



October 2018 tishri/cheshvan 5779

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Shmini Atzeret / Simchat Torah	2	3	4	5 Lay-led Shabbat service , 7:30 pm	6 <i>Bereshit</i>
7 Sunday School, 9 am	8	9	10	11	12 Lay-led Shabbat service , 7:30 pm	13 <i>Noach</i>
14 Sunday School, 9 am	15 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm	16	17	18	19 Rav Sam-led Shabbat service, 7:30 pm Potluck dinner, 6:30 pm	20 <i>Lech-Lecha</i>
21 Sunday School, 9 am Adult Ed with Rav Sam, 1 pm	22	23	24	25	26 Confirmation/Bar Mitzvah student- led family-friendly service, 7 pm	27 <i>Veyera</i>
28 Sunday School, 9 am	29	30				

HIGHLIGHTS

So many holidays!

For Reform Jews, this year October 1 marks the end of the fall holiday season, with the celebration of Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. How much do you know about the end of Sukkot?

- Simchat Torah is probably the better known of the two holidays. Celebrating the continuity of the Torah, synagogues typically read the end of the book of Deuteronomy and then begin the cycle again with the first words of Genesis. Many synagogues feature processions where members march and even dance while holding the Torah. At Betenu, when numbers and weather permit, we unroll a scroll outside to see the entire Torah at once.
- While Reform Jews and Jews in Israel celebrate the two holidays together in one day, Conservative and Orthodox Jews outside of Israel celebrate the holidays on two consecutive days.
- Shmini Atzeret or “Eighth Day of Assembly” marks the end of Sukkot. It features the reading of yizkor and the first reading of a prayer for rain, since the holiday also marks the beginning of the rainy season in Israel.
- While Jewish law is clear in requiring the sukkah to stay up through these two holidays, there is no clear answer about when you have to take it down. So if weather permits, you can enjoy a sukkah after the holidays.