



THE PUP TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter

October, 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Our synagogue building will remain closed until the threat of Covid-19 contagion has subsided. All upcoming religious services and group meetings are being conducted via Zoom, a widely used teleconferencing tool that is accessible by computers, tablets, and SmartPhones, as well as landline phones. This policy will remain in effect for the foreseeable future. Most, if not all, synagogues in our area are taking this necessary course of action.

SHABBAT!



During the time when Shabbat services are suspended, a "Virtual Shabbat Service," with links to essential blessings, prayers and songs, as well as Rabbi Silverman's weekly message/sermon, is being published in the Weekly Update. CBJ has also been conducting Shabbat services via **Zoom**, a teleconferencing computer application. See the "CBJ Weekly Update" for information on how to connect to these services using Zoom.

If you do not currently receive the "Weekly Update," please send an email message to Judith Sherman at judith.sherman@gmail.com, and she will be happy to add you to the distribution list.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah



Sukkot (October 3-4)

Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. It also commemorates the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai. Sukkot is celebrated five days after Yom Kippur on the 15th of the month of Tishrei, and is marked by several distinct traditions. One, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths literally, is to erect a sukkah. Sukkot (the plural of sukkah) are commonly used during the seven-day festival for eating, entertaining and even for sleeping.

Sukkah: The sukkah symbolizes the frail huts in which the Israelites lived during their 40 years of wandering in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt. It also serves to remind Jews of the biblical account of how God protected them, provided for their needs in the wilderness, and by implication, still watches over us today.

Sukkot come in many variations, but there are some guidelines to follow when building them. Two important ones are:

- A sukkah has to have two and a half walls. Only one can be an existing wall, like the side of a house. The walls may be constructed of any material, generally canvas, wood or metal. Today, it is possible to buy ready-to-assemble sukkah kits.
- The roof is to be temporary, covered with loose branches from trees or anything that grows out of the ground, and has been cut off from the ground. According to tradition, this roof covering, s'chach, should give shade and yet allow those in the sukkah to see the stars through the roof at night.

Once the sukkah is built, it is common to decorate it by hanging fruit and other items from the s'chach, putting posters on the walls, and even laying carpet on the floor.

Lulav and Etrog: Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest, expressed by blessing and waving the lulav and the etrog, symbols of the harvest; by building and decorating a sukkah; and by extending hospitality to friends and family. The lulav is a combination of date palm, willow and myrtle branches, held together by a woven palm branch. The etrog, or citron, is a lemon-like fruit with a wonderful citrus smell. When reciting the blessing over the lulav and etrog, one should wave them in six directions—north, south, east, west, up, and down. This action symbolizes that God can be found in all directions, not only in one particular place.

The traditional ritual for the lulav and etrog is as follows:

Stand facing east. Place the lulav (with the spine facing you, myrtle on the right and the willows on the left) in your right hand and the etrog in your left hand. Bring your hands together so that the lulav and etrog are side by side.

Next, recite this special blessing: Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al n'tilat lulav. "Blessed are You, Adonai our God, sovereign of the universe, who has sanctified us through Your mitzvot and ordained the taking of the lulav."

On the first day of the festival, add the Shehecheyanu prayer.

Shake the lulav in all directions – east, south, west, north, up, and down – while reciting or chanting the words Hodu l'Adonai ki tov ki l'olam chasdo. "Give thanks to God, for God is good, for God's loving-kindness endures forever."

AT HOME

Many families build their own sukkah at home, or visit the sukkah of other families. Extending hospitality, especially to the needy, is a Sukkot custom. Many Jews invite guests outside of their families to join them for a holiday meal in the sukkah.

It is a mitzvah to celebrate in the sukkah. This is done primarily by eating meals in the sukkah, especially on the first night of the Festival. Whenever one eats in the sukkah one, recites haMotzi, the prayer over bread, and then adds a special blessing:

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu leisheiv basukah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, sovereign of the universe, who has sanctified us through your mitzvot and commanded us to dwell in the sukkah.

Click below for a UTube video on How to say the blessings for the Lulav and Etrog

<https://reformjudaism.org/sukkot-customs-and-rituals>

Shemini Atzeret (October 10) and Simchat Torah (October 11)



Coming at the conclusion of Sukkot are the two holidays of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. In Israel and among liberal Jews they are combined into one holiday on the day after the conclusion of Sukkot. Among more traditional Jews outside of Israel, they are observed separately from one another on two consecutive days. Shemini Atzeret means the "Eighth Day of Assembly," while Simchat Torah means "Rejoicing in Torah."

Shemini Atzeret is mentioned in the Bible, but its exact function is unclear. In Second Temple times, it appears to have been a day devoted to the ritual cleansing of the altar in the Temple. With the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, this function of the day became obsolete. Although it marks the beginning of the rainy season in Israel and, therefore includes the year's first prayer for rain, its lack of clear definition may have provided the impetus to celebrate it in conjunction with Simchat Torah, a celebration of the conclusion of one and the beginning of another annual cycle of readings from the Torah. This latter holiday probably originated during the medieval period.

Beginning on Shemini Atzeret and lasting until Pesach (Passover), a short prayer for rain is inserted into the second blessing of the Amidah Prayer. It is traditional to include the Yizkor, or memorial service, as part of the liturgy for this day. Simchat Torah is characterized by joyful dancing with the Torah. The final portion of the Book of Deuteronomy is read in the synagogue followed by the beginning of the Book of Genesis. In this manner, the annual cycle of Torah readings continues unbroken.

While Shemini Atzeret's significance is somewhat unclear, Simchat Torah conveys a clear message about the centrality of Torah in Jewish life. It is both a source of Jewish identity and a precious gift from God. Simchat Torah is the day on which the whole community gathers to come into direct contact with the Torah and to express our joy in having received it.



The Following Yahrzeits Will be Observed in October:
(A memorial candle should be lit on the preceding evening.)

October 2020

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Phillip Gerber | 16 Leona Swartz |
| 1 Bernard Kusmin | 17 Manny Arons |
| 2 Abraham Lelyveld | 17 Abraham Selig Feinberg |
| 2 Isaac Stein | 18 Joan-Betty Bernard |
| 2 Max Toabe | 18 Zelda Gladstein |
| 2 Samuel Toabe | 20 Harris B. Cohen |
| 3 Mitchell David Cohen | 20 Sarah Sherman |
| 3 Harriette Minsky | 20 Harry L. Skulsky |
| 3 Reubin Winokur | 21 Lionel D. Greene |
| 4 Sydney Glansberg | 22 Herbert Neitlich |
| 4 Ari Meltzer | 22 Anna P. Rodman |
| 6 Celia Aranowitz | 25 Ada Lutzky |
| 6 Meyer Minkowitz | 26 Morton Arons |
| 7 Hyman Hurwitz | 27 Ethel Shiff |
| 7 Milly Russo | 28 Harvey Chernoff |
| 8 Eva Erie | 28 Frank Goldberg |
| 9 Maxine Eiger | 29 Manis Albert |
| 9 Harry Louis Smith | 29 Erika Blass |
| 9 Joseph Wax | 29 Marion T. Bryan |
| 11 Lillian Roth | 29 Gloria Rothstein |
| 12 Benjamin Spekman | 29 Edythe Shelly |
| 12 Fannie Winokur | 30 Pearl Keil |
| 13 David Samuel Katz | 30 Max Sadow |
| 11/26/2019 15 | 31 Gertrude Gold |
| 14 Richard Balton | 31 Shawn Heaslip |
| 14 Frederick Klein | 31 Mark Lelyveld |
| 15 Harry Dana | 31 Nettie B. Resnick |
| 15 Anna Veiner | 31 Amanda Russo |
| 16 Reva Brody | |

May their memories be for a blessing and live forever in the hearts of all who knew and loved them.



Congregation Beth Jacob gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following donations:

Yahrzeit Fund:

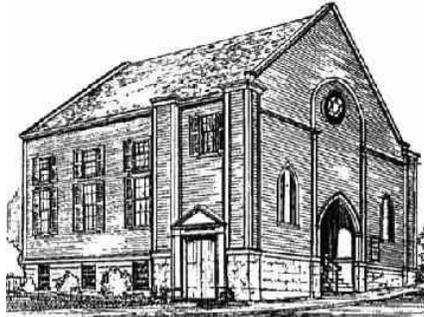
- Franny & Jeff Shelly -- in memory of Franny's father, Philip Liss
- Don & Carol Gilbert -- in memory of George and Lillian Gilbert
- Frank & Gloria Finkelstein -- in memory of Albert and Alexander Finkelstein
- Harry & Barbara Aharoni - in memory of Ludwig and Claire Jonas, who were victims of the Holocaust in early September, 1942
- Irene & Fred Sarke - in memory of Irene's father, Louis Lipetz

A generous donation to the Yahrzeit Fund was received from the Sadye Gereboff CJP Donor Advised Fund in memory of:

- Abraham Sherman
- Sarah Sherman
- Milton Geller

In Appreciation of Rabbi Silverman:

A generous donation was received from Jack and Sandi Rosen - in honor of Rabbi Lawrence for all of the help and encouragement he gave to Freddie for his Bar Mitzvah and for his Confirmation.



**"From Generation to Generation"
UTube Video Showing the History of CBJ
Created by Michael Cohen**

In preparation for the Plymouth 400 celebration, Michael Cohen, a great-grandson of one of the founding families of CBJ, has produced a beautiful UTube video showing CBJ's history. [To see this exceptional video, click here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2q1OjSCEmg&feature=youtu.be) or copy and paste this link into your browser:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2q1OjSCEmg&feature=youtu.be>

This will make you proud to be a member of the CBJ family!

Recipe for Beit Sefer Challah Bake



4 to 5 cups of all purpose flour
1 package or 2 1/4 teaspoons instant yeast
1 cup of hot water (1/4 cup of boiling, 3/4 of cold water)
2 tsp salt
1/4 cup of honey
1/2 cup of safflower, canola, or grapeseed oil
2 eggs
Egg wash: 1 egg beaten with 1 tsp of water

You will need: round cake pans; parchment paper; pastry brush; measuring spoon and cups; a small bowl, and a large bowl.

1. Make the sponge

Whisk one cup of flour with the yeast and stir in the hot water until the sponge is smooth. Make sure the water isn't too hot otherwise the yeast won't activate. Cover with plastic wrap or a dish towel and let rise 45 minutes or until puffy and bubbly.

2. Directly into the bowl, add the salt, honey, oil, and eggs. Stir with a spatula or spoon until well mixed, then add the remaining three cups of flour. Stir with a spoon until dough forms a sticky mass. Add a bit more flour, then turn dough onto lightly floured surface and knead for a few minutes, until dough becomes smooth. Transfer to a lightly oiled bowl, cover it with a dish towel or plastic wrap and let it rise until doubled- one or two hours or longer depending on the temperature of your kitchen.

3. Punch down and divide into four parts. Roll into four ropes that are the same length. Braid and shape into the crown shape. Brush with egg wash

4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Let the loaf rise on the parchment lined/ greased pan for about 30 minutes. Place the pan on a cookie sheet to keep the bottom from burning.

5. Brush one more time with egg wash. Bake for 45 - 50 minutes, checking after 40 minutes. Cool completely before slicing.

Editor's Note: "The Pup Tent" is a monthly publication that provides a condensed summary of CBJ news, including the monthly Calendar, upcoming Yahrzeit dates, and acknowledgments of donations that have been received. The "CBJ Weekly Update" is our weekly email newsletter that includes full details about upcoming events, as well as information about the weekly Torah reading portion and helpful links to various resources. **To subscribe to the CBJ Weekly Update, please contact me at judith.sherman@gmail.com.** Thank you! Judith Sherman, Editor, "The Pup Tent" and "CBJ Weekly Update"