

**November 28, 2008**

***Shabbat Shalom!***

*I once collected from Religious School students their list of “what they are thankful for” – it takes on a special meaning this year. I shared these words as the benediction at the Community Thanksgiving Service this past Sunday night:*

*We thank You, God, for families and love, sunshine and rain...  
for mountains and trees, nature and earth.*

*We thank You, God, for water and food, for insects, trees and animals.  
for friends and parents, brothers and sisters...*

*We thank You, God, for music and health, and for our homes.  
for clothing and shelter, pets and possessions.*

*We thank You, God, for life and trust, for knowledge and abilities...  
for help and strength, for our souls and our minds.*

*We thank You, God, for people who care about others and who allow you to be yourself...  
for happiness and holidays, for fun and laughter.*

*We thank You, God, for allowing us to live in freedom.*

*We thank You, God, for everything You have created.  
In light of recent events, I would add:*

*We hope for strength and wisdom that will enable people to remain in their homes.*

*We hope for greater understanding and conciliation that will end senseless acts of  
violence against civilians, such as the attacks in Mumbai on November 26.*

*We hope for leadership from national officials that will see the path of compromise and  
negotiation as preferable to inflammatory rhetoric and war.*

*We hope for more glimpses of peace in the days to come, for which we will be able to  
express heartfelt thanksgiving.*

*May we hold on to both our gratitude and our hope which, we know, can bring to a world  
the healing and renewal it desperately needs.*

***-- L'shalom,  
Rabbi Larry K.***