



Jewish Family and Children's
Service of Minneapolis

Twin Cities Jewish Healing Program

The Jewish Holiday Calendar 5779: 2018-19

2018

Rosh Hashanah – Sept. 10-11

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. Its liturgy reflects self-examination, punctuated by the hearkening call of the ram's horn (shofar) blown during services. Apples and honey are eaten to represent sweetness and fulfillment in the coming year.

Yom Kippur – Sept. 19

Yom Kippur is Hebrew for “Day of Atonement,” and is observed with fasting and prayer. (Those who are ill are exempt from fasting.)

Sukkot – Sept. 24-30

Sukkot (pronounced “Soo-coat”) means “booths,” referring to the desert huts in which the Israelites dwelled after the Exodus from slavery in Egypt. Agricultural symbols are used ritually throughout this holiday.

Simchat Torah – Oct. 2

Simchat Torah (pronounced “Sim-khat Torah”) joyfully celebrates the completion of the yearlong Torah (Old Testament) reading cycle and the end of the Jewish fall holidays.

Chanukah – Dec. 3-10

Chanukah commemorates the military and religious miracles of a second-century BCE Jewish community in Jerusalem. Rituals include lighting an eight-branched candelabra (called a menorah), eating oil-fried foods and playing a game with a spinning top, or dreidel.

2019

Purim – March 21, 2019

Purim (pronounced “poo-rim”) celebrates the strength of a fifth-century BCE Jewish community facing destruction. Holiday customs include dressing in costume, reading from the Book of Esther and eating triangular pastries called hamantashen.

Passover – April 20-27, 2019

Passover recalls the Israelites' redemption from slavery in Egypt. It is marked with ceremonial meals (seders) and by refraining from eating leavened foods. (Those who are ill are exempt from this observance.)

Shavuot – June 9-10, 2019

Shavuot (pronounced “Shah-voo-oat”) means “weeks,” as the holiday falls seven weeks after Passover. Dairy products are eaten to symbolize the nourishment received when God gave the Torah (Old Testament) on this day.

Jewish holidays begin at sundown the night before.