

New year: Festivities set for Jewish holiday

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friendly while preparing for Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year.

"Rosh Hashana is a time to take stock of your life and get your head on straight for the year," she said. "Your head is in control of everything that you do. It's very important to start the year off in the right frame of mind because it affects your entire year."

Today marks the first day of the Jewish New Year, the year 5766.

Rosh Hashana, which began Monday night at dusk and will continue until Wednesday, marks the first and second days of the first Jewish month of Tishri. Also known as the day of judgment, Rosh Hashana celebrates the birth of the world and is a time for Jews to reflect upon their lives over the past year.

The Oregon Hillel is participating in the "High Holiday Food Drive" that will benefit local food shelters throughout fall term and "Beads For The Bayou," a fund-raiser to benefit the hurricane-relief effort.

For the first time, all of the Oregon Hillel Rosh Hashana festivities this year are student-led.

"It's an arduous task preparing oneself to lead the community in prayer," said Hal Applebaum, executive director of the Oregon Hillel. "There are a lot of different denominations attending and it's hard to please all the people. I've been especially proud to watch the students get ready and work so hard on this."

One of the many customs of Rosh Hashana is, during the evening meals, to eat foods symbolizing sweetness, blessings and abundance, particularly apples and honey because they represent the wishes for a sweet year for all the Jewish people.

Another custom is the blowing of the shofar. Rosh Hashana is an opportunity for one's calling of repentance through the sounding of the shofar, a ram's horn trumpet and one of the first instruments played by the ancient Israelites, just like at a coronation ceremony.



Josh Schorr and Ben David prepare for the first service of Rosh Hashana Monday night in Gerlinger Hall.

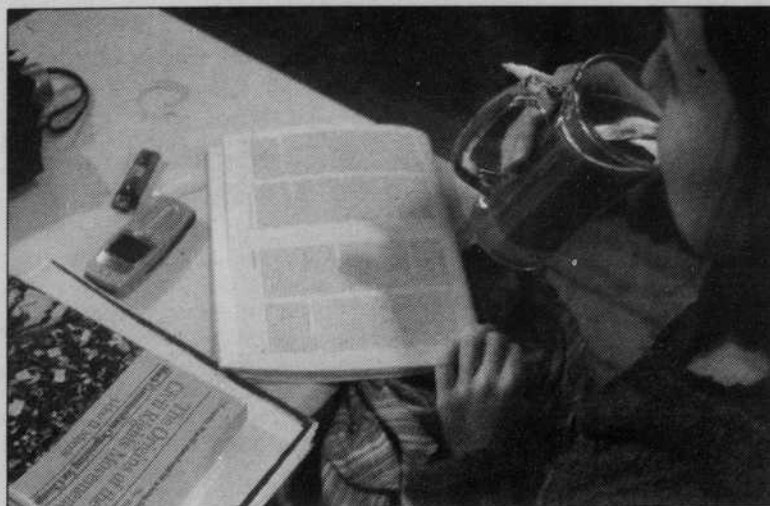
A Rosh Hashana shofar blowing will take place at 11:30 a.m. at Chabad House today and Wednesday.

At 4 p.m. today, students and members of the Jewish community will walk together from the Hillel house to the Willamette River for the Tashlich ceremony. During the ceremony, participants will throw bread in the water, symbolizing the casting away of sins.

University student Jonathan Rosenberg said Rosh Hashana is a time to reflect on the past and look into the future.

"This holiday gives me time to look at my life to see how I can live my life as a better person," Rosenberg said. "That's really the main purpose of Rosh Hashana — to ask God for forgiveness and repent."

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Adrienne Chaille, a romance languages junior, studies in the open-air smoking area at Espresso Roma on 13th Avenue Monday afternoon.

Smokers: Requirements dictate changes to open-air areas

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Another reason for the change was to clarify the rules for business owners, Kelly said.

There have been problems with some businesses looking at the intent of the ordinance and some looking at the letter of the ordinance, Kelly said.

This created a situation where some businesses had better covered smoking areas, which attracted more customers.

"We wanted to level the competitive playing field," Kelly said.

Some on the council feel the original ordinance is already effective and that changes will harm business owners forced to comply more than it will help employees.

"The ordinance is in its place and doing the job it's supposed to do," Ward 5 City Councilor Gary Papé said. "I don't feel employees are subject to additional risk."

Papé feels the force behind the changes hasn't been bar owners, workers and patrons, but county health officials and anti-smoking groups. He is also worried the changes will hurt business owners who will be forced to modify the smoking areas they built after the 2000 ordinance.

Papé, a non-smoker, said that in a perfect world, no one would smoke, but that it's a choice for some.

"If smoking is legal, which it is, we need to balance health risks with the ability for businesses to thrive with

patrons who are smokers," Papé said

The changes have hurt some bars more than others. Taylor's Bar & Grille has a completely open smoking area and won't be forced to change it to fit the new requirements.

Taylor's owner Chuck Hare has seen ill-effects since bars first had to comply in 2000.

"It has been really hard for some bars," Hare said. "It's put some bars out of business."

Despite that, Hare has seen the positive effects at Taylor's since the city banned indoor smoking.

"I would wake up coughing, doing things smokers do," Hare said referring to the time to before the ban.

"The majority of my staff, we all agree it's better on our health."

Contact the city and state politics chagan@dailyemerald.com

SMOKING ORDINANCE TIMELINE

- In 2000, the Eugene City Council bans smoking in public places and places of employment, with an exception made for outdoor smoking. The specifics of what constitutes a smoking area are left to administrative rule, to be set by the city manager and staff.
- In 2001, rules are set to allow smoking areas to be up to 75 percent closed.
- On Sept. 28, 2005, the City Council directs the city manager to decrease the allowable closed space to no more than 25 percent.

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Make this a night to remember with a delicious Italian dinner.

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- ◆ Caesar salad
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