Sukkot in Jerusalem, Oil on Canvas by Yossi Rosenstein

JEWISH ART CALENDAR

2026–2027 ה'תשפ"ז

5787

SEPTEMBER 2026

Elul 5786–Tishrei 5787 • אלול ה'תשפ"ו–תשרי ה'תשפ"ז

THE MONTH OF ELUL
Elul is the final month of the Jewish year, connecting the past year with the one to come—a time of reflection, mercy, and forgiveness, and an opportune time for teshuvah—returning to G-d, who is especially accessible during this month more than any other time of year.

During this month we check our Mezuzot and Tefillin, study more Torah, give more charity, pray with greater feeling, and make good resolutions for the coming year. After morning prayers (except Shabbat), it is customary to blow the Shofar.

ELUL 18
Birthday of Rabbi Yisrael Baal Shem Tov (1698–1760), founder of Chassidism, renowned for his love of every Jew. Birthday of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi (1745–1812), known as the Alter Rebbe, founder of the Chabad-Lubavitch intellectual branch of Chassidism.

ELUL 24
First day, this year, for saying Selichot, "prayers for forgiveness." The first Selichot are said early Sunday morning after midnight (about 1:00 a.m. when Daylight Savings Time is in effect). The other Selichot are said before dawn or in the early morning until Rosh Hashanah.

TISHREI 1–2 | ROSH HASHANAH
Rosh Hashanah ("Head of the Year"), the Jewish New Year, is celebrated as a two-day holiday, during which the Heavenly Court decides all that is to happen to all beings in the coming year.

It is customary to eat foods symbolizing sweetness, blessings and abundance. We dip the challah in honey, and on the first night of the holiday we eat apple dipped in honey, adding: "May it be Your will to renew for us a good and sweet year."

The Shofar
This year, since the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat the Shofar is not sounded on that day. On Sept. 13, during the daytime, we hear at least the first thirty of the prescribed blasts of the Shofar (ram's horn).

Tashlich
On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, Sept. 13, following the afternoon prayer, we visit a body of water or pond containing live fish and recite the Tashlich prayers.

TISHREI 3 | FAST OF GEDALIAH
Gedaliah was a righteous Jewish governor appointed by the Babylonian conquerors after they destroyed the First Temple. When he was assassinated (422 BCE), our people's plight hit an extreme low. This fast day commemorates this tragic event.

TISHREI 9–10: YOM KIPPUR
The day before Yom Kippur is marked with festive meals and the custom of parents blessing their children. It's also a time to ask forgiveness from others. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year. We refrain from eating, drinking, washing, applying lotions, marital relations, and wearing leather shoes, as we devote the day to prayer and repentance.

TISHREI 15–21: SUKKOT
Sukkot commemorates the Divine protection G-d provided for the Jewish people during their forty years of wandering in the desert. We eat our meals—and some even sleep—in the sukkah, a temporary hut whose roof is covered with branches and open to the sky, reminding us of the fragility of physical shelter and our dependence on G-d.

Each day of the holiday (except Shabbat), we shake the Four Species—the lulav (palm branch), etrog (citron), hadassim (myrtle branches), and aravot (willow branches)—fulfilling a beautiful mitzvah that represents the unity of the Jewish people and is performed with great joy.

Jona and the whale, Oil on Canvas by Baruch Nachshon

TIMES SHOWN ARE
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
FOR
METRO NY-NJ

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 יט אלול 19 Elul	2 כ אלול 20 Elul	3 כא אלול 21 Elul	4 כב אלול 22 Elul Light candles at 7:05 p.m.	5 כג אלול 23 Elul נצבים-וילך NITZAVIM-VAYELECH Shabbat Selichot Avot: chapters 5-6 Shabbat ends at 8:03 p.m.
6 כד אלול 24 Elul	7 כה אלול 25 Elul Labor Day	8 כו אלול 26 Elul	9 כז אלול 27 Elul	10 כח אלול 28 Elul	11 כט אלול 29 Elul ערב ראש השנה Eve of Rosh Hashanah Light candles at 6:53 p.m. New Moon: 8:59 1/18 p.m.	12 א תשרי 1 Tishrei יום א דראש השנה First day of ROSH HASHANAH Light candles after 7:51 p.m.
13 ב תשרי 2 Tishrei Tashlich יום ב דראש השנה Second day of ROSH HASHANAH Yom Tov ends at 7:49 p.m.	14 ג תשרי 3 Tishrei צום גדלי׳ FAST OF GEDALIAH Fast begins at 5:10 a.m. Fast ends at 7:36 p.m.	15 ד תשרי 4 Tishrei	16 ה תשרי 5 Tishrei	17 ו תשרי 6 Tishrei	18 ז תשרי 7 Tishrei Light candles at 6:42 p.m.	19 ח תשרי 8 Tishrei האזינו HA'AZINU Shabbat Shuva Shabbat ends at 7:39 p.m.
20 ט תשרי 9 Tishrei ערב יום כפור Eve of Yom Kippur Light candles at 6:38 p.m. Fast begins at 6:52 p.m.	21 י תשרי 10 Tishrei יום כפור YOM KIPPUR Yizkor Yom Kippur ends at 7:35 p.m.	22 יא תשרי 11 Tishrei	23 יב תשרי 12 Tishrei	24 יג תשרי 13 Tishrei	25 יד תשרי 14 Tishrei ערב חג הסוכות Eve of Sukkot Light candles at 6:30 p.m.	26 טו תשרי 15 Tishrei יום א דחג הסוכות First Day of SUKKOT Light candles after 7:27 p.m.
27 טז תשרי 16 Tishrei יום ב דחג הסוכות Second Day of SUKKOT Yom Tov ends at 7:25 p.m.	28 יז תשרי 17 Tishrei א דחול המועד סוכות 1st Intermediate Day of SUKKOT	29 יח תשרי 18 Tishrei ב דחול המועד סוכות 2nd Intermediate Day of SUKKOT	30 יט תשרי 19 Tishrei ג דחול המועד סוכות 3rd Intermediate Day of SUKKOT			

OCTOBER 2026

Tishrei–Cheshvan 5787 • תשרי–חשון ה'תשפ"ז

Sukkot in Jerusalem, Oil on Canvas by Yossi Rosenstein

THE FOUR SPECIES

Each day of Sukkot, from Sunday, Sept. 27, through Friday, Oct. 2, we shake the Four Species during the daytime. Hold the lulav (palm branch), three hadassim (myrtle branches), and two aravot (willow branches) in the right hand, with the lulav's "spine" facing you. Say the appropriate blessing(s), then take the etrog (citron) in the left hand with the point, or "pitom," up, bring it together with the other three kinds, and shake it.

TISHREI 21

The seventh day of Sukkot, Oct. 2, is called Hoshana Rabbah. It is customary to stay awake the preceding night and recite portions of Torah and the Book of Psalms. In the morning, we circle the bimah (Torah reading platform) seven times, lulav and etrog in hand. Then we recite special prayers, called hoshanot, while holding five willow branches bound together. We beat the willow branches on the floor, symbolically sweetening G-d's judgment.

TISHREI 22–23

On the evening of Simchat Torah (Saturday, Oct. 3), and in some communities on the evening of Shemini Atzeret as well, we make seven hakafot (circlings) around the bimah, singing and dancing with the Torah scrolls. On the morning of Simchat Torah, Oct. 4, the final portion of the Torah is read, completing the yearly cycle. Then we immediately read the first portion, beginning the cycle anew. Thus, we continue to delve into the infinite wisdom of G-d's Torah—the eternal force that has bound us together and sustained us for more than 3,300 years.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIMES SHOWN ARE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME FOR METRO NY-NJ **OCTOBER 2026**				1 כ תשרי 20 Tishrei ד דחול המועד סוכות 4th Intermediate Day of SUKKOT	2 כא תשרי 21 Tishrei הושענא רבה Hoshana Rabbah Light candles at 6:18 p.m.	3 כב תשרי 22 Tishrei שמיני עצרת SHEMINI ATZERET Yizkor Light candles after 7:15 p.m.
4 כג תשרי 23 Tishrei שמחת תורה SIMCHAT TORAH Yom Tov ends at 7:13 p.m.	5 כד תשרי 24 Tishrei אסרו חג Isru Chag	6 כה תשרי 25 Tishrei	7 כו תשרי 26 Tishrei	8 כז תשרי 27 Tishrei	9 כח תשרי 28 Tishrei Light candles at 6:07 p.m.	10 כט תשרי 29 Tishrei בראשית BEREISHEET Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 7:04 p.m.
11 ל תשרי 30 Tishrei ראש חדש חשון Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan New Moon: 9:43 2/18 a.m.	12 א חשון 1 Cheshvan Columbus Day ראש חדש חשון Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	13 ב חשון 2 Cheshvan	14 ג חשון 3 Cheshvan	15 ד חשון 4 Cheshvan	16 ה חשון 5 Cheshvan Light candles at 5:56 p.m.	17 ו חשון 6 Cheshvan נח NOACH Shabbat ends at 6:53 p.m.
18 ז חשון 7 Cheshvan	19 ח חשון 8 Cheshvan	20 ט חשון 9 Cheshvan	21 י חשון 10 Cheshvan	22 יא חשון 11 Cheshvan	23 יב חשון 12 Cheshvan Light candles at 5:46 p.m.	24 יג חשון 13 Cheshvan לך לך LECH LECHA Shabbat ends at 6:44 p.m.
25 יד חשון 14 Cheshvan	26 טו חשון 15 Cheshvan	27 טז חשון 16 Cheshvan	28 יז חשון 17 Cheshvan	29 יח חשון 18 Cheshvan	30 יט חשון 19 Cheshvan Light candles at 5:37 p.m.	31 כ חשון 20 Cheshvan וירא VAYEIRA Shabbat ends at 6:35 p.m.

KISLEV 5
MaHaRShA, Rabbi Shmuel Eliezer Edels, author of a profound Talmud commentary, passed away (Ostroh, 1631).

Kislev 14
Wedding anniversary of the Lubavitcher Rebbe and Rebbetzin (1928).

KISLEV 19
Rabbi DovBer of Mezeritch, known as the Maggid of Mezeritch, passed away (1772). He was the chief disciple and successor of the Baal Shem Tov.

Release from czarist imprisonment in Petersburg (1798) of his youngest disciple, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liozhna (later of Liadi), known as the Alter Rebbe, founder of Chabad-Lubavitch, author of Tanya, Shulchan Aruch HaRav and other profound works. After disproving the false charges of his opponents, he so impressed the ministers and senators who judged him (and even the czar himself, who personally visited him) with his wisdom and saintliness, that the entire Chassidic movement was vindicated and could henceforth spread its teachings freely. Celebrated throughout the world as the "New Year of Chassidism."

TORAH STUDY
Torah is the medium through which G-d enables man to know, serve, and connect to Him. The Lubavitcher Rebbe emphasized that Torah study is not the domain of scholars alone — every Jew, regardless of background or level, is called upon to set fixed times for Torah study each day. And for those who already study, the call is to add more.

Since the giving of the Torah at Sinai, Torah study has been the cornerstone of Jewish life. Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi taught that Torah study should be fixed not only in time but in soul — the vortex around which the entire spectrum of our daily experience revolves. The Talmud adds that one who studies Torah at night, G-d draws upon him a thread of kindness by day (Avodah Zarah 3b) — a reminder that every moment invested in Torah carries its own divine reward.

The Talmud (Berachot 61b) tells that when the Roman government forbade Torah study, Rabbi Akiva continued teaching publicly. When asked if he feared punishment, he replied with a parable: A fox saw fish darting frantically through the water and suggested they come ashore to be safe. The fish answered, "If we are afraid in our native habitat, how much greater will our fear be on land, where death is certain."

So too, said Rabbi Akiva, Torah is our very element — the source of our life. To abandon it would be certain spiritual death. Torah is not something we do; it is what we are.

Talmud Study, Oil on Canvas by Zalman Kleinman

BAYIT MALEH SEFORIM — A HOME FILLED WITH BOOKS
A container takes on the identity of what it holds. A home is no different.
Launched by the Lubavitcher Rebbe in 1974, Bayit Maleh Seforim — "A Home Full of Books" — called on Jews everywhere to fill their homes with holy books: a Chumash, a Siddur, a Tehillim, and more. The goal was not only study, but presence — making Torah a visible, living part of Jewish life.

In Jewish tradition books are not merely ink and paper; they are almost living organisms, breathing and impacting the environment around them. Even when not being read, they radiate holiness, changing the atmosphere of a home. Children raised among Jewish books absorb their message long before they learn to read.

A home filled with Torah becomes more than a dwelling — it becomes a sanctuary and a source of blessing for all who enter.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 כא חשון 21 Cheshvan Standard Time begins	2 כב חשון 22 Cheshvan	3 כג חשון 23 Cheshvan	4 כד חשון 24 Cheshvan	5 כה חשון 25 Cheshvan	6 כו חשון 26 Cheshvan Light candles at 4:29 p.m.	7 כז חשון 27 Cheshvan חיי שרה CHAYEI SARA Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 5:28 p.m.
8 כח חשון 28 Cheshvan	9 כט חשון 29 Cheshvan New Moon: 10:27 3/15 p.m.	10 ל חשון 30 Cheshvan ראש חדש כסלו Rosh Chodesh Kislev	11 א כסלו 1 Kislev Veterans Day ראש חדש כסלו Rosh Chodesh Kislev	12 ב כסלו 2 Kislev	13 ג כסלו 3 Kislev Light candles at 4:22 p.m.	14 ד כסלו 4 Kislev תולדות TOLDOT Shabbat ends at 5:22 p.m.
15 ה כסלו 5 Kislev	16 ו כסלו 6 Kislev	17 ז כסלו 7 Kislev	18 ח כסלו 8 Kislev	19 ט כסלו 9 Kislev	20 י כסלו 10 Kislev Light candles at 4:16 p.m.	21 יא כסלו 11 Kislev ויצא VAYEITZEI Shabbat ends at 5:18 p.m.
22 יב כסלו 12 Kislev	23 יג כסלו 13 Kislev	24 יד כסלו 14 Kislev	25 טו כסלו 15 Kislev	26 טז כסלו 16 Kislev Thanksgiving Day	27 יז כסלו 17 Kislev Light candles at 4:13 p.m.	28 יח כסלו 18 Kislev וישלח VAYISHLACH Shabbat ends at 5:15 p.m.
29 יט כסלו 19 Kislev	30 כ כסלו 20 Kislev					TIMES SHOWN ARE FOR METRO NY-NJ **NOVEMBER 2026**

DECEMBER 2026

Kislev–Tevet 5787 • כסלו–טבת ה'תשפ"ז

KISLEV 25–TEVET 2 | CHANUKAH
During the Second Temple era, approximately 2,200 years ago, the Greeks stormed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and defiled its sacred oil — the oil used to light the magnificent seven-branched Menorah. When the brave Hasmonean family rose up and drove them out, they searched the Temple and found just one small flask of pure oil, still bearing the seal of the Kohen Gadol. Enough for a single day. Yet that tiny flask burned for eight — and a holiday was born.

Kislev 25 carries an even deeper resonance. It marks the very date in 1313 BCE when the Jewish people completed the Mishkan — the portable sanctuary they built in the desert. Yet G-d held that day in reserve, as it were. The Mishkan itself wasn't dedicated for another three months, leaving Kislev 25 without its celebration. It waited quietly in history for 1148 years, until the Hasmoneans rededicated the Temple and finally gave Kislev 25 its eternal place on the Jewish calendar.

TEVET 10
Anniversary of the start of the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (425 BCE), culminating in the destruction of the First Temple. Commemorated since then as a public fast day.

TEVET 20
RaMBaM (Maimonides), Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (1135–1204), passed away in Cairo, Egypt, and was buried in Tiberias, Israel. Outstanding codifier, commentator, philosopher, physician to Sultan Saladin, and leader of Egyptian Jewry, his brilliant works are studied to this day. It was said of him: "From Moses to Moses (i.e., the RaMBaM), there was none like Moses!"

The Lubavitcher Rebbe has urged all Jews to study daily his Mishneh Torah (authoritative code of Jewish law), or at least the briefer Sefer HaMitzvos.

HOW TO CELEBRATE CHANUKAH
Kindle the Chanukah menorah on each of the eight nights of Chanukah. For the dates times and blessings, see the calendar below.

For the lights of the menorah, use olive oil or candles large enough to burn until at least half an hour after nightfall. Use a "shamash" (service candle) to kindle the lights, and place it in its special place on the menorah. Before kindling recite the blessings, and after kindling recite "Haneiros Hallalu."

All members of the family should be present at the kindling of the Chanukah lights. Have all young boys kindle their own Chanukah menorahs, and all young girls light their own Shabbat candles. Students and singles who live in a dormitory or in their own apartments should kindle menorahs in their own rooms. Chanukah lights are kindled in the front window or by a doorway.

Chanukah Menorah Kindling Blessings

1. Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom A-sher Ki-de-sho-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Ve-tzi-vo-nu Le-had-lik Ner Cha-nu-kah.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

2. Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom She-o-so Ni-sim La-avo-sei-nu Ba-yo-mim Ho-heim Biz-man Ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, Who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

The following blessing is said only on the first evening (or the first time one kindles the lights this Chanukah):

3. Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom She-heh-che-yoh-nu Ve-ki-ye-mo-nu Ve-hi-gi-o-nu Liz-man Ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, Who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

The Menorah, Oil on Canvas by Baruch Nachshon

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIMES SHOWN ARE STANDARD TIME FOR METRO NY-NJ **DECEMBER 2026**		1 בא כסלו 21 Kislev	2 כב כסלו 22 Kislev	3 כג כסלו 23 Kislev	4 כד כסלו 24 Kislev Before the Shabbat candles. Blessings 1, & 2 & 3 Light candles at 4:11 p.m.	5 כה כסלו 25 Kislev Start to say Tal Umatar in Maariv After Shabbat is over and Havdalah is recited. Blessings 1 & 2 וישב VAYEISHEV Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 5:14 p.m.
6 כו כסלו 26 Kislev Nightfall during Chanukah is 5:01 After nightfall. Blessings 1 & 2	7 כז כסלו 27 Kislev After nightfall. Blessings 1 & 2	8 כח כסלו 28 Kislev After nightfall. Blessings 1 & 2	9 כט כסלו 29 Kislev After nightfall. Blessings 1 & 2 New Moon: 11:11 4/18 a.m.	10 ל כסלו 30 Kislev ראש חדש טבת Rosh Chodesh Tevet After nightfall. Blessings 1 & 2	11 א טבת 1 Tevet ראש חדש טבת Rosh Chodesh Tevet Before the Shabbat candles. Blessings 1 & 2 Light candles at 4:11 p.m.	12 ב טבת 2 Tevet 8th Day of Chanukah מקץ MIKEITZ Shabbat ends at 5:14 p.m.
13 ג טבת 3 Tevet	14 ד טבת 4 Tevet	15 ה טבת 5 Tevet	16 ו טבת 6 Tevet	17 ז טבת 7 Tevet	18 ח טבת 8 Tevet Light candles at 4:13 p.m.	19 ט טבת 9 Tevet ויגש VAYIGASH Shabbat ends at 5:17 p.m.
20 י טבת 10 Tevet תענית עשרה בטבת FAST OF 10 TEVET Fast begins at 5:44 a.m. Fast ends at 5:04 p.m.	21 יא טבת 11 Tevet	22 יב טבת 12 Tevet	23 יג טבת 13 Tevet	24 יד טבת 14 Tevet	25 טו טבת 15 Tevet Light candles at 4:16 p.m.	26 טז טבת 16 Tevet ויחי VAYECHI Shabbat ends at 5:20 p.m.
27 יז טבת 17 Tevet	28 יח טבת 18 Tevet	29 יט טבת 19 Tevet	30 כ טבת 20 Tevet	31 כא טבת 21 Tevet		

JANUARY 2027

Tevet–Shevat 5787 • עבת–שבט ה'תשפ"ז

TEVET 24
Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi (1745–1812), first leader of Chabad-Lubavitch, author of Tanya and Shulchan Aruch HaRav, passed away.

SHEVAT 10
Rabbi Shalom Sharabi, brilliant and saintly Yemenite Kabbalist, whose works are much revered, passed away (Jerusalem, 1777).

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn (1880–1950), sixth leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, passed away. He is renowned for his devoted efforts in strengthening Judaism in the USSR, the USA and many other lands. He brought the Chabad movement to America. A prolific writer, he is said to have written over 100,000 letters in his lifetime!

This day also marks the beginning of the leadership of his successor, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson.

SHEVAT 15
New Year for trees, when trees begin to bud in Israel. It is customary to eat many fruits, especially those for which the Land of Israel is praised in Scripture.

The seven species of Israel are wheat, barley, grape (wine), fig, pomegranate, olive (oil), and date (honey). Many people have the custom of eating carob on this day, while others eat jam or preserves from the etrog left over from Sukkot.

SHABBAT SHIRAH
("Sabbath of Song"). So called because the weekly Torah portion contains the song that the Jewish People sang to celebrate their escape from the Egyptian armies who were miraculously drowned in the Red Sea (Exodus 15:1–19).

SHEVAT 22
Yahrtzeit of Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson, wife of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson.

The Land of Israel, Oil on Canvas by Elya Sukkot

PUT YOUR SOUL WHERE YOUR STOMACH IS
Food for the Soul
Just as there are foods that are good for the body and foods that are harmful, so there are foods that nourish the inner person—the soul—and foods that harm it.

The Kosher Laws are Torah's guide to those foods that affect the Jewish soul adversely. Any meat or fowl that is eaten must be slaughtered in a prescribed, kosher fashion. Meat and milk must never mix. Scavengers, predatory beasts and birds, shellfish and certain other animals are forbidden. Any processed foods must be produced under strict Kosher supervision.

Eating is Sacred
When they talk about spirituality, people think about meditation, prayer and maybe music. Few imagine eating as a spiritual activity. But according to the Torah, everything a person does is another way to infuse the world with spiritual meaning. Especially eating. When a person eats food with the proper mindfulness and uses the energy of that food for good things, the food becomes elevated through his eating.

That's another reason for Kosher guidelines. Kosher foods are those that a Jewish soul is able to elevate. Non-kosher foods are those that will only drag the soul down.

It's Never Been Easier!
Seventy percent of the packaged foods in your cupboard are probably kosher already. Going the full mile can be a smooth, step-by-step process—each step a mitzvah all on its own:

- Don't mix meat and milk.
- Cut out pork, shellfish and non-kosher fish.
- Buy only kosher meat.
- Buy only those processed goods that have kosher certification.
- Make your kitchen kosher.

For more information or for help in keeping kosher, please contact us.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIMES SHOWN ARE STANDARD TIME FOR METRO NY-NJ **JANUARY 2027**					1 כב טבת 22 Tevet Legal Holiday Light candles at 4:21 p.m.	2 כג טבת 23 Tevet שמות SHEMOT Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 5:25 p.m.
3 כד טבת 24 Tevet	4 כה טבת 25 Tevet	5 כו טבת 26 Tevet	6 כז טבת 27 Tevet	7 כח טבת 28 Tevet New Moon: 1:55 5/18 p.m.	8 כט טבת 29 Tevet Light candles at 4:28 p.m.	9 א שבט 1 Shevat ראש חדש שבט Rosh Chodesh Shevat וארא VA'EIRA Shabbat ends at 5:32 p.m.
10 ב שבט 2 Shevat	11 ג שבט 3 Shevat	12 ד שבט 4 Shevat	13 ה שבט 5 Shevat	14 ו שבט 6 Shevat	15 ז שבט 7 Shevat Light candles at 4:35 p.m.	16 ח שבט 8 Shevat בא BO Shabbat ends at 5:39 p.m.
17 ט שבט 9 Shevat	18 י שבט 10 Shevat Dr. M. L. King Jr. Day	19 יא שבט 11 Shevat	20 יב שבט 12 Shevat	21 יג שבט 13 Shevat	22 יד שבט 14 Shevat Light candles at 4:43 p.m.	23 טו שבט 15 Shevat ראש השנה לאילנות New Year for Trees בשלח B'SHALACH Shabbat Shirah Shabbat ends at 5:46 p.m.
24 טז שבט 16 Shevat 31 כג שבט 23 Shevat	25 יז שבט 17 Shevat	26 יח שבט 18 Shevat	27 יט שבט 19 Shevat	28 כ שבט 20 Shevat	29 כא שבט 21 Shevat Light candles at 4:52 p.m.	30 כב שבט 22 Shevat יתרו YITRO Shabbat ends at 5:54 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2027

Shevat–Adar 5787 • שבט–אדר ה'תשפ"ז

THE JEWISH CALENDAR
The Jewish calendar revolves around the moon. Each month begins as a thin crescent, grows to a full moon at mid-month, then wanes until it vanishes — only to reappear and begin the cycle anew. This process takes 29½ days, making each month either 29 days (chaser, "missing") or 30 days (malei, "full").

Jewish holidays are scheduled according to the days of the month. The first day of each month is called Rosh Chodesh, the "Head of the Month," observed as a mini festival. When a month has 30 days, the thirtieth day is also celebrated as Rosh Chodesh.

For centuries, the calendar wasn't fixed. The Sanhedrin, the Jewish Supreme Court, determined each month's length based on witness sightings of the new moon — an intricate nationwide process. In the 4th century CE, the sage Hillel II, foreseeing the Sanhedrin's dissolution, established the fixed 19-year calendar cycle still used today.

The Torah commands, "Guard the month of spring" — meaning Passover must always fall in spring. The challenge: a lunar year is eleven days shorter than a solar year. Left uncorrected, Passover would drift through every season. The solution is elegant — seven times in every 19-year cycle, a 13th month is added, creating a leap year, called shanah meuberet, a "pregnant year."

The added month is a second Adar. But why Adar? The Jewish calendar has two "beginnings." The year starts on 1 Tishrei — Rosh Hashanah — marking the anniversary of Creation and the time of Divine judgment. Yet the Torah counts the months from Nissan, the month of the Exodus, making Nissan the "first month" and Adar the last. By inserting the extra month at the end of the month-count — before the cycle resets in Nissan — the calendar stays anchored to the spring. And since Adar is the most joyous month on the Jewish calendar, a leap year simply means more happiness.

HAVDALAH
Havdalah — Hebrew for "separation" — is the beautiful multi-sensory ceremony that marks the close of Shabbat. As darkness falls on Saturday night, we gather around a brimming cup of wine, fragrant spices, and the warm glow of a multi-wick candle to bid farewell to the holy day.

The ceremony engages all our senses: the leader drinks the wine — unlike Kiddush, only the one reciting Havdalah drinks from the cup — everyone smells the spices, which revive the soul as Shabbat's extra spiritual dimension departs, and all gaze at the flame's light reflected on their fingertips. Many have the custom of dipping a finger into the overflowed wine and touching it to their eyelids or pockets, expressing a wish for blessing in the week ahead.

Yet paradoxically, Havdalah is not truly about separation — it is about carrying Shabbat's holiness into the week ahead. By defining the boundary between sacred and ordinary, we allow Shabbat's light to illuminate all six days that follow.

SHEVAT 26
The Spanish Inquisition's first auto-da-fe (1481), in which its first six Jewish victims were burned to death for their religion. They were the first of many tens of thousands during the next 300 years.

ADAR I 14–15
Known as Purim Katan ("Small Purim") and Shushan Purim Katan. Until about 1600 years ago (359 CE), when our present fixed calendar was established, the decision whether the year would be a leap year was left to the Sanhedrin (highest rabbinical court). They often postponed this decision until the last minute (adding the extra month, for example, if pilgrims traveling from faraway to Jerusalem for Passover would otherwise be unable to arrive in time). So these days could indeed have been Purim and Shushan Purim, if not for this last-minute change. It is customary to celebrate these days as a minor holiday.

Havdalah, Oil on Canvas by Henoch Lieberman

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIMES SHOWN ARE STANDARD TIME FOR METRO NY-NJ **FEBRUARY 2027**	1 כד שבט 24 Shevat	2 כה שבט 25 Shevat	3 כו שבט 26 Shevat	4 כז שבט 27 Shevat	5 כח שבט 28 Shevat Light candles at 5:00 p.m.	6 כט שבט 29 Shevat משפטים MISHPATIM Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 6:02 p.m. New Moon: 12:39 6/18 p.m.
7 ל שבט 30 Shevat ראש חדש אדר א Rosh Chodesh Adar I	8 א אדר א 1 Adar I ראש חדש אדר א Rosh Chodesh Adar I	9 ב אדר א 2 Adar I	10 ג אדר א 3 Adar I	11 ד אדר א 4 Adar I	12 ה אדר א 5 Adar I Light candles at 5:09 p.m.	13 ו אדר א 6 Adar I תרומה TERUMAH Shabbat ends at 6:10 p.m.
14 ז אדר א 7 Adar I	15 ח אדר א 8 Adar I Presidents Day	16 ט אדר א 9 Adar I	17 י אדר א 10 Adar I	18 יא אדר א 11 Adar I	19 יב אדר א 12 Adar I Light candles at 5:17 p.m.	20 יג אדר א 13 Adar I תצוה TETZAVEH Shabbat ends at 6:18 p.m.
21 יד אדר א 14 Adar I	22 טו אדר א 15 Adar I	23 טז אדר א 16 Adar I	24 יז אדר א 17 Adar I	25 יח אדר א 18 Adar I	26 יט אדר א 19 Adar I Light candles at 5:26 p.m.	27 כ אדר א 20 Adar I כי תשא KI TISA Shabbat ends at 6:26 p.m.
28 כא אדר א 21 Adar I						

ADAR 13 | FAST OF ESTHER
This date was chosen by Haman to annihilate all Jews in all 127 provinces of the Persian Empire, with the permission of King Achashverosh. Queen Esther thwarted his plan and received the king's permission for the Jews to resist. However, they were still in mortal danger, and therefore forbidden by Jewish law to fast (for the purpose of arousing Divine mercy) on that day, so as not to weaken themselves when they might have to fight for their lives. The only member of the Jewish People who was certainly safe was Queen Esther herself. Therefore only she fasted, which is why the fast is called by her name.

ADAR 14 | PURIM
Purim commemorates the day when Jews throughout the Persian Empire were miraculously saved, and rested from fighting their enemies on the previous day, having totally routed them.

HOW TO CELEBRATE PURIM

Listen to the Megillah
To relive the miraculous events of Purim, we listen to the reading of the Megillah (the Scroll of Esther) on Monday night, March 22, and again during the daytime of Tuesday, March 23. When Haman's name is mentioned, we twirl graggers and stamp our feet to "drown out" his evil name. Tell the children that Purim is the only time when it's a mitzvah to make noise!

Send Gifts of Food
On Purim we emphasize the importance of Jewish unity and friendship by sending gifts of food to friends. Send a gift of at least two kinds of ready-to-eat foods (for example, pastry, fruit, beverage) to at least one friend on March 23, during the daytime. It is proper that men send to men, and women to women. Sending these gifts should be done through a third party. Children, in addition to sending their own gifts of food, make enthusiastic messengers.

Give Gifts to the Needy
Concern for the needy is a year-round responsibility for the Jew. On Purim, particularly, it is a special mitzvah to remember the poor. Give charity to at least two—but preferably more—needy individuals on March 23, during the daytime. The mitzvah is best fulfilled by giving directly to the needy. If, however, you cannot find poor people, place at least several coins into pushkas (charity boxes). Even small children should fulfill this mitzvah.

Eat the Festive Meal
As on all festivals, we celebrate Purim with a special festive meal on March 23, during the daytime, when family and friends gather together to rejoice in the Purim spirit.

Machatzit Hashekel
When the Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem, each Jew contributed a half-shekel annually, thereby having a share in the sacrifices offered on behalf of the entire Jewish People.

Haman Leads Mordechai, Oil on Canvas by Huvy

Today we commemorate this by giving 3 "half" coins (e.g., 3 half-dollars) to charity. This mitzvah should be done on March 22 or 23.

ADAR 15
Shushan Purim commemorates the day when the Jews of Shushan, capital of Persia, rested from fighting their enemies, after the king granted them an extra day to finish off the job. It, instead of the previous day, is observed as Purim in all cities surrounded by a wall since the time of Joshua, such as Jerusalem. Elsewhere it is celebrated as a minor holiday.
A JOYOUS PURIM!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIMES SHOWN ARE FOR METRO NY-NJ **MARCH 2027**	1 כב אדר א 22 Adar I	2 כג אדר א 23 Adar I	3 כד אדר א 24 Adar I	4 כה אדר א 25 Adar I	5 כו אדר א 26 Adar I Light candles at 5:34 p.m.	6 כז אדר א 27 Adar I ויקהל VAYAKHEL Shekalim Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 6:33 p.m.
7 כח אדר א 28 Adar I	8 כט אדר א 29 Adar I New Moon: 1:23 7/18 a.m.	9 ל אדר א 30 Adar I ראש חדש אדר ב Rosh Chodesh Adar II	10 א אדר ב 1 Adar II ראש חדש אדר ב Rosh Chodesh Adar II	11 ב אדר ב 2 Adar II	12 ג אדר ב 3 Adar II Light candles at 5:41 p.m.	13 ד אדר ב 4 Adar II פקודי PEKUDEI Shabbat ends at 6:41 p.m.
14 ה אדר ב 5 Adar II Daylight Saving Time begins	15 ו אדר ב 6 Adar II	16 ז אדר ב 7 Adar II	17 ח אדר ב 8 Adar II	18 ט אדר ב 9 Adar II	19 י אדר ב 10 Adar II Light candles at 6:49 p.m.	20 יא אדר ב 11 Adar II ויקרא VAYIKRA Zachor Shabbat ends at 7:48 p.m.
21 יב אדר ב 12 Adar II	22 יג אדר ב 13 Adar II תענית אסתר FAST OF ESTHER Fast begins at 5:32 a.m. Fast ends at 7:39 p.m.	23 יד אדר ב 14 Adar II פורים PURIM	24 טו אדר ב 15 Adar II שושן פורים SHUSHAN PURIM	25 טז אדר ב 16 Adar II	26 יז אדר ב 17 Adar II Light candles at 6:56 p.m.	27 יח אדר ב 18 Adar II צו TZAV Parah Shabbat ends at 7:56 p.m.
28 יט אדר ב 19 Adar II	29 כ אדר ב 20 Adar II	30 כא אדר ב 21 Adar II	31 כב אדר ב 22 Adar II			

HOW TO PREPARE FOR PASSOVER

What is Chometz?
Chometz is any food or drink made from wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt, or their derivatives, which is forbidden on Passover because it is leavened or fermented. If a food contains any of these ingredients and is not certified as "kosher for Passover," it's considered chometz. If a food contains even a trace of chometz, we don't eat it, we don't sell it, and we make sure not to have any of it in our possession on any of the days of Passover.

Cleaning for Passover
Take all the chometz—both food and utensils used throughout the year (and not koshered for Passover)—and store it all away in closets or rooms that you will lock or tape shut. You'll sell this chometz temporarily to a non-Jew.

Clean your entire house, purging it of all crumbs and small pieces of food. Also check for chometz in your car and office—don't overlook desks and drawers.

How to Prepare the Kitchen
Since the kitchen has been used the whole year long for chometz, it's going to need some work to prepare it for Passover use. Contact us for details.

Shopping for Passover
While shopping for Passover, we must be careful that the foods we buy are not only kosher but are also kosher-for-Passover—that is, completely chometz-free.

In addition to raw ingredients, there are many kosher-for-Passover packaged foods available. However, be careful to purchase only those packaged foods that display the insignia of a reliable supervising agency, together with "P" or "kosher for Passover."

Obviously, all leavened foods such as bread and cake made from wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt are actual chometz and are prohibited on Passover. Examples are breakfast cereals, licorice, most candy bars, pasta, vinegar, beer and whiskey.

How to Sell the Chometz
Since we can't own chometz on Passover, we need to sell to a non-Jew, before the time indicated on the calendar, all chometz that we will not consume or destroy before Passover. This is not a simple transaction. That is why we empower a competent Rabbi to do it for us.

Burning the Chometz
On the morning of April 21, we burn the chometz that was found during the search and all other chometz that is not stored away to be sold to the non-Jew.

NISSAN 15–16 | THE SEDER NIGHTS
The first two nights of Passover we conduct a Seder—a festive yet solemn event. At a table royally set with our best crystal and silver and the finest of kosher wines, we re-enact the Exodus from Egypt in ancient times. We also pray for the forthcoming redemption speedily in our days.

The Seder, Tempera and ink on paper by Arthur Szyk

At the Seder, each person considers himself as if he was going out of Egypt. We are with our people as they descend into exile and suffer cruel oppression. We are with them when G-d sends the Ten Plagues to punish Pharaoh and his nation, with them as they leave Egypt, and with them at the crossing of the Red Sea.

Second Night of Pesach
On the second night of Pesach (April 22) we begin Sefirat Ha'omer, the counting of the 49 days between Pesach and Shavuot.

NISSAN 22: LAST DAY OF PASSOVER
The eighth day of Passover is traditionally associated with our fervent hope for the coming of Moshiach.

The Baal Shem Tov, founder of Chassidus, instituted the custom of eating a special third meal on the last day of Passover, complete with matzah and wine, called the "Meal of Moshiach." On that day, he said, one can feel the approach of Moshiach.

Passover does not end until the night of April 29, at the time indicated on the calendar. Until approximately an hour after that time, no chometz should be bought or eaten.

A Happy and Kosher Passover!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIMES SHOWN ARE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME FOR METRO NY-NJ **APRIL 2027**				1 כג אדר ב 23 Adar II	2 כד אדר ב 24 Adar II Light candles at 7:03 p.m.	3 כה אדר ב 25 Adar II שמיני SHEMINI Hachodesh Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 8:04 p.m.
4 כו אדר ב 26 Adar II	5 כז אדר ב 27 Adar II	6 כח אדר ב 28 Adar II New Moon: 2:07 8/18 p.m.	7 כט אדר ב 29 Adar II	8 א ניסן 1 Nissan ראש חדש ניסן Rosh Chodesh Nissan	9 ב ניסן 2 Nissan Light candles at 7:12 p.m.	10 ג ניסן 3 Nissan תזריע TAZRIA Shabbat ends at 8:13 p.m.
11 ד ניסן 4 Nissan	12 ה ניסן 5 Nissan	13 ו ניסן 6 Nissan	14 ז ניסן 7 Nissan	15 ח ניסן 8 Nissan	16 ט ניסן 9 Nissan Light candles at 7:18 p.m.	17 י ניסן 10 Nissan מצורע METZORA Shabbat Hagadol Shabbat ends at 8:20 p.m.
18 יא ניסן 11 Nissan	19 יב ניסן 12 Nissan	20 יג ניסן 13 Nissan בדיקת חמץ Search for chometz after 8:11 p.m.	21 יד ניסן 14 Nissan First Seder Eruv Tavshilin ערב פסח Eve of Passover Eat chometz until 10:35 a.m. Burn chometz by 11:37 a.m. Light candles at 7:23 p.m.	22 טו ניסן 15 Nissan Second Seder יום א דחג הפסח 1st day of PASSOVER In evening count Omer 1 Light candles after 8:26 p.m.	23 טז ניסן 16 Nissan Sefirah 1 יום ב דחג הפסח 2nd day of PASSOVER In evening count Omer 2 Light candles at 7:25 p.m.	24 יז ניסן 17 Nissan Sefirah 2 יום א דחול המועד פסח 1st Intermediate Day of PASSOVER In evening count Omer 3 Shabbat ends at 8:28 p.m.
25 יח ניסן 18 Nissan Sefirah 3 יום ב דחול המועד פסח 2nd Intermediate Day of PASSOVER In evening count Omer 4	26 יט ניסן 19 Nissan Sefirah 4 יום ג דחול המועד פסח 3rd Intermediate Day of PASSOVER In evening count Omer 5	27 כ ניסן 20 Nissan Sefirah 5 יום ד דחול המועד פסח 4th Intermediate Day of PASSOVER In evening count Omer 6 Light candles at 7:30 p.m.	28 כא ניסן 21 Nissan Sefirah 6 שביעי של פסח 7th day of PASSOVER In evening count Omer 7 Light candles after 8:33 p.m.	29 כב ניסן 22 Nissan Sefirah 7 אחרון של פסח 8th day of PASSOVER Yizkor In evening count Omer 8 Yom Tov ends at 8:34 p.m.	30 כג ניסן 23 Nissan Sefirah 8 אסרו חג Isru Chag In evening count Omer 9 Light candles at 7:33 p.m.	

MAY 2027

Iyar–Sivan 5787 • אייר–סיון ה'תשפ"ז

SEFIRAT HA'OMER | COUNTING OF THE OMER
The festivals of Pesach and Shavuot are linked: Pesach marks our physical liberation (the Exodus from Egypt and the birth of the Jewish nation), and on Shavuot we received the Torah—the spiritual essence and liberation of the Jewish people. To note this link, we count every one of the forty-nine days between these two festivals. This counting, called Sefirat Ha'omer, expresses our eager anticipation of receiving the Torah.

The counting begins on the second night of Pesach, immediately after nightfall, and is continued every subsequent evening (after nightfall).

IYAR 14 | PESACH SHENI
The Second Passover. The year after the Exodus, G-d commanded the Jewish People to celebrate Passover in the desert. However, some complained that they had become ritually impure and would not be able to purify themselves in time to offer their Passover sacrifice. G-d told Moses they would get a second chance to offer their sacrifice on Iyar 14 (a month after Nissan 14, when the Passover sacrifice is normally brought). This applied until the cessation of sacrifices with the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. Many still have a custom of celebrating the day by eating matzah.

IYAR 18 | LAG B'OMER
The 33rd day of the Omer counting is celebrated as a holiday. Two reasons: 1) Between Passover and Shavuot, one year in the early 2nd century, 24,000 disciples of Rabbi Akiva (greatest Sage of Israel in the Mishnaic period) passed away because they were not respectful enough to each other. Therefore, this period is a time of semi-mourning (no weddings, etc.). On the 33rd (LaG = 33) day of the Omer, they stopped dying. 2) An outstanding later disciple of Rabbi Akiva, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, Mishnaic Sage and author of the Zohar, principal work of Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah), passed away. Having fulfilled his mission in this world, he asked that the anniversary be celebrated as a happy day.

Children have a custom to play with bows and arrows, and are taken on trips to parks or the countryside. There is a widespread custom to light bonfires the previous night.

TZEDAKAH — MORE THAN CHARITY
Most languages have a word for charity — a generous act performed by those who choose to give. Hebrew has a different word entirely: tzedakah.

Tzedakah literally means "justice" or "righteousness" — and that distinction matters deeply. In Jewish thought, giving to those in need isn't something extra or admirable. It's simply the correct, honest thing to do. Our money isn't truly ours — it belongs to G-d, who has entrusted it to us. Sharing it with His needy children is not generosity; it is justice.

Tzedakah is not limited to gifts of money. Sharing time, expertise, or even a kind smile are all forms of giving. No matter how much — or how little — you have been blessed with, there is always something you can share.

Our sages teach that giving tzedakah hastens the Redemption — transforming hard-earned money from something purely personal into something that serves a higher purpose and elevates the world.

Joy in Jerusalem, Oil on Canvas by Yossi Bitton

TIMES SHOWN ARE
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
FOR
METRO NY-NJ

MAY 2027

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 כד ניסן 24 Nissan Sefirah 9 אחרי ACHAREI Avot: chapter 1 Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 8:36 p.m. In evening count Omer 10
2 כה ניסן 25 Nissan Sefirah 10 In evening count Omer 11	**3** כו ניסן 26 Nissan Sefirah 11 In evening count Omer 12	**4** כז ניסן 27 Nissan Sefirah 12 In evening count Omer 13	**5** כח ניסן 28 Nissan Sefirah 13 In evening count Omer 14	**6** כט ניסן 29 Nissan Sefirah 14 In evening count Omer 15 New Moon: 2:51 9/18 a.m.	**7** ל ניסן 30 Nissan Sefirah 15 ראש חדש אייר Rosh Chodesh Iyar Light candles at 7:40 p.m. In evening count Omer 16	**8** א אייר 1 Iyar Sefirah 16 ראש חדש אייר Rosh Chodesh Iyar קדושים KEDOSHIM Avot: chapter 2 Shabbat ends at 8:45 p.m. In evening count Omer 17
9 ב אייר 2 Iyar Sefirah 17 Mother's Day In evening count Omer 18	**10** ג אייר 3 Iyar Sefirah 18 In evening count Omer 19	**11** ד אייר 4 Iyar Sefirah 19 In evening count Omer 20	**12** ה אייר 5 Iyar Sefirah 20 In evening count Omer 21	**13** ו אייר 6 Iyar Sefirah 21 In evening count Omer 22	**14** ז אייר 7 Iyar Sefirah 22 Light candles at 7:47 p.m. In evening count Omer 23	**15** ח אייר 8 Iyar Sefirah 23 אמור EMOR Avot: chapter 3 Shabbat ends at 8:53 p.m. In evening count Omer 24
16 ט אייר 9 Iyar Sefirah 24 In evening count Omer 25	**17** י אייר 10 Iyar Sefirah 25 In evening count Omer 26	**18** יא אייר 11 Iyar Sefirah 26 In evening count Omer 27	**19** יב אייר 12 Iyar Sefirah 27 In evening count Omer 28	**20** יג אייר 13 Iyar Sefirah 28 In evening count Omer 29	**21** יד אייר 14 Iyar Sefirah 29 פסח שני PESACH SHENI Light candles at 7:53 p.m. In evening count Omer 30	**22** טו אייר 15 Iyar Sefirah 30 בהר BEHAR Avot: chapter 4 Shabbat ends at 9:00 p.m. In evening count Omer 31
23 טז אייר 16 Iyar Sefirah 31 In evening count Omer 32	**24** יז אייר 17 Iyar Sefirah 32 In evening count Omer 33	**25** יח אייר 18 Iyar Sefirah 33 לג בעומר LAG B'OMER In evening count Omer 34	**26** יט אייר 19 Iyar Sefirah 34 In evening count Omer 35	**27** כ אייר 20 Iyar Sefirah 35 In evening count Omer 36	**28** כא אייר 21 Iyar Sefirah 36 Light candles at 7:59 p.m. In evening count Omer 37	**29** כב אייר 22 Iyar Sefirah 37 בחוקותי BECHUKOTAI Avot: chapter 5 Shabbat ends at 9:07 p.m. In evening count Omer 38
30 כג אייר 23 Iyar Sefirah 38 In evening count Omer 39	**31** כד אייר 24 Iyar Sefirah 39 Memorial Day In evening count Omer 40					

JUNE 2027

Sivan–Tammuz 5787 • סיון–תמוז ה'תשפ"ז

SIVAN 6–7: SHAVUOT

Shavuot is a major festival, celebrating an event so important that the world would be an entirely different place without it. 3,338 years ago on this day, the entire Jewish nation stood at the foot of Mount Sinai, and the transmission of Torah from heaven to earth began.

The literal meaning of the word Torah is "instructions." The same Manufacturer who produced the world provides instructions on what to do with it. Every story of the Torah is a lesson in life with a myriad of applications. Nothing it contains is irrelevant or anachronistic, because the Torah is eternal wisdom, beyond space and time. In fact, our Sages say, Torah is the blueprint by which the world was designed.

Shavuot Observances

On the first night of Shavuot many communities host an all-night learnathon. The next morning, June 11, every man, woman and child attends services to hear the Ten Commandments read from a Torah scroll. It is especially important for children to be there, since they served as our guarantors the first time the Torah was given. Before the main meat meal on the first day of Shavuot, the tradition is to eat a festive dairy meal (not hard cheese). Cheesecake is a big hit.

Some have the custom on Shavuot to decorate their synagogues and homes with flowers, fruits and greens.

King David passed away on Shavuot. So did the founder of the Chassidic movement, Rabbi Yisrael Baal Shem Tov.

Happy Shavuot!

Jewish Wedding, Oil on Canvas by Yoram Lukov

TEFILLIN

"You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes"—Deuteronomy 6:8.

You have a brain. It is in one world. Your heart is in another. And your hands often end up involved in something completely foreign to both of them. Three diverse machines.

So you put on tefillin. First thing in the day, you connect your head, your heart and your hand with these leather straps—all to work as one, with one intent: a dedicated service of the Almighty. And then, when you go out to meet the world, all your actions find harmony in a single coordinated purpose.

Tefillin are a pair of black leather boxes containing Hebrew parchment scrolls. A set includes two tefillin—one for the head and one for the arm.

Each consists of three main components: the scrolls, the box and the strap. The scrolls are inserted into boxes made of leather that are painted black.

One box is strapped on your head, and the other onto your arm next to your heart. It's done once a day—preferably during the morning prayers. If that is not practical, say at least the passage called the Shema. It's done by Jewish males, age 13 and up, every day except Shabbat and major Jewish holidays.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIMES SHOWN ARE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME FOR METRO NY-NJ **JUNE 2027**		1 כה אייר 25 Iyar Sefirah 40 In evening count Omer 41	2 כו אייר 26 Iyar Sefirah 41 In evening count Omer 42	3 כז אייר 27 Iyar Sefirah 42 In evening count Omer 43	4 כח אייר 28 Iyar Sefirah 43 Light candles at 8:05 p.m. In evening count Omer 44 New Moon: 3:35 10/18 p.m.	5 כט אייר 29 Iyar Sefirah 44 במדבר BAMIDBAR Avot: chapter 6 Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 9:13 p.m. In evening count Omer 45
6 א סיון 1 Sivan Sefirah 45 ראש חדש סיון Rosh Chodesh Sivan In evening count Omer 46	7 ב סיון 2 Sivan Sefirah 46 In evening count Omer 47	8 ג סיון 3 Sivan Sefirah 47 In evening count Omer 48	9 ד סיון 4 Sivan Sefirah 48 In evening count Omer 49	10 ה סיון 5 Sivan Sefirah 49 Eruv Tavshilin ערב שבועות Eve of Shavuot Light candles at 8:08 p.m.	11 ו סיון 6 Sivan שבועות SHAVUOT Light candles at 8:09 p.m.	12 ז סיון 7 Sivan שבועות SHAVUOT Yizkor Shabbat ends at 9:17 p.m.
13 ח סיון 8 Sivan אסרו חג Isru Chag	14 ט סיון 9 Sivan	15 י סיון 10 Sivan	16 יא סיון 11 Sivan	17 יב סיון 12 Sivan	18 יג סיון 13 Sivan Light candles at 8:12 p.m.	19 יד סיון 14 Sivan נשא NASSO Avot: chapter 1 Shabbat ends at 9:20 p.m.
20 טו סיון 15 Sivan Father's Day	21 טז סיון 16 Sivan	22 יז סיון 17 Sivan	23 יח סיון 18 Sivan	24 יט סיון 19 Sivan	25 כ סיון 20 Sivan Light candles at 8:13 p.m.	26 כא סיון 21 Sivan בהעלותך BEHAALOTECHA Avot: chapter 2 Shabbat ends at 9:21 p.m.
27 כב סיון 22 Sivan	28 כג סיון 23 Sivan	29 כד סיון 24 Sivan	30 כה סיון 25 Sivan			

JULY 2027

Tammuz–Av 5787 • תמוז–אב ה'תשפ"ז

TAMMUZ 3

Passing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, in 1994. The Rebbe emphasized many times after the passing of his father-in-law, in 1950, that the anniversary of the passing of a righteous Jewish leader is an auspicious time for us to rededicate ourselves to the realization of his most cherished goals.

The Rebbe's leadership continues to inspire us. He has taught us that with every good deed we do, we bring the world one step closer to perfection. Indeed, every kind word we speak, and even our positive thoughts, have a potent beneficial effect. By remembering the Rebbe's vision and by connecting to his purpose, we can hasten the unfolding of the final Redemption and a better life for all humankind.

Tammuz 5

In 1242, twenty-four cartloads of Talmud manuscripts were burned in Paris by order of King Louis IX. The destruction of so many laboriously handwritten manuscripts, in the era before printing, was a major tragedy. Only one complete Talmud manuscript is still in existence today (in Munich).

Tens of thousands of Jews in Uman, and other Ukrainian communities, were massacred by the Haidamaks in 1768.

TAMMUZ 17

Moses descended from Mt. Sinai, after G-d had taught him the entire Torah for 40 days. In his hands he carried the two stone tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments. But when he saw the Jewish People worshiping the Golden Calf, he smashed the tablets.

In later generations, King Menashe set up an idol in the Temple; Apostomos (a Greek general?) burnt a Torah scroll; the daily sacrifices had to stop; and the Romans breached Jerusalem's wall (70 CE).

This day is observed as one of the six public fast days. It begins the "Three Weeks," a period of national mourning for the destruction of the two Temples, during which we celebrate no weddings and schedule no festivities.

From Chaslavitch to Lubavitch, Oil on Canvas by Zalman Kleinman

MOSHIACH—OUR REDEEMER

"I believe with complete faith in the coming of Moshiach. And though he may tarry, I shall wait, anticipating his arrival each day." (Number 12 of Maimonides' 13 Principles of Faith)

Belief in Moshiach is Central to Judaism

The concept of Moshiach is basic to Jewish belief. It is found in the writings of the prophets, which are filled with references to Moshiach. Throughout history our ancestors have prayed for Moshiach's arrival.

Why Do We Need Moshiach?

In the Messianic Era, the Divine plan for the world will be fully realized. There will be universal peace, prosperity, goodness and knowledge of G-d.

How Will Moshiach Affect Our Lives?

The coming of Moshiach will not cause a break with the past and the beginning of something entirely new. On the contrary, it is the culmination and crowning stroke of all our efforts toward a world of peace and consummate holiness.

Moshiach will free the Jewish People from all servitude to foreign nations, rebuild the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and gather all the Jews of the entire world to Israel. Peace and prosperity will be universal, and all the nations of the world will serve the one G-d.

How Do We Prepare for Moshiach?

By doing more mitzvot, learning more Torah and praying for his revelation, we hasten Moshiach's coming and prepare ourselves to greet him.

TIMES SHOWN ARE
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
FOR
METRO NY-NJ

JULY 2027

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 כו סיון 26 Sivan	2 כז סיון 27 Sivan Light candles at 8:13 p.m.	3 כח סיון 28 Sivan שלח SHELACH Avot: chapter 3 Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 9:20 p.m.
4 כט סיון 29 Sivan Independence Day New Moon: 4:19 11/18 p.m.	5 ל סיון 30 Sivan ראש חדש תמוז Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	6 א תמוז 1 Tammuz ראש חדש תמוז Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	7 ב תמוז 2 Tammuz	8 ג תמוז 3 Tammuz	9 ד תמוז 4 Tammuz Light candles at 8:11 p.m.	10 ה תמוז 5 Tammuz קרח KORACH Avot: chapter 4 Shabbat ends at 9:17 p.m.
11 ו תמוז 6 Tammuz	12 ז תמוז 7 Tammuz	13 ח תמוז 8 Tammuz	14 ט תמוז 9 Tammuz	15 י תמוז 10 Tammuz	16 יא תמוז 11 Tammuz Light candles at 8:07 p.m.	17 יב תמוז 12 Tammuz חקת-בלק CHUKAT-BALAK Avot: chapter 5 Shabbat ends at 9:13 p.m.
18 יג תמוז 13 Tammuz	19 יד תמוז 14 Tammuz	20 טו תמוז 15 Tammuz	21 טז תמוז 16 Tammuz	22 יז תמוז 17 Tammuz תענית יז תמוז FAST OF 17 TAMMUZ Fast begins at 4:00 a.m. Fast ends at 8:54 p.m.	23 יח תמוז 18 Tammuz Light candles at 8:02 p.m.	24 יט תמוז 19 Tammuz פינחס PINCHAS Avot: chapter 6 Shabbat ends at 9:06 p.m.
25 כ תמוז 20 Tammuz	26 כא תמוז 21 Tammuz	27 כב תמוז 22 Tammuz	28 כג תמוז 23 Tammuz	29 כד תמוז 24 Tammuz	30 כה תמוז 25 Tammuz Light candles at 7:55 p.m.	31 כו תמוז 26 Tammuz מטות-מסעי MATOT-MASSEI Avot: chapter 1 Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 8:59 p.m.

AUGUST 2027

Av–Elul 5787 • אב–אלול ה'תשפ"ז

The Beis Hamikdash, Oil on Canvas by Yossi Rosenstein

AV 9: TISHA B'AV

Saddest day in the Jewish calendar. Commemorated as a 25-hour fast, beginning at sunset of the previous evening.

Anniversary of the Divine decree that the Jewish People remain in the desert for 40 years, until that generation died out, after they cried over the 10 spies' false report about the Land of Israel.

Anniversary of the destruction (by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar) of the First Temple (422 BCE), and (by the Romans under Titus) of the Second Temple (70 CE).

Capture by Romans of Beitar, last Jewish fortress to hold out in the Bar Kochba rebellion, with terrible loss of life (c. 135 CE). Jerusalem was ploughed up and turned into a non-Jewish city, Aelia Capitolina (c. 135 CE).

Av 9 in 1492 was the deadline by which all Jews who refused to be baptized had to leave Spain. Over 300,000 departed, many perishing from starvation, piracy, or violence. Those who converted but secretly remained Jewish—known as Marranos—faced torture or execution by the Inquisition.

World War I also began on Av 9, triggering upheaval in Jewish communities, the Russian Revolution's repression of Judaism, deadly pogroms in Ukraine, and the eventual rise of Nazism and the Holocaust.

AV 15

Anniversary of several happy events: the end of the 40-year decree that the Jewish People remain in the desert; the reconciliation of the tribe of Benjamin with the other tribes of Israel; the removal of the guards stationed by Jeroboam ben Nebat to prevent pilgrimages of the Ten Tribes of Israel to the Temple in Jerusalem; and the grant of Roman permission to bury the dead of Beitar, after 14 years. "There were no greater holidays for the Jewish People than Av 15 and Yom Kippur."

MEZUZAH

The mezuzah is a small parchment scroll, handwritten by a trained scribe, containing two Torah passages from the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4–9 and 11:13–21). These verses declare the oneness of G-d and the Jewish people's obligation to love and serve Him. Housed in a protective case, the mezuzah is affixed to the right-hand doorpost of Jewish homes and rooms, as commanded in the Torah: "And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:9).

More than a ritual object, the mezuzah serves as a constant reminder of G-d's presence and our relationship with Him. Each time we enter or leave, it offers a moment of reflection—reaffirming our commitment to live with purpose and holiness. It is customary to touch the mezuzah and kiss the fingers as a sign of love and reverence.

According to tradition, the mezuzah offers spiritual protection to the home and its inhabitants. The Divine name "Sha-ddai" written on the back of the scroll is seen as an acronym for "Guardian of the doorways of Israel."

By placing mezuzot on our doorposts, we make a statement: that this home is a sanctuary, rooted in faith, mitzvot, and connection to G-d.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 כז תמוז 27 Tammuz	2 כח תמוז 28 Tammuz New Moon: 5:03 12/18 p.m.	3 כט תמוז 29 Tammuz	4 א אב 1 Av ראש חדש אב Rosh Chodesh Av	5 ב אב 2 Av	6 ג אב 3 Av Light candles at 7:48 p.m.	7 ד אב 4 Av דברים DEVARIM Shabbat Chazon Avot: chapter 2 Shabbat ends at 8:49 p.m.
8 ה אב 5 Av	9 ו אב 6 Av	10 ז אב 7 Av	11 ח אב 8 Av Fast begins at 7:55 p.m.	12 ט אב 9 Av תענית ט אב FAST OF 9 AV Fast ends at 8:29 p.m.	13 י אב 10 Av Light candles at 7:39 p.m.	14 יא אב 11 Av ואתחנן VA'ETCHANAN Avot: chapter 3 Shabbat Nachamu Shabbat ends at 8:39 p.m.
15 יב אב 12 Av	16 יג אב 13 Av	17 יד אב 14 Av	18 טו אב 15 Av חמשה עשר באב FIFTEENTH OF AV	19 טז אב 16 Av	20 יז אב 17 Av Light candles at 7:29 p.m.	21 יח אב 18 Av עקב EIKEV Avot: chapter 4 Shabbat ends at 8:28 p.m.
22 יט אב 19 Av	23 כ אב 20 Av	24 כא אב 21 Av	25 כב אב 22 Av	26 כג אב 23 Av	27 כד אב 24 Av Light candles at 7:18 p.m.	28 כה אב 25 Av ראה RE'EH Avot: chapter 5 Blessing of the new month Shabbat ends at 8:17 p.m.
29 כו אב 26 Av	30 כז אב 27 Av	31 כח אב 28 Av				TIMES SHOWN ARE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME FOR METRO NY-NJ **AUGUST 2027**

SEPTEMBER 2027

Elul 5787 • אלול ה'תשפ"ז

THE MONTH OF ELUL

One of the major accusations often leveled at the CEO of the universe is inaccessibility. These charges are entirely unfounded.

G-d is everywhere, and from there He awaits your call. And just to prove it, one month before Rosh Hashanah, He devotes an entire month to being as approachable as an Almighty Creator can get.

Think of it as though the big boss took a stroll through the cubicles, happily chatting with anyone who approaches, giving each his full attention and a warm smile. That is what our Sages mean when they call Elul the Month of Divine Compassion. During these days, you can repair all that went amiss from the entire year—with study, with charity and good deeds, with meditation and prayer. That is also why we blow the Shofar every day of this month (except Shabbat), as a wake-up call to prepare for the magnificent days to come. We also have our Mezuzot and Tefillin checked during this month.

AV 28–29

Moses came down from his second 40-day stay on Mt. Sinai to plead forgiveness for the Jewish People, who had worshipped the Golden Calf. After G-d agreed to forgive them, He told Moses to go down and carve out two new tablets of stone (Exodus 34:1), since he had broken the first ones in disgust. Moses found under his tent a lode of sapphire. He hewed out two new tablets and became, our Sages tell us, extremely wealthy from the leftover chips (1313 BCE).

SHABBAT CANDLES

Darkness is setting upon the world; the workweek is coming to a close. A week of activity, a week of growth, a tiring week. But as the sun goes down, a new day is being ushered in: the day for which we toiled the entire week, a day of rest and tranquility, the holy Shabbat.

Greeting the Shabbat (and also Jewish holidays) are girls and women across the globe. Shortly before sunset they light candles, which usher in peace and blessing to their homes and to the world.

The Torah enjoins us to "honor the Shabbat and call it a delight." Now, one element of this "delight" is to have candles lit. In addition to creating a bright and cheery ambiance, the candles ensure that we don't spend the evening stumbling around in the dark. The Torah clearly tells us that we may not kindle fire on Shabbat. So the key is to light the delight-giving candles before the onset of the day.

The mystics explain that Shabbat is the day that brings illumination to our world, which so often seems to be dark and negative. Furthermore, candles are a metaphor for Torah and for the human soul.

The Shabbat candles represent the light we introduce into the world through studying Torah and observing its precepts. And they also represent the additional soul that our sages say we are given on Shabbat.

Shabbat Candles, Oil on Canvas by H Weiss

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIMES SHOWN ARE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME FOR METRO NY-NJ **SEPTEMBER 2027**		NEXT YEAR AT A GLANCE: 5788/2027-2028 *Oct. 2-3 Rosh Hashanah 5788 Oct. 4 Fast of Gedaliah *Oct. 11 Yom Kippur *Oct. 16-24 Sukkot *Dec. 25-Jan 1 Chanukah Jan 9 Fast of 10 Tevet Mar. 22 Fast of Esther *Mar. 12 Purim *Apr. 11-18 Passover *May 14 Lag B'Omer *May 31-June 1 Shavuot Jul. 11 Fast of 17 Tammuz *Aug. 1 Fast of 9 Av *Sept. 21-22 Rosh Hashanah 5789 * Indicates that holiday begins the previous evening	1 כט אב 29 Av New Moon: 5:47 13/18 a.m.	2 ל אב 30 Av ראש חדש אלול Rosh Chodesh Elul	3 א אלול 1 Elul ראש חדש אלול Rosh Chodesh Elul Light candles at 7:05 p.m.	4 ב אלול 2 Elul שופטים SHOFTIM Avot: chapter 6 Shabbat ends at 8:03 p.m.
5 ג אלול 3 Elul	6 ד אלול 4 Elul Labor Day	7 ה אלול 5 Elul	8 ו אלול 6 Elul	9 ז אלול 7 Elul	10 ח אלול 8 Elul Light candles at 6:56 p.m.	11 ט אלול 9 Elul כי תצא KI TEITZEI Avot: chapter 1 & 2 Shabbat ends at 7:53 p.m.
12 י אלול 10 Elul	13 יא אלול 11 Elul	14 יב אלול 12 Elul	15 יג אלול 13 Elul	16 יד אלול 14 Elul	17 טו אלול 15 Elul Light candles at 6:44 p.m.	18 טז אלול 16 Elul כי תבוא KI TAVO Avot: chapters 3 & 4 Shabbat ends at 7:41 p.m.
19 יז אלול 17 Elul	20 יח אלול 18 Elul	21 יט אלול 19 Elul	22 כ אלול 20 Elul	23 כא אלול 21 Elul	24 כב אלול 22 Elul Light candles at 6:32 p.m.	25 כג אלול 23 Elul נצבים - וילך NITZAVIM - VAYELECH Avot: chapters 5 & 6 Shabbat Selichot Shabbat ends at 7:29 p.m.
26 כד אלול 24 Elul	27 כה אלול 25 Elul	28 כו אלול 26 Elul	29 כז אלול 27 Elul	30 כח אלול 28 Elul		