

## **Rabbi Lewis' Message for October, 2012**

To the congregation,

The benediction below is always a work in progress. I modify it every year as I try to include all the contributions you have all made to this congregation. I hope you recognize yourselves in it. Please take a moment to enjoy the blessings you have received from the hands of others as well as those granted to us by the Holy One of Blessing.

### **A Blessing for the Weeders: Benediction for a Small Congregation 2012**

“You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God – your tribal heads, your elders, and your officials, all the men of Israel, your children, your wives, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to waterdrawer – to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God...” Deuteronomy 1:9-11

*Atem nitzavim hayom kulchem lifnai Adonai Eloheychem*

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

From woodchopper to waterdrawer

From weeder to planter

From painter to bulb changer

From flower arranger to ark curtain hanger

From Torah roller to Torah reader

From webmaster to newsletter editor

From Torah silver selector to tallit ironer

From service usher to front row worshipper

From craft creator to memorial board hanger

From potluck chef to garden donator

From gatherer of rummage to teacher of tunes

From bean pickers to apple gleaners

From caterer to Torah acquirer

From ritual planner to snack provider

From haftarah chanter to challah baker

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

From student of Torah to teacher of Torah

From balancer of books to payer of bills

From mopper of floors to unstopper of sinks

From teacher of Hebrew to student of Hebrew

From rider of lift to raiser of Sukkah

From spreader of salt to twister of yahrzeit bulbs

From maker of coffee to purchaser of cups

From sender of sunshine to mailer of college packages

From singer of songs to performer of mitzvot

From organizer of oneg to assigner of honors

From plotter of cemetery to recycler of trash

From discussants of books to packers of mishloach manot

From blower of shofar to builder of ark

From installer of carpet to bearer of Torah

From hoster of oneg to performer of talent

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord Your God

The one who says yes when asked

The one who say yes before being asked

The one who brings goats for petting

The one who watches for the sun's setting

The one who arrives first and the one who cleans up last

The one who brings snack and the one who picks up trash

The one who sits and the one who stands

The one who judges talent and the ones who share their talents

The one who convenes and the one who attends

The one who sheds tears and the one who wipes them away

The one who welcomes the stranger and the one who blesses the sick

The one who mourns and the one who rejoices

*Atem nitzavim hayom kulchem lifnai Adonai Eloheychem*

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

Those who are standing here with us this day

Those who are not with us here this day

Those who were here in years past

And those who are yet to be born.

And for all of you *g'mar hatima tova*, may you be sealed for a good year.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis