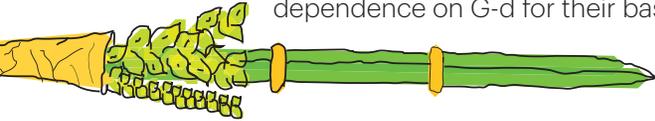


Sukkot

Sukkot, the first of three pilgrimage festivals and four days after the High Holidays, helps us experience the uncertainty our ancestors felt for forty years of desert-wandering and the complete dependence on G-d for their basic survival. The



Waving the Lulav: A Pluralistic Model

Waving the *lulav* is one of the most beloved mitzvot of Sukkot. Just as the holiday asks us to comfortably hold conflicting ideas together, we bring different types of plants together and hold them as one. Jewish tradition teaches that these four species, represented by their different tastes and smells, symbolize that different types of Jewish people coexist in one inclusive community – and are, in fact, needed to make a community whole.

לולב • *lulav* - palm frond

The palm frond, with a taste but no smell, represents Jews who study Torah but do not do good deeds.

הדס • *hadass* - myrtle

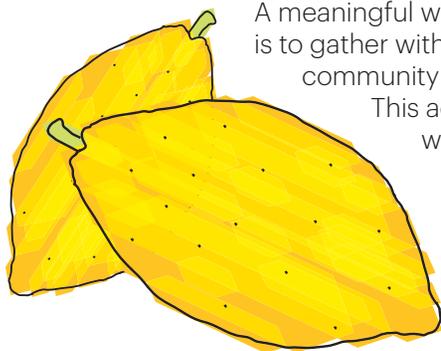
The sweet-smelling myrtle bush with no taste represents Jews who do good deeds, but do not dedicate time to study.

ערבה • *aravah* - willow branch

With no taste or smell, the willow branch represents Jews who neither study Torah nor do good deeds.

אתרוג • *etrog* - citron fruit

With both an incredible fragrance and sweet taste, the beautiful citron fruit represents those Jews who study Torah and do good deeds.



A meaningful way to celebrate Sukkot is to gather with friends, family and the community in a sukkah outside.

This action is a model for welcoming people in our homes, our community and our lives. When thinking about creating welcoming spaces, consider:

1

What can I do this year to bring different types of people into my heart and home?

2

What do you think it takes to build a community where all types of Jews are represented? Do you see examples of this type of community?

3

In what ways do I depend on the hospitality and welcoming of other people in my school, BBYO and other social groups and my larger community?

festival also celebrates the moment in early fall when farmers in Israel harvest the food that will sustain them, their families and their communities until the following summer. When we sit in our *sukkah*, booths, today, how can we incorporate these two big ideas, wandering and celebration, into one meaningful holiday?

Blessing for Sukkot:

When someone waves the *lulav*, they should wave the four species in six different directions (east, south, west, north, up and down) and after each wave, they should bring the *lulav* close to their heart and may recite the *lulav* prayer.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha-olam
Blessed are you, Lord, our God, Ruler of the universe

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ

asher kidishanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu
who has sanctified us with His mitzvot and commanded us

עַל נְטִילַת לולב

al n'tilat lulav.
to lift up the lulav.

