

ROSH HASHANAH (2009/5770) INTRODUCTORY REMARKS  
WORDS OF WELCOME  
Rabbi Jamie Arnold

It is true. We Jews have an order for everything. First, the wine, then the challah then the apples and honey. First the gefilta fish then the chicken soup, then the main course. There is even an order, a *seder*, for the greetings on such occasions as this, a double holiday. Shabbat And Rosh Hashanah. So you know the greetings: ***Gutte Shabbos***” or “***Shabbat Shalom.***” And for the holiday “***Gut yontif***” or “***Chag Sameach***” or for these High Holidays “***Shana Tovah...or L’shanah Tovah Tikateyvu.***” So now the riddle? Who remembers which one we say for the greeting for the weekly event or the annual event? Which greeting gets priority when the New Year falls on the Sabbath?

Here’s a hint: Repetition breeds affection.

With each day, each Sabbath, and each year, my love and respect for you (and this place) grows. The Jewish communal life you are creating in and around this beautiful building -- we’ve got a good thing going here. It has been a year with challenges, for sure – the economy, losses of jobs and pensions, illness, aging and ailing parents, and the loss of loved ones. For those suffering tonight, you have our sympathies. And I know I speak for many in this room when I say, “we hope to have the opportunity to translate our sympathy into substantial support.” We know it has not been an easy year.

And yet, *baruch hashem*, we are here once again and grateful to be alive. And when I look back upon this year there is a lot to give us hope. Here at CBE, I think of the amazing array of Chai times events that fostered new friendships, good food, a CBE Judaica Boutique in the glass cabinets outside Neshama’s and my offices, a successful softball season – especially for the Hebrew Nationals; ...the joys and laughter and mitzvoth we have shared, we’ve got a good thing going here. And personally, I am blessed to be a part of a loving home, dynamic family and vibrant and caring community. I am grateful to have meaningful work in a beautiful setting. And not least of all, x-rays tell me I am finally fracture free. God-willing I’ll be back on the slopes this coming season. So, it is easy to smile with optimism as I greet you, as we together welcome the a new Shabbos and a New Year.

***Gut Shabbos***...may you be blessed with tranquility and peace as we complete this week together. ***Gut Yontif***...May the year, the redirection, rededication, and renewal we initiate tonight inscribe for us another year of Life filled with all that is Good and Sweet.

***Shabbat Shalom. And Shanah Tovah.***

## KAVANNAH FOR KIDDUSH:

Now we put into practice the ideals described earlier. Now, we understand anew the reason that we pause before we sip the wine to appreciate this gift – this wine, this moment, this new year. The brachah the Kiddush is our reminder to drink (and eat) with AWARENESS. Awareness that this day, like this wine is more than nourishment. It is a taste of nature itself, a taste of creation as it was in the beginning, pure and pristine and perfect, whole and holy. And with this unique gift of awareness and wisdom, we have transcend our natures as we empty them – to elevate the mundane act of eating something more – and act of remembrance – of of who we are and who we are meant to become, of our bondage and our freedom, of our connectedness to one another, to the earth and the seed and the vine and the vineyard and its keeper and its barrelmaker and distributor and retailer and the artists and writers that crafted labels and reviews and publicity and the driver and the salesclerk and the hungry and the thirsty and One that connects us all – L'Chaim, to life.

**With memory, love and awareness, let us, with one Kiddush prayer, bless both the 7<sup>th</sup> day and the onset of the 7<sup>th</sup> month and everything in between. Please rise.**  
*Vay'chulu* pg. 132 then P. 1198