
Rabbi's Message

A NEW YOU

There is much about Rosh Hashanah that is comforting and fondly anticipated—music that is special for the High Holy Days, the sound of the shofar, apples dipped in honey and most important, renewed contact with family members and friends.

It's a little like putting on a well-loved pair of shoes that one doesn't wear very often. They're comfortable and they look good, but we save them for special occasions.

Tradition and community should give us a sense of well-being, but of course the themes of the High Holy Days tend to disturb us, too. We are asked to confront those aspects of ourselves that make us wince with embarrassment or shame. We are also asked to examine the actions of the communities we're members of in the hope that we can do better together.

And there is the key to the season: everything should be warm and familiar except—ourselves. We face the gap between who we are and who we would like to be.

Rosh Hashanah is a time for beginnings. It's a time for that makeover, that retooling and renewal. It's time to turn the ideal image of oneself into reality.

It's time for a new you—and you're the only one who can make that happen.

With a prayer for true renewal for each of us, and a year of health, happiness and success in 5711,

Rabbi Paul Tuchman

