

ROSH HASHANA: WHERE DO WE START?

10 minute
pre-holiday
activity

This activity is inspired by artist Raphael Montañez Ortiz, who founded the Barrio Museum in New York. Ortiz's art asks his viewers to reconsider ideas of the familiar by distorting the materials and presenting them in an entirely new form.

Ask each of the people attending your Rosh Hashana meal to help make your meal special. You can Copy and paste this to their email/sms/whatsapp or even speak in person :



When each guest arrives, welcome him/her along with his/her creation to the table. Whenever you are ready during the meal, you can bring everyone's attention to the works before you:

- How did it feel when you made that first cut/rip? Did you know where you were going with it?
- What parts of the initial materials did you keep intact and why?
- Do you like what you made?

MOED

WELCOME TO MOED'S CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

This short guide is a stimulator to inspire & support conversation around your Rosh Hashana table at home.

There is no 'right' response to any of the prompts ahead. The goal is to consider, listen & uncover new ideas with the unique people surrounding you.

Unpack whatever elements speak to you & reserve the rest for another time...

May the words of *Naomi Shemer* carry us into the new year ahead,

כל שנבקש לו יהי...

May all that we aspire to come to be...



While most of our ancestors did not produce art deco exhibitions for Rosh Hashana, expression was found in the musical accompaniment of the day.

Upon hearing the central shofar blasts, the traditional response is...

היום הרת עולם...
Today is the first day of
the world...
היום הראשון...



🕒 What does it take to convince *you* that new is possible?

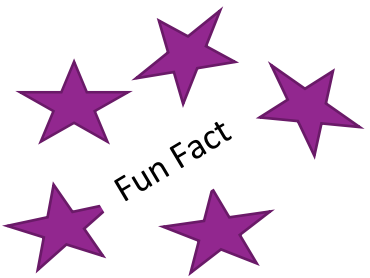
🕒 What would you do first if today was **the** very beginning of the world?

*"FOR LAST YEAR'S WORDS BELONG TO LAST YEAR'S LANGUAGE
AND NEXT YEAR'S WORDS AWAIT ANOTHER VOICE.
AND TO MAKE AN END IS TO MAKE A BEGINNING." — T.S. ELIOT*

*"EVERY NEW BEGINNING COMES FROM SOME OTHER BEGINNING'S END."
— SENECA*

🕒 What about your past do you want to bring forward into the year ahead?
What do you want to leave behind?

🕒 Do you really think that you are capable of leaving the past behind?



Did you know that the **Aleinu prayer**, recited at the conclusion of every prayer service year-round, originated as a central prayer for Rosh Hashana? Its themes of optimism and universal understanding are ones that we can be grateful made it to the everyday!

A mother's cry

The Torah portions read over Rosh Hashana are filled with tears...

The prophetess Devora describes the sobs of the **mother of Sisera**, the enemy of Israel who has just been defeated, as she hangs out her window anticipating her son's illustrious return- overladen with spoils, while she is haunted by the lingering tension of his true fate as he has yet to return.

Hagar, the mother of Ishmael who journeys into the desert together with her son and suddenly discovers that their water jug has run dry. She lies her son under a bush and cries as she imagines the inevitable fate before them.

Rachel, the matriarch, is portrayed by the prophet Jeremiah crying from within her grave as she witnesses her children sent off into exile.

- Can you remember a time when your mom/dad cried? Do you know why?
- What do the tears accomplish in each of these stories?
- What do you think these stories suggest about Rosh Hashana and the unknown future?

For a day that we think of as
joyous, tears abound...
What can we make of that?



The Morse code of Shofar

The Talmud suggests that the variety of sounds that we hear from the shofar each echo a distinct human cry.

*The long and solid howl of the **tekia**...the broken sound of the **shvarim** in it's 3 distinct blasts... and the sputtering of pulses in the 9 blasts of the **terua**.*

- Have you ever been able to figure out why someone is crying just from the pattern of the sound?
- Do you remember a time when you couldn't find the words to express yourself? What did you do?

After- tears

The Book of Psalms speaks of crying as a stepping stone,

בערב, ילין בכי; ולבוקר רינה

"In the evening, one may lie down weeping; and at dawn there are shouts of joy." 30:6

הזורעים בדמעה; ברינה יקצורו

"They who sow in tears will reap in joy." 126:5

- Can you remember the feelings you had after crying? Is it the same every time?
- Why do you think people are often embarrassed about crying?
- How do you think crying can help bring about something new?

*With blessings that we seize these days
to move and be moved to great heights
in the year ahead.*