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Kallah 5785 Rosh Chodesh Elul Tish

Led by Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel and Dr. Gordon Dale

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Makom Bina by Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz

V'hachochma m'ayin timatzeh, v'eizeh makom bina.
Hen yirat Adonai hi chochma, v'sur mera bina.

וְהַחֲכָמָה מֵאֵינָן תִּמָּצֵא וְאֵי זֶה מְקוֹם בִּינָה
הֵן יִרְאֵת אֲדֹנָי-שֵׁם הִיא הַחֲכָמָה וְסוּר מֵרַע בִּינָה:

Translation:

Wisdom, where can it be found?
Where is the place of true knowledge?
The fear of God- that is wisdom.
Departing from sin- that is true knowledge.
[Words from Job 28:12, 28:28.]

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i am running into a new year

By Lucille Clifton

i am running into a new year
and the old years blow back
like a wind
that i catch in my hair
like strong fingers like
all my old promises and
it will be hard to let go
of what i said to myself
about myself
when i was sixteen and
twenty-six and thirty-six
even thirty-six but
i am running into a new year
and i beg what i love and
i leave to forgive me

Clifton, Lucille. 1987. *Good Woman: Poems and a Memoir 1969-1980*. BOA Editions, Ltd.

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L'ma'anacha by Eitan Katz

L'maancha Elokeinu 'aseh velo lanu
re'eh amidatenu dalim vereikim

למענך אלקינו עשה ולא לנו
ראה עמידתנו, דלים ורקים

Ha neshamah lach vehaguf po'olach
chusah 'al amalach Ha neshamah lach

הנשמה לך והגוף פועלך
חוסה על עמלך הנשמה לך

Translation:

Act for your own sake, our God, and not for us
Behold our position, impoverished and empty
The soul is yours, and the body is your handiwork
Have mercy on your creation

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Kol Yerida Nigun by Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel

Kol yerida l'tzorech aliyah
Yai dai dai dai dai dai, yai dai dai dai dai dai
Yai dai dai dai dai dai, yai dai dai dai

כל ירידה לצורך עליה

Translation:

Every descent is for the sake of rising
[Lyrics based on the teachings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov. See Likutei Moharan I:22.]

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2015 / Elul 5775 / entering 5776

When the list of school supplies arrives
my heart skips a beat. I'm not ready.

How can I be surprised? I've known all
along
how one month follows the next, but

kindergarten looms. (Not, though,
for the five year old. Time renews itself

every time he opens his eyes.) When the
days
of awe appear again on the horizon

my heart skips a beat. I'm not ready.
How can I be surprised? I've known all
along

how the spiral of the year recycles end
into beginning again. Another summer

yields with less or more grace to fall
and I do too. Sometimes my gears grind,

I wish tomorrow would come sooner
or yesterday would return. I blink

and a month disappears. Where was I?
How can I be surprised? I've known all
along

without my attention next new moon won't
be
the world's birthday, just a night with less
light.

And this impossibly precious moment
when I could be cupping my hand

to the side of your face with tenderness --
gone like the numbers on a digital clock.

But if I stop to see what's in front of me
and choose the blessing in it, if I

sanctify the threshold between now
and what comes after now, and after now,

then every moment gleams, infinite
as the love which links your heart and mine.

poem by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, 2015

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Heart of Mine by Cantor Marsha Attie

Oh, heart of mine
Lost and find my home is sometimes near and sometimes far
It's always changing
Oh, heart of mine
Take the time to feel the sadness
Love is always near
It seems they go together
The walls are coming down and down and down
And life is going round and round and round
And love it will be found and found and found
It's all inside of you
Oh, moon of mine
To see you shine is like as if to with upon a star
I'm so glad to see you
Oh, moon of mine
Night is time for love and wonder spread across the sky
What would we do without you
The walls are coming down and down and down
And life is going round and round and round
And love it will be found and found and found
It's all inside of you
All inside
The walls are coming down and down and down
And life is going round and round and round
And love it will be found and found and found
It's all inside of you
Oh, friend of mine
Eyes that shine so bright and help me feel that I am not alone
How can I ever thank you
Oh, friend of mine
Space nor time will break the bond that holds my heart with yours
I'll always love you
The walls keep coming down and down and down
And life keeps going round and round and round
And love it's always found and found and found
It's all inside of you
All inside of you
All inside of you
All inside of you