

Finding Strength and Hope in the New Year

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Yeshiva University Office of the President



From the desk of
Rabbi Dr. Ari Berma

My Dear Friends,

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, we find ourselves reflecting on a year that has tested us in ways we could never have imagined. Our Yeshiva University community mourned the loss of our brothers and sisters, advocated on behalf of our hostages and prayed for the safe return of those displaced from their homes. As a father of children living in Israel, one an IDF combat soldier twice called to duty this year, I have never felt the same sense of vulnerability that I have experienced this year. Today's news with Israel under attack highlights the real and present danger felt throughout the Jewish world.

Yet at the same time, I have never felt the same pride and belief in our future. We have experienced miracles throughout this year, feeling God's presence with us and protecting us. We feel strength through the resilience and solidarity of the Jewish people, as well as the support of partners and allies throughout this country and the world. And we have been profoundly inspired by the devotion and commitment of our next generation.

With all that has happened to the Jewish people this year, I am so inspired by seeing our students rise up with the values and confidence to be the leaders of tomorrow.

In our lives, this sense of hope for the future is beautifully captured in the words of Hatikvah. More than just a song, Hatikvah teaches us to look beyond the antisemitism and oppression to the glory. It looks beyond the terror and the challenges to a magnificent future. It reminds us to be grateful for our past but to keep our focus on tomorrow's opportunities. It helps us remember our Zionist founders while looking at the young people who will shape tomorrow.



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For Rabbi Berman's full remarks [click here](#)

One of the most powerful experiences for me this year has been standing on campus with thousands of our students singing Hatikvah. At Yeshiva University, we sing Hatikvah at every game, event and graduation, as our students represent the hope for tomorrow.

Hatikvah always moves me emotionally and never more than this year. As we begin this new year, it continues to carry me across the abyss of despair to a place of possibility.

May Hashem bless Israel with victory. May every hostage return home. May every soldier come back safely. I leave you on this erev Rosh Hashanah with a bracha, a blessing as

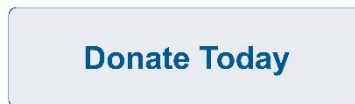
simple as Israel's national anthem. May your eyes always look in the direction of Zion as an am chofshi b'artzenu. May Hashem bless you with courage and strength for the challenges ahead. May you sing Hatikvah louder and prouder than ever. And may you remember all those who this year laid down their lives to protect ours, and all those who have come before us carrying with them the future of the Jewish people. They never gave up hope. We will never give up hope.

Am Yisrael Chai.

Shanah Tovah to you and your family,



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President, Yeshiva University



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