

FIVE YEAR CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS, 2014–2018



This calendar has been prepared to advise you in advance of the Jewish observances that will take place over the next five years. It is intended to assist schools in scheduling events such as major school assignments, examinations, sporting events, team and play tryouts, school photos, assemblies, field trips, graduations and other special programs. Cultural, legislative, municipal, business and other organizations may also find the calendar helpful in avoiding scheduling conflicts.

In order to allow Jewish students, employees and community members to observe their traditions we ask that the scheduling of events on Jewish holy days, the Jewish Sabbath and the evenings preceding these occasions be avoided.

Jewish holy days begin at sundown on the preceding evening and conclude at sundown on the dates noted. For example Rosh Hashanah in 2014 begins on September 24 at sundown and concludes on September 26 at sundown. The weekly Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset on Fridays and concludes one hour after sunset on Saturdays.



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

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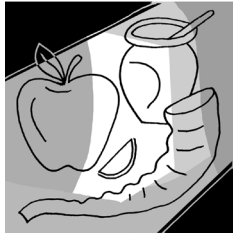
| | 2014 (5775) | 2015 (5776) | 2016 (5777) | 2017 (5778) | 2018 (5779) |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish New Year) | THURS-FRI Sept 25-26 | MON-TUES Sept 14-15 | MON-TUES Oct 3-4 | THURS-FRI Sept 21-22 | MON-TUES Sept 10-11 |
| Kol Nidre* | FRIDAY Oct 3 | TUESDAY Sept 22 | TUESDAY October 11 | FRIDAY Sept 29 | TUESDAY Sept 18 |
| Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement) | SATURDAY Oct 4 | WEDNESDAY Sept 23 | WEDNESDAY October 12 | SATURDAY Sept 30 | WEDNESDAY Sept 19 |
| Sukkot* – First Days (Feast of Tabernacles) | THURS-FRI Oct 9-10 | MON-TUES Sept 28-29 | MON-TUES Oct 17-18 | THURS-FRI Oct 5-6 | MON-TUES Sept 24-25 |
| Shemini Atzeret* | THURSDAY Oct 16 | MONDAY Oct 5 | MONDAY October 24 | THURSDAY October 12 | MONDAY October 1 |
| Simchat Torah* (Rejoicing of the Law) | FRIDAY Oct. 17 | TUESDAY Oct. 6 | TUESDAY October 25 | FRIDAY October 13 | TUESDAY October 2 |
| Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) | WED-WED Dec 17-24 | MON-MON Dec 7-14 | SUN-SUN Dec 25-Jan. 1 | WED-WED Dec 13-20 | MON-MON Dec 3-10 |
| Tu B'Shevat (New Year of the Trees) | 2015 WEDNESDAY Feb 4 | 2016 MONDAY Jan. 25 | 2017 SATURDAY February 11 | 2018 WEDNESDAY January 31 | 2019 MONDAY January 21 |
| Purim (Feast of Lots) | THURSDAY March 5 | THURSDAY March 24 | SUNDAY March 12 | THURSDAY March 1 | THURSDAY March 21 |
| Passover* First Days | SAT-SUN April 4 -5 | SAT-SUN April 23 -24 | TUES-WED April 11-12 | SAT-SUN March 31-Apr 1 | SAT-SUN April 20-21 |
| Passover* Last Two Days | FRI-SAT April 10-11 | FRI-SAT April 29-30 | MON-TUES April 17-18 | FRI-SAT April 6-7 | FRI-SAT April 26-27 |
| Shavuot* (Feast of Harvest) | SUN-MON May 24-25 | SUN-MON June 12-13 | WED-THUR May 31-June 1 | SUN-MON May 20-21 | SUN-MON June 9-10 |

* DENOTES THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS AND MAJOR BIBLICAL FESTIVALS IN OBSERVANCE OF WHICH LABOR IS TRADITIONALLY PROHIBITED. AS A RESULT, MANY JEWISH INDIVIDUALS ARE ABSENT FROM BOTH SCHOOL AND WORK.



**The most important holiday
SHABBAT**

The Sabbath commemorates God's day of rest on the 7th day of Creation. Shabbat begins every Friday evening at sundown. No work is done in traditional Jewish homes. It is to be a day of rest and peace.



**The "head of the year"
ROSH HASHANAH**

These holy days begin a 10-day period of repentance and prayer which ends on Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah marks the anniversary of the birthday of the world. It is the day people are judged for their actions during the past year.



KOL NIDRE

Marks the beginning of Yom Kippur.

**The Day of Atonement
YOM KIPPUR**

This is considered the holiest day in the Jewish calendar and it ends the Ten Days of Repentance. It is spent in prayer, meditation and fasting in order to start the new year with a fresh beginning.



**The Feast of Tabernacles (booths)
SUKKOT**

The harvest festival – it is named for huts (sukkot) hung with fruits and vegetables set up to recall the temporary field dwelling which farmers traditionally used during harvest time. It is observed for 7 or 8 days, followed by Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Labor is traditionally prohibited on the first two days of Sukkot, and on Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Shemini Atzeret is the conclusion of Sukkot. Simchat Torah celebrates the conclusion of the year-long cycle of reading the Torah (first five books of the Bible) and renewing the cycle.



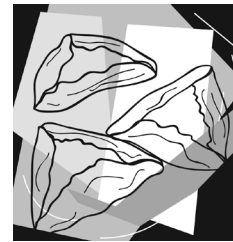
**The Festival of Lights
HANUKKAH (also Chanukah)**

An 8-day celebration of the Jews' victory over the Syrians in ancient times and their regaining political and religious freedom. Hanukkah is called the Festival of Lights because, at the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, the sacred lamp burned for 8 days on 1 day's supply of oil. No work restrictions.



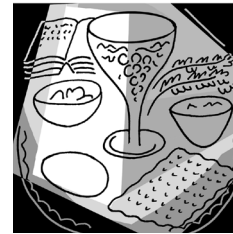
**New Year of the Trees
TU B'SHEVAT**

This holy day, a minor festival, celebrates spring in Israel. No work restrictions.



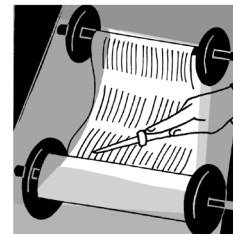
**The Feast of Lots
PURIM**

A holy day which celebrates the rescue of the Jews in Ancient Persia from a plot to destroy them. The king's advisor, Haman, cast lots and chose this day for carrying out his plans. Esther, the Jewish queen, discovered the plot and persuaded her husband to spare the Jews. No work restrictions.



**The Feast of Passover
PESACH**

Passover commemorates the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt, the beginning of Jewish independence. It may be observed for 7 or 8 days, but labor is traditionally prohibited on only the first two and last two days. The name Pesach refers to God's "passing over" the homes of the Jews when he sent plagues to convince the Egyptian pharaoh to let them go.



**The Feast of Harvest
SHAVUOT**

This holy day marks the end of the early grain harvest and also commemorates Moses receiving the Torah (first five books of the Bible), with its Ten Commandments, from God on Mount Sinai.



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