

Shalom and Chag Sameach (Happy Holidays)!

October is here; we're cruising into the peak autumn season!! October is the tenth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. Its length is 31 days. The eighth month in the old calendar of Romulus c. 750 BC, October retained its name (from Latin and Greek *ôctō* meaning "eight").

With great sadness and a heavy heart, we remember the 2nd anniversary of the Hamas invasion of Israel on October 7th, 2023. Hamas terrorists breached the Gaza-Israel barrier, attacking military bases and massacring civilians in 21 communities, including Be'eri, Kfar Aza, Nir Oz, Netiv Haasara, and Alumim. In total the attackers killed 1,139 people: 695 Israeli civilians (including 38 children), 71 foreign nationals, and 373 members of the security forces. 364 civilians were killed and many more wounded while attending the Nova music festival. Still we (Israel) remains at war! We cannot cease until Hamas no longer exists! Never again is now! We shall never forget!

As we started the Fall Feast Celebrations last month we celebrate Yom Kippur on Monday evening, October 1st at sunset, then the start of Sukkot on sunset, Monday, October 6th at sunset! The Fall Feasts in Biblical culture are significant religious observances that occur during the month of Tishrei, which is considered the holiest month of the Hebrew calendar as all the Fall Feast days are in this month. The Modedim, or Biblical Fall Feasts, are a unique season that altars the rhythm of our normal lives among all the Jewish People around the world for almost a month. There is nothing like it. During the Fall Feasts we come before Adonai with anticipation and expectation! We yield ourselves of Adonai's instruction and plans as we look to Him for guidance. May heartfelt reverence and thanksgiving accompany us daily! The Fall Holidays are not just an opportunity to decorate our homes and cook delectable meals. They were established by Adonai to remind us of His prophetic future for us and of His endless goodness.

October is a pivotal month in history. On October 1st, 1908, Henry Ford introduced the Model T automobile, revolutionizing transportation. The October Revolution in Russia, happened on the night of October 24, 1917, when Bolshevik Red Guards began to take control of key points in Moscow, which led to the establishment of the Communist Soviet Union. On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth. NASA was officially established on October 1, 1958, marking the beginning of civilian space exploration in the United States which led to America placing a man on the moon in on July 20th, 1969. The Cuban Missile Crisis, a pivotal moment in the Cold War, began on October 16, 1962. On a more upbeat note, October is also national Pizza Month, good news for Pizza lovers!

Monday October 13th, 2025 marks the 250th birthday of the United States Navy! The Continental Congress's resolution to procure two armed vessels, adopted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 13 October 1775, was the original legislation out of which the Continental Navy grew. Within a few days of that vote, Congress established a Naval Committee, which directed the purchasing, outfitting, manning, and operations of the first ships of the new Navy, drafted naval legislation, and prepared rules and regulations to govern the Navy's conduct and internal administration. Happy Semiquincentennial (250th) Birthday United States Navy!

Monday, October 13th is also both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day (occurs on the second Monday in October). Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the histories, cultures, and perspectives of Indigenous peoples and their ancestors who lived on the land now known as North America. They existed in these areas for thousands of years before the first European explorers arrived. Consider honoring our indigenous people by visiting one or more of these cultural Museums:

Rappahannock Tribal Museum

Rappahannock Tribal Center

5036 Indian Neck Road

Indian Neck, VA 23148

Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center and Museum

1368 Colonial Pkwy

Jamestown, VA 23081

Love and blessings,

Rabbi Eric and Rebbetzin Barb Carlson