Rosh Hashanah

Tradition: Judaism
September 18, 2020

Rosh HaShanah marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year and the “Birthday of the World”.

It is a time of deep introspection and self-examination that continues through Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement).

Extended Prayer services include hearing the sounding of the Shofar (Rams horn).

It is common for Jews to symbolically cast off their sins by throwing a small piece of bread into a body of water.

Campus Climate Considerations, some celebrating the holiday are...

☐ fasting
☒ traveling
☒ managing family expectations/obligations
☒ busy with holiday preparations/rituals

Student accommodations might include:

Assignment modifications, Excused absences, Other Accommodations (ask your classes!)

Work-Restricted?

Jewish observance begins at sundown before the first full day of the holiday. Traditionally no work is done during this time including driving which can result in time away from campus. Some observe Rosh Hashanah for 2 days while others only observe for 1 day.

What’s on the menu?

It is customary to eat sweet foods during this period of time to symbolically ensure a sweet New Year. Some Jews include a fish head on the table as it represents the head of the year.

What is the mood of this holiday?

(we realize that holidays are multilayered and complex; we are simply checking off a few moods to give people a tiny sense of the overall tone of the day)

☒ Celebratory
☐ Mournful
☐ Fun
☐ Reflective
☒ Serious

Greet your neighbor!

Shana Tova U’metukah - A Good and Sweet New Year often shortened to Shana Tova - A Good Year.

This fact sheet is part of DU’s new Religious Inclusivity Initiative. It is designed in consultation with scholars and practitioners and is meant as a practical go-to ‘beta’ resource, not a comprehensive or definitive presentation of any religion or holiday. Want to recommend a change? Want to suggest another holiday to feature? Contact Profs. Sarah Pessin & Andrea Stanton at cjso@du.edu

With support from the Paul and Caz Eldridge Endowed Fund for Judaic Studies and Cultural Diversity @ the University of Denver (DU), and presented as part of a new DU partnership with Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)