

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL
BRONX, NEW YORK

Chaplains

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NEW YEAR MESSAGE - 5610

The season of the sounding of the Shofar is upon us. It is the time for remembrance and reflection and "Return unto God."

The advent of the New Year should open our eyes to remember our call and our responsibility in the world which the "Ancient of days" is fashioning anew. The Shofar is a summons from the Ruler of the Universe whose name is Peace and whose purpose is the victory of man - not through devastation wrought by might and power but through reconstruction in His Spirit. "Then shall the just see and be glad and the upright shall exult."

How thrilling that the God of history should again assign Israel, His banner-bearer from of old, to march in the vanguard of civilization. The land of Israel is witnessing not alone the ingathering of the exiles but Israel's rebirth and the massing of the spirit of "the wave of the future." "Thus saith the Lord God: 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain that they may live.'" (Ezekial 37:9).

The notes of the Shofar call for harmony and unity and faith in the victories of peace which God shall make Israel achieve and which cannot but bring a happier destiny to all.

May our repentance and our prayer and our charity expressed in Jewish unity and in wise statesmanship, avert whatever evil may still be lurking. May our future as a people, and as men and women, belong in the book of blessing and of peace, in which also the destiny of all peoples shall be writ large.

May you and all yours be inscribed unto a good year!

Abraham Nowak
ABRAHAM NOWAK, Chaplain

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