

October 2 & October 10, 2008

On our Place and Role in Creation Inspired by The Splendor of Creation, by Ellen Bernstein (For the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah, October 1, 2008)

Eternal One, on this Birthday of the World, we approach creation with wonder, gratitude and awe.

You have given us light to see the path before us and provided us with darkness to find peace and contemplate the next steps to take on our journey.

*You have enveloped the earth with a blanket that enables animals and plants to live, protecting us from the airless vacuum just beyond our planet.
You have made our steps firm upon the earth and given us insight and ability that allow us to move upon waves and streams and through the air high above us.*

You have taught us about our own diversity through the many species and colors which catch our gaze and our interest, all the while reminding us that much of what is inside reveals the similarity and symmetry within the world.

You have given us a sacred task – to be responsible for caring for the world that we did not create as if we had created it, remembering all the while that we are part of it.

And on this New Year, and other days when we mark sacred time, may we be moved by the peace of the day to preserve the serenity of nature and to be partners with each other in maintaining the well-being of our world so that it can sustain us.

*Be with us as we approach this sacred mission together.
Amen.*

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

October 10, 2008

Shabbat Shalom!

May my discourse come down as the rain, my speech distill as dew. For the name of the Eternal I proclaim; give glory to our God.

These words are from this week's Torah reading, Ha'azinu (Deuteronomy Chapter 32), a passage known as the "Song of Moses." This poem may come from a time much later than the end of the Exodus and the time of Moses' leadership. The main theme of Haazinu is the hope that the people would maintain their trust in divine teachings and their faith in the cohesiveness of their community.

As we conclude the High Holy Days and prepare to celebrate the harvest festival of Sukkot, we move from singing a song of hope of forgiveness to one of thanksgiving for the many gifts in our lives, including the blessings of nature, learning and unity. It was inspiring to listen to so many voices joining together in prayer and song over the last two weeks. May we continue to "sing our song" in the coming months, engendering a sense of harmony and purpose among ourselves and within the greater community!

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