

## A Kavanah for Erev Shabbat HaAviv

Gather around the Shabbat candles. Before lighting the candles, have each person share a favourite memory of this past winter.

Once everyone has had a chance to share, have someone read aloud Genesis 1:14:

**וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים, יְהִי מְאֹרֹת בְּרָקִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם, לְהַבְדִּיל, בֵּין הַיּוֹם וּבֵין הַלַּיְלָה; וְהָיוּ לְאֹתֹת וּלְמוֹעֲדִים, וּלְיָמִים וְשָׁנִים.**

And The Eternal One said: 'Let there be lights in the expanses of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years.'

Have everyone go around again, this time sharing something they are looking forward to this spring. After, have someone read aloud Hosea 6:3:

**וְנִדְעָה נְרִדְפָה, לְדַעַת אֶת-יְיָ, כְּשַׁחַר, נָכוֹן מִצָּאוּ; וַיָּבֹא כְּגֶשֶׁם לָנוּ, כִּמְלֶקֶשׁ יוֹרֵה אֶרֶץ.**

And let us know, eagerly strive to know The Eternal One, G-d will come to us sure as the morning comes; and G-d shall come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that waters the earth.

Now light the Shabbat candles.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.**

Blessed are You, Eternal One our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, Who has made us Holy with your *mitzvot* and have obligated us to light the Shabbat flame.

After wishing everyone a Shabbat Shalom, conclude with reciting Song of Songs 2:11-12:

**כִּי-הִנֵּה הִסְתּוֹ, עָבַר; הַגֶּשֶׁם, חָלַף הֵלֵךְ לוֹ. הַנְּצַנִּים נָרְאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ, עַת הַזְּמִיר הִגִּיעַ; וְקוֹל הַתּוֹר, נִשְׁמַע בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ.**

Behold, the winter has past; the rain is over and gone. Flowers appear across the fields, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

**Happy Spring and Shabbat Shalom!**

Reb Yaakov Reef, Shabbat HaAviv 5775