

Minhagim of Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
as given over by
Rabbi Menachem Goldberger

Rosh HaShanah

Elul

- The shofar is blown every morning during the month of Elul, beginning with the 1st of Elul, which is the second day of Rosh Chodesh. In our shul, we blow the shofar after Alenu. This is followed by L'Dovid.
- In nusach sfard, L'Dovid is said at shacharis and mincha. In nusach ashkenaz, L'Dovid is said at maariv and shacharis. If dovening in a nusach ashkenaz kehilla, you can say L'Dovid quietly at mincha, and repeat it again with the kehilla at maariv.
- In general, never make a PUBLIC departure from the tzibur.

Slichos

- Slichos begin on Motzei Shabbos before Rosh HaShanah, usually about 1 AM (after chatzos). When Rosh HaShanah falls on Tuesday or earlier, slichos begin two shabbosos prior to Rosh HaShanah.

Erev Rosh HaShanah

- Because we are marbeh b'tachanunim on erev Rosh HaShanah, we begin slichos earlier than on the other days on which we say slichos.
- Men should go to the mikveh after chatzos.
- Hataras Nedarim -the annulment of vows-should be said before a beis din of three men, after shacharis. A man can have his wife in mind as well, although a woman can do it for herself if she wants to. The beis din requirements for hataras nedarim are not as strict as usual, e.g. a relative can be a member of the beis din.

Shofar and Kittel

- Men wear a kittel during the day on Rosh HaShanah. At night, only the shaliach tzibur wears a kittel.
- During the day, the shofar is blown as follows: one set before Musaf, one set during the silent amidah of Musaf, one set during chazaras ha'shatz, and the last ten during the final Kaddish (according to nusach sfard).
- We sing a lot during dovening, to awaken our kavanah, and to uplift our dovening.

Rosh HaShanah Greeting

- After maariv on R"H night, we greet each other with: " L'shanah tova tikasevu v'seichaseimu l'altar l'chayim tovim ul'shalom, basifran shel tzadikim gamurim " (May you be inscribed and sealed immediately for a good year, for good life, and for peace, in the book of the completely righteous).

Y'hi Ratzons and Special Foods

- It is a minhag of Bnai Yisroel to eat special foods on R"H night, and say the y'hi ratzons corresponding to those foods. Refer to the R"H machzor.
- From R"H through Shemini Atzeres, Rabbi Goldberger's minhag is to use honey at the table on the chalah, rather than salt. Salt may be on the table. And during this time, no sour or sharp foods are eaten, e.g. no horeseradish through Shemini Atzeres. On Simchas Torah we resume the use of salt on chalah, and sour or sharp foods can be eaten again.

Tashlich

- Many kehillas say tashlich on the first day of R"H, after mincha (if the first day of R"H is Shabbos, tashlich is said on the second day, after mincha). It is Rabbi Goldberger's minhag to say Tashlich on the day before erev Yom Kippur. This is the day on which the pizmon, that is recited responsively during slichos, is based on the yud gimel midos harachamim (the thirteen attributes of HaShem's mercy). In either case, it is still possible, though not preferable, to make tashlich as late as Hoshana Rabba.

- Tashlich begins with "Mi Kel kamocho", and continues with the bakashos that follow.

2nd Day

- Candle lighting is 72 minutes after shkia. No preparations for the 2nd day may be started until after this time.
- We doven maariv one hour after shkia.

Shabbos/Rosh HaShanah

When Rosh HaShanah, or any Yom Tov, falls out on Shabbos, we have the following minhagim for the Shabbos/Yom Tov table:

Friday Night:

- We sing Shalom Aleichem
- This is followed by the first part of "Ribbon Kol Haolamin", thru "Melech Tamim Darko". This is shortened lekavod Yom Tov.
- Ashes Chayil
- Besamim
- Kiddush

On Shabbos day, simply follow the siddur for Shabbos/Yom Tov Kiddush.

Sleeping on Rosh HaShanah

- It is preferable not to sleep on Rosh HaShanah afternoon, but the ARIZ"l permits it after chatzos.