

# 5770 Rosh Hashanah Greetings

from the Baltimore Board of Rabbis

**We enter the New Year with expectations** for self-improvement, high hopes for the blessings we and our loved ones and neighbors might enjoy, and a heightened sense of our obligations to G-d, the Jewish community, and the world. Yet many of us will enter 5770 with fear, trepidation, and a pervasive sense of insecurity due to the recession and the financial challenges, unemployment, and foreclosures it has wrought. It is difficult for many of us to face the New Year with optimism and hope under such circumstances.

Soon we will intone the words of the prayer *Unetaneh Tokef...who will be impoverished and who will be enriched...*The sense of destiny that pervades the first part of this prayer is balanced by the message at its climax, *But repentance, prayer, and righteousness avert the severity of the decree.* Much is beyond our control, yet much remains in our control, including how each of us will respond to the current economic situation.

With this in mind, the members of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis pray that we are all blessed with:

- courage and conviction to live with integrity and honesty in the coming year
- a renewed relationship with G-d (however each of us conceives G-d) to help us see the bigger picture of our lives and to gain insight for the decisions we will face in the coming year
- strengthened relationships with our loved ones, friends, and communities, both for the support they offer us and for the support we can offer them, in the coming year
  - the recognition that even in difficult times we each enjoy a bounty of blessings, so that we can feel gratitude in the coming year
  - hope for a better tomorrow, because hope shields us from despair

As we prepare to celebrate the creation of humanity, may we elevate our own humanity by recalling that G-d created us little lower than the angels (Psalm 8:5). Let each of us be G-d's partner in the ongoing work of creation. This year that work includes maintaining hope, feeling gratitude, and supporting one another.

The Baltimore Board of Rabbis extends its best wishes to the greater Baltimore Jewish community for a new year of health, fulfillment, happiness, peace and prosperity.

*L'shanah Tovah Tikateivu*

*May you and yours be inscribed for  
a year of blessing, goodness, and peace.*

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