

## ROSH HASHANA

The Jewish **New Year** marks the beginning of the Ten Days of Penitence which conclude on Yom Kippur.

## YOM KIPPUR

The **Day of Atonement** is the most solemn of Holy Days in the Jewish calendar. It is devoted to fasting and prayer as Jews strive to reaffirm their faith so it may be a guiding force in daily life.

## SUKKOT

The **Festival of Tabernacles** is the fall harvest festival of thanksgiving, deriving its name from the tabernacle of booth dwellings used by ancient Israelites during the harvest.

## SHEMINI ATZERET

The eighth day of Sukkot marks the conclusion of the Holy Season.

## SIMCHAT TORAH

**Rejoicing for the Torah** celebrates the conclusion of the year-long cycle of reading the Five Books of Moses and the beginning of a new year.

## PURIM

Based on the biblical Book of Esther, **Purim** celebrates the foiling of a plot to kill the Jews in ancient Persia.

## PASSOVER (PESACH)

The **Festival of Freedom** celebrates the deliverance of the ancient Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

## SHAVUOT

The **Festival of Weeks** observes the giving of the Torah commemorating ancient Israel's acceptance of the Torah and its obligations.

## CHANUKAH

The **Festival of Lights** commemorates the rededication (hanukah) of the Temple in Jerusalem by Judah Maccabee in 165 B.C.E.

# A NOTE ON JEWISH OBSERVANCE

The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) is observed from Friday sundown until Saturday evening each week. All Jewish religious observances begin on the evening before the date indicated on conventional calendars and conclude on a subsequent evening.

There is a wide diversity of religious practice in the Jewish community. Some students, staff members and employees will be absent for religious purposes more than others. The dates of Jewish religious observances will be different each year. Because the Jewish calendar is a lunar/solar calendar, the dates of these holy days will vary from year to year on the Gregorian calendar.

**For more information:**

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**Jewish Federation**  
OF SILICON VALLEY  
Community Relations Council

SEVEN-YEAR  
CALENDAR OF  
MAJOR JEWISH  
RELIGIOUS  
OBSERVANCES

2011-2018



**A Guide in Planning and  
Scheduling for:**  
SCHOOLS  
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
PRIVATE EMPLOYERS

PROVIDED BY  
**The Community  
Relations Council of the  
Jewish Federation  
of Silicon Valley**

# SEVEN-YEAR CALENDAR OF MAJOR JEWISH RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

This seven-year calendar of the Jewish Holy Days has been prepared as an aid for the planning and scheduling of school events (e.g. graduations, examinations, registrations, assemblies, athletic events, science camps, open houses and conferences) in order to minimize conflicts which involve the absence of Jewish students and personnel. Government agencies and private employers may also find this listing helpful. The dates listed follow an academic calendar and are not necessarily in order of importance.

\*Note: Purim and Chanukah do not require cessation from daily routines, but major programs should not be scheduled on the first nights.

FALL/WINTER HOLY DAYS	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>ROSH HASHANA</b> Jewish New Year							
Evenings of Observance	<u>Sept. 28, 29</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>Sept. 16, 17</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Sept. 28, 29</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>Sept. 24, 25</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>Sept. 13, 14</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Oct. 2, 3</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Sept. 20, 21</u> (Wed., Thu.)
Days of Observance	<u>Sept. 29, 30</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Sept. 17, 18</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Sept. 29, 30</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Sept. 25, 26</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Sept. 14, 15</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Oct. 3, 4</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Sept. 21, 22</u> (Thu., Fri.)
<b>YOM KIPPUR</b> Day of Atonement							
Evening of Observance	<u>Oct. 7</u> (Fri.)	<u>Sept. 25</u> (Tue.)	<u>Sept. 13</u> (Fri.)	<u>Oct 3</u> (Fri.)	<u>Sept. 22</u> (Tue.)	<u>Oct. 11</u> (Tue.)	<u>Sept. 29</u> (Fri.)
Day of Observance	<u>Oct. 8</u> (Sat.)	<u>Sept. 26</u> (Wed.)	<u>Sept. 14</u> (Sat.)	<u>Oct. 4</u> (Sat.)	<u>Sept. 23</u> (Wed.)	<u>Oct. 12</u> (Wed.)	<u>Oct. 30</u> (Sat.)
<b>SUKKOT</b> Festival of Tabernacles							
Evenings of Observance	<u>Oct. 12, 13</u> (Wed, Thu.)	<u>Sept. 30, Oct. 1</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Sept. 18, 19</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>Oct. 8, 9</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>Sept. 27, 28</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Oct. 16, 17</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Oct. 4, 5</u> (Wed., Thu.)
Days of Observance	<u>Oct. 13, 14</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Oct. 1, 2</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Sept. 19, 20</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Oct. 9, 10</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Sept. 28, 29</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Oct. 17, 18</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Oct. 5, 6</u> (Thu., Fri.)
<b>SHEMINI ATZERET</b> 8th Day of Sukkot <b>SIMCHAT TORAH</b> Rejoicing for the Torah							
Evenings of Observance	<u>Oct. 19, 20</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>Oct. 7, 8</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Sept. 25, 26</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>Oct. 15, 16</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>Oct. 4, 5</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Oct. 23, 24</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Oct. 11, 12</u> (Wed., Thu.)
Days of Observance	<u>Oct. 20, 21</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Oct. 8, 9</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Sept. 26, 27</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Oct. 16, 17</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Oct. 5, 6</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Oct. 24, 25</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Oct. 12, 13</u> (Thu., Fri.)
<b>CHANUKAH*</b> Festival of Lights							
Evenings of Observance	<u>Dec. 20-28</u>	<u>Dec. 8-16</u>	<u>Nov. 27-Dec. 5</u>	<u>Dec. 16-24</u>	<u>Dec. 6-14</u>	<u>Dec. 24-Jan. 1</u>	<u>Dec. 12-20</u>
SPRING HOLY DAYS	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>PURIM*</b>							
Day of Observance	<u>Mar. 8</u> (Thu.)	<u>Feb. 24</u> (Sun.)	<u>Mar. 16</u> (Sun.)	<u>Mar. 5</u> (Thu.)	<u>Mar. 24</u> (Thu.)	<u>Mar. 12</u> (Thu.)	<u>Mar. 1</u> (Thu.)
<b>PASSOVER</b> Pesach							
Evenings of Observance	<u>Apr. 6, 7</u> (Fri., Sat.)	<u>Mar. 25, 26</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Apr. 14, 15</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Apr. 3, 4</u> (Fri., Sat.)	<u>Apr. 22, 23</u> (Fri., Sat.)	<u>Apr. 10, 11</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Mar. 30, 31</u> (Fri., Sat.)
Days of Observance	<u>Apr. 7, 8</u> (Sat., Sun.)	<u>Mar. 26, 27</u> (Tue., Wed.)	<u>Apr. 15, 16</u> (Tue., Wed.)	<u>Apr. 4, 5</u> (Sat., Sun.)	<u>Apr. 23, 24</u> (Sat., Sun.)	<u>Apr. 11, 12</u> (Tue., Wed.)	<u>Mar. 31, Apr. 1</u> (Sat., Sun.)
Concluding Evenings of Observance	<u>Apr. 12, 13</u> (Thu., Fri.)	<u>Mar. 31, Apr. 1</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Apr. 20-21</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Apr. 9, 10</u> (Fri., Sat.)	<u>Apr. 28, 29</u> (Fri., Sat.)	<u>Apr. 16, 17</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>Apr. 5, 6</u> (Thu., Fri.)
Concluding Days of Observance	<u>Apr. 13, 14</u> (Fri., Sat.)	<u>Apr. 1, 2</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Apr. 21, 22</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Apr. 10, 11</u> (Sat., Sun.)	<u>Apr. 29, 30</u> (Sat., Sun.)	<u>Apr. 17, 18</u> (Mon., Tue.)	<u>Apr. 6, 7</u> (Fri., Sat.)
<b>SHAVUOT</b> Festival of Weeks							
Evenings of Observance	<u>May 26, 27</u> (Sat., Sun.)	<u>May 14, 15</u> (Tue., Wed.)	<u>June 3, 4</u> (Tue., Wed.)	<u>May 23, 24</u> (Sat., Sun.)	<u>June 11, 12</u> (Sat., Sun.)	<u>May 30, 31</u> (Tue., Wed.)	<u>May 19, 20</u> (Sat., Sun.)
Days of Observance	<u>May 27, 28</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>May. 15, 16</u> (Wed, Thu.)	<u>June 4, 5</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>May 24, 25</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>June 12, 13</u> (Sun., Mon.)	<u>May 31, June 1</u> (Wed., Thu.)	<u>May 20, 21</u> (Sun., Mon.)