

On Yom Kippur this year we sang “*Ner Adonai Nishmat Adam*”. The lamp of God is the soul of a person. Our rabbis teach that Torah is the path that leads us to find the light in another’s soul. Mussar instructs us to honor each and every person we meet by acknowledging that spark. My mother-in-law of blessed memory instinctively knew that. She would often take someone’s hands, smilingly look deep into his or her eyes and want to know all about that individual. According to Pirkei Avot 4:15, “Who is honored? One who honors others.” It was said that Rabbi Yochannan ben Zakkai was always the first to greet each and everyone he met on his way.

May we honor others by seeking that divine spark in each of us. Allow us to look for Your inspiration in every individual in our sphere from our family and close associates to the panhandler on the street to those whose beliefs and life styles conflict with our own. Enable us to look for that connection in all we meet so that jealousy and fear may fall away, so that we speak of others with honor, avoiding gossip and judgment. May we reflect the light of Your Torah, oh Lord, by honoring those created in Your image. *Ner Adonai nishmat adam*.

Composed by	Rowena Chodorow
Blessing theme	Honoring others