

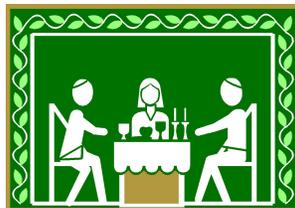
Sukkot (Booths) is a joyous holiday that celebrates the harvest in the land of Israel. It is a pilgrimage festival when ancient Israelites traveled to the Temple in Jerusalem with gifts of the first fruits and offerings to G-d. The Sukkah is a temporary shelter and symbolizes the idea that our true and ultimate protection comes from G-d. According to the Torah we are commanded to “dwell” in it for seven days and no more. One interpretation of “dwelling” is “eating meals.” Today, Sukkot resembles Thanksgiving as a festival where we thank G-d for the blessings of the harvest. It is a time for sharing and hospitality and inviting people to join us for a meal in our Sukkah.

SUKKOT LULAV & ETROG



If the High Holidays are coming, then Sukkot can't be far behind. That means it's time to order your Lulav and Etrog. *What's that?* It's a citron and palm/myrtle/willow combination that we use each day of the holiday to celebrate the harvest. *Why should I have one?* They are an integral part of the synagogue service (except on Shabbat). They smell good, look funky, sound neat when shaken, and signify much that edifies us. In addition, they make for a tangible and memorable holiday practice: Once you've held one you'll never forget it, and you'll look forward to Sukkot all year. Your Lulav and

Etrog will be available for pick up at Beth Ami fully assembled, with an explanation of how to use them, what the significance is, and transliterated blessings.



Shemini Atzeret is the last day of the Festival Season. While it comes at the end of Sukkot, it is a separate holiday. The rabbis interpreted its significance as the party after the party; an indication that G-d “did not want to part” with the Israelites when they had to return home after all the other holidays. There is also a custom to say the Yizkor memorial prayers on this festival.

Simchat Torah, “Rejoicing with the Torah,” falls on the second day of Shemini Atzeret! It is filled with joy and love for G-d, the Torah, and the Jewish community.

It marks the completion of the yearlong cycle of weekly Torah readings. More information to follow, on how services will be conducted.