

Holiday Hours 2023-2024

LABOR DAY

Monday, Sept. 4, 2023 8:00am-6:00pm

ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, Sept. 15, 2023 Closing at 3:30pm
 Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 Closed
 Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023 Closed

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023 Closing at 3:30pm
 Monday, Sept. 25, 2023 Closed

SUKKOT

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 Closing at 5:00pm
 Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023 Closed
 Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 Closed

SHEMINI ATZERET

Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 Closing at 5:00pm
 Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023 Closed

SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunday, October 8, 2023 Closed

THANKSGIVING

Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023 Closed

CHANUKAH

Dec. 7-15, 2023 Normal Hours

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY

Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023 7:00am-7:00pm
 Monday, Dec. 25, 2023 8:00am-5:00pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023 7:00am-5:00pm
 Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 8:00am-5:00pm

TU B'SHEVAT

Thursday, January 25, 2024 Normal Hours

PURIM

Sunday, March 24, 2024 Normal Hours

PESACH

Monday, April 22 Closing at 3:30pm
 Tuesday April 23 &
 Wednesday, April 24, 2024 Closed
 Sunday, April 28 Closing at 5:00pm
 Monday, April 29 &
 Tuesday, April 30, 2024 Closed

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27, 2024 8:00am-6:00pm

SHAVUOT

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 Closing at 5:00pm
 Wednesday, June 12 &
 Thursday, June 13, 2024 Closed

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Thursday, July 4, 2024 8:00am-6:00pm

TISHA B'AV

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 Normal Hours

TU B'AV

Monday, August 19, 2024 Normal Hours

Building Hours - Effective August 1, 2023

OWINGS MILLS

MONDAYS-THURSDAYS

5:30am-9:00pm

FRIDAYS

5:30am-7:00pm

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

7:00am-7:00pm

PARK HEIGHTS

MONDAYS-THURSDAYS

5:30am-9:30pm

FRIDAYS

5:30am-5:30pm (9/8/23-11/3/23 and 3/15/24 onward)
 5:30am-4:00pm (11/10/23 - 3/8/24)

SATURDAYS

7:30pm-10:30pm (11/11/23 - 3/9/24)

SUNDAYS

7:00am-7:00pm

SHABBAT – SABBATH

For six days we work and create, and for one day, Shabbat, we rest.

TIMING: Sundown Friday through sundown Saturday

TRADITIONS: Lighting candles, drinking wine, eating challah (braided egg bread). Some people now “unplug” from digital devices. Havdallah is Shabbat’s farewell ceremony and includes lighting a braided candle, drinking wine and smelling sweet spices (to symbolize the sweet week that will hopefully follow.)



GREETING: *Shabbat Shalom!* (Sabbath Peace)

ROSH HASHANAH – JEWISH NEW YEAR

In the month preceding and during Rosh Hashanah, we contemplate our past, present and future actions and attempt to clean the slate. This begins the Ten Days of Awe, culminating on Yom Kippur.



TIMING: September 16 & 17, 2023 (sundown September 15)

TRADITIONS: Eating round challah, dipping apples in honey for a sweet new year, throwing crumbs (or more eco-friendly millet) into a living body of water to symbolize tossing away our sins

GREETING: *Shanah Tovah!* (A Good Year!)

YOM KIPPUR – DAY OF ATONEMENT

Holiest day of the year.

TIMING: September 25, 2023 (sundown, September 24)

TRADITIONS: Through fasting and prayer, Jews reflect upon their relationships and atone for missing the mark. At sunset, the day ends with a blast of the shofar (ram’s horn).

GREETING: *G’mar hatimah tovah!* (May you be sealed in the Book of Life!)

**SUKKOT – FESTIVAL OF BOOTHS**

After 40 years of wandering in the desert, we made it to the Promised Land.

TIMING: Sept. 30-Oct. 6, 2023 (sundown, September 29)

TRADITIONS: Building and living in a sukkah, a temporary structure reminiscent of the huts constructed in the desert; welcoming guests & strangers; daily ceremony with lulav (palm, willow & myrtle branches) and etrog (citrus fruit).

GREETING: *Hag Sameach!* (Happy Holiday!)

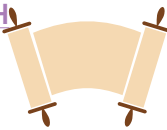
**SHEMINI ATZERET – EIGHTH DAY OF ASSEMBLY
SIMCHAT TORAH – REJOICING FOR THE TORAH**

The last day of Sukkot, we begin to pray for rain and, the following day (the same day for Reform Jews), we celebrate completing the Torah-reading cycle.

TIMING: October 7 & 8, 2023 (sundown, October 6)

TRADITIONS: After finishing the last chapter of Deuteronomy, we begin a new cycle by reading from the beginning of Genesis. There’s often music and dancing with the Torah!

GREETING: *Moadim L’simcha* (Festivals for Joy!)

**CHANUKAH – FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

Eight day holiday celebrating a military victory and the miracle of the rededication of the temple when a tiny bit of oil lasted for eight days.

TIMING: December 8-15, 2023 (sundown December 7)

TRADITIONS: Lighting the chanukiah (nine-branched candelabrum); eating latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (donuts); playing with dreidels (spinning tops) and giving gelt (money or chocolate coins) and gifts.

GREETING: *Happy Chanukah!*

**TU B’SHEVAT – NEW YEAR OF THE TREES**

Since biblical times, we celebrate springtime renewal and growth.

TIMING: January 25, 2024 (sundown, January 24)

TRADITIONS: Planting trees; eating fruit; conducting a special Tu B’Shevat seder.

GREETING: *Hag Sameach!* (Happy Holiday!)

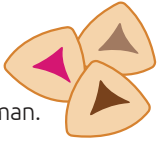
**PURIM – FEAST OF LOTS**

Joyous holiday celebrating the rescue of the Jews by Queen Esther and her Uncle Mordechai from the evil Haman.

TIMING: March 24, 2024 (sundown March 23)

TRADITIONS: Reading the Megillah (scroll) of Esther aloud and making noise when Haman’s name is mentioned; dressing in costume; eating hamantaschen (three-cornered fruit filled pastries); giving mishloach manot (gift baskets); attending Purim carnivals.

GREETING: *Purim Sameach!* (Happy Purim!)

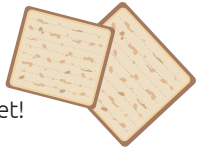
**PESACH – PASSOVER**

Once we were slaves and now we are free. Never forget!

TIMING: April 22-30, 2024 (first seder April 22)

TRADITIONS: At the seder (home-based service & festival meal) we read the Haggadah (collection of texts & commentaries on the Exodus) and eat symbolic foods. For eight days we eat matzah (unleavened bread) to remind us of leaving Egypt in a hurry (no time for bread to rise).

GREETING: *Happy Passover! Hag Sameach v’kasher!* (Happy and Kosher holiday!)

**YOM HASHOAH – HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY****YOM HAZIKARON – MEMORIAL DAY****YOM HA’ATZMAUT – ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY**

We mourn those who perished in the Shoah (Holocaust); remember those who gave their lives for Israel; and celebrate Israel’s statehood in 1948.

TIMING: May 6, May 13, May 13, 2024

TRADITIONS: Reading names of those who perished; hearing speeches by survivors; in Israel, a siren calls for the nation to stop and share a moment of silence. On Yom HaZikaron, psalms are recited; graves are visited; and yahrzeit (memorial) candles are lit. On Yom Ha’Atzmaut there are parades and celebrations.

**SHAVUOT – FESTIVAL OF WEEKS**

We celebrate receiving the Torah and the spring harvest.

TIMING: June 11-13, 2024 (sundown June 11)

TRADITIONS: Reading the ten commandments and the Book of Ruth; eating dairy products and staying up all night studying Torah

GREETING: *Hag Sameach! or Moadim L’simcha!* (Happy Holidays or Festivals for Joy!)

**TISHA B’AV – SADDEST DAY OF THE YEAR**

Commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem (586 BCE & 70 CE), which was the central place of worship, as well as other tragedies that have befallen the Jewish People. It is considered a communal day of mourning.

TIMING: August 12-13, 2024 (sundown August 12)

TRADITIONS: Fasting, chanting from Eicha (the Book of Lamentations) with a special beautiful and haunting trope (melody), not bathing, not wearing leather, and abstaining from favorite activities.

