

D'var Torah by Rabbi M. Jaroslawicz for Sukkos 5775 (2014)

Baruch Hashem, we have overcome a major hurdle, surviving the most serious of all court cases, the ultimate day of judgment, Yom Hakipurim, Yom Hadin.

While it is true that we cannot possibly know the specifics of what is now in store for us for the rest of the year, what we can be sure of is the fact that we are here. At least we have been granted the opportunity to continue praying, doing Mitzvos, doing Chesed, giving Tzadakah, learning, going to classes and doing all of the things that will continue to infuse our accounts with additional merits that will, G-d willing, keep us healthy and well for months to come.

The Davening at DOS was truly amazing over Yom Kippur. The only sounds that could be heard were the sweetest sounds of people saying their Tefillos, singing along with the Chazanim, and an unmistakable hum of member camaraderie, unity and warm feelings throughout the Shul. A Davening that will not be forgotten for quite some time. A special call out and thank you to all of you who were involved at any and all levels.

And, the best part is that it is not yet over. Wow!!! More opportunities just around the corner. Sukkos, Hoshanah Rabbah, Shemini Atzeres, Simchas Torah. It seems like all the good stuff is yet to arrive.

This year, a greater number of our members are away for Sukkos, more than in any year past. We are truly left with a skeleton crew. What a shame. Their loss. The word will soon be out. Sukkos in Delray rocks!!!

The "Mateh Efrayim" (625:29) teaches us that when the Yom Tov of Sukkos begins, all of the roofs of our Sukkos should be open, and not covered with a 'Shlak", a protective roof covering. This way, he says, when the spiritual energies of Yom Tov come down to earth to begin the Chag, the Succah is in a Kosher operable state, available to receive the Hashpa'ah, the Divine energy, being bestowed down upon us from above. This infuses the Succah itself with a spiritual energy blast that will transfer to us when we enter the Succah and make a Bracha.

Each night of Sukkos we welcome one of our seven guests, Avraham, Yitzchok, Yaakov, Moshe, Aharon Yosef and finally, Dovid. True, we cannot see them, but we can possibly feel them. If our Succah is a spiritually charged environment from when Yom Tov begins, and our bodies and souls are pure from having had such an uplifting, meaningful Yom Kippur, and our hearts are a little bit open to experience the moment, yes indeed, we could possibly feel them. Esoteric? Maybe. So what?

Have a Chag Kosher V'samayach