

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Succos

September 29, 2023 / 14 Tishrei 5784

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Candlelighting: 6:55 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

## Friday, September 29

6:54pm Candlelighting  
6:55pm Mincha  
7:30pm Maariv

## Shabbos, September 30 Succos Day 1

8:45am Shacharis  
6:45pm Mincha  
7:52pm Maariv  
>8:10pm Candlelighting (60)

## Sunday, October 1 Succos Day 2

8:45am Shacharis  
6:50pm Mincha  
7:59pm Maariv

## Mon-Thurs October 2-5

8:00am Shacharis  
10:00pm Maariv

## Friday, October 6 Hoshana Raba

6:45am Shacharis  
6:42pm Candlelighting  
6:45pm Mincha  
7:20pm Maariv

## Shabbos, October 7 Shmini Azeres

8:45am Shacharis  
~10:30am Yizkor  
6:35pm Mincha  
7:40pm Maariv  
>8:00pm Candlelighting (60)

## Sunday, October 8 Simchas Torah

8:30am Shacharis  
6:40pm Mincha  
7:47pm Maariv

## Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)  
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)  
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

## Class Connection

**R. Nisenbaum:**

425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly  
at all podcast locations

**R. Stoll:**

Zoom: 876-619-3551  
Audio: 669-900-9128

## Succos

The holiday of Succos commemorates both the booths the Jews built during their forty-year trek through the desert after their Exodus from Egypt, and also the miraculous clouds of glory that protected them. The commentaries explain that although the Jews left Egypt in the spring, the holiday is celebrated in the autumn, after Yom Kippur, since that was when the clouds of glory returned to the nation after they were forgiven for the Golden Calf.

Succos is referred to as the period of our joy, more so than any of the other holidays. It is the joy of enjoying life in its sheer simplicity, unencumbered by the endless pursuit of materialism. As long as a person is chained to the shackles of the material world and its luxuries, he is incapable of truly enjoying life. During Succos, we move out of the security and beauty of our permanent homes and reside instead in temporary *succah*-huts, lacking even the most basic roof with which to protect ourselves. We eat our meals, visit, and some people even sleep, in the *succah*. There we can gain a new appreciation for life. Rabbeinu Bachya put it succinctly: Happiness is more in *being* than in *having*.

The Torah does not advocate a life of self-deprivation or asceticism. Quite the contrary, the Jew is often encouraged to fully enjoy the pleasures

of the physical world, as part of his service to G-d. However, he must be careful not to become enslaved to the pleasures of the world. The Torah requires the Jew to leave his house for seven days, and he can then return. He need only leave long enough to ensure that he not become dependent upon the material comforts of the world for his enjoyment.

There is also a mitzvah to take four species of plants on Succos; the esrog, or citron, the lulav, or date palm branch, two aravos, or willow branches, and three hadassim, or myrtle branches. Three of the species are tied together and held with the esrog, and waved each day during Succos, except for Shabbos.

The *Sefer Hachinuch* explains that the nature of these species brings a sense of happiness and contentment to a person. Here, too, the theme is that it is not necessary to travel to exotic places, nor invest in expensive forms of entertainment, to find true joy. A few simple fruits and plants, representing the different elements in nature, can bring a person the greatest sense of joy and happiness, if he would only realize it.

The satisfaction and happiness we all pursue doesn't have to be on the other side of the world. It may be found in the succah, lulav and esrog, in one's own backyard.

### Mazel Tov

*Dr. Daniel and Avigayil Grits upon  
the birth of a daughter*

### Issue Sponsorship

*in memory of Herman D. Stein,  
Chaim Dov ben Yechezkel, on the  
occasion of his yahrzeit*

**Kumzitz @ Nisenbaum Succah**

*Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:30pm*

## Insights: Succos

**...the fruit of a beautiful tree... (Lev 23:40)** Rav Aryeh Levin stopped at a store to purchase an esrog. The merchant brought him one and he quickly paid for it and left the store without even examining the fruit. A yeshiva student who saw the exchange approached Rav Aryeh and asked him, "Everybody else is examining all the esrogim before they purchase the nicest one they can find. I noticed that you hardly glanced at your esrog! Why aren't you as careful as the others?" Rav Aryeh answered, "We find the word "hiddur"(beautiful) regarding two mitzvos: regarding the esrog and regarding honoring the elderly (vehadarta p'nei zaken). Others may put their focus on honoring the esrog, but I have to run to visit an elderly person now, and I put my focus on that "hiddur."

## Did You Know?

On the first days of the Succos Yom tov, one must own the four species (lulav and esrog) in order to fulfill the mitzvah. He may not borrow another person's set of four species to fulfill the mitzvah. If one does not own his own set, he should be given a set on the condition that they be returned after using them. However, we may assume that the set is given with this condition even if it was not specifically expressed, since the lender's intention is for the borrower to fulfill the mitzvah properly. When the first day of Succos is on Shabbos this does not apply, as the rest of Succos, one may borrow another person's set without any stipulation.

**Thought for the Week:** *Many respect us, not for ourselves, but for themselves.*  
(A Candle By Day)