

Linda Tatelbaum  
High Holidays 2016

Rosh Hashanah, head of the year. I associate the name with "Rush Hashanah." When I was a teacher, there was always the syllabus, the book order, meetings, the first day of class. At home, there's a flood of veggies pouring in from the garden, taking over my life. A rush of harvesting onions, pumpkins, tomatoes, dry beans, corn, to get ready for the new year. Then rushing to get to shul on time. So the new year is a time of completion for a garden begun in the spring. We saw it through its whole life, started seeds, weeded, watered, now it's complete. The new year is a time to take stock not of what I've grown, but how I've grown. It's a completion of the old, the birth of the new.

When I think of completion of the garden, the motto that comes to me is: I can. Literally, I do canning. This is my final commitment, before the cooking begins. Because the whole point of a vegetable garden is to eat. The whole point of Rosh Hashanah is also to eat, to be sustained, to grow. The hard, heavy work of harvest is parallel to the hard, heavy work of the new year, and to this I say "I can."