

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – *Written by Linda S Trapasso*

Connecting to the Seasons

I think my favorite season is the fall. I love the colors of the trees as they prepare for winter. I love the crisp air and the scent of apples. I enjoy the farm stands full of pumpkins and chrysanthemums. G-d has made the Earth's bounty ready for everyone!

After we begin the New Year on *Rosh Hashanah* and make atonement on *Yom Kippur*, we shake off being immersed in G-d's will and realize we have another year to enjoy. And that enjoyment begins with *Sukkot*, our harvest festival, and continues with *Simchat Torah*, where we celebrate our love and reverence for Torah as we begin anew with the first reading in Genesis. (For Jewish thoughts about fall and other seasons, go to Chabad.org.)

In Ecclesiastes (*Kohelet*), it says that “the Earth endures forever.” By spending time in a *sukkah*, we are reminded that life, all life, is fragile and vulnerable, and that G-d's creations are more wondrous and enduring than man's creations. (For more on the connection between *Sukkot* and *Kohelet*, read the *d'var Torah* by [Roberta Louis Goodman](#).)

[Rabbi David Zauderer](#) states that according to Jewish tradition, there are six seasons – “As the *Talmud* teaches us in *Bava Metzia* 106b, based on a verse in Genesis 8:22:

1) The second half of (the Hebrew month of) *Tishri*, *Cheshvan*, and the first half of *Kislev* is called *zera*, the planting season.

2) The second half of *Kislev*, *Tevet*, and the first half of *Shevat* is called *choref*; the winter season.

Hebrew	English	Number	Length	Civil Equivalent
ניסן	Nissan	1	30 days	March-April
אייר	Iyar	2	29 days	April-May
סיון	Sivan	3	30 days	May-June
תמוז	Tammuz	4	29 days	June-July
אב	Av	5	30 days	July-August
אלול	Elul	6	29 days	August-September
תשרי	Tishri	7	30 days	September-October
חשוון	Cheshvan	8	29 or 30 days	October-November
כסלו	Kislev	9	30 or 29 days	November-December
טבת	Tevet	10	29 days	December-January
שבט	Shevat	11	30 days	January-February
אדר א'	Adar I (leap years only)	12	30 days	February-March
אדר ב'	Adar (called Adar Beit in leap years)	12 (13 in leap years)	29 days	February-March

3) The second half of *Shevat*, *Adar*, and the first half of *Nissan* is called *kor*, the cold season.

4) The second half of *Nissan*, *Iyar*, and the first half of *Sivan* is called *katzir*, the harvest season.

The second half of *Sivan*, *Tammuz*, and the first half of *Av* is called *kayitz*, the summer season.

The second half of *Av*, *Elul*, and the first half of *Tishri* is called *chom*, the hot season.”

Early Zionist pioneers were impressed by the fact that the calendar preserved by Jews over many centuries in far-flung diasporas, as a matter of religious ritual, was geared to the climate of their original country: the Jewish New

Year marks the transition from the dry season to the rainy one, and major Jewish holidays such as *Sukkot*, *Pesach*, and *Shavuot* correspond to major points of Israel's agricultural year such as planting and harvest (refer to Wikipedia for details).

I continue to learn new things about Judaism, and am duly impressed by the calendar that has kept us and our holidays and spiritual lives on track for 5780 years! *L'shanah tovah!*

Alan J Green, MD

Certified Mohel

מוהל מוסמך



22 Chester Street, Nashua NH 03064

603-440-3444

www.mohelnh.com