

## ***A Mi Sheberach<sup>1</sup> for Immigrants to America***

Rosh Hashanah morning, 1 Tishrei 5774, September 5, 2013

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker, Mount Zion Temple

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*This mi sheberach prayer is for all who are in our sanctuary who immigrated to the United States and for all who have a parent who immigrated here, or a grandparent or a great-grandparent, or ancestor. In essence, this mi sheberach is for all of us.*

*Mi sheberach avoteinu v'imoteinu...* may God who blessed our immigrant ancestors, who left their homes because of the pain that was known and entered new lands with pains that could not be imagined, who left Egypt, who left Spain and Russia, Iraq, Greece, and Germany, bless all who came to America and found refuge, and all whose parents, grandparents, great grandparents, or ancestors came to these shores beckoned by promise, liberty, and opportunity.

In this holy place and time we acknowledge the depth of our connection with our people's story both ancient and modern. We remember on this Day of Remembrance, Yom haZikaron, what it was like for us or for our ancestors to immigrate to this country and are mindful of Leviticus' strong command repeated in similar verse 35 times in Torah: "When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (19:33-34)

We acknowledge on this day that we live in an America where immigration policies are broken. As we stand today before an open *sefer Torah* on our holy day—may we remain open to the possibility of comprehensive change in our immigration system.

May we remain open to the suffering of eleven million people who are undocumented, some say illegal, whose lives and whose children's' lives are limited every day because of their uncertain status. May we strive to balance our needed protections with their real, daily challenges as we work for clear, empathetic, and realistic policies.

May the Holy One of Blessing inscribe and seal all of us into the Book of Good Life, together with all our fellow citizens, all who seek that claim, and all in our communities. And let us say, Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> *Mi Sheberach* means "May the One Who Blessed" and is the introduction to a prayer to God on behalf of an individual or group. It has many forms, the most well-known being the *Mi Sheberach* for healing.