

Sukkahfest Retreat

September 29th – October 2nd, 2023

Please note that meals will take place in the Dining Hall until weather permits dining in the Sukkah.

Friday, September 29th

When	What	Who	Where
2:30 – 5:00 PM	Arrival Snack		Great Hall
3:00 – 5:00 PM	Arrival & Check-in		Great Hall
3:30 – 3:50 PM	Mikveh – Non-Binary & Genderqueer		Dock
4:00 – 4:20 PM	Mikveh – Women		Dock
4:30 – 4:50 PM	Mikveh – Men		Dock
4:30 – 6:00 PM	Make Your Own Lulav: Four Species at Isabella Freedman	Arielle Aronoff	Meet Outside Great Hall
	<i>We will begin with a text-based inquiry into what four species we can use to make a lulav. We will then reflect on the symbolism of each species that feels resonant in this present moment. And with the blessing of Maimonides (albeit with a creative interpretation), we will explore the land around us and the plants that grow here to harvest our own four species.</i>		
5:30 – 6:30 PM	Adult Snack		Great Hall
	Kids' Dinner		Arts & Crafts
6:21 PM	Candlelighting		Great Hall
6:30 – 7:30 PM	Renewal Kabbalat Shabbat + Ma'ariv		Library
	Partnership Orthodox Kabbalat Shabbat + Ma'ariv		Synagogue
7:45 – 9:15 PM	Festive Shabbat & Holiday Dinner		Dining Hall
9:30 – 10:30 PM	Leshev baSukkah	Michal Fox Smart	Synagogue
	<i>The experience of sitting in a sukkah is one of fragility and Divine embrace. In this session, we will explore the symbolism of the sukkah and sit – physically and meditatively – in that space with presence and intention.</i>		
10:00 PM	All Streams Tisch		Great Hall

Saturday, September 30th

When	What	Who	Where
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Yoga	Christine Bloom	Beige Yurt
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast		Dining Hall
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Camp Adamah		Arts & Crafts
	Gan Adamah		Beige Yurt
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Renewal Shacharit + Hallel + Torah Service		Library
	Partnership Orthodox Shacharit + Hallel + Torah Service + Musaf		Synagogue
1:00 – 2:30 PM	All Streams Kiddush + Shabbat Lunch		Sukkat Shalom
2:30 – 6:00 PM	Camp Adamah		Arts & Crafts
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Shekhinah and the Sukkah	Rabbi Jill Hammer	Synagogue
	<i>We'll study some kabbalistic texts related to Shekhinah, divine presence, as a house or sukkah, and also as a portal or doorway. We'll reflect on the ways we experience the divine as a sacred space, and how this experience might enhance our practice of Sukkot.</i>		
	Hike to the Overlook	Teva Staff	Meet Outside Main Building
<i>Come see the Housatonic Valley from above! We'll hike up a little over half a mile through the local forest ecosystem that we lovingly refer to as the Interdependent Republic of Housatonica, ending at a gorgeous view. This hike will take longer than one hour and will go outside the eruv.</i>			

3:45 – 4:45 PM	Rabbinic Origins and Depictions of the Ancient Water-Drawing Ceremony	Kohenet Shamirah Bechirah	Synagogue
	<i>Kohenet Shamirah recently published an essay in the CCAR Press Challenge and Change series The Sacred Earth: Jewish Perspectives on Our Planet entitled “Yizal Mayim: Water Flowing Through the Seasons – Ritual Weaving for the 21st Century”. She will give a two-part workshop featuring primary texts and ritual craft rooted in Jewish water spirituality. Part 1 focuses on the origins of Simchat Beit HaShoeva (the joy of water drawing).</i>		
	Farm Tour	Janna Siller	Meet Outside Main Building
<i>Sukkot on the farm! Join the Adamah Farm Director to find about how we partner with earthworms, fungi, bacteria, beneficial insects, and the miracle of photosynthesis to produce the delicious fresh food you've been eating. We'll be going on uneven ground and outside the eruv.</i>			
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Experiencing God in the Shadows	David Hoffman	Synagogue
	<i>The Zohar richly described the Sukkah as the “Shade of Faith.” This imagery has been played with by chassidic and modern theologians. What’s at stake in Jewish metaphors of light and darkness and how may this lens enrich our understanding and experience of living out the holiday in sukkot?</i>		
	Ecology Walk: Seeds for the Book of Life	Arielle Aronoff	Meet Outside Main Building
<i>On Yom Kippur, we plant seeds for our futures and pray to be Sealed in the Book of Life. But how do plants prepare for the future? Take a gentle walk around the lake and learn about the adaptations different plants have made to grow into their own futures and to sow seeds for new generations. Our walk will be within the eruv.</i>			
6:00 – 6:15 PM	Partnership Orthodox Mincha		Synagogue
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Adult Snack		Great Hall
	Kids’ Dinner		Arts & Crafts
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Renewal Fabregen + Havdallah		Library
	<i>In the waning minutes of Shabbat, we gather with longing and song to prepare for Havdallah. Please note this session will use instruments.</i>		
7:18 PM	Candlelighting		Great Hall
7:20 – 8:00 PM	Partnership Orthodox Ma’ariv + Havdallah		Synagogue
8:00 – 9:30 PM	Holiday Dinner		Sukkat Shalom
10:00 PM	All Streams Tisch: Inviting the Ancestors through the Ushpizin		Sukkat Chalom

Sunday, October 1st

When	What	Who	Where
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Yoga	Christine Bloom	Beige Yurt
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast		Sukkat Shalom
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Camp Adamah		Arts & Crafts
	Gan Adamah		Beige Yurt
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Renewal Shacharit + Hallel + Hoshanot + Torah Service		Library
	Partnership Orthodox Shacharit + Hallel + Hoshanot + Torah Service + Musaf		Synagogue
1:00 – 2:30 PM	All Streams Kiddush + Holiday Lunch		Sukkat Shalom
2:30 – 6:00 PM	Camp Adamah		Arts & Crafts
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Don't Worry, Be BeSimcha! Cultivating Jewish Joy	Raffi Levi	Synagogue
	<i>Sukkot is the holiday of Simcha (Joy), but what truly is Simcha? Is happiness a verb? Join us as we sing, share, and explore ancient and Hasidic voices that highlight differing and intersecting expressions of Jewish joy.</i>		
	Ultimate Frisbee	Reb Ezra Weinberg	Meet Outside Main Building
	<i>The classic game that combines aspects of basketball, football, and soccer with the chill of frisbee. No experience needed. Playing for fun and exercise.</i>		
3:45 – 4:45 PM	Ritual Transformation through Joy, Music, and Embodied Spiritual Practice	Kohenet Shamirah Bechirah	Synagogue
	<i>Kohenet Shamirah recently published an essay in the CCAR Press Challenge and Change series The Sacred Earth: Jewish Perspectives on Our Planet entitled "Yizal Mayim: Water Flowing Through the Seasons – Ritual Weaving for the 21st Century". She will give a two-part workshop featuring primary texts and ritual craft rooted in Jewish water spirituality. Part 2 unpacks the process of bringing this ritual to life at Sukkahfest over the past two decades.</i>		
	Goat Tour	Adamah Staff	Meet Outside Main Building
	<i>Take a walk to the farm up Beebe Hill and meet the sheep and goats. Learn about the animals, intensive rotational shepherding, shofars, and klaf making.</i>		

5:00 – 6:00 PM	Mythical Beasts in Jewish Tradition	Rabbi Jill Hammer	Synagogue
	<i>Ever met a Jewish dragon? A Jewish phoenix or unicorn? Did you know that there's a legend of a sukkah made of the skin of a Jewish sea monster? Come learn some stories of mythical beasts! We'll also consider what each of these beasts might have to teach us about ourselves.</i>		
	Tree Walk: Chestnuts and the Messiah	Shamu Sadeh	Meet Outside Main Building
	<i>Take a short walk up Beebe Hill Road to the western edge of our farm to see our new Chestnut Orchard. Learn about trees, chestnuts, agroforestry (tree crops), ancient and modern, and how they fit into our traditions.</i>		
6:00 – 6:15 PM	Partnership Orthodox Mincha		Synagogue
6:15 – 7:30 PM	Dinner		Sukkat Shalom
7:17 PM	Chag Ends		
7:30 – 7:45 PM	Partnership Orthodox Ma'ariv		Synagogue
7:45 – 8:30 PM	All Streams Havdallah & Simchat Beit HaShoeva		Sukkat Chalom
	<i>As the second day of Sukkot comes to a close, we will walk in the footsteps of our ancestors, journeying with water and fire in song and joy.</i>		
8:30 – 10:00 PM	Bonfire		Fire Circle

Monday, October 2nd

When	What	Who	Where
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Yoga	Christine Bloom	Beige Yurt
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast		Sukkat Shalom
9:30 AM	Departure Shuttle		
10:00 AM	Check-out and Departure		