

Letter from Rabbi Shlomo and Devorah Buxbaum

Dear Friends,

We take pleasure in warmly welcoming you back to our second annual Lev High Holiday Experience, bringing together Jews from all different backgrounds to celebrate the high holidays with melodies, mindfulness, and meaning. We are so grateful that you are joining us and we hope that you will feel that Lev is your spiritual home where you will find a Jewish connection that speaks to your heart and soul.

The biblical name for the holiday of Rosh Hashanah is Yom Teruah, a day of blasts (referring to the Shofar blasts) But it is fascinating to note that these words, Yom Teruah, have a deeper meaning as well. The Hebrew word Teruah in other contexts in the Torah is translated as “friendship”, meaning that Rosh Hashanah can also be considered a Day of Friendship!

Now, what might be the connection between the sound of shofar blasts and the concept of friendship that the Torah would utilize a similar word for both of them?

The Teruah sound is made of short blasts, as if we are breaking up the much longer Tekiah blast into smaller pieces. Friendship, as well, is rooted in the awareness that we are all deeply connected on a soul level, and we should therefore experience a sense of oneness when we are together with someone else. That is true friendship: the understanding that we are fragmented pieces of a much deeper whole, like the short Teruah blasts that come together to make a much fuller sound.

This feeling of oneness, of deep connectivity, of souls reuniting in the deepest way, is the ultimate dream of The Lev Experience, and our vision of what the Lev community should look like. As you look around the room this Rosh Hashanah, please notice that you will be sitting with individuals who are from all different Jewish backgrounds, who affiliate and connect with Judaism in a wide variety of different ways, but who have chosen to be here together with you in a space that will hopefully transcend those differences. Because in truth, we are one big family. And all we have is each other.

Believe it or not, Rosh Hashanah is not a day of asking God for our wishlist; such requests are not found anywhere in the services. Neither is it a day to be making New Year’s resolutions, although you certainly can do that if you would like to (but hopefully you did that already!). It is actually a day of celebrating God’s Kingship! And this Kingship is only complete when there is deep love and friendship and admiration among the members of that kingdom.

So let’s join together in friendship and celebrate Rosh Hashanah is the most joyous and love-filled way possible!!!

Once again, we thank you for joining us and look forward to every moment we get to spend together on these special days!

Rabbi Shlomo and Devorah

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, September 15th

*A star indicates that this part of the service will have separate sides of the room for men and women

6:59 pm	Candle Lighting
7:05 pm	Welcome and Dvar Torah - <i>Rabbi Shlomo</i>
7:20 pm	Maariv with Explanations* - <i>Led by AJ Esral</i>
7:45 pm	Dinner for Hotel Guests <i>Dvar Torahs- Abba Florans, Meira Buxbaum</i>

ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1

Saturday, September 16

9:00 am	Traditional Service begins with Hamelech (Falls Grove 1)*: <i>Led by AJ Esral. There will be a Kiddush and class by Avichai Pepper before Torah Reading</i>
9:45 am	Rabbi Shlomo’s Explanatory Prayer Service (Falls Grove 2)
11:05 am	Torah Reading for Everyone (Falls Grove 2)
11:20 am	Breakout class with <i>Devorah Buxbaum</i> (Falls Grove 1) <i>Fluttering Towards Blessings: Unveiling the Beauty of Your Life’s Potential</i> Teen discussion in lobby with <i>Abba Florans</i> (Lobby)
11:45 am	Rabbi Shlomo’s Reflections (Falls Grove 2)
12 pm	Traditional Mussaf Service (Falls Grove 2)* <i>- led by Avromi Robinson</i>
12:30 pm	Breakout session: Wrap up with <i>Rabbi Shlomo & Devorah</i> (Falls Grove 1)
2:30 pm	Lunch for Hotel Guests - <i>Dvar Torah</i> <i>by Rachel Berenzweig, Gavriel Catan</i>
5:30 pm	Women’s Circle - <i>Alanna Pepper</i>

ROSH HASHANAH SECOND NIGHT
Saturday, September 16th

6:15 pm Mincha led by Abba Florans
6:45 pm Dvar Torah by AJ Esral
7:25 pm Maariv Led by Avromi Robinson
7:56 pm Dinner
D'var Torah by Avichai Pepper, Dina Pepper

ROSH HASHANAH DAY 2
Sunday, September 17th

9:00 am **Traditional Service begins with Hamelech (Falls Grove 1):** Led by AJ Esral. There will be a Kiddush and class by Avromi Robinson before Torah Reading

9:45 am: **Rabbi Shlomo's Explanatory Prayer begins (Falls Grove 2)**

11:05 am: Torah Reading for Everyone (Falls Grove 2)
11:20 am: Breakout class with Devorah Buxbaum (Falls Grove 1)
Seizing the Fleeting Moments
Teen Group with Abba Florans (Lobby)

11:45 am Rabbi Shlomo's Reflections (Falls Grove 2)
12 pm Shofar Followed by Mussaf (Falls Grove 2)
Avromi Robinson

12:30 pm: Breakout Session: Wrap up with Rabbi Shlomo & Devorah (Falls Grove 1)

2:30 pm: Lunch for Hotel Guests - Dvar Torah- Jared Dunkin
4:30 pm Young Family Power Hour

ROSH HASHANAH END OF YOM TOV

6:15 pm Mincha led by Abba Florans
6:45 pm End-of-Yom Tov Oneg- Dvar Torah: Lucas Druskin,
Mikki Rosenberg
7:53 pm Maariv

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ROSH HASHANAH
PROGRAM

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