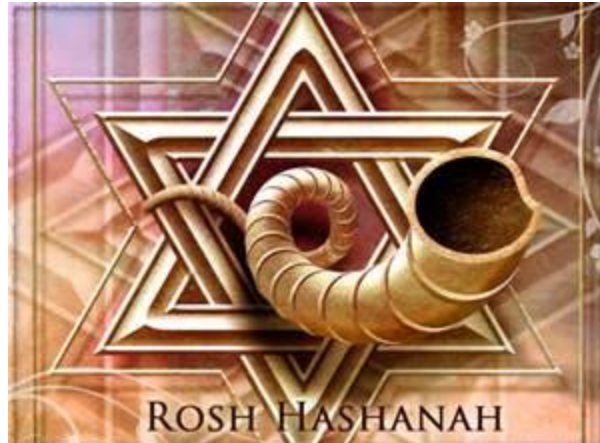


Rosh Hashanah



Rosh HaShanah (literally, "Head of the Year") is the Jewish New Year which marks the beginning of a 10-day period of prayer, self-examination and repentance: This period known as "Days of Awe" or High Holy Days" is observed by Jews with prayer and reflection in a synagogue or at home. It is customary to offer the greeting of "*Shanah Tovah*" (שנה טובה), which means "Good Year."

Rosh HaShanah is celebrated on the first day of the Hebrew month of **Tishrei**, which—because of differences in the solar and lunar calendar—corresponds to September or October on the secular calendar. Customs associated with the holiday include sounding the shofar, eating a round challah, and tasting apples and honey to welcome a sweet New Year.



Monmouth Reform Temple observes **Selichot** (Hebrew for forgiveness) the Saturday evening prior to Rosh HaShanah. This moving service focuses on forgiveness and urges us to reflect on the year that is ending. Spiritual music is performed by the Cantor and choir and, the shofar is blown, and we have a special ceremony whereby we change our Torah covers from colorful to white. We utter our first confession of the season, as well as *Sh'ma Koleynu*, asking God to hear our voices. This reminds us of the change in seasons, and also the inner change we experience each year on the holiest of days.

