

BLESSINGS FOR A YEAR OF JUSTICE

A Rosh Hashanah Seder

To express our dreams and desires for the year to come, we invite you to join AJWS in a Rosh Hashanah Seder—a feast for justice—inspired by the tradition of Jews from Spain, North Africa, the Middle East and other lands to celebrate the Jewish New Year by blessing and eating a series of symbolic foods, *simanim*. Before we taste each food, we offer a blessing that begins with the traditional invocation for mercy, “*Harachaman*.” Each blessing is both a plea and a call to action for each of us to manifest mercy and justice in the year ahead.

May these foods fulfill our hopes for a year of sweetness, health, sustenance, peace and change—on the heels of a year marked by immeasurable loss. May we receive and act with mercy, for ourselves, our loved ones and all of humanity. And more than ever, may we work together to bring about a more just and equitable world, in which every person lives in health and safety.



APPLES AND HONEY

Blessings for Sweetness

Harachaman: May we find mercy in the sweetness of a new year. May the freshness of this apple awaken our belief in the kinship of all humanity, and may the sweetness of this honey revive our hope that joy lies ahead of us. *Amen*.



CELERY

Blessings for Health

Harachaman: May we find mercy in the restorative power of our bodies. As unprecedented sickness continues to strike millions across the globe, may each of us and all people be healthy in body and spirit, growing strong and verdant like these celery stalks. *Amen*.



MAIZE

Blessings for Sustenance

Harachaman: May we find mercy in the comfort of food that sustains us. Following a year in which countless people lost their livelihoods and suffered from hunger, may we draw on the nourishment of a food that sustains millions of people worldwide, and sow seeds for a world in which every person has the resources they need to thrive. *Amen*.



OLIVES

Blessings for Peace

Harachaman: May we find mercy in striving for a world of peace for all. May all those who suffer from the devastation of war and conflict see a swift end to violence and achieve just restitution. May we have the wisdom to extend olive branches to those who seek them, and may we find peace and sanctuary to sustain us through the year ahead. *Amen*.



CHALLAH

Blessings for Justice

Harachaman: May we find mercy in rising together to bring justice to our world. May our voices grow stronger and more numerous, expanding like the yeast in this bread to stop bigotry, violence and oppression. May we work to ensure that all of humanity can live in dignity, and break bread together this year in a more just and equitable world. *Amen*.

For additional social justice rituals for Jewish holidays, visit ajws.org/holidays.

