It is customary to precede the family meal with special foods chosen symbolically and eaten with appropriate blessings and wishes suggested by their name or quality. Source: Talmud: Horayoth 12a & K’rithoth 6a: Said Abaye: Now that it has been said that omens are of significance, a man should make a regular habit of eating, at the beginning of the year, pumpkin, fenugreek (or black-eyed peas), leek, beet and dates.

(We do this after kiddush, but before amotzi since the amotzi would otherwise obviate the need for these additional blessings, although some say the yehi ratsones after amotzi with no additional blessings. We say the blessings “fruit of the tree” and “fruit of the earth” only once, some others repeat them for each food.)

These foods are:

APPLE DIPPED IN HONEY • MANSANA •

רְחֵץ מַלְפַּקְיָךְ, כִּי-אֲלוֹתֵינוּ אֲבֹאֶתֵינוּ, שֵׁלָמַחְתֶּךָ שָׁנוּבָה וְיֹסֵכֵּנָה

May it be Your will, Lord our God, God of our fathers, that the coming year be renewed for us as good and sweet one, from its beginning until its end.

Ladino: Sea velontad delantre de ti adonai nuestro dio y dio de nuestros padres ke se renove sovre nozotros anyada buena y dulse de presipio de el anyo y asta kavo de el anyo.

And Nehemiah said to them, go, eat rich dainties and drink sweet drinks, and send portions to him who has nothing ready, for today is holy to our Lord. Grieve not, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemia 8:10)

Ladino: I Nehemiah les dicho: va, kome komida rika i bividas dulces, i enbia porsyones a el que no tiene nada tamam, porque la dia es santo para muestro Adonai. No te afriyas, porque la alegria del Adonai es tu fortaleza.

Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.

LEEK • PRASSA •

( karti , the Hebrew word for leek, sounds like the Hebrew word for cut down, karet)

יִהְיֶה בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הָﬠֵץ כְּרֵתִי כּוֹמָה יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶֽי מְבַקְּשֵׁי רָעָתֵנוּ:יִ יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶֽי שׂוֹנְאֶי כָּרְתוּ אוֹיְבֶי אַלְשָׁפָה וְכָל אוֹיְבֶי עַל צָרֶי יִכָּרֵתוּ יָדְּךָ וְכָל אוֹיְבֶי עַל צָרֶי יִכָּרֵתוּ יָדְּךָ

May it be Your will, Lord our God, God of our fathers that You “cut off” our enemies and foes and all who seek evil for us. “Your hand shall be raised above your oppressors, and all your enemies shall be cut down.” (Micah 5:8)

[De Sola Pool: Like as we eat this leek, may our luck never lack in the year to come.]

Ladino: Sea velontad delantre de ti adonai nuestro dio y dio de nuestros padres ke se tajen tus enimigos y tus aboresyentes y todos bushkantes nuestro mal. Enaltese tu mano sovre tus angustiadores y todos tus enimigos seran tajados.

Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

(karti , the Hebrew word for leek, sounds like the Hebrew word for cut down , karet)
May it be Your will, Lord our God, God of our fathers that You remove our enemies and foes and all who seek evil for us. “Turn away from me, all you workers of iniquity, for the Lord has hearkened to the voice of my weeping.” “Turn away, get out of there, touch no unclean one; get out of its midst, purify yourselves, you who bear the Lord's vessels.” Psalms 6:9, Isaiah 52:11

[De Sola Pool: As we bite this beet, may those who in the past have beaten us or sought our harm beat to cover in the coming year]

Ladino: Sea velontad delantre de ti adonai nuestro dio y dio de nuestros padres ke se aparten tus enimigos y tus aboresyentes y todos bushkantes nuestro mal. Tiradvos de mi todos ovantes tortura ke oyo adonai boz de mi yoro tiradvos tiradvos salid de ayi enkanado non tokesh salid de entre eye se-ed limpyos yevantes armas de adonai.

(tam, the Hebrew word for beet, sounds like the Hebrew word for remove, salek. silka is the Aramaic word for spinach, so some use spinach instead, the tamudic source having been written in Aramaic.)

DATES • DATILES • שלמה

May it be Your will, Lord our God, God of our fathers that any bad decree be torn up and that our merits be read before You.

[De Sola Pool: May the coming year grow as a gourd in fullness of blessing. In the year to come, if enemies gird at us, mayest Thou guard us as we eat this gourd.]

Ladino: Sea velontad delantre de ti adonai nuestro dio y dio de nuestros padres ke se atemen tus enimigos y tus aboresyentes y todos bushkantes nuestro mal. Se atemen pecadores de la tierra y malos mas non aiga. Bendize mi alma a adoni y kon tus mersedes tajaras mis enimigos y depiedreras todos angustiadores de mi alma ke yo tu syervo.

(tamar, the Hebrew word for date sounds like the Hebrew word for cease, tam.)
May it be Your will, Lord our God, God of our fathers that our merits increase (like black-eyed peas).

Ladino: Sea velontad delantre de ti adonai muestro dio y dio de nuestros padres ke se menchuan muestro zachuyot.

(rubyah, the Hebrew word for black-eyed peas, sounds like the Hebrew word for increase, yirbu)

May it be Your will, Lord our God, God of our fathers, that our merits increase like the (many) seeds of the pomegranate.

Ladino: Sea velontad delantre de ti adonai muestro dio y dio de nuestros padres ke arazges malisya de setensya de muestro juzgo y ke se melden delantre de ti muestros zachuyot.

May it be Your will, Lord our God, God of our fathers that we be fruitful and multiply like fish.

Ladino: Sea velontad delantre de ti adonai muestro dio y dio de nuestros padres ke nos sea fructifera y se multiplican como los peshkados.

May it be Your will, Lord our God, God of our fathers, may we be the head and not the tail (Deuternonomy 28:13) (leaders and not followers). And remember for us the courage of Isaac.

Ladino: Sea velontad delantre de ti adonai muestro dio y dio de nuestros padres ke seiamos por kavesera y non por cola. Y acodra a nozotros su barvez de yitzchak muestro padre.