

How big are your
Sukkot?

We're not talking about the dimensions of the hut in which people have sat since the time of the Bible. We're talking about how expansive we can be in the range of people, ideas, and experiences that we invite into the physical *Sukkot* we will sit in during the coming week.



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THE *SUKKAH* itself is defined by its permeable ceiling, suggesting that even those places where we take refuge should remain open to that which is outside. What's true for architectural walls is also true for spiritual and intellectual walls.

In fact, one tradition even teaches that our venturing into the *Sukkah* at precisely the time when the weather begins to threaten, demonstrates our inner strength and willingness to confront that which surrounds us, rather than build barriers against it.

From our first journey in the desert to the journey we're on today, the challenge always lies in balancing the security and familiarity we all need, with the new wisdom and insight that we acquire along the way. As we sit in the *Sukkah*, we celebrate both.

THE *SUKKAH* has meant many things to many people throughout the ages, so rather than simply describing its significance, we can fill it with our own meanings, hopes, and aspirations. There has always been room in the *Sukkah* to embrace them all.

This year, for each of the seven days of the holiday, consider your own answers to these ancient questions posed by past generations at *Sukkot*.

What do you do that truly brings you joy?
How can you make space for more of it?

When do you feel most spiritually connected?
How can you strengthen that connection?

Which institutions—Jewish, American, or global—are most important to you? How can you dedicate yourself to them more deeply?

What do you most want to learn in the coming year?
What do you most want to teach?

Who do you want to bring into your life?
How will you invite them in?

What's the most important part of the Jewish story to you? Why?

What people, ideas, or practices that seem to be at odds might be brought together so that each would be enhanced by contact with the other?



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*You shall live in Sukkot
for seven days...*

Leviticus 23:42

*If you build it,
they will come...*

From the movie
Field of Dreams

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One People.*