



Carnegie Shul Chatter

September 19, 2021



Sukkah, Anyone?

Did you know that we are all actually supposed to build a Sukkah and for seven days and nights make it our home, eating all of our meals in the sukkah?

Although many Conservative and Reform Jews no longer build their own Sukkahs, almost all Orthodox Jews still do. Take a drive through Squirrel Hill and you will see Sukkahs everywhere.

When Sukkos falls later in the year, it is often a bit cold and rainy to eat outside in a Sukkah, but many Jews do so regardless. And this year, with Sukkos falling a bit earlier on our calendar, the weather should not be too much of an issue. So if you don't usually eat in a Sukkah, you just might want to give it a try.

Although we will not be erecting a sukkah at our shul, see if you can find a friend or neighbor who will be building a sukkah and try to have a meal there. And many synagogues have sukkahs, as does the JCC, but with Covid restrictions still in place it would be best to check to see what their policies are with regard to Covid and the sukkah.

More to Come

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 2021/5781 may be behind us, but that doesn't mean the holiday season has passed.

In fact, over the next two weeks, we have three more holidays to celebrate.

Sukkos, the Feast of Tabernacles, begins Monday evening, September 20, at sundown and continues through nightfall on Monday evening, September 27. Sukkos is then followed immediately by Shemini Atzeres, and Shemini Atzeres is followed immediately, on Tuesday evening September 29, by Simchas Torah for one day.

Although we will not have special services here at the

Carnegie Shul, we will be having a special Yizkor service on Shemini Atzeres, September 28, beginning with morning services at 9:30. We will also have our regular Sabbath services on September 25.

I know that some people have trouble keeping these three holidays straight so here is an explanation of all three from chabad.org.

Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Torah: September 20-29, 2021

The seven days of Sukkot—celebrated by dwelling in the sukkah, taking the Four Kinds, and rejoicing—are followed by Simchat Torah.

Sukkot—when we expose ourselves to the elements in greenery-covered huts—commemorates G-d sheltering our ancestors as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land. The Four Kinds express our unity and our belief in G-d's omnipresence.

Coming after the solemn High Holidays, it is a time of joy and happiness.

The first two days (or one day in Israel) are yom tov, when work is forbidden, candles are lit in the evening, and festive meals are preceded with Kiddush and contain challah dipped in honey.



The intermediate days are quasi holidays, known as chol hamoed. We dwell in the sukkah and take the Four Kinds every day (except for Shabbat, when we do not take the Four Kinds).

The final two days (or one in Israel) are Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah. They are yom tov, marked by dancing with the Torah, Yizkor memorial prayer, and even more joy.