

Weekly column from Rabbi Larry Moldo

Happy Rosh Hodesh!

It's actually over by now, but this weekend we had one of the two day Rosh Hodesh events. We have another one next month too.

Rosh Hodesh means "Head of the month" which happens for us every time the moon seems to vanish from sight. Rosh Hodesh Elul is special, as is Rosh Hodesh Tishrei. Rosh Hodesh Elul is special because on it we begin to blow the Shofar during morning services, to prepare us for what happens during Rosh Hodesh Tishrei.

During this next month we spend time getting a bit more connected with what we have done this year that might not have been perfect, and even more with those things we have done that might have injured somebody else in some fashion. Once we have approached these items in more than just a cursory fashion, we are ready to chat a bit with God about the situation.

We are God's partners. Have we worked consistently to make the world as a whole a better place? Have we done the work necessary to better ourselves, since we are the only people we really can change? Can we recognize the spiral of our growth through the year?

Most of us are not asked to make decisions that affect large numbers of people. Yet when we work to better ourselves spiritually (possibly by reciting 10 Psalms a day, so by the end of the fall holiday season we will have reviewed the entire book of Psalms 4 times, and possibly by something else equally engaging), as long as we maintain our center, we quite often affect the people around us in a positive way. Whether that number is large or small, the people around us are important.

I look forward to seeing you in a month as we celebrate Rosh Hodesh Tishrei, otherwise known as Rosh HaShanah - the time when the world begins again.