

SWEET ROUND RAISIN CHALLAH

- 1½ cups raisins
- 1¾ cups warm water
- 2 Tbsp dry yeast
- Pinch sugar
- ⅓ cup sugar
- ⅓ cup light honey
- 3½ tsp salt
- ½ cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- 6 - 7 cups bread flour
- Egg wash:
2 Tbsp water
2 tsp sugar
1 egg + 1 yolk

In a large mixing bowl stir together the yeast, water, and pinch of sugar. Let stand five minutes to allow yeast to swell and dissolve. Briskly stir in remaining sugar, honey, and salt. Then add oil, eggs, yolks and about five cups of the flour. Stir. Let stand 10 - 20 minutes to absorb flour.

Knead, by hand or with a dough hook, adding remaining flour as required to make a soft and elastic dough (about 10 - 12 minutes).

Dough should leave sides of the bowl. If it is sticky, add small amounts of flour until dough is soft but no longer sticks. Let dough rest on a lightly floured board for 10 minutes, then flatten and press in raisins.

Place dough in a greased bowl and either cover with greased plastic wrap and a damp tea towel or cover with a damp tea towel and place entire bowl inside a large plastic bag. Let rise in a draft-free place until doubled and puffy looking, 45 - 90 minutes. Divide dough in two. Shape each section into a long rope (about 12 - 14 inches long) which is thicker at one end and coil it up, starting with the thicker end first. Place on cornmeal or flour-dusted baking sheet.

Brush with egg wash. Let rise until puffy, 20 - 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 400°. Bake bread 12 minutes then reduce heat to 350° and bake another 25 minutes or until bread is evenly browned. Can be frozen baked or unbaked. If freezing unbaked, let bread rise slowly, overnight in the fridge. Bring to room temperature before baking.



THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

ROSH HASHANAH
SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 2026

YOM KIPPUR
SEPTEMBER 20 - 21, 2026

JEWISH HOLIDAY POCKET GUIDE



MAYERSON JCC
of Cincinnati

ROSH HASHANAH

WHAT IS IT?

Rosh Hashanah (literally, "Head of the Year") is the celebration of the Jewish New Year, and is observed on the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. This year marks the Jewish Year 5787.

WHEN IS IT?

This year, Rosh Hashanah is celebrated from sundown Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13.

HOW DO I SAY IT?

ROSH hah SHA nah

HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

- Attending synagogue
- Hearing the shofar*
- Sending and receiving greeting cards
- Eating round challah*
- Dipping apples in honey for a sweet new year
- Symbolically casting away sins by throwing breadcrumbs into a body of water

WHAT IS THE HOLIDAY GREETING?

Shana Tova (Sha NAH toh VAH):
May you have a good year!

* HOLIDAY DICTIONARY:

Shofar: an ancient musical instrument crafted from a ram's horn. Hearing the sound of the shofar is one of the highlights of the service in the synagogue. It is customary for 100 blasts to be sounded in the course of the Rosh Hashanah service.

Challah: an egg bread eaten on the Sabbath and other festive times. Usually, challah is shaped into a long braided loaf. On Rosh Hashanah it is customary to eat the same bread, but in a round shape symbolizing the cyclical nature of life.

YOM KIPPUR ACTIVITY

Mitzvah (kind gesture) Wheel

What you need:

Paper plates, scissors, markers or crayons, thin cardboard pieces cut into arrows for pointers, brass paper fasteners.

Instructions:

1. Ask children to think about the year that has just passed. Were there things they wish they had done differently? Ask them about nice or thoughtful things they can plan to do next year.
2. Have children think of the people to whom they would like to show kindness, for example: mom, dad, grandmother, grandfather, sister, brother, teacher, baby sitter, etc. Divide the back of a paper plate into pie-shaped sections, one section for each of these people. Label each section with this person's name and draw a picture.
3. Help each child attach the arrow-shaped cardboard pointer to the center of the plate with a brass paper fastener.
4. Spin the arrow and decide what nice thing you can do for the person chosen by the pointer. Do this each day for the Ten Days of Awe. Keep track of the kind gesture each child does and keep the list in a place where it will be seen all year to serve as a reminder to perform these deeds all year.





YOM KIPPUR ACTIVITY

DAYS OF AWE COUNT-TO-10:

The Ten Days of Awe are the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It is a time for self-reflection, asking for forgiveness, and setting resolutions.

- List 10 good things that happened in the last year.
- Explain 10 ways you've grown (new things you can do).
- Name 10 relatives/friends.
- Name 10 colors.
- Name 10 holidays.
- Name 10 fruits/vegetables.
- Count to 10 on your fingers. Try it in Hebrew!
- Name 10 mitzvahs you can do.
- Name 10 animals.
- Try 10 new foods.
- Listen for 10 different sounds.



ROSH HASHANAH ACTIVITY

HONEY TASTING

Set out dishes of different varieties of honey, like clover, poplar, wildflower, blueberry and orange blossom. Have apples and challah pieces ready for dipping. Ask everyone to pick their favorite!

APPLE HONEY DISH

Remove the core of the apple and hollow out the inside, being careful not to cut through the sides or bottom. Rub lemon juice on the cut inside to keep it from turning brown. Fill the apple with honey and place it in the center of a plate. Surround your honey dish with apple slices for dipping.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR THE WORLD

Family Activity: Ice a round cake with blue for the waters and green for the land. Let the children decorate it with animal crackers, flower sprinkles and fish-shaped candy.

Ask everyone to think of a present to give to the world that will make it a better place - like picking up trash or planting flowers, etc. - and draw a picture to share at the party.



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ORANGE HAZELNUT HONEY CAKE



- 1 tsp instant coffee in
⅓ cup hot water
- ⅓ cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup honey
- 1½ cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- Pinch of clove
- ½ cup sugar
- 1½ tsp orange zest
- ½ cup hazelnuts,
coarsely chopped

Lightly grease an 8 x 4-inch loaf pan, line it with parchment or waxed paper, and grease paper.

Sift flour with baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and cloves.

Beat eggs lightly in large bowl. Add sugar and honey and beat until mixture is very smooth and lightened in color. Gradually add oil and beat until blended. Add orange zest.

Stir in flour mixture alternately with coffee, each in two batches. Stir in hazelnuts.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake at 325° for 55 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted in cake comes out clean. Cool in pan for about 15 minutes. Turn out onto rack and peel off paper.

When cake is completely cool, wrap it tightly in foil and keep it at room temperature.

YOM KIPPUR

WHAT IS YOM KIPPUR?

Yom Kippur is the Jewish “Day of Atonement” and refers to the annual observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. This solemn day is a time to reflect on the past year, and to ask for forgiveness and a good year to come.

THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE HOLIEST DAY IN THE JEWISH CALENDAR. THE CENTRAL THEMES ARE:

Atonement:

Acknowledging personal misdeeds and falling short of one’s potential.

Asking those we’ve wronged for forgiveness.

Praying for forgiveness.

Repentance:

Once our misdeeds are recognized, we commit to do better in the future.

WHEN IS YOM KIPPUR?

This year, Yom Kippur is observed from sundown Sunday, September 20, through Monday, September 21.

HOW DO I SAY IT?

YOHM key-POOR

HOW IS IT OBSERVED?

- Refrain from food and drink for the entire 25 hours of the holiday
- Pray/ask for forgiveness
- Silent confession
- Refrain from certain pleasurable and social activities
- Hear the shofar

WHAT ARE THE HOLIDAY GREETINGS?

Tzohm Kal: May you have an easy fast.

G'mar Chatima Tovah (Geh-MAR khah-tee-mah TOH-vah) May you be inscribed for a good life