



September 11th Tenth Anniversary Tree Planting Ceremony

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. To commemorate this tragic event, Reform congregations are marking the anniversary with special services, programs and events. For more information, please visit: rac.org/specialresources/tenyearsater.

Hineih Mah Tovu

הִנֵּה מָה טוֹב וְיָמָה נְעִים שְׁבֵת אָחִים גַּם יַחַד

Hineih mah tov u'mah na-im shevet achim gam yachad.

How good and how pleasant it is that brothers/sisters dwell together. *Psalm 133:1*

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### Esa Einai

אֲשָׂא עֵינַי אֶל הַהָרִים, מֵאֵין יָבֵא עֲזָרִי. עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה, עֲשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ.

*Esa einai el beharim, mei-ayin yavo ezri? Ezri mei-im Adonai, osei shamayim vaaretz.*

I lift my eyes to the mountains from where does my help come? My help comes from God, maker of heaven and earth. *Psalm 121:1-2*

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Returning the “Survivor Tree” to the World Trade Center Site: A Sign of Resilience and Rebirth

In October 2001, a pear tree with lifeless limbs, snapped roots and blackened trunk was discovered and freed from the piles of smoldering rubble in the plaza of the World Trade Center.

The tree had been planted in the 1970s in the World Trade Center complex, near Church Street. The damaged tree measured eight-feet tall when it arrived in November 2001 at the Parks Department’s Nursery. Its damaged limbs were pruned, leaving a blackened trunk with tiny roots to be planted. Year by year, with the tender care and attention, the tree has grown to greater and greater height, sprouting branches and bountiful leaves. Today, it is known as the “Survivor Tree.”

After it had grown to a height of about 30 feet, the tree was returned to the World Trade Center site in December 2010. At the replanting ceremony 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels remarked, “This stalwart pear tree is a living symbol for everyone who survived the terrorist attacks and everyone around the world who has shown strength and resilience in the face of devastation.”

Adapted from www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/DocServer/SurvivorsWTCReturnFinal.pdf

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## Survivor Tree

I look at you now, wise and weathered soul,  
Seen a lot, I bet you have, on these grounds, these grounds of the lost ones,

I look at you, symbolizing something, I know it, I can't figure out,  
Seems a while ago, evil lurking now in more powerful ways, but I remember you,  
8, I was, young I know, but I remember you.

Look out at these lost souls,  
Protect them in their piece,  
Deserving tranquility I know it's now your time.

I look at you now, respect in my glaring crystal eyes,  
Seen a lot, unfortunate one, on this memorial site,  
I look at you, looking back at me, dancing in this boisterous air,  
Alive and kicking, fortunate flow,  
Young, naïve I was, taking it back, watching suffering of the souls on the square box, then running  
out with  
joyful face, ignorance is bliss, they may say, but I say sorry, I remember you.

Duty you have,  
To stand over these grounds,  
Keep this in mind...  
Enjoy tomorrow.

[www.poemofquotes.com/members/sad-poetry/survivor\\_tree](http://www.poemofquotes.com/members/sad-poetry/survivor_tree)

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This morning we plant our own fruit tree in memory of those who died ten years ago in the attacks of 9/11. We plant this tree to remember and to heal. May the roots of our tree grow strong and support blossoms of tolerance and fruits of peace.

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## Blessing for Social Action

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו לרדוף צדק.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu lir'dof tzedek.*

Praised are You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, who hallows us with  
Your mitzvot and commands us to pursue justice.

<http://urj.org/socialaction/judaism>

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November 2001



Photo: Michael Brown
Parks Department

While the sage Choni was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree. Choni asked him: "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" "Seventy years," replied the man.

Choni then asked: "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?" The man answered: "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise, I am planted for my children."
Babylonian Talmud Ta'anit 23a

April 2009

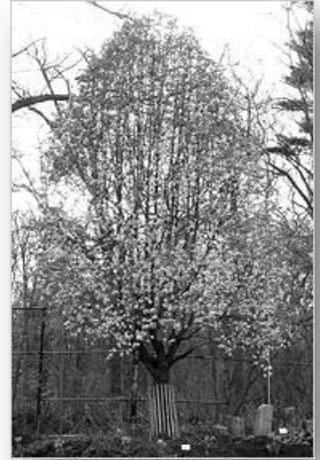


Photo: David W. Dunlap
The New York Times

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### Prayer For Peace

Grant us strength, God,  
to bring peace to Your world.  
Guide our hands to dismantle injustice;  
hone our ears to hear others' cries.  
Blunt our tongues from uttering malice;  
blind us not, God, open our eyes.  
Then can we reach out in friendship;  
our hearts will listen for pain.  
Then we will speak only kindness;  
and we'll walk without apathy's cane.

Grant us strength, God,  
to bring peace to Your world.  
*Covenant of the Soul, Women of Reform Judaism, 2000.*

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Oseh Shalom

עוֹשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵינוּ, נַעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן
Oseh shalom bimromav, hu yaaseh shalom aleinu, v'al kol Yisrael v'imru. Amen
May the One who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us and all Israel. Amen.

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We did not make this world; we are its product and not its producers. But it is ours to enjoy, to explore, and most of all, to protect. We protect it by planting and by remembering and by connecting, from generation to generation.

*We plant to remember, to remind, to keep and to connect with God's Creation, our home.*

Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai said, "If you are in the midst of planting a tree and word reaches you that the Messiah has arrived, do not interrupt your work; first finish your planting and only then go out to welcome the Messiah." (From Avot de-Rabbi Nathan)

*It is our prayer, in the words of Jeremiah and the Psalmists, "that this tree shall continue to flourish." May its foliage be luxuriant, and may all that it does prosper.* <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Judaism>

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בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, עוֹשֶׂה מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרָאשִׁית

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh Ha'olam oseh ma'aseh b'reshit.

Praised are You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe,
Who makes the works of creation.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לְיָמֵן הַזֶּה

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh Ha'olam, shebecheyanu, v'kimanu,
v'bigianu laz'man hazeh.*

Praised are You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, who has kept us in life,
and preserved us, and enabled us to reach this season.

[Plant the fruit tree.]

Lo Yisa Goi

לֹא יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל-גּוֹי חֶרֶב וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה:

Lo Yisa goi el goi cherev, v'lo yilm'du od milchamah

Nation shall not take up sword against nation; they shall never again study war.

Isaiah 2:4