

What is Rosh Hashanah?

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, always falls on the first and second day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. The words “Rosh Hashanah” literally mean “the beginning/head of the year.”

Although it is seen as a festival, Rosh Hashanah is also regarded as an important and solemn occasion. In Jewish thought, it is seen as being the time when all the people of the world – Jewish and non-Jewish – are judged for their actions over the previous year, and their reward or punishment designated.

Rosh Hashanah is also known as “Yom Hazikaron”, the “day of remembrance” – an allusion to our deeds over the past year being remembered, as well as our remembrance of all the good things God has done for us in the past.

Rosh Hashanah customs

The Shofar – there is a custom to use a ram’s horn on Rosh Hashanah to blow a series of piercing cries in front of the entire congregation.

There are a number of customs associated with the Rosh Hashanah celebratory meal, involving symbolic food:

The Fish Head – there is a custom to have either a fish head as part of the Rosh Hashanah meal. This is meant to symbolise that, in the year to come, we should be at the head (on top) rather than the tail (at the bottom).

Apple in honey – one of the most famous customs of Rosh Hashanah, we dip apple in honey, to symbolise that we should have a sweet new year.

Pomegranates are a fruit closely associated with Rosh Hashanah. They have dozens of pips, and are eaten to symbolise that we should be as fruitful as the pips of a pomegranate.

The day after Rosh Hashanah is usually a fast day, known as the Fast of Gedaliah (the only exception is when this day falls on a Shabbat, when the fast gets pushed off until Sunday).

Source: <https://www.thejc.com/judaism/features/what-is-rosh-hashanah-1.444107>



HAPPY
Translation
DAY!

September 2019 Calendar

*National Hispanic Heritage Month
National Childhood Obesity
Awareness Month*

- 2 – Labor Day (US)
- 8-14 – National Assisted Living Week (US)
- 8 – Grandparents’ Day (US)
- 10 – World Suicide Prevention Day
- 10 – Ashura (Islam)
- 11 – National Day of Service and Remembrance (US)
- 14 – Elevation of the Holy Cross (Christianity)
- 21 – National Museum Day (US)
- 23 – Mabon – Ostara (Wiccan)
- 28 – Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
- 30 – International Interpreters’ and Translators’ Day

Student Reflections: The Challenge of Cultural Bridging

In July and August of 2019, two first year students from the Master's Program in translation and interpretation at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey were hosted by UCDH Medical Interpreting Services department. For five weeks, Huan and Eleanor shadowed staff interpreters, tried out their interpreting skills, and worked on written translation projects. We asked them to write a short reflection of their experience at UCDH, and they highlighted the stress factors they encountered as novice interpreters.

Eleanor: In my first assignment, I felt extremely anxious while interpreting under supervision of a staff interpreter. As the patient's speech was not easy to understand due to his condition. This made the assignment more difficult than I expected. In the end, I pulled through, but I also needed help from my mentor. I was a little defeated, but thanks to my mentor's encouragement, I was brave enough to interpret in subsequent assignments. Over time, I could feel my improvement.

Interestingly, I went on to interpret for my very first patient three more times during my externship! As I worked continuously with a patient, I got to know him/her better. I also got a good grasp of how the patient works with an interpreter. These skills contributed to the quality of my interpretation.

One thing I realized immediately is that interpreting in a real-life setting is totally different from that in the classroom. The classroom is a controlled setting, in which we practice with pre-recorded materials, and the professors always have our backs. On the contrary, we interpret for real people in the hospital. Each patient has his/her own needs and there are different challenges to face. Interpreters often have to make judgments as to what works best (in terms of communication) for the provider and patient and when to clarify with them. This is a skill we cannot learn in school, and I am very glad to have joined this externship.

I have met many lovely and friendly people during my time at UCDH. Special thanks to our mentors for guiding and supporting me. Without their encouragement, I would not be able to interpret as confidently. They also gave me useful advice to improve my skills. I also appreciate the help of the staff translators, who gave me helpful feedback on my written projects. And a big thank you to the MIS manager who guided me through the externship. All in all, the experience I have gained here at UC Davis Health is invaluable. I feel that I am more equipped now to continue my journey to become a better interpreter.



National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept.15 - Oct.15)

During National Hispanic Heritage Month we recognize the contributions made and the importance presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12.

The term Hispanic or Latino, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. On the 2010 Census form, people of Spanish, Hispanic and/or Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin."

Today, 57.5 million people or 18% of the American population are of Hispanic or Latino origin. This represents a significant increase from 2000, which registered the Hispanic population at 35.3 million or 13% of the total U.S. population.

Source: <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.org/hispanic-heritage-month/70-national-hispanic-heritage-month-2019>