

**November 3, 2008**

*Dear Friends,*

*This is an Erev Election (Election Eve) message!*

*Hopefully, all of us who are registered voters will go to the polls tomorrow (or have already voted) to fulfill our responsibility as citizens and community members.*

*This election falls in between two significant Torah readings - the story of Noah and his family (this past Shabbat) and the beginning of Abram's journey from his homeland. The covenant that follows the flood is marked by the rainbow, which we often view as a symbol of hope. The Torah portion marking the beginning of Abram's trek, LECH L'CHA, declared that, by taking steps forward, Abram would "be a blessing." We are taught to seek the welfare of our community, and one of the ways that we "bring blessing" is by making our voice heard through the ballot box.*

*I leave you with the prayer for our country from the new prayerbook, MISHKAN T'FILAH:*

*O Guardian of life and liberty, may our nation always merit Your protection.*

*Teach us to give thanks for what we have by sharing it with those who are in need.*

*Keep our eyes open to the wonders of creation, and alert to the care of the earth.*

*May we never be lazy in the work of peace. May we honor those who have died in defense of our ideals. Grant our leaders wisdom and forbearance. May they govern with justice and compassion. Help us all to appreciate one another, and to respect the many ways that we may serve You. May our homes be safe from affliction and strife, and our country be sound in body and spirit. Amen.*

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