Greeting One Another

As we come together, let's greet one another with a familiar song: Hinnei Mah-Tov.

היה מה טוב וmah-na'im, she-vet amm-im gam ya-chad.
Hinnei mah tov, she-vet ach-im gam ya-chad.

See how good it is - how wonderful! - when peoples come together. (Psalms 133:1, adapted)

Why Now?

When you think about it, fall is an odd time in which to mark a New Year—even the Torah says that the New Year happens in the spring!

Not while the snow-shroud round dead earth is rolled,
And naked branches point to frozen skies.—

When orchards burn their lamps of fiery gold,
The grape glows like a jewel, and the corn
A sea of beauty and abundance lies,
Then the new year is born.

As all these pass on, we look at our lives,
Renewing before the dark of winter.

(First two stanzas from Emma Lazarus, “The New Year”; final stanza by Jeremy Kridel)

Something to think about: why do we celebrate Rosh Hashanah in the fall?
We arrive bearing the last year’s load of leaven. Triumphs and failures, Missed chances, Joys and sorrows.

At *tashlikh*, we cast away the staler bits; Throw aside our regrets, Like so many breadcrumbs Carried off in water.

**If we cast away our ills, what do we lose?**
**Can we learn from mistakes?**
**Might good turn bad?**
**Might bad be made good?**

This *tashlikh* let’s not cast our selves away. We’ll keep the crumbs of our pasts, Hold tight these few morsels - The bread of our lives.

*(Jeremy Kridel)*

(Now we’ll do the core of the *tashlikh* ceremony by casting bits of bread to be carried away in the water. As you cast the bread, consider what negative aspects of the prior year you’d like to cast away.)

**Humanistic Al Cheit**

Having symbolically cast away the pains and regrets of the prior year as individuals, let us now acknowledge our errors to one another with a secular humanistic version of the traditional *Al Cheit*, the High Holidays confessional:
Let this be our confession.
For the sin I committed against you.

For the sins we’ve committed against one another.
For indifference.
And for interference.

For minor slights.
And for outrageous affronts.

For forgetting.
And for reminding.

For ignoring.
And for pointing out.

Forgive me; pardon me - as I pardon you.

(Jeremy Kridel)

Wishing Each Other Peace

As we conclude our tashlikh service, let us wish one another peace—and may we work together for peace in the coming year.

Let us work to create peace here on earth, for us and for all peoples. And let us say, “Shalom.”

Please feel free to enjoy our surroundings.
May they bring you a sense of peace and comfort as we begin the New Year.