

DAF TSAFON

25 September 2021
19 Tishrei 5782

Shabbat Chol HaMoed Sukkot
ArtScroll 504 Hertz 362



This week I have attached a personal reflection by Rabbi Berel Wein, historian, rabbi and teacher, now living in Jerusalem, about his feelings about Sukkot. In the article he articulates beautifully the difference between generations and the feelings attached to the preparation for Yom Tov. This echoes an idea that I spoke about on Rosh Hashanah, that when it comes to the festivals we experience them not only in the present but in the past as well. This could well be a reason why we recite the yizkor on the chagim as it is a time when we are thinking of our loved ones who have passed.

“As I aided my grandson and two of his friends in helping erect and decorate our sukkah, I was struck by the fact that not only had I aged and no longer enjoyed climbing ladders but that many of our sukkah decorations have also seriously aged, faded, and some have even disappeared from the scene entirely.

I was delighted however that many of the sukkah decorations that have hung in my sukkah for more than fifty years in Chicago, Miami Beach, Monsey and Jerusalem were, like me, around and still in serviceable condition. Naturally, each of those decorations brings back a flood of memories – of cold and snowy Sukkot holidays in Chicago and Monsey, of boiling hot and drippingly humid Sukkot in Miami Beach and of the joy of being able to sleep comfortably in my sukkah here in Jerusalem.

And as the years have gone by, there are the beloved ones who visit my current sukkah only in the form of spiritual *ushpizzin*, but whose presence are nevertheless very real to me. We have decorations from the whole world hanging in our sukkah and therefore every little bauble carries with it a memory of a place visited and an experience tucked away in the recesses of our mind.

Thus, putting my sukkah together is always an emotional experience for me, a time of memories and recollection. My grandchildren who have helped me to decorate the sukkah have done so fairly dispassionately since they enjoy the curios from far distant lands and places but they have no personal attachments to the objects and they do not awaken any memories for them. But, that is not the case for their old grandfather, for whom the sukkah decorations are, in a large measure, the story of his life.

The custom of decorating one's sukkah is an ancient but sporadic one. Usually agricultural decorations – dried corn and grains, honey in jars, dried fruits, etc. – were used when they were available. This was in keeping with the biblical theme of Sukkot as the harvest festival of the Jewish calendar year. In many climes there was no possibility of such decorations. In my youth I remember that in my father's synagogue's sukkah and in the Yeshiva's sukkah there were little or no

Decorations, and they didn't have much colour or any pizzazz attached to them. Over the past number of decades, as having a sukkah for one's self and family has become increasingly popular in the United States and here in Israel, the sukkah decoration industry has flourished.

Many sukkot now come with their own built-in decorations on their panels and the Chinese are hard at work thinking up new types of decorations for our sukkot from year to year. Many tinsel decorations originally manufactured for non-Jewish holidays find their way into sukkot, especially in Israel, where certain sections of the population are completely unaware of the original reason and purpose of their manufacture. It is an interesting and sometimes even amusing world that we live in.

I find that the unseen guests – the *ushpizin* – are in many ways the stars of the Sukkot holiday. They have come to visit Jews in every clime and location on the globe. The Talmud itself has many illustrations of possible sukkot that were constructed in its time and in later times as well. There is a park in Israel called, *Neot Kedumim*, where all of these different types of sukkot are on view. Though there are many variations possible, a sukkah basically is composed of a structure with a little more than two plus solid walls and a roof of natural agricultural materials that is partially open to the sky. In rainy climates there was always an attempt to protect the sukkah during the rain storm by ingenious methods.

The rain always plays havoc with the sukkah decorations and many of my mine have fallen victim to the rains in America. Even here in Israel, ten years ago we experienced a violent rain storm on Sukkot that pretty much soaked everything and everyone. The heavy rains have not as of yet arrived here in Israel this year but the early fall rains have happened and since Sukkot is “late” this year, there does exist a possibility of rain for the holiday. Nevertheless, my sukkah decorations are proudly established in the sukkah and the holiness and anticipation of this holiday of family joy is felt anywhere you go in Jerusalem. May God's sukkah of happiness and peace envelop and protect all of us all year long.”

Chag Sameach

HAFTARAH

Ezekiel 38:18-39:16

ArtScroll 1243

Hertz 979

It shall be on that day, on the day that God comes on the soil of Israel – the words of my Lord Hashem / Elochim – My raging anger shall flare up. For in My indignation and in My blazing wrath I have spoken. I take an oath that on that day a great earthquake shall come upon the soil of Israel. And there shall quake, before Me, the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that move on the ground, and every human being on the face of the earth. Mountains shall be overthrown, cliffs shall topple, and every wall shall topple to the ground. I will summon the sword against him to all My mountains – the words of my Lord Hashem / Elochim. Every man's sword shall be against his brother. I will punish him with pestilence and with blood; torrential rain, hailstones, and sulphurous fire upon him and his cohorts, and the many peoples that are with him. Thus will I be exalted and sanctified, and I will become known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am Hashem.

מזל טוב

Wedding anniversary

Bernard and Carol Chaitowitz

מזל טוב

Bar Mitzvah anniversary

Brett Ullman

COMING EVENT

ZOOM with us at 7.30pm this Sunday, 26 September.

We're hosting a Kavod during Covid,
as we honour members of our community who've
volunteered their time for the shul;

Aaron Budai
Trevor Collins
Diana Laufer
Maureen Ravia.

This will be followed by a shiur entitled.

**Six days or fifteen billion years?
Science and religion, conflict or coexistence?**

The shiur will be dedicated in memory of

Lara Friedman

who passed away earlier this year.

We look forward to welcoming familiar and new faces.

**Our congregation acknowledges the following
yahrzeit anniversaries and wishes long life to those
who are commemorating a yahrzeit
during the coming week.**

חיים ארוכים

Kurt Beck	father of Harry Beck
Lori Karoline Berg	mother of Peter Berg
Joseph Albert Blitz	father-in-law of Marion Blitz
Lionel Cohen	father of Susan Davis
Basil Don	brother of Harold Don
Matilda Ellitt	mother of Jacob Levy
Jolanda Fenyo	mother of Ervin Forrester
Eve Forgacs	grandmother of Richie Brandon
Newton Goldman	husband of Jan Goldman
Philipp Hubner	father of Judy Marks
Liron Krischer	wife of Mark Krischer
Simon Abraham Rapken	father of Sarah Zukerman, grandfather of Zara Zukerman, Leah Kirsner and Lana Oxnam
Gary Rock	father of Sam Rock
Leah Zev	mother of Marilyn Bark and Harold Zev