

Book of Prayers

By Judy Belsky

I inherit

a small gilt-edged
book of prayers from my grandmother
the one I am named for
the one I never knew

on Yom Kippur I get to know her
her prayers next to mine
faint prints of her hand
impressed in vellum
lead like land routes on an ancient map

the delicate lace of her breath
held over the words
because of our sins
we are captives from our land ...
gather our dispersed ...
bring us ... to Jerusalem ...
with everlasting joy

at Next Year in Jerusalem
traces of tears
one hundred years old

when this volume is new
her young husband dies
her dowry spent
she travels back to Oran
to sell parcels of land
to feed her children

now she lays claim to this palm-sized plot of land
cramped with blessing and request

in the flyleaf I run my finger
along the cursive of our name
Judith Benoliel
403 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester
her address
emblem of exile
for every place we pretend is home
in seventy languages we mime
in air we imagine is familiar
we spin endless versions of home
Spain
Gibraltar
Manchester
Seattle

we leave behind cornerstones
headstones
genizah
prayers that burst from our lips
now cling to parchment

but that is before
we cross back over the ocean
routes converge
shadow play falls away

Jerusalem
ancient mother
reaches out to us
with sleeves of silk
her hills encircle us

in her fragrant embrace
we breathe deep
awaken and say:
I was asleep
I was asleep
but my heart was awake

Judy Belsky, PhD, is a psychologist in Jerusalem and Ramat Beit Shemesh. She is the director of MASK Jerusalem, a support network for parents of kids at risk. Her poetry has been published in numerous journals. She is the author of Thread of Blue (Jerusalem, 2002) and a recently completed memoir.

Enhance Your Yom Tov Table with **BARTENURA Wines** *Imported from Italy*

L'Shana Tova!

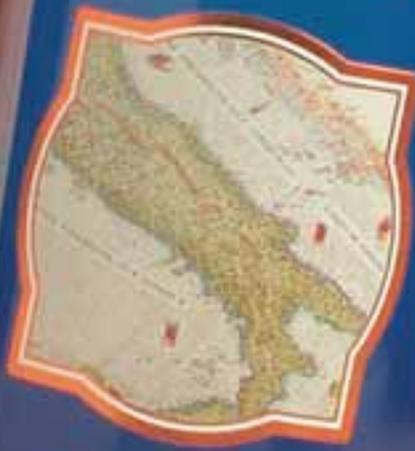
BARTENURA
PRODUCT OF ITALY



MALVASIA
DI CASTELNUOVO DON BOSCO
DENOMINAZIONE DI ORIGINE CONTROLLATA
RED WINE

ALC. 55% BY VOL.

BARTENURA
PRODUCT OF ITALY



Product of Italy / Produit d'Italie

MOSCATO
WHITE WINE

750 ml

alc/vol 5%



Imported by
Royal Wine Corp.
New York, NY



Happy New Planes. Happy New Nonstops. Happy New Innovations. Happy New Year.



Shana Tova! At EL AL we've had a great year. We launched the only nonstops from Miami and Los Angeles to Tel Aviv. Our planes got an upgrade, with wireless Internet access already installed on select 777's and 747's, and coming to our entire fleet soon. And that's in addition to the personal TV screens at every seat in all three classes of service and the wide selection of in-flight entertainment we've always offered. We also took our menu of authentic Israeli and international cuisines to new heights, with a new array of healthy meals.

And, as if all of that weren't enough, in the coming months we look forward to adding even more state-of-the-art 777 luxury aircraft to our routes. We hope you'll join us in the year ahead and experience the genuine Israeli welcome only EL AL can offer.

Call 212-768-9200, 1-800-223-6700 or any travel agent.
Visit us online at www.elal.com