

Elul -the 12th month of the Jewish year and the 6th month on the Hebrew calendar. It is noted to be an acronym for *Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li* meaning "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." It is seen as a time to search one's heart and draw closer to God in preparation for the coming Day of Judgement, *Rosh Hashanah*, and the Day of Atonement, *Yom Kippur*.

Tishrei - the first month of the Jewish civil year and the 7th month on the Hebrew Calendar.

Rosh Hashanah (Day of Judgement) - The first of the High Holy Days, it occurs in early autumn (Northern Hemisphere N.H.) and is a two day celebration beginning on the first day of *Tishrei*. It is considered the anniversary of the creation of humankind.

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) - the most holy day of the year, it centers on atonement and repentance, observed with a 25 hour period of fasting and prayer.

Sukkot (Festival of Tabernacles) - celebrated on the 15th day of the 7th month of *Tishrei*. It is also known as a harvest festival and is a festival to celebrate the year's end.

Simchat Torah - a holiday that concludes and celebrates the yearly cycle of *Torah* readings. It follows the festival of *Sukkot*.

Kittel - white linen (sometimes cotton) robes worn by Jewish men on holidays. These vestments are sometimes worn by grooms at weddings, and it is custom for Jewish men to be buried in *kittel*.

Kol Nidrei - declaration pronounced in synagogue just before the evening service on every Yom Kippur: "By the authority of the Court on High and by authority of the court down here, by the permission of One Who Is Everywhere and by the permission of this congregation, we hold it lawful to pray with sinners."

Lashon ha-ra - "the evil tongue" - derogatory speech about someone; different from defamation in that it is truthful speech for a wrong purpose.

Mitzvah - "commandment" - the 613 commandments that one of the Jewish faith follows as part of one's religious duty.

Shofar - ancient horn (usually made of ram's horn) used for Jewish religious purposes such as every weekday morning of Elul. During *Rosh Hashanah* and at the end of *Yom Kippur* is blown at the synagogue services as well.

Tallit - a fringed prayer shawl (traditional). The twined and knotted fringes are called *tzitzit* and the middle cloth portion is called *begeed*.

