



## A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

### **2025 ROSH HASHANAH**

Rosh Hashanah, a religious holiday which marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year, begins on the evening of September 22 and concludes on the evening of September 24. It inaugurates the Days of Awe, ten days of reflection and prayers of atonement, and is one of the most important dates in the Jewish Calendar. It is both a somber time to take stock and a celebration of the sweetness of life.

The Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon has written of the holiday's dual nature:

On Rosh Hashanah, we both celebrate the world in its radiant glory and are shocked by its ugliness. But we must go beyond bearing witness and being shocked: strengthened by the knowledge that light is possible, we must use the light to expose the ugliness and begin to fix it. On Rosh Hashanah, we celebrate and we claim responsibility. We celebrate and we reject the status quo of our lives and of our world. We celebrate and we refuse to submit to the tyranny of our own apathy, hypocrisy, cruelty. We celebrate because we commit to shedding, in the words of Joseph Soloveitchik, an existence of fate, and embrace instead an existence of destiny.

These are wise words that apply to believer and non-believer alike. In a time when reactionary forces threaten to displace the principles of tolerance and freedom historically observed in this country, it is good to be reminded that we do not have to surrender to bigotry and fear; that we are in fact required to oppose them and, with determination and loving hearts, bring light into the world.

For all who observe, *L'shana Tova U'metuka*. I wish you a sweet New Year!

Sincerely,

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President

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