

Sukkot Family Programming



August 20, 2013

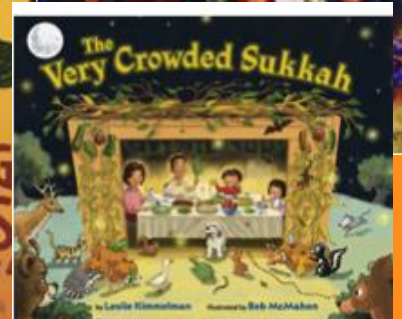
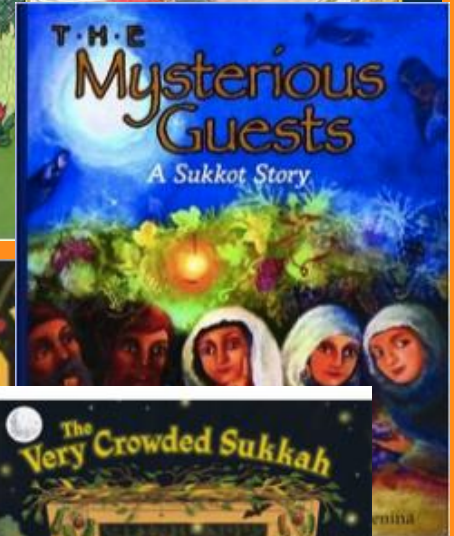
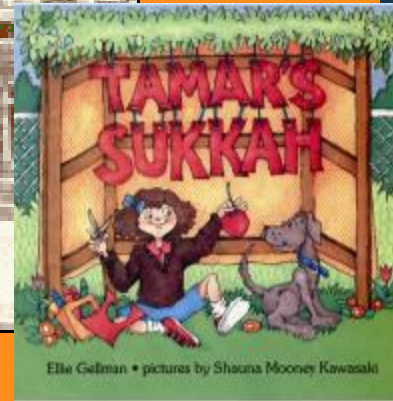
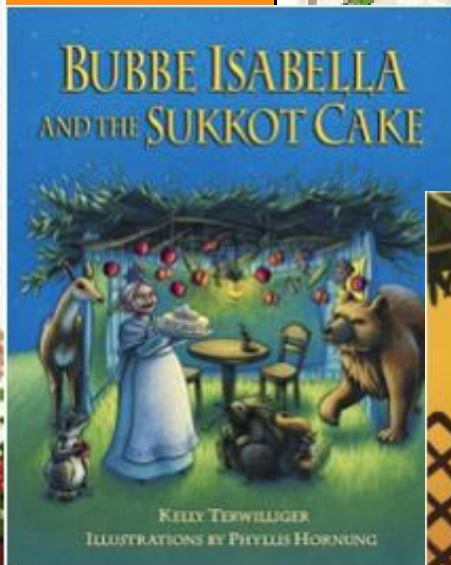
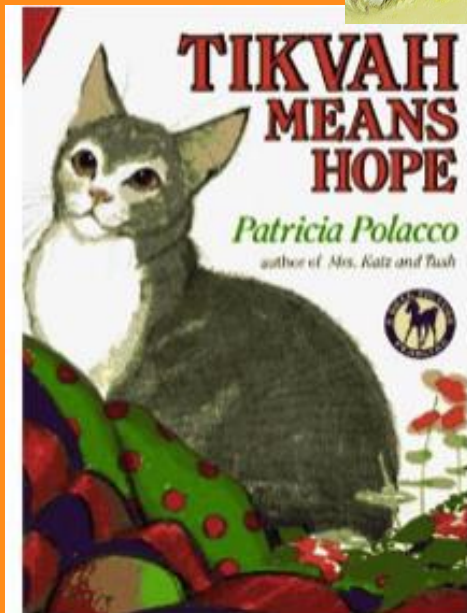
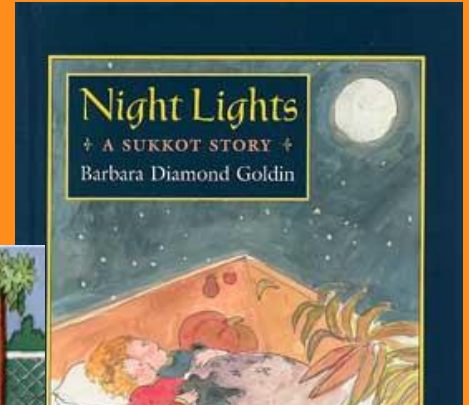
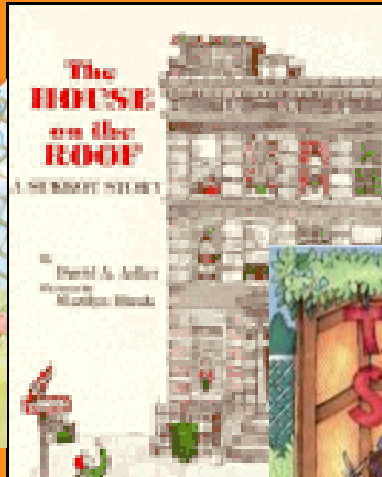
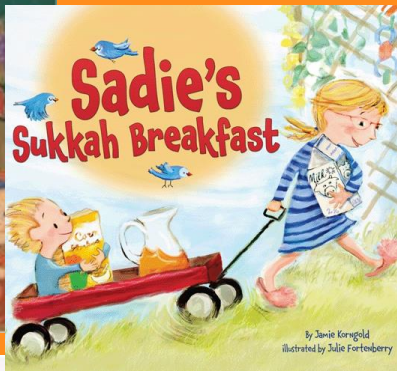


Webinar Goals

- To explore ways of designing meaningful, impactful Sukkot Family programs
- To provide guidance in “mix and match” programming options
- To tap into the expertise of PJ Professionals



PJ Library Sukkot Books



Child Friendly Sukkot Themes



- Harvest and Gratitude
- Welcoming Guests
- Appreciating Nature
- Hiddur Mitzvah



Harvest and Gratitude

Biblical Sources:

In the fifteenth day of the seventh, when you have gathered in the fruits of the land, you shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days ...And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days...You shall dwell in booths ... that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the Land of Egypt (Leviticus: 23,39-45)

When you harvest your crops from your granary and your vineyard, you should be happy on your holiday, you and your children...(Deuteronomy 16:13)

Lessons for Children

Sukkot is a time for saying thank you for the fruits, vegetables, grains, etc. that have grown throughout the summer and have just been picked and harvested.

As we sit outside in a sukkah, we feel grateful for:

- Nature
- The comforts of our home
- Family and friends



Welcoming Guests

Sources:

When a man sits in the shadow of faith (sukkah) the Shekhinah (Divine Presence) spreads Her wings on him from above and Abraham and five other righteous ones of God (and David with them) make their abode with him... A man should rejoice each day of the festival with these guests. (The Zohar)

It is the duty of the host to be cheerful during meals and thus make his guests feel at home and comfortable at the table.

Derech Eretz Zuta 9



Lessons for Children

- While welcoming guests is always an important mitzvah, it's especially important during the holiday of Sukkot
- On Sukkot, many people participate in a tradition of welcoming guests called **Ushpezin**- the inviting of invisible Jewish matriarchs and patriarchs into the sukkah
- Welcoming guests means being a good host:

-Greet guests at the door and escort them inside.

-Make an effort to remain cheerful during the visit.

-Ask guests questions about their interests and activities.

-Share food, toys, etc. with guests

-Strive to follow the guests lead-Do what the guest wants

-Walk departing guests to the door.

Appreciating Nature

Sources

- *Sukkot* is a time when we—quite literally—immerse ourselves in nature. Choosing to socialize, eat, and even sleep outside makes us not only appreciate the homes we have, but also the natural beauty that surrounds us
- "How great are Your works, O God, You make them all with wisdom, the world is full of Your possessions" (Psalms 104:24).
- Appreciating the beauty of the world leads to greater awe and love for God.

Maimonides, Hilchot
Yesodei hatorah 2:2 –

Lessons For Children

- The world is full of many wonderful things-Our job is to see and appreciate each unique piece of nature
- Every person and every thing is special in it's own way. Everything counts!



Hiddur Mitzvah- Enhancing/Upgrading the Celebration

Sources

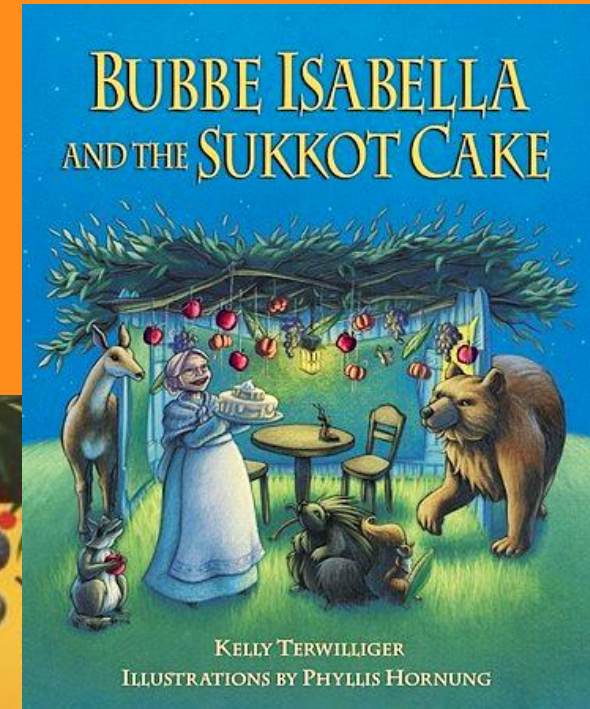
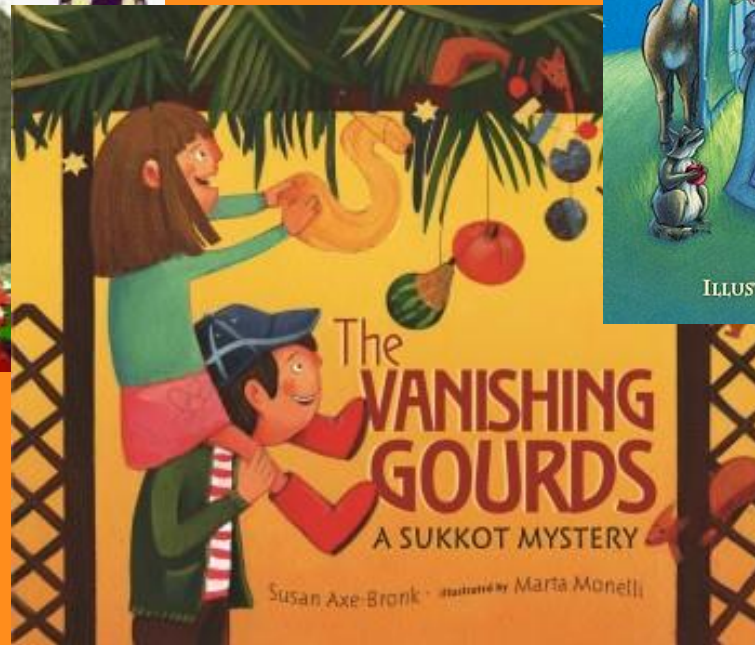
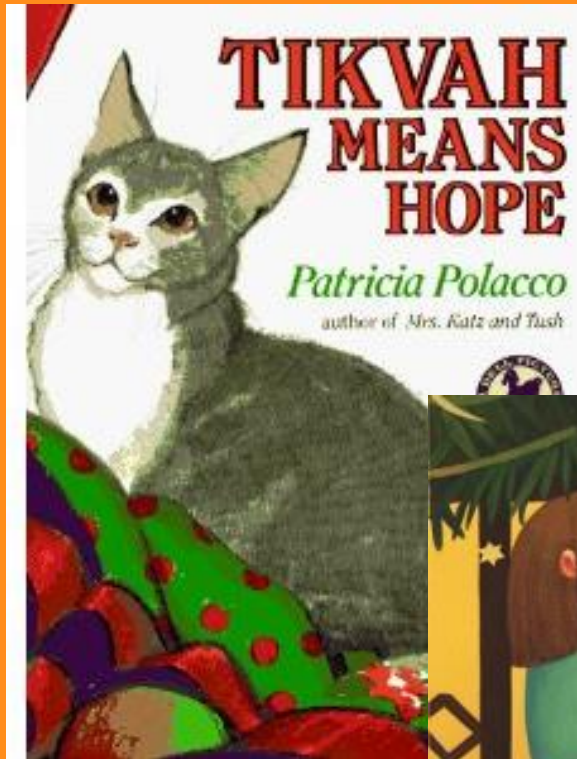
- "This is my God and I will glorify Him" (Exodus 15:2):
- "Is it possible for a human being to add glory to his Creator? What this really means is: I shall glorify Him in the way I perform mitzvot. I shall prepare before Him a beautiful lulav, beautiful sukkah, beautiful fringes (*Tsitsit*), and beautiful phylacteries (*Tefilin*)." [Midrash Mechilta, Shirata, Chapter 3]



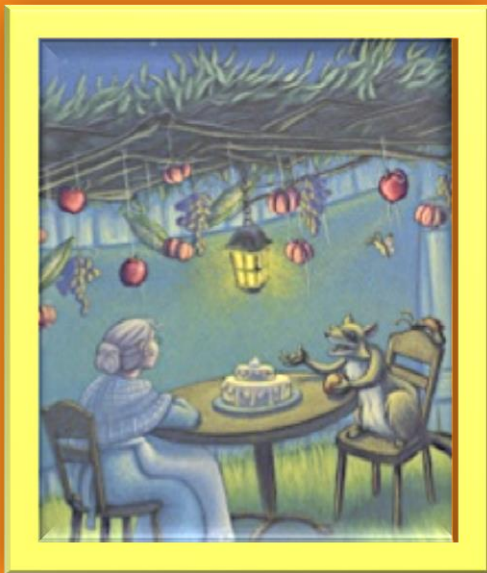
Lessons for Children

- There is a concept in Judaism known as ***hiddur mitzvah***. According to this principal, we should perform mitzvot and celebrate the holidays with great enthusiasm.
- We try to make our holidays special by making the the objects connected with the holiday as beautiful as possible.
- On the holiday of Sukkot, we can participate in ***hiddur mitzvah*** by making our sukkah, and/or the sukkah of others, look and feel as beautiful as possible.

Harvest and Gratitude Book



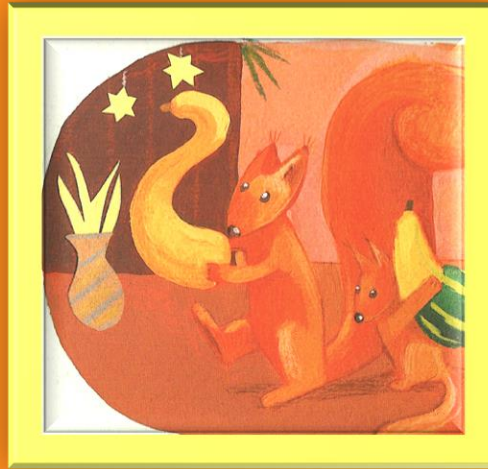
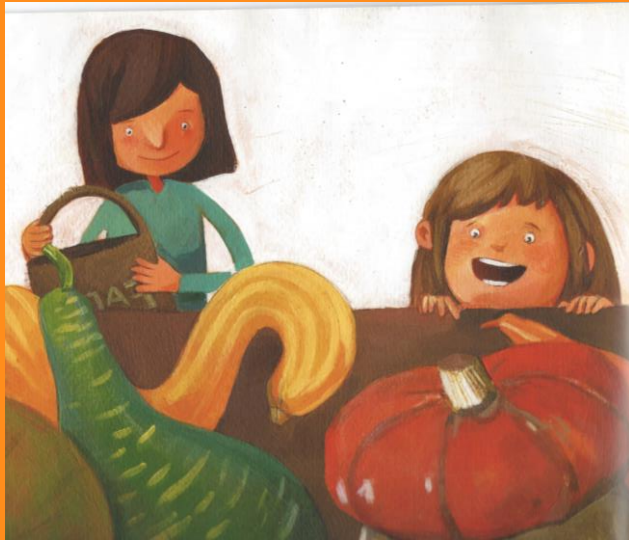
Connecting *Bubbe Isabella* to Harvest and Gratitude



As Bubbe Isabella builds her sukkah, she notes that “It’s time to celebrate the end of the harvest”. She decorates her sukkah with fruits and vegetables that she’s grown in her garden. As she sits in her sukkah, Bubbe loves looking at the stars and telling jokes and stories with her animal friends .

Discussion Questions: Does Bubbee mind that the animal guests are eating her sukkah and making it shabby? What is Bubbe Isabella thankful for? (*Her animal company and for being able to enjoy the night sky*) What are you thankful for?

Connecting *Vanishing Gourds* to Harvest and Gratitude



Sara and her mother buy fall gourds to hang in their sukkah. Each night squirrels come and steal the gourds. Although Sara is heartbroken that her gourds have disappeared, she feeds the hungry squirrels throughout the winter. In return, the squirrels plant seeds and grow new gourds for Sara so to hang in her sukkah the following fall

Discussion Questions: For what is Sara grateful? Are the squirrels grateful? How do you know? For what are you grateful/thankful? What are your favorite fruits and vegetables?

Crafts Projects for Harvest and Gratitude



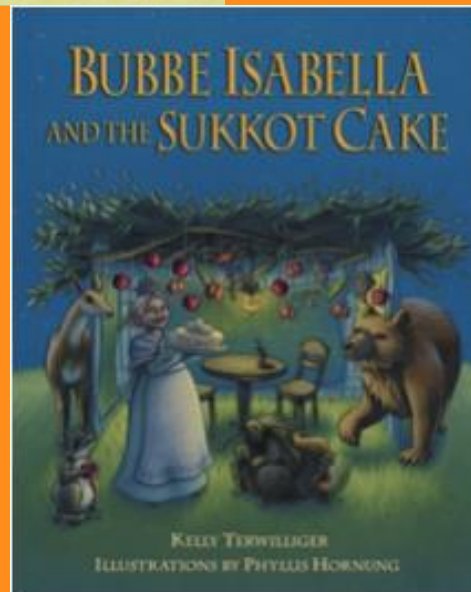
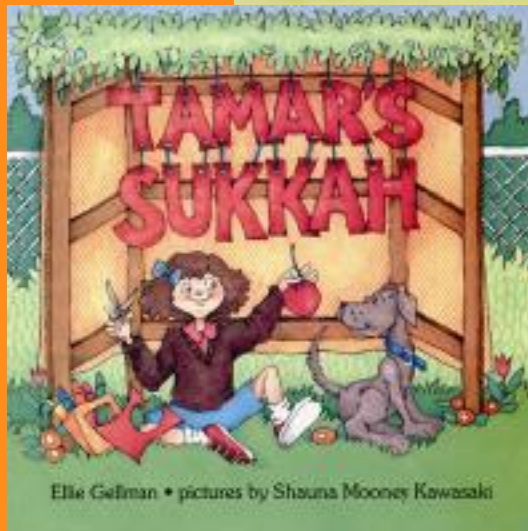
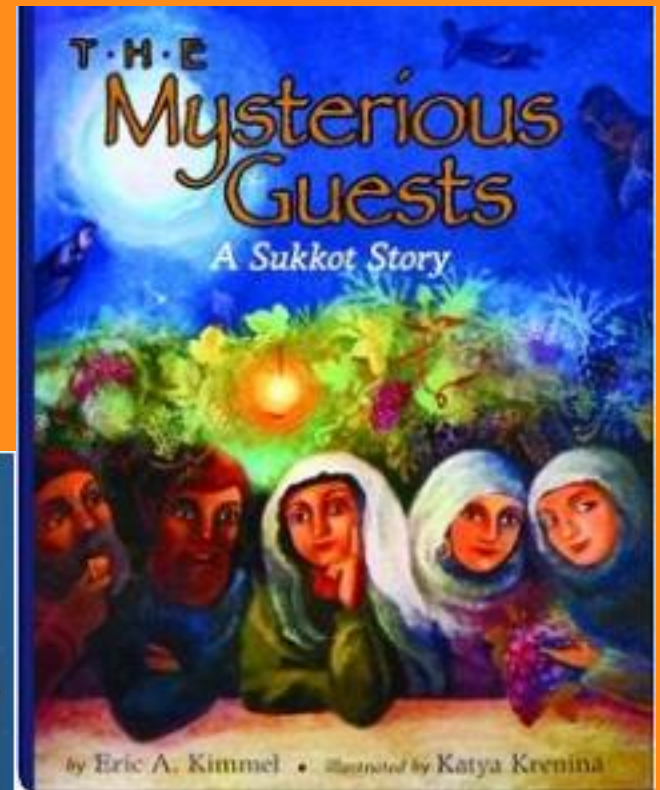
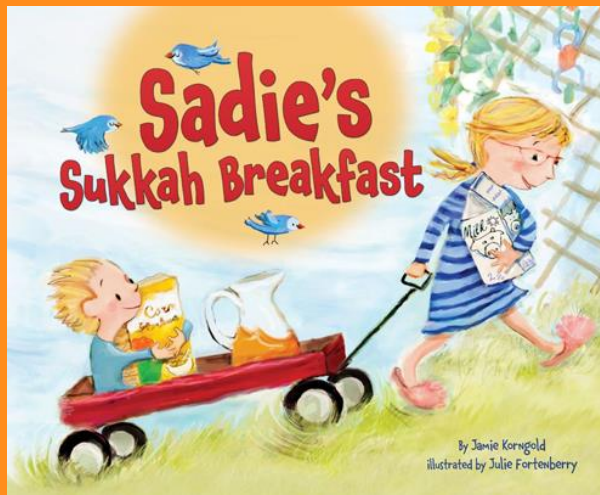
- Painting gourds and/or gourd and fruit shapes cut from card stock
- Making gratitude mobiles
- Nature hike/Scavenger Hunt -Collecting items in nature for which you are grateful; using these items to create a collage
- Harvest Olympics
- Lulav and Etrog Shake



Harvest Olympics	
Get a sticker for each Olympic event you complete!	
Krab Crawl	Three Legged
Potato Sack	Wheelbarrow
Spoon Balance	Head to Head



Books for Welcoming Guests



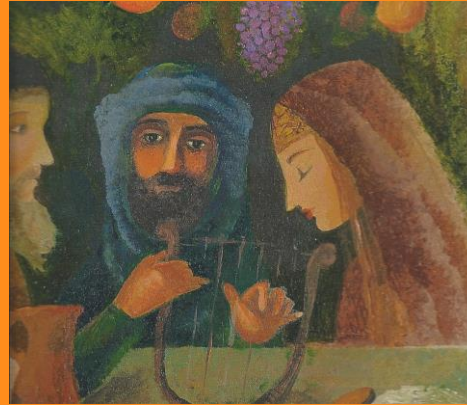
Connecting *Bubbe Isabella* to Welcoming Guests



According to Judaism, it is a mitzvah for us to welcome guests to our homes. This mitzvah becomes even more important on the holiday of Sukkot

Discussion Questions: Did Bubbe Isabella like welcoming guests to her sukkah? What did she do to help her guests feel comfortable and welcomed? When a friend visits your house how do you help him/her feel comfortable?

The Mysterious Guests and Welcoming Guests



The visitors who came to Eben and Ezer's sukkah are known as Ushpezin. Who are Ushpezin? Why might someone want to welcome ushpezin to their sukkah each evening?

Discussion Questions: Who was better at welcoming guests- Eben or Ezer? How did Ezer help his guests feel comfortable? How did Eben make his guests feel unwelcome? When friends visit your house, how do you help them feel welcome?

Activities for Welcoming Guests

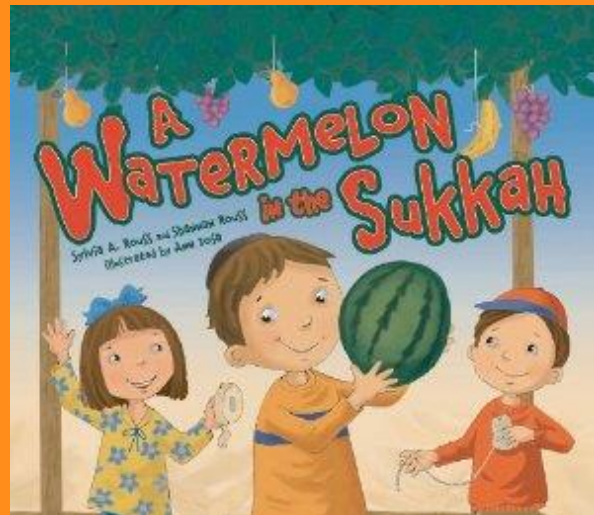
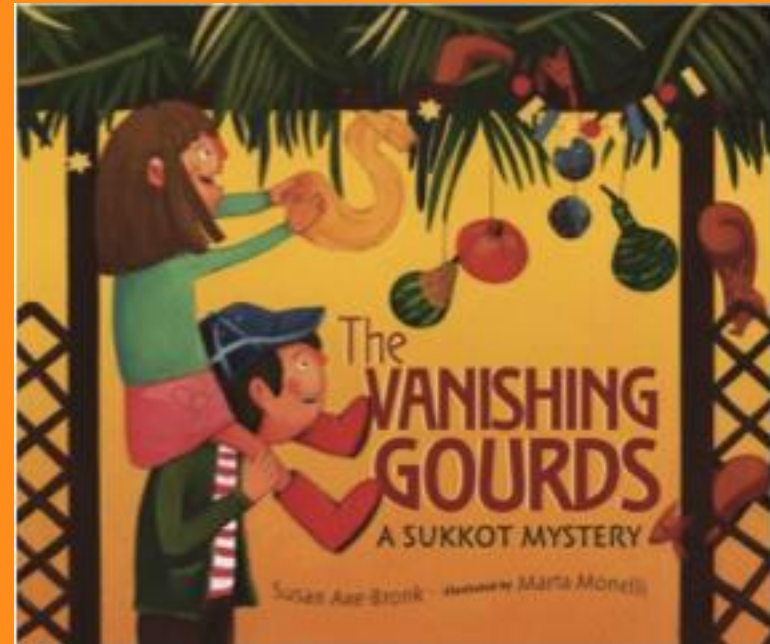
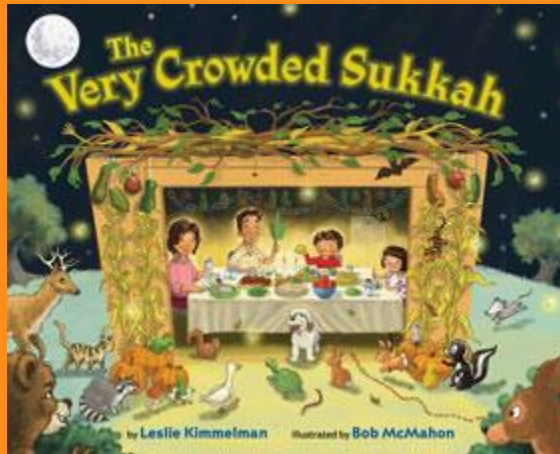


Ushpezin Scavenger Hunt

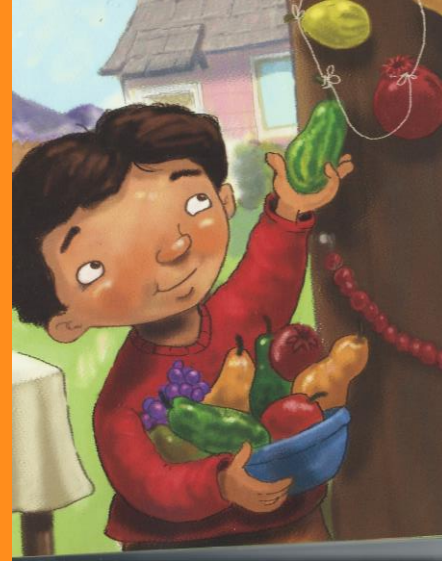
Abraham and Sarah were kind, welcoming people who liked to invite as many guests as they could into their tent. See if you can find a tent hidden in the corn maze. Go inside the tent and sample some of Abraham and Sarah's tasty pita bread. Allow Abraham and Sarah to "pretend" to wash your feet and add Abraham and Sarah stickers to your sukkah pictures.



Books for Appreciating Nature



The Very Crowded Sukkah and Nature Appreciation/ Stewardship of the Earth



As they decorate their sukkah, Sam and Ava use many different kinds of fruits and vegetables. While it rains outside, all types of animals visit the Sukkah. Sukkot is a time for us to notice and appreciate the beauty of our world. The world is full of many different kinds of foods, trees, animals, Each element of nature is special and each serves its own purpose. No two things in the world are exactly alike .

Discussion Questions- Why do you think the world was made with so many different kinds of animals, foods, and people? What are your favorite fruits, vegetables, animals? Why? Sam takes good care of the ladybug when he finds it in the sukkah. What do you do when you find a bug in your house? How do you help care for the other animals found outdoors in nature?


A Watermelon in the Sukkah and Nature



Every child in Michael's class brings a different fruit to hang in the sukkah. Sukkot is a time of year when we pay attention to the many different kinds of fruits, leaves, trees, and animals that surround us. It is a time to appreciate nature and to try to care for nature.

Discussion Questions; Can you name some of the different fruits that Michael's classmates brought? What is your favorite fruit and why? What animal visits the school's sukkah? What other animals might come to visit? How might the class care for these animals

Activities for Appreciating Nature



1. Can you find 3 red objects. Name the objects that you see.

2. Can you find/see 2 different animals? Record the names of the animals below:

3. Can you hear 2 different sounds? Describe the sounds in the space below:

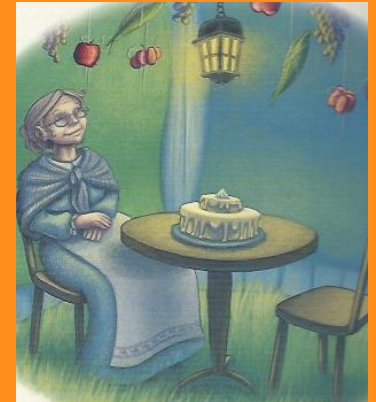
- Nature Scavenger Hunt
- Hold programs in a nature –rich setting (Pick your own orchard; garden; corn maze; zoo)
- Create sukkah decorations showing the diversity of nature i.e.-fruit collages, animal collages, leaf collages (Optional at bottom of collage glue on diversity quote-”How great are Your works...”
- Play fruit or animal bingo
- Create shoe- box sukkot, decorating each with many different kinds of fruits, animals , etc.



Decorating a Sukkah as a form of Hiddur Mitzvah



- As we build a sukkah, we don't just quickly put one together, but we try to make our sukkah look, smell, feel, and sound as beautiful as possible.
- When we perform a mitzvah with care, trying to go above what is required, we say we're participating in hiddur mitzvah—enhancing the mitzvah.
- **Discussion Questions:** In our book, what do the characters do to make their sukkah as special as possible? How can we make the sukkah that we're standing in right now, extra special?



Hiddur Mitzvah Activities



- Making sukkah decorations
- Creating sukkah posters
- Designing shoe box sukkot
- Decorating cookies, making special foods to eat in the sukkah
- Singing songs, dancing in the sukkah



Questions from the Field

- Before the webinar PJ folks were asked to share their questions:
- What to do with an overflow of children - too many to fit in the sukkah at the same time? *(Tracy Daniels, Greenwich CT)*
- What to do inside the sukkah? Various members of the community will be opening their Sukkah to the community for programs. How to create meaningful and appropriate programs for adults and children alike? *(Leemor Ellman, MetroWest NJ)*



Listen to webinar for responses to these questions

More Questions



- We're planning a Sukkot program at the Kentucky Children's Garden - a secular space that is interactive and educates children and parents about the environment. How can we combine the issues of stewardship to the environment along with traditional sukkot themes? (Lori Bernard, Lexington, KY)
- Ideas for Collaborating with Local Partners

Examples of Collaboration

Sukkot On Location: Family Fun at the Farm

Sunday, October 7th, 2012
10:30 - Noon
Nathan Creek Organic farm (6764 224th Street, Langley)

A family Sukkot adventure

Come celebrate the harvest at Nathan Creek Organic farm:

- Snack in a sukkah
- Shake a lulav
- Participate in a harvest scavenger hunt
- See working bee hives
- Healthy food talk with Alyssa Bauman from Nourished
- Storytelling and more...

Pack a picnic & a blanket and join us for lunch at Noon (if you wish)

★ Rain or shine - dress for mess!
★ Farm-friendly footwear and warm, waterproof outerwear.
★ *Bubbe's advice*: visit a washroom before arriving at the farm.



Presented by Temple Shalom, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver & PJ Library



Sweet Harvest Festival

A Community Celebration of Sukkes / Sukkot

Monday
October 13, 2008
11am - 3 pm

National Yiddish Book Center
Amherst, MA
RAIN or SHINE!

Activities For All Ages!

Environmental Activities • Holiday Storytelling
Lulav Shakes • Folk Dancing • Yiddish Writers Tours
Sukkah Crafts • Torah Yoga • Poetry Open Mike
Sukkot Memory Interviews • Harvest Olympics

Musical Performances

Rabbi Micah ~ Contemporary Folk • KindGroove ~ Conscious Hip Hop
Adrian Durlester ~ Jewish Rhythms • Marla BB ~ Gospel & Blues
Felicia Sloin ~ Jewish Soul *Subject to change*

Sharing Our Harvest

Bring non-perishable food donations for Rachel's Table and get entered in the Sweet Harvest raffle!

Kosher Food

Buy delicious offerings or bring a picnic lunch

Tickets

\$5 (adult), \$3 (children), \$18 (family-maximum 6)

413-439-1973 • judi@hgf.org
For directions: www.yiddishbookcenter.org

A collaboration of the National Yiddish Book Center, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Arts & Culture Initiative and The PJ Library, Jewish Community of Amherst, Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts, Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, and LGA Schechter.

Super Collaboration

Sweet Harvest Festival Schedule

DRAFT ONLY!!

	Sweet Harvest Central	Sukkah of Welcoming	Sukkah of Sustainability	Dance Park	Sukkah Out Loud	Harvest Olympics	Lulav & Etrog Tent	MUSIC STAGE	Ushpizin Tent	Food & Shelter Tent	Fruit Prints	Sukkat Shalom	Sukkot Memories	Yiddish Book Center
11:00	GET YOUR	Welcoming	GREEN MARKET		PJ	Krab Krawl	Shake		Crests	Make a				
11:15	MAP &	Diverse	ALL DAY	Folk	Library		Up	Rabbi	Sukkah	Tzedakah	Sponge	Dedication ~ Sukkat Shalom	VISIT	
11:30	SCHEDULE	Jewish	GET INVOLVED!	Dance!	Books	3 Legged Race	Your	Micah	Décor:	Box	Printing		THE	Book
11:45	HERE!	Families	From Oy	Shake Your Booty!			Senses!	Debbie	Welcome	*	on		PHOTO	Center
12:00		*	To Action	Booth!	Come	Potato Sack		Freidlander	Signs	Gleaning	Paper	Reiki Healing	BOOTH	Tour
12:15	*	Chat	Dialogue	Folk	Read!		*	Adrian	for	Project	Sukkah		*	
12:30	SWEET	Interfaith with	RECYCLING	Dance!		Wheel Barrow	Craft	Durlester	your	(6th Grade)	*		*	
12:45	HARVEST	Rabbi Lev Baesh	FOR THE	Shake Your Booty!	Sukkes		a		Sukkah!	Field Trip	*	QiGong		
1:00	RAFFLE	*	BIRDS		for the	Spoon Balance	Lulav	Marla	*	*	Sukkes	Self Healing	SHARE	Aaron
1:15		Meet	Lulav as a	Folk	Shretelech		& Etrog	BB	Whom do		Stories		MEMORIES	Lanksy
1:30	*	Mothers Circle Leaders	Rainstick	Dance!		Head to Head		Felicia	you want to	Donate	*	Sukkot Yoga	OF THE	Presents
1:45	COMMUNITY				Poetry		*	Sloin	Invite?	to Local			HOLIDAYS	'''
2:00	RESOURCES	*	From Oy	Shake Your Booty!	Open	Island Hopping	Share	Kind	*	Soup	Lulav		ON	
2:15	&	Family	To Action	Booth!	MIKE		in the	Groove	Ushpizin:	Kitchens	Keychains	Healing Circle	VIDEO	Yiddish
2:30	INFO	Diversity	Dialogue	Folk		Blind Maze	Mystery	Yiddish	Inviting the	*	*			Writers
2:45		Questionnaire		Dance!				Groove	Spirits					Tour
HOSTS	JFS & HGF Arts & Culture Initiative	Jewish Family Service of Western MA	David Arfa & Beit Ahawah	Eve Cameron & Jodi Falk	The PJ Library & Hampshire College		Jewish Community of Amherst		LGA Schechter	Jewish Federation of Western MA	Children's Torah Center	Sukkat Shalom Reiki	Jewish Historical Society of	Nat'l Yiddish Book Center