

Rosh Hashanah Dinner

By Custom & Craft



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

Happy New Year! Traditionally, the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, is a time of introspection and reflection. How did we do in the past year? What are we hoping to change in the coming year? During this meal we will rejoice in being together, and think backwards on the year that was, and forward to the year that will be. Plus delicious food, puns, and casting off some bad karma. To a sweet new year!

Candlelighting for Rosh Hashanah

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

Nearly all Jewish holiday begin with lighting candles, and so this one will, too. After we light the candles we wave our hands in three big horizontal circles to symbolically bring the light closer to us, and then cover our eyes while we say the blessing. When the blessing is over take a moment of silent reflection with your eyes covered, and then open your eyes and enjoy the beauty of candlelight, bringing you into the new year.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שְׁלִימוֹסָטוֹב

*Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel yom tov.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe,
who has sanctified us with commandments, and commanded us to light festival
candles.

WINE

Kiddush for Rosh Hashanah

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

Wine or grape juice are also standards of nearly every Jewish holiday. Before we eat we take a moment to say a blessing over a glass of wine. In this special version Rosh Hashanah is called Yom HaZikaron, the Day of Remembering, and Yom Truah, the Day of Calling Out. Tonight during our meal we will do some remembering, and some calling out. We will also focus on the gratitude we feel for the past year, and all of the blessings that it contained. L'chaim!

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha' olam borei peri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Shehechyanu

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

The shehechyanu blessing thanks the creator for giving us life, sustaining us, and allowing us to reach this day. This blessing is said at momentous occasions, and tonight counts because it is the night when we can finally look back on the whole previous year. We made it! Whether bitter or sweet, difficult or fun, tonight we celebrate and feel grateful for making it to today, and to this table to reflect with people we care about.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שְׁהַחַיְנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהַגִּיעְנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה

*Barukh ata adonai elohenu melekh ha'olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiyimanu,
v'higiyanu la'z'man ha'zeh*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe who has given us life, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this day.

CHALLAH

Blessing for Challah

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

Finally, time to begin eating! Challah is a yummy egg bread eaten on most Jewish holidays. On Rosh Hashanah the challah is in the shape of a circle, to symbolize the circle of time, and the fullness of the year that is coming. Many people eat raisin challah on Rosh Hashanah, and drizzle honey on top of it, for extra sweetness. Yum!

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
הַמּוֹצֵיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ

*Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam,
hamotzi lekhem min ha-aretz.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who brings forth bread from the earth.

Blessings for A Sweet New Year

Contributed by Custom & Craft

Source: Custom & Craft

The quintessential Rosh Hashanah treat is apples and honey. Take a sweet, crisp, apple and dip it in some honey. Before eating we say a mini-blessing, hoping that the year to come will be *tova umetukah*, good and sweet!

Pick up a slice of apple, dip it in honey, and say:

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam borei pri ha-eitz.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the tree.

Yehi ratzon lifanecha, Adonai Eloheinu, v'Elohai avoteinu, she'te'hadesh aleinu shanah tovah u'metukah.

May it be Your will, Eternal our God, that this be a good and sweet year for us.

Eat the apple dipped in honey.

Reinvented New Year's Food Puns

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

Maximum Pun Time. Get creative with puns in English to bring to your Rosh Hashanah table.

Do you wish that you will be the head and not the tail this year? Put a fish head on the table! Want to pare away your sins in the coming year? Eat a pear! Put a raisin with a stalk of celery if you're hoping for "a raise in salary." This is your time to be as creative as you'd like. Go craisin-y!

Reflecting on the Past Year

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

We all have thoughts and feelings from the past year that we'd like to get rid of or forget. During tashlich, we take some breadcrumbs and sprinkle them into a body of water, symbolically ridding ourselves of the sins and bad feelings that have been weighing us down. Now we can go into the new year with a clean slate.

Thinking About The New Year

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

We've done lots of looking backward, but now is the time to think forward. What are we hoping to accomplish in the coming year? What are we afraid of, and what are we excited about? What is one thing we hope to have accomplished by next Rosh Hashanah? Go around the table and lay out some goals for the year to come.

CONCLUSION

Make some noise!

Contributed by [Custom & Craft](#)

Source: Custom & Craft

The meal is coming to a close. But we're not quite done yet. One of the most important parts of Rosh Hashanah is sounding the shofar. A ram's horn makes a primal cry, and it speaks to something deep in our soul, waking up something inside us that was dormant, or asleep.

If you have a shofar, blow it now! If not, make some noise some other way. Belt out a song or try a primal scream. Do what you need to do to feel jarred, and awoken.