



THE CITY CONGREGATION
FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

Kidschool SUKKOT Service

The holiday of Sukkot is also called “The Feast of Booths” or the “Feast of Ingathering.” The holiday begins at the full moon of the first month of the year, which is the 15th of Tishri, and lasts a week.

Originally, Sukkot celebrated the Fall Harvest. At harvest time, farmers worked very long hours far from their homes and stayed in temporary dwellings rather than return to their homes at night.

The Sukkah – or booth – reminds us of these huts they lived in for the period of the harvest.

The booths are flimsy and made of loosely interlaced twigs and branches to provide some shade and shelter.

One could see the stars from below at night. The rain could also easily get in through the roof.

These huts remind us to appreciate the homes we have that are warm and dry.

When our ancestors gathered in their crops, they were grateful. They performed rituals to guarantee that the next year would bring a new and abundant crop as well.

One ritual they performed was to take water and spill it on the ground. They thought this would encourage the rains that were needed to water their crops.

They also took the *lulav* and *etrog* – the palm branch and citrus fruit – symbols of the fall harvest – and waved them in four directions – north, south, east, and west. They believed that this would encourage the winds to blow forth rain from every direction.

Today, we have a clearer picture where rain comes from and we don't believe that magic can bring it on. However, we still can wave the *lulav* and *etrog* to show that nature is everywhere, that we are part of it, and that it is our responsibility to protect and preserve it for all the generations to come.

Wave Lulav and Etrog

Sukkot marks the change of seasons and the beginning of Fall!

SEASONS

Lyrics by Peter Schweitzer / Music by Mickie & Abe Mandel

A time for winter, a time for spring
 A time to celebrate, a time to sing
 A time for summer, a time for fall
 A time to enjoy life one and all. (2x)

Over and over, round and round
 Seasons fade into seasons found
 Over and over, round and round
 The cycles of nature safe and sound (2x)

Again and again, it is nature's way
 A time for planting brings time to play
 A time to sow and a time to reap
 A time to awaken, a time to sleep (2x)

It started long before we were here
 On and on it goes, year by year
 It matters not the reason why
 We treasure each gift of earth and sky (2x)

A time for winter, etc.

Later, our ancestors explained that these huts are reminders of the temporary dwellings our ancestors stayed in during their journey from Egypt to Canaan.

We're not sure how much of that event really took place, but the booths still remind us that our ancient ancestors and even our own relatives and families have been on a long journey from one land to another.

We have left one land for another sometimes to escape persecution and oppression.

We have left one land for another to seek out freedom and opportunity.

These booths represent all the different dwellings we have had along the way.

HINEY MAH TOV (Psalm 133:1)

Hee-ney mah tov oo-mah ny-eem
Sheh-vet ah-cheem gahm yah-chad

How good and how pleasant it is for people to live together as brothers and sisters.

**ADDITIONAL SONGS
TO CELEBRATE SUKKOT**

*Sukkot celebrates the modern farmers of Israel
who planted crops, toiled and reclaimed the land!*

ZUM GALLI GALLI

CHORUS

Zum gah-lee gah-lee gah-lee
Zum gah-lee gah-lee (2)

I

Heh-ha-lootz l'mah-ahn ah-vo-dah
Ah-vo-dah l'mah-ahn heh-ha-lootz

The pioneer is made for work - the work is made for the pioneer

CHORUS

II

Ha-sha-lom l'mah-ahn ha-ah-meem
Ha-ah-meem l'mah-ahn ha-sha-lom

Peace shall be for all the world. All the world shall be for peace.

CHORUS

III

From the dawn till setting sun
Everyone finds work to be done.
From the dawn till night does come.
There's a task for everyone.

CHORUS

During the period of slavery in the United States, many slaves fled to freedom in the North. They passed travel instructions from plantation to plantation by singing songs in code. "Follow the Drinking Gourd" is one of these songs that gives the route for an escape from Alabama and Mississippi.

FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD

When the Sun comes back
And the first quail calls
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking Gourd.

The riverbank makes a very good road.
The dead trees will show you the way.
Left foot, peg foot, traveling on,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.

The river ends between two hills
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
There's another river on the other side
Follow the Drinking Gourd

When the great big river meets the little river
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the drinking gourd.

Sukkot can be just plain fun!

*The following songs were found on the web:
www.perpetualpreschool.com/holiday_themes/jewish/sukkot_songs.htm*

TO THE SUKKAH

To the tune of “Twinkle Twinkle”

To the Sukkah
 I will bring
 Fruits and vegetables
 On a string
 Tie them up
 Hang them high
 Through the roof
 You see the sky.
 To the Sukkah
 I will bring
 Fruits and vegetables
 On a string.

WE’LL Be GOING TO THE SUKKAH

To the tune of “She’ll be Coming around the Mountain”

We’ll be going to the Sukkah on Sukkot (2x)
 We’ll be going to the Sukkah (2x)
 We’ll be going to the Sukkah on Sukkot.
 We’ll bring fruit to the Sukkah on Sukkot (2x)
 We’ll bring fruit to the Sukkah (2x)
 We’ll bring fruit to the Sukkah on Sukkot.
 We’ll shake the lulav on Sukkot. (2x)
 We’ll shake the lulav. (2x)
 We’ll shake the lulav on Sukkot.