated to new and frightening levels. The growth of white supremacist rhetoric and actions, and indications that more and more people in the US subscribe to them, is especially frightening. The recent Supreme Court decisions, wars in Ukraine, Sudan, and Yemen, climate change, continued COVID, and the horrific gun violence occurring in the US on a daily basis challenge us to ask: What are the actions we can take to mitigate the fears and grief within and around us? How can we make the world a better place?

We vow to keep fighting the unjust system designed to serve white people, those with money, and those with power, and designed to sacrifice Black people and other people of color, immigrants, women, LGBTQI, working class, and poor people. Today, as we adjust to new realities, we will continue the struggles against white supremacy and antisemitism. Our liberation is bound together, for as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

8.

This ritual serves as a guidepost, inviting us into the reflective space of the Days of Awe from Rosh Hashonah to Yom Kippur. While the process of self-reflection is done individually, we derive strength from sharing the process in our community.

This time is ours, to settle more deeply into ourselves and as members of our community. Self-reflection can be uplifting, eye-opening, painful, steeped in regret, healing, and also inspiring. When we experience this with others, it reminds us that we are not alone. Together, we help one another find the courage to do this honest self-reflection.

As we turn inward, let us also turn to each other, both in person and online. Let’s wish each other a sweet and happy new year.

9.

Anyada Buena (Good Year)
(Sara Aroeste)

May your year be sweet
 Komo la miel ... *like honey*
 May you hear the shofar
 Ke te desperte el ... *may it awaken you*

Anyada buena ... *good year*
 Dulce i alegre ... *sweet and joyful*
 Seyas bendicho ... *may you be blessed*
 Seyas kontente ... *may you be happy*

May your vision bear fruit
 Komo una mansana ... *like an apple*
 May your soul find peace
 I grande alegria ... *and great joy*

Anyada buena ... *good year*
 Dulce i alegre ... *sweet and joyful*
 Seyas bendicho ... *may you be blessed*
 Seyas kontente ... *may you be happy*

May your heart be filled
 Por la famiya ... *with family*
 May you start a new page
 En el libro de la vida ... *in the book of life*

Anyada buena ... *good year*
 Dulce i alegre ... *sweet and joyful*
 Seyas bendicho ... *may you be blessed*
 Seyas kontente ... *may you be happy*

10.

Rosh Hashonah means the head or beginning of the year. So what does our New Year observance entail?

We take stock, we reawaken, we remember. We gratefully acknowledge all that the past year has brought us of life and health, of love, of beauty and truth, of strength and courage. Whatever good we have known this year, we reflect upon in joy. And in this hour, we also reflect upon our sorrows, failures, and disappointments. This year, again, has been especially hard. Our spirits and our coping skills continue to be tested. As we reflect, let us observe what we have learned from the events of the last year and consider how we can apply these lessons to make changes in the new year.

11.

On the New Moon of Tishrei *(excerpt)*

On the new moon of Tishrei
the month of harmony's return
we remember and renew
the dance of creation inside us
in community
in the way we touch life.

On the seventh month
we gather to renew ourselves on life's way
by pausing
and looking inward
to behold the landscape of our traveled way.

At this time of year we heal our wounds
by invoking the ancient ways
of restoring inner peace.

We cast our crumbs to the river
beat our chests, blow the shofar
confess the crooked way.
We sing, dance, share our food,
tell our stories, and play.

And in the pause of celebration
we are free
to forgive
embrace
reconcile
and restore at-one-ment
to the soul
until we find again
our common heart of joy.

--*Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb*

12.**Shehekheyonu** (*Who Has Given Us Life*)

[The Shehekheyonu is traditionally said upon starting any holiday.

More broadly, it is said as a statement of gratitude at reaching an important point in our lives.]

In the traditions of our people, we voice our joy and gratitude
for our continuing life together as a community.

13.

(All are invited to sing Shehekheyonu)

Borukh ato adonoy elohenu melek ho'olom

Shehekheyonu, vekymonu, vehigyonu, lazman hazeh.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעְנוּ לְזִמְנָה הַזֶּה

14.

As members of last year's Zayen class, the B'nai Mitzvah class, we are honored to participate in our Boston Workers Circle community by leading this part of Rosh Hashonah.

This is the first day of the Jewish New Year – a day when we come together to remember the year just past and to plan the year to come.

According to tradition, Adam and Eve were created on Rosh Hashonah, and thus it is considered the birthday of the world. Generations later on Rosh Hashonah, Joseph was freed from an Egyptian prison. And later still, the Jews in Egypt rebelled on Rosh Hashonah, stopping their slave labor and beginning their liberation from Egypt.

This is a day of joy: we are thankful for life, for the health and happiness that make life bright and good, for our families and friends, and for all the rich blessings that we enjoy every day.

We express our hope that all shall be blessed with health, happiness, and peace.

Welcome to a New Year!

15.

Today, we speak and sing in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino, three of the many Jewish languages from ancient times to the present. Language is not only how we communicate, but how we tell our histories and maintain our cultures. Language is also an expression of community, unity, and continuity.

Hebrew is the language of the Torah, the language of rituals that have resonated for generations.

Yiddish is the language of Ashkenazi Jews of eastern Europe, the language that expresses the radical roots of Boston Workers Circle. Radical yiddishkayt provides a direct connection between our Jewishness and our social activism today.

Ladino is the language of Sephardic Jews, who were expelled from Spain in 1492 and then migrated across Europe, North Africa, and the Ottoman Empire. Ladino is an expression of our Jewish diaspora and resilience.

Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino are precious vessels of Jewish culture, reflected in music, literature, and humor. Singing and speaking these languages weaves together the vibrant tapestry of our culture. We honor our heritage from generation to generation, fun dor tsu dor, de generacion en generacion.

We now invite members of this year's Zayen class, the B'nai Mitzvah class, to read "The Ancient Words."

16.

The Ancient Words

The ancient words, I don't understand them.
They are in a language I do not know.
Why are they so familiar?

There is a rhythm to them,
A beat, a pulse I understand
From somewhere very deep inside me,
My heart, my soul.
I am connected to a past I never lived
And to a future I shall not know.
A member of the human race,
Running through my time
And still connected to many lives which came before me.
So many cultures, faces, tears and joys,
A Jew, connected
To the past, to a future.

Hoping always
That peace and love will finally come to all the world,
That we may really live with no barriers
And each of us, in the comfort and beauty of our varied
Traditions.

Long before I understood what it means to be Jewish,
I knew that I was a part of something larger than myself,
Beyond my comprehension.
I think of my family, and my friends,
My people, and all the people of the world.
The living, and those who live on in our hearts and minds,
Of the earth, and all its creatures,
Of our universe.

And I am reminded of my responsibility
To fulfill the promise of peace
While I am on earth—Shalom.

--adapted from Emily Dina Ruth Maltz

17.

Tashlikh (*Cast Away*)

[Tashlikh is a ritual of symbolically casting away bread crumbs that symbolize the detritus of the old year and starting fresh in the new year.]

We cast away doubt, disbelief, and apathy.
We embrace audacious hope.

We cast away inertia and acceptance of things as they are.
We embrace shared humanity and a belief in a better world.

We cast away intolerance.
We embrace bearing witness and raising our voices for equity and freedom.

We cast away separation of families at our borders.
We embrace sanctuary and refuge.

We cast away indifference to the wellbeing of the earth and inaction in the face of the climate crisis.
We embrace inhabiting our world more sustainably
and standing up to Goliath governments with courage and persistence.

We cast away individualism, isolation, self-interest, and distraction,
And we embrace connection, humility, and the hope of transformation.

As a community we cast away pessimism and cynicism,
And we embrace the belief that we can be the change we have been waiting for.

--Adapted from Jews for Racial and Economic Justice

18.

On Rosh Hashonah, as we reflect on the past year, we think about and project who we aspire to be in the year to come. We do this as individuals, as families, as communities, and in the world. Let us lift our voices for the future we envision.



19.

Hiney Ma Tov (*Behold How Good*)
(composer unknown)

(Hebrew)

Hiney ma tov umanayim shevet akhim gam yakhad (2x)

Hiney ma tov shevet akhim gam yakhad (2x)

(Yiddish)

Oy vi gut un vi voyl es iz mitkinder ale tsuzamen (2x)

Oy vi voyl es iz mitkinder ale tsuzamen (2x)

(How good and pleasant it is for people to live together in unity)

20.

A Community of Memory

Our common memory holds us together, despite war, persecution, and diaspora. Consider that our tradition does not require official clergy to lead prayer — a minyan of ten suffices. Thus, community is central to the practice of Judaism. It is noteworthy that on the Days of Awe, no deity can give complete forgiveness; only another person can forgive us for the hurt we have caused them. This is the community of people that Judaism embraces. It is through this connection to community that we pass on our traditions.

An individual is not a free, single dot in the universe. An individual is a ringlet in the net which is spread over a certain spot on earth. The net is an individual's generation. And a person's generation is just a ringlet in the chain of generations that reaches back to our matriarchs and patriarchs and extends onward to the end of time.

-adapted from I.L. Peretz, a leading Yiddish writer for whom our Shule is named

21.

Jews are a multifaceted community united by historic memory.

We have been held together and upheld by common remembering.

Memory performs the impossible for us.

It holds together the past and present and gives continuity and dignity to human life.

Is it enough to seek forgiveness only from other people? What about the land, the plants, the animals, the natural resources we have hurt through our behaviors, which we're all experiencing in the disastrous consequences of climate change? Let us seek reconciliation with everything we're connected to in this world.

22.

Shema (Listen)

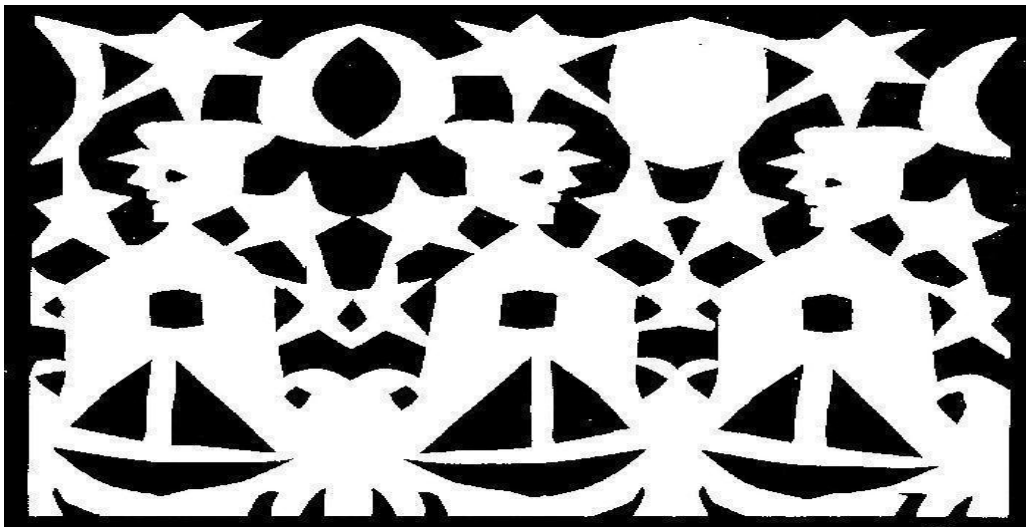
The Shema is often considered the singular statement of belief in Judaism. Many Jews have lived and died chanting these words. We sing the Shema today with many voices: to express our unity as a community, to honor the principle that we must all stay true to our own beliefs and speak them with pride and dedication.

Listen up and to one another, people!
Though we are many, we are also one!

23.

(All are invited to sing)

Shema Yisroel Adonoi Elohenu Adonoi Echad



24.

The text that immediately follows the Shema in a traditional service says “These words...shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up...”

Primo Levi’s poem “Shema” is a commentary on this text. The Shema is supposed to be said aloud. It makes sense; we are crying out to one other: “Listen, Israel! Act for democracy!” This week, will you hear it?

[Levi's poem commands a single-minded focus not on the unity of God but on people living in poverty and chaos. Levi insists that human suffering is what our people should be “listening” to. There are many ways to respond to the voices of those who suffer: to educate ourselves on issues of global justice, to volunteer, to advocate, to share our resources.]

Shema (excerpt)

You who live secure

In your warm houses,
Who, returning at evening, find
Hot food and friendly faces:

Consider whether this is a person,
Who labors in the mud
Who knows no peace
Who fights for a crust of bread
Who dies at a yes or a no.

Consider whether this is a person
Without hair or name
With no more strength to remember
Eyes empty and womb cold
As a frog in winter.

Consider that this has been:
I commend these words to you.
Engrave them on your hearts
When you are in your house,
When you walk on your way
When you go to bed, when you rise;
Repeat them to your children....

--Primo Levi

25.

Lomir Zingen Dos Naye Lid

(Let's Sing a New Song)

(Music: William Byrd; Yiddish lyrics and choral arrangement by Derek David)

Lomir zingen dos naye lid	<i>Let's sing a new song</i>
A naye lid fun sholem	<i>A new song of peace</i>
A naye lid fun yoysher	<i>A new song of justice</i>

26.

A Secular Amidah

[The Amidah, also called the Shemoneh Esray, or Eighteen Blessings, is the central prayer in the Jewish service. The traditional liturgy is a series of praises and sanctifications of God. It offers thanks for life; it asks for peace; it asks for help in being kind to others. It offers us a time of reflection and self-examination. For this reason, the prayer, Unetannah Tokef, central to the meaning of Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur, is added to the Amidah in the traditional Makhzor, or Prayer Book.]

Unetannah Tokef (*Let Us Speak of the Awesomeness*)

On Rosh Hashonah will be inscribed,
 And on Yom Kippur will be sealed:
 How many will pass from the earth and how many will be created,
 Who will live and who will die,
 Who by water and who by fire,
 Who by upheaval and who by plague,
 Who will rest and who will wander,
 Who will live in harmony and who will be harried,
 Who will enjoy tranquility and who will suffer,
 Who will be impoverished and who will be enriched,
 Who will be humbled and who will be exalted.

At the turning of the year
 we look back, look ahead, see that
 we are always
 in the days between.

- Marcia Falk

27.

What we are shapes what we become. Unetannah Tokef tells us that the child is parent to the adult. But it tells us also that we are capable of changing the outcome, through Tefillah, Tsedokah, and Teshuvah.

Tefillah, called prayer, derives from the word for honest self-reflection.

Tsedokah, commonly called charity, derives from the word Tsadik, a person who acts justly towards others.

Teshuvah, commonly translated as repentance, refers to repentance from Khet, the Hebrew word for sin. This word has its origins in archery, where it meant “missing the mark.” Such is the Jewish concept of sin — the missing of one’s goal, losing sight of the important things in life.

But there is another way to understand Teshuvah. The word can be translated to mean “turning:” turning to hit the mark, turning back to ourselves and our values and our capacities to act justly in community and in the world.

Our Jewish tradition calls us to honest self-reflection, justice, and turning. We must ask ourselves if we have hit the mark — as individuals, as members of families, and as members of our communities.

28.

By joining together today, we embrace a tradition over 3,000 years old and benefit from a conviction that the New Year can be a creative moment. Together we help each other find the courage and time to “turn.”

Turning

Now is the time for turning.
For leaves, migrating birds, and animals, turning comes instinctively.
But for us, turning does not always come so easily.

It takes an act of will
For us to make a turn.

It means breaking with old habits;
It means admitting that we have been wrong;
And this is rarely easy.
It can mean losing face;
It can mean starting all over again;
And this can be painful.

It means saying: "I am sorry."
It means admitting that we have the ability to change;
And this can be embarrassing.
These things are terribly hard to do.
But unless we turn, we will be trapped forever
In yesterday's ways.

-adapted from Rabbi Jack Riemer

29.

And let us consider our own current place in the original sin committed over 400 years ago with the arrival of the first Africans to be sold into bondage in North America.

The whole history of the progress of human liberty shows that all concessions yet made to her...have been born of earnest struggle.... If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are [those] who want crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.... Power concedes nothing without a demand.... Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue 'til they are resisted....

--Frederick Douglass, 1857

30.

Common Threads***(Pat Humphries)***

In a many colored garden
We are growing side by side.
We will rise all together, we will rise.
With the sun and rain upon us,
Not a row shall be denied.
We will rise all together, we will rise.

We will rise like the ocean, we will rise like the sun,
We will rise all together, we will rise.
In our many colored fabrics, made from strands of common threads,
We will rise all together, we will rise.

In the cold of fear and hatred,
Clothed in dignity we stand.
We will rise all together, we will rise.
We have pieced this quilt together
Linking hearts with stitching hands,
We will rise all together, we will rise.

We will rise like the ocean, we will rise like the sun,
We will rise all together, we will rise.
We are spirits drawn together tightly by our common threads,
We will rise all together, we will rise.

From our children to our elders,
From all nations, we will rise.
We will rise all together, we will rise.
May respect for all our differences
Enhance our common ties.
We will rise all together, we will rise.

We will rise like the ocean, we will rise like the sun,
We will rise all together, we will rise.
We will build a global family strengthened by our common threads.
We will rise all together, we will rise.

31.

Questions

[Al Khet ("For Missing the Mark") is another prayer in the traditional High Holiday services added to the Amidah, which encourages reflection and self-examination about specific things we have done in the past year and resolve to do better. Here is our community's way of doing this, by asking questions.]

We invite you to rise in body or spirit and read aloud together:

Let us ask ourselves hard questions
 For this is the time for truth.
 How much time did we waste
 In the year that is now gone?
 Did we fill our days with life
 Or were they dull and empty?
 Was there love inside our home
 Or was the affectionate word left unsaid?
 Was there real companionship with our children
 Or was there living together and a growing apart?
 Were we a help to our mates
 Or did we take them for granted?
 How was it with our friends:
 Were we there when they needed us, or not?
 The kind deed: did we perform it or postpone it?
 The unnecessary gibe: did we say it or did we hold it back?
 Did we deceive others?
 Did we deceive ourselves?
 Did we respect the rights and feelings
 Of those who worked with us?
 Did we acquire only possessions
 Or did we acquire new insights as well?
 Did we fear what the crowd would say
 And keep quiet when we should have spoken out?
 Did we mind only our own business
 Or did we feel the heartbreak of others?
 Did we live right,
 And, if not,
 Then have we learned
 And will we change?

- Rabbi Jack Riemer

(Be seated)

32.

More Questions

Let us ask ourselves questions as seekers of justice and truth.
For this is our time to turn.

As we witnessed the widening divide in our country this year, did we too feel the pain of hatred?
Did we challenge ourselves to open not only our minds, but our hearts and spirits to people who are different from us?

Did we try to grow beyond our own opinions to see the sacred humanity of all people?

Did we interrupt racism, sexism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, and other hatreds in our daily lives?

Did we celebrate the beauty of gender diversity, undermine binaries, and fight for loving, liberatory spaces for our siblings of all genders?

Did we work for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, or did we turn our heads in hopelessness and fear?

Did we examine our role in upholding systems of oppression, especially white supremacy?

Did we march in the streets and then celebrate our victories as though the work was over?
Or did we return home to continue the fight for justice?

Did we limit our hearts and minds to the narrowness of the world as we currently know it?
Or did we envision and contribute to making the world as we wish to see it?

Which vision did we live by?

Which world will we choose in the year to come?

33.

As we close the old year and begin the new, we are called on to reflect on how we have fallen short and on the harms we have caused or been complicit in. Through a commitment to repentance and repair, we are offered an opening to a way of being in right relation with our communities and with the wider world.

Responding to that opening, Boston Workers Circle partners with BIPOC organizations working for:

- a solidarity economy, building workplaces grounded in people's needs, not profits.
- reparations, acknowledging and working to repair the harms of slavery and its continuing afterlives.
- an end to incarceration in favor of reparative and transformative justice and investment in healthy, non-traumatizing, supportive communities.
- democracy

On the last pages, see specific actions we can take to achieve these goals.

34.

The deteriorating situation in the middle east continues to be disastrous for both Palestinians and Israelis. There is no real safety for Palestinians or Israelis unless the extremist settlement movement is stopped. We commit to our vision of this region at the heart of all Abrahamic peoples as one where each individual is recognized as sacred. We commit to organizing for justice to achieve equality, peace, respect for human and civil rights, and a free, prosperous future for both Palestinians and Israelis.

35.

How can you protect the people with guns and soldiers? If peace does not come from the heart, how will it come? If we want to trust each other, we have to build love, to build peace. After we build this, then peace will come.

*-Um Elias, age 64,
Palestinian mother of 8,
grandmother of 12*

36.

I Had a Box of Colors

I had a box of colors —
Shining, bright and bold.
I had a box of colors,
Some warm, some very cold.

I had no red for the blood of wounds.
I had no black for the orphans' grief.
I had no white for dead faces and hands.
I had no yellow for burning sands.

But I had orange for the joy of life,
And I had green for buds and nests.
I had blue for bright, clear skies.
I had pink for dreams and rest.

I sat down
and painted
Peace.

-Tali Sorek, age 13, Beersheva, Israel

37.

Ben Adam *[Mizrahi melody]*
(nign)

38.

Oyb Nisht Nokh Hekher (*If Not Higher*)
(*a short version of a story by I. L. Peretz*)

And every year, just before the Days of Awe, the High Holy Days, the rabbi of Nemirov would vanish. He was not in the shul, nor in the study house, nor at home. Where can the rabbi be?

Un der nemirover flegt slikhes-tsayt yedn frimorgn nelm vern, farshvindn! Men flegt im nisht zen in ergets: nisht in shul, nisht in beyde bote-medroshim, nisht bay a minyen, un in der heyim avade un avade nisht.... Vu ken zayn der rebe?

The people believed that the rabbi, so good was he, ascended to heaven to plead with God for the good health and fortune of the town's Jews in the year to come.

One day, a traveler came to Nemirov at this time of year. He heard the story of the rabbi disappearing and ascending to heaven, and was full of doubt. The doubting traveler quoted a passage of the Gemorah, which said that even Moses did not ascend to heaven, but remained suspended two and a half feet below.

The traveler decided to follow the rabbi in secret to disprove the villagers. He hid near the rabbi's home, and in the earliest hour, before even the baker arose, the traveler saw the rabbi leave his house, dressed in tattered old clothes and carrying an ax. The rabbi walked for two hours until he came to a stand of trees. He took out his ax, chopped trees into small logs, tied them together with rope, and walked back toward town.

On the outskirts of town, the rabbi stopped at a beaten-down house, half-hidden behind a stone ledge. He knocked on the door. "I have extra wood, my friend," said the rabbi. "Ah, dear woodcutter," replied the woman, "I am a poor widow with nothing to pay you." "It doesn't matter," said the rabbi. "Already it has gotten cold, and you will need a warm fire to heat your home." "Thank you, dear woodcutter. But I cannot even bend down to kindle the fire today, for I am ill." "I shall do it for you," said the rabbi. He laid the wood, struck a match, and as the flames spread their warmth through the house, he quietly said the Penitential Prayers that preceded Rosh Hashonah. The woman, hard of hearing, could not make sense of the rabbi's words, but the traveler could hear them from his hiding place outside the window.

So impressed was he that the doubting traveler moved to the village and became a follower of the rabbi of Nemirov. And ever after, when a follower of the rabbi tells how the rabbi ascends to heaven, the traveler quietly adds, "If not higher!"

Un shpeter, oyb a khosid hot amol dertseylt, az der nemirover hoybt zikh oyf, slikhes-tsayt, yedn frimorgn, un flit aroyf in himl arayn, flegt shoyen der litvak nisht lakhn, nor tsugebn shtilerheyt: "Oyb nisht nokh hekher!"

39.

Mi Shebeyrakh (Who Blesses)

[Mi Shebeyrakh is a part of the traditional service for those who wish to have healing and supportive words said for the sick.]

A wonderful benefit of being in a community is that it cuts through our isolation, especially in difficult or challenging times.

All those who have family or friends who are ill or in need, we invite you to rise in body or spirit as we play the music for Mi Shebeyrakh. May you and your loved ones be supported and comforted in this time of need.

40.

(Mi Shebeyrakh instrumental followed by nign; composed by Debbie Friedman)

[Mi shebeyrakh avoteynu, m'kor habrokha l'imoteynu. May the love we shared with those who came before us help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing.]

(Be seated)

41.

Yizkor (Remembrance)

[During Yom Kippur, we will honor lost loved ones by saying their names aloud in person. If you are attending virtually, or if you are attending in person and prefer to have your loved one's name read aloud on your behalf, a proxy will read aloud the names that you submitted in advance. Refer to the end of this program to submit names if you have not yet submitted them.]

At Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur, we set aside a special time for remembering the dead, to remember those who have gone before, and to remind ourselves how we should live. We invite you to read together:

**This is the time we remember
Those who gave meaning to our lives.
This is the time we remember
The bonds that tied us together,
The love that we shared,
And the memories that remain with us still.**

They are now part of the eternity that is human memory.
In silence, we remember our family and friends who have passed away.
At Yom Kippur, we will say these names aloud.

In silence, we contemplate the empty spaces their deaths have left in our lives.

In silence, we celebrate the spaces in our lives that they made richer, fuller, happier, more loving, and deeper in meaning.

We mourn their deaths as we celebrate their lives, as we affirm life itself.

Let us observe a moment of silence.

(silence)



42.

There are stars whose radiance is visible on earth even though they themselves have disintegrated. And there are people whose memory continues to light the world after they have passed from it. These lights shine brightest in the darkest night. They light the path for us.

--Hannah Senesh

43.

Kaddish (Holy)

It is an ancient custom to kindle a yortsayt candle and recite Kaddish for the departed. We invite you to rise in body or spirit, and say Kaddish.

(light yortsayt candle)



Yis'ga'dal v'yis'kadash sh'mey rabbo,
b'olmo dee'vro khir'usey v'yamlikh
malkhu'sey, b'khayaykhon uv'yomey'khon
uv'khayey d'khol beys yisroel, ba'agolo
u'viz'man koriv; v'imru omeyn.

Y'hey shmey rabbo m'vorakh l'olam
ul'olmey olmayo.

Yisborakh v'yishtabakh v'yispoar
v'yisromam v'yisnasey, v'yishador v'yis'aleh
v'yisalal, shmey d'kudsho, brikh hu, l'eylo min
kol birkhoso v'sheeroso, tush'bekhoso
v'nekhemoso, da'ameeran b'olmo; v'imru
omeyn.

Y'hey shlomo rabbo min sh'mayo,
v'khayim oleynu v'al kol yisroel; v'imru
omeyn.

Oseh sholom bimromov, hu ya'aseh
sholom oleynu, v'al kol yisroel; v'imru omeyn.

(Be seated)

44.

Zokhreynu L'Khayem
(instrumental)

45.

May our lives be worthy of remembrance and provide sustenance and purpose to others after we die. Thus the lives of those before us, our own lives, and those who live to continue the work after us will be linked for all time.

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֶלְמָא דִּי בְרָא
כְּרֻעוּתָהּ וְיִמְלִיךָ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן
וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעִגְלָא וּבְזִמָּן קָרִיב.
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמֵינָא:

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא
וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלֵּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקֻדְשָׁא. בְּרִיךְ
הוּא. לְעֵלְא (וּלְעֵלְא) מִן כָּל בְּרִכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא
תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנִחַמְתָּא דְאֲמִירָן בְּעֶלְמָא. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל
יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

עֹשֶׂה שְׁלֹום בְּמִרְוֵמֵי הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלֹום עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

46.

The Low Road (*excerpt*)*[Starting at "six," more and more voices join in from the audience]*

Alone, you can fight,
 you can refuse, you can take
 what revenge you can
 But they roll over you.

But two people fighting
 back to back can cut through
 a mob, a snake-dancing file
 can break a cordon, an army
 can meet an army.
 Two people can keep each other sane,
 can give support, conviction, love,
 massage, hope, sex.

Three people are a delegation,
 a committee, a wedge.

With four you can play bridge and
 start an organization.

[Some audience voices join in]

With six you can rent a whole house,
 eat a pie for dinner with no seconds,
 and hold a fund-raising party.

[More voices] A dozen can hold a demonstration.*[More voices]* A hundred fill a hall.*[More voices]* A thousand have solidarity and your own newsletter;*[All]* ten thousand, power and your own paper;

a hundred thousand, your own media;
 ten million, your own country.

It goes one at a time,
 it starts when you care to act,
 it starts when you do it again
 after they said no,
 it starts when you say We
 and know who you mean,
 and each day you mean one more.

--Marge Piercy

47.

D'var (Word)

*[Traditionally, the d'var is a commentary on the week's Torah portion.
In our d'var, a member of our community is invited to provide personal reflections.]*

48.

The Internationale

(original lyrics written in French by Eugene Pottier, music by Pierre de Geyter; new English lyrics by Billy Bragg; adapted to remove binary language)

[The anthem of socialism and many other leftwing movements, often sung by workers on strike standing united while singing in their different native languages simultaneously. Please feel free to sing along in any language(s)]

Arise ye prisoners of starvation
Arise ye wretched of the earth
For justice thunders condemnation
A better world's in birth!
No more tradition's chains shall bind us
Arise, ye slaves, no more in thrall;
The earth shall rise on new foundations
We have been naught we shall be all.

'Tis the final conflict
Let each stand in their place
The international working class
Shall be the human race.
'Tis the final conflict
Let each stand in their place
The international working class
Shall be the human race.

Let no one build walls to divide us
Walls of hatred nor walls of stone
Come greet the dawn and stand beside us
We'll live together or we'll die alone
In our world poisoned by exploitation
Those who have taken, now they must give
And end the vanity of nations
We've but one Earth on which to live

So come all ye comrades
For the struggle carries on
The Internationale
Unites the world in song
So comrades come rally
For this is the time and place
The international ideal
Unites the human race.

49.

Greetings to Our Community

50.

Blowing the Shofar

The Shofar is an ancient tool. It was used by villages to communicate with neighbors across vast distances. Someone would climb to the top of a nearby hill and blow the Shofar in the direction of the neighboring towns, initiating a chain of blasts from village to village through the desert. The Shofar was sounded to announce festivals and victories, and the threat of invasion, storm, and war. When the sound was heard, people knew it was time to listen and act.

Today we sound the Shofar to announce the start of the New Year.

Wake up!, it demands, Notice that another year has passed!

51.

The Shofar call has three parts, culminated by a very long blast. They are:

Tekiah: One long note to sound the alarm. This is the sound of remembrance. Another year of life has gone by and we must ask ourselves how we have lived during that year.

Shevarim: Three sets of low and high notes. Each low note reminds us that life may bring fear, frustration, tragedy, and sorrow. Each high note gives hope that life will also bring us happiness and serenity.

Teruah: Nine short notes for the call to arms that asks each of us to make a personal commitment to liberation of all oppressed people, and to the end to exploitation and tyranny in all forms.

Call out the Shofar's notes and it will answer.

(Shofar blasts after the name of each note is called out)

*(All) **Tekiah** (shofar blast)*

May the sound of the Shofar awaken us to the flight of time
And summon us to live our days with purpose.

*(All) **Shevarim** (shofar blast)*

May the sound of the Shofar shatter our complacency
And make us conscious of our weaknesses and our strengths.

*(All) **Teruah** (shofar blast)*

May the sound of the Shofar remind us that it is time to "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and for all the inhabitants thereof." (*Leviticus 25:10*)

*(All) **Tekiah Gedolah** (shofar blast)*

52.

This Is the Beginning of the New Year

Today begins the Ten Days of Awe, the period from Rosh Hashonah to Yom Kippur, ten days in which we reflect on the year we have just concluded, and prepare for the year before us. For us, as for our ancestors, this ten-day period presents us with time and space for honest self-reflection, forgiveness, healing, and resolve.

May we create for ourselves, our family, friends, and community a year of health, happiness, and peace.

And now we turn to our neighbor and say:

(All)

**A gut yontef, a gut yor!
Anyada buena, dulce i alegre!**

53.

Leshone Toyve (For a Good Year)

(lyrics by Sh. Tseler, with second verse adapted by Jonah Sidman; music by Chane Mlotek)

Mir bagrisn hoykh un klor:
Leshone toyve, a gut yor!
Mir bagrisn hoykh un klor:
Leshone toyve, a gut yor!

*We send greetings loud and clear:
Leshone toyve, a good year!*

Mir bagrisn un mir vintshn
Ale kinder, hoykh un klor:
Leshone toyve tikoseyvu
A gut yor! A gut yor!
Leshone toyve tikoseyvu
A gut yor! A gut yor!

*We send greetings and we wish
All children, loud and clear:
Leshone toyve tikoseyvu,
A good year!*

Eltern, lersers, dem gantsn dor,
Leshone toyve, a gut yor!
Eltern, lersers, dem gantsn dor,
Leshone toyve, a gut yor!

*Parents, teachers, the whole generation,
Leshone toyve, a good year!*

Gute layt un mitkinder sheyne,
Kroyvim, fraynt, dem gantsn dor,
Leshone toyve kol yisroel,
A gut yor, a gut yor!
Leshone toyve kol yisroel,
A gut yor, a gut yor!
A gut yor! A gut yor!

*Good folks and beautiful siblings.
Relatives, friends, the whole generation,
Leshone toyve, everyone,
A good year!*

Submit Memorial Names for Yom Kippur

At Yom Kippur, we will say memorial names aloud during Yizkor. Use this QR code or contact miraw@circleboston.org to submit names by Wednesday September 20 if you wish to have your loved ones' names read aloud on your behalf and have not yet submitted them.]

QR code for memorial names



Start the New Year with these upcoming actions!

September 27, 6:30 pm: In person gathering and hybrid presentation by Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Justice (JALSA) on Massachusetts racial and economic legislative priorities.

<https://forms.gle/oCTER7SkhXUe7QT16>

September 28, 6:30 pm: BWC is excited to co-present a book event with INN, JVP, and the Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine. Please join us in person or on zoom and invite your friends to hear and engage with Linda Dittmar as she shares her stimulating story of the early years of Israel's statehood and the Palestinian Nakba. Linda's recently published book is *Tracing Homelands: Israel, Palestine, and the Claims of Belonging*. Register for the book talk at: bit.ly/45cMs9Z

October 8, 10:15 am: The Circle Book Group will meet both in-person and on Zoom to discuss three graphic novels: *Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword*, *Hereville: How Mirka Caught a Meteorite*, and *Hereville: How Mirka Caught a Fish* by Barry Deutsch. If you would like to be added to the Circle Book Group mailing list, contact Fredi Dworkin fredidworkin@gmail.com

October 23, 7:00 pm: Annual Israel/Palestine Committee Business meeting online and topical discussions. Contact ipc@circleboston.org

November 8th, 7 pm: As we remain in a time of economic uncertainty, economic stability looks very different than it did even just a decade ago. Join us for an opportunity to discuss the relationship between class experience & life stages and how they've changed across generations. [Register here.](#)

November 14, 7 pm: Town Hall on US Military Aid to Israel, hybrid and online via zoom.
Contact ipc@circleboston.org

Boston Workers Circle is an anchor institution supporting the Boston Ujima Project and its Good Business Alliance. BWC members can support Ujima's solidarity economy initiatives by becoming a member of Ujima and by supporting its involved businesses.

Become a member: <https://www.ujimaboston.com/join>

Support GBA businesses: <https://www.ujimaboston.com/ugba-members>

Take action in support of the No New Women's Prison campaign here:

<https://www.justiceashealing.org/nonewwomensprison>

Boston Workers Circle's Immigrant Justice Committee is sponsoring a refugee from Cuba. We have found an apartment for Mirian. The committee has committed to funding her and supporting her for up to two years. You can help by giving a donation by Venmo "@BWC Immigrant Justice". Also through Bijan, some of us are serving breakfast and supporting Haitian Refugees in state shelters/motels. Join us: ljc@circleboston.org

Fall Yiddish classes will begin in October. Online classes will be offered for all levels, from beginners to advanced, plus one in-person beginners' class. <https://circleboston.org/yiddishkayt-classes>

Check Boston Workers Circle full calendar [here](#).

Please share your thoughts and ideas on this holiday program!!

To provide feedback, use this QR code or the form on the next page.

QR code for feedback



Please use this page or [click here](#) to make comments and suggestions on this ritual and/or to volunteer to help with our holiday celebrations. If you fill out this page, please mail it to Linda Gritz, Chair, Ritual Committee, Boston Workers Circle, 6 Webster St., Brookline, MA 02446, or email your comments to Ritual@circleboston.com using the subject "RH feedback."

This program was created by the Boston Workers Circle Ritual Committee and is updated each year. We welcome your comments and suggestions for next year's rituals. Thank you very much for attending our holiday celebrations and for taking the time to share your thoughts and ideas

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

The Ritual Committee creates and updates Boston Workers Circle rituals, currently including Rosh Hashonah, Yom Kippur, Tu B'Shvat, and Passover. We welcome new members!

If you are interested in participating in this work, please check this box: ☐