

SUKKOS זמן שמחתנו תשפ"א SHOFAR October 2020



חג שמח! גוט יום טוב!
Have a good Yom Tov!

Congregation B'nai Torah-6510 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260

Succos

The “Ten Days of Awe and Repentance” are followed by the “Season of Our Rejoicing”. This is one of the names given to the holiday of Succos, for the Torah commandment to “rejoice” is mentioned more often in connection with the holiday of Succos, than for any other Yom Tov.

Succos begins on the fifteenth day of Tishrei, at the time in Israel of the ingathering of the crops—a further cause for rejoicing as one looks with a sense of pride and accomplishment upon the fruits of one’s labor of the previous months.

The seven-day holiday of Succos is one of the Sholosh Regolim, the three festivals when all Jewish males over the age of thirteen were commanded to come and celebrate the Yom Tov in the proximity of the Holy Temple. (The other two Regolim are Pesach and Shavuot).

The Temple celebration during Succos was highlighted by the ceremony of water-drawing. The ceremony was unique in that all year the libations on the Altar were performed with wine, but on Succos, water was also used. Our sages have stated that “whoever has not seen the joy at the place of water-drawing has never seen true joy in his life!” (Succah 51). The joy expressed in this ceremony was the joy of a simple and pure acceptance of G-d’s will as symbolized by clear water, in contrast to the acceptance that is based on understanding, symbolized by wine.

The dominant mitzvah, of course, is the Succah. The Succah is built before the holiday begins. Almost anything can be used for the walls, but the roof covering must be kosher s’chach, which is plant-life material meeting certain specifications. Evergreen branches, cornstalks or bamboo are popularly used. During the entire festival we live in these temporary dwellings as much as possible. It is the practice to pronounce the blessing for the Succah whenever eating a meal there.

The Succah is symbolic of the clouds of glory which protected the Jews during their forty years in the wilderness. These clouds of glory, serving as shade and shield, were an ever-present reminder of G-d’s kindness and love for His children. As we sit in the Succah, we too are aware of the need to be grateful for G-d’s protection.

A most beautiful and meaningful mitzvah of Succos is the “taking of the four species”. The four plants enumerated in the Torah are the Esrog (citron), Lulav (palm branch), Haddassim (myrtles), and Aravos (willows). Much energy and money is expended in acquiring the most beautiful ones possible. This mitzvah should be done early in the day, but it is permissible until sunset. The Lulav, Hadassim and Aravos are taken in the right hand and the Esrog is in the left hand and held next to the other three species. A left-handed person would reverse the procedure and hold the Lulav in the left hand and the Esrog in the right hand. All are swayed together, in accordance with various customs. The “Four Species” are also used during Hallel and Hoshanos every day of succos with the exception of Shabbos.

While women are not obligated in this mitzvah, they have generally taken upon themselves to perform it throughout Succos.

This mitzvah has extraordinary relevance to our lives today. In our oral tradition, it is explained that each of these four kinds corresponds to a different type of person, from the esrog which has both refreshing taste (Torah learning) and delightful fragrance (good deeds), to the aravah, which has neither of these qualities. Despite their difference, the Torah instructs us to take these four and bind them together, for they compliment one another, and only when there is true harmony among the Jewish people can we hope for an ideal existence.



Hoshana Rabbah

Hoshana Rabbah is the name of the seventh day of Succos. It is the final day of Chol Hamoed Succos (the Intermediate Days), and is the last day on which we can make the blessing on the lulav. Special prayers, called Hoshanas are said towards the end of the morning services. These prayers are accompanied by the beautiful ceremony in which everyone circles the Shulchan seven times, lulav and esrog in hand. Hoshana Rabbah is the final day on which G-d might change our inscription for a good year. Although the gates of heaven have officially been closed at the conclusion of the Yom Kippur service, it is still possible for G-d to open them one last time on Hoshana Rabbah, as we ask him to do so in our prayers on this day.



Shemini Atzeres

Shemini Atzeres corresponds to the eighth day of the holiday of Succos, but it is a separate and complete Yom Tov in its own right. The Midrash likens Shemini Atzeres to the special feast of a king for his beloved son. For a full week, the king celebrated with all his kingdom. After the festivities, the king said to his son, “It is difficult for me to part with you. Please stay another day to celebrate”. For seven days of Succos we brought seventy sacrifices to the holy Temple on behalf of all the nations. (“If the nations of the world would have known the value of the Temple for them, they would have surrounded it with fortresses in order to protect it”.-Midrash Rabbah). G-d set aside an eighth day of celebration on which only one holiday sacrifice was offered, this one on behalf of the Jewish nation, and it became a day of unique celebration between G-d, and his loyal children, the Jews. The above parable can be linked to the name of the holiday itself. Atzeres means holding back, referring to the king who held back his son from leaving with the rest of the celebrants. Outside the Land of Israel, we eat in the Succah on Shemini Atzeres. However, the blessing for “dwelling in the Succah” is not recited.

Simchas Torah

Simchas Torah is celebrated the day after Shemini Atzeres, “Simcha” denotes joy and great rejoicing. That is certainly the case on Simchas Torah. The Torah scrolls are taken out from the Ark, and everyone, scholars and laymen alike, dance around the shul, proudly taking turns clutching the holy Torah scrolls to their hearts. Everyone present becomes passionately involved in the hakafos, as these dances are called.

לשנה הבאה בירושלים

Next Year in Jerusalem



גוט יום טוב!
הג שמח!

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Yom Tov!

CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH SERVICE SCHEDULE

October 2020 13 Tishrei - 13 Cheshvan 5781



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbos
 16 Tishrei 2nd Day Succos Shacharis: 9:00 am Mincha: 7:10 pm Yom Tov ends: After 8:21 pm	17 Tishrei Chol Hamoed Shacharis: 7:20 am Mincha: 7:05 pm	18 Tishrei Chol Hamoed Shacharis: 7:21 am Mincha: 7:05 pm	19 Tishrei Chol Hamoed Shacharis: 7:22 am Mincha: 7:05 pm	20 Tishrei Chol Hamoed Shacharis: 7:23 am Mincha: 7:05 pm	21 Tishrei Hoshana Rabba Shacharis: 7:09 am Candle Lighting: 6:53 pm Mincha: 6:55 pm	22 Tishrei Shemini Atzeres Ti-Kor Shacharis: 9:00 am Mincha / Maariv / Hakafos: 6:55 pm Candle Lighting*: after 8:12 pm *from pre-existing flame
	5 24 Tishrei Shacharis: 6:50 am Mincha: 6:55 pm	6 25 Tishrei Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:55 pm	7 26 Tishrei Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:55 pm	8 27 Tishrei Shacharis: 6:50 am Mincha: 6:55 pm	9 28 Tishrei Shacharis: 7:00 am Candle Lighting: 6:43 pm Mincha: 6:45 pm	10 29 Tishrei Bereishis Shabbos Mevorchim Shacharis: 9:00 am Mincha: 6:35 pm Shabbos ends: after 8:02 pm
	12 1 Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh Shacharis: 8:30 am Mincha: 6:45 pm	13 2 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:45 pm	14 3 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:45 pm	15 4 Cheshvan Shacharis: 6:52 am Mincha: 6:45 pm	16 5 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Candle Lighting: 6:33 pm Mincha: 6:35 pm	17 6 Cheshvan Noach Shacharis: 9:00 am Mincha: 6:25 pm Shabbos ends: after 7:52 pm
	19 8 Cheshvan Shacharis: 8:30 am Mincha: 6:35 pm	20 9 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:35 pm	21 10 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:35 pm	22 11 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:35 pm	23 12 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:01 am Candle Lighting: 6:24 pm Mincha: 6:25 pm	24 13 Cheshvan Lech Lecha Shacharis: 9:00 am Mincha: 6:15 pm Shabbos ends: after 7:43 pm
	26 8 Cheshvan Shacharis: 8:30 am Mincha: 6:35 pm	27 9 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:35 pm	28 10 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:35 pm	29 11 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:00 am Mincha: 6:35 pm	30 12 Cheshvan Shacharis: 7:01 am Candle Lighting: 6:24 pm Mincha: 6:25 pm	31 13 Cheshvan Lech Lecha Shacharis: 9:00 am Mincha: 6:15 pm Shabbos ends: after 7:43 pm