



# Simchafest Retreat

## October 6<sup>th</sup> – October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Meals will take place in the Dining Hall if it is raining. Please note that our kitchen staff need time to set the Sukkah. It is possible dining will remain in the Dining Hall even if it's not actively raining.

### Hoshana Rabbah: Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

When	What	Who	Where
2:30 – 5:00 PM	Arrival Snack		Great Hall
3:00 – 6:00 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
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Adult Snack		Great Hall
	Kids' Dinner & Orientation	Teva Staff	Arts & Crafts
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Mincha		Tent
<b>6:09 PM</b>	Candlelighting		Great Hall
6:15 – 7:15 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat + Ma'ariv		Tent
7:30 – 9:00 PM	Festive Shabbat & Holiday Dinner		Dining Hall
9:15 – 10:15 PM	<b>Opening Tefillat Geshem, Retaining Systemic Obligations</b>	Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg	Synagogue
	<i>During this intense season of transformation, our liturgy invokes our ancestors many times, in many ways – but what that means for us, now, here, isn't always so clear. When is it just for us to request bounty based on the merit of those past? At what points do the obligations left unfulfilled by our ancestors' demand work of us? How, in this moment – when the gates of teshuvah are closing and the gates of rain are not yet open, when the gates of injustice remain ever-open and it is not yet clear in what books we have been written – might we make sense of our role, as descendants and as (possibly) future ancestors, as Jews and as members of institutions and a larger polity?</i>		
10:15 PM	<b>All Streams Tisch</b>		Library

## Shemini Atzeret: Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

When	What	Who	Where
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Yoga	Nina Embiricos	Beige Yurt
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast		Dining Hall
9:00 – 12:30 AM	Camp Adamah (Ages 5-12)	Teva Staff	Arts & Crafts
	Gan Adamah (Ages 2-4)	Teva Staff	Beige Yurt
9:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Shacharit + Hallel + Kohelet + Torah Service + Yizkor + Musaf with Geshem		Tent
1:00 – 2:30 PM	All Streams Kiddush + Shabbat Lunch		TBD
2:30 – 7:00 PM	Camp Adamah (Ages 5-12)	Teva Staff	Arts & Crafts
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Mincha		Tent
3:00 – 4:15 PM	<b>Ultimate Frisbee</b>	Ezra Weinberg	Meet Behind Weinberg
	<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>		
	<b>Rav Shaga"r on Sukkot: Mitzvot, Joy, and Trust in the Unknown</b>	Eliezer Lawrence	Synagogue
	<i>Following a story from tractate Avodah Zarah through the lens of post-modernist Rav Shaga"r, we will explore the ways in which the mitzvah of sukkah is an exercise in acceptance of what is and the joyful trust in the divine in the face of uncertainty.</i>		
	<b>Ecology Walk: The End is the Beginning</b>	Arielle Aronoff	Meet Outside Main Building
	<i>Each circle around the sun adds a growth ring to every tree. So too does the cycle of the Torah mark another year gone by. Take a gentle walk around the lake and learn about the lifecycle of plants from seed to soil as we consider the closing as the opening and an ending as a beginning.</i>		

4:30 – 5:30 PM	<b>What's the Point: Crowns, Dots, and Other Scribal Intrigues</b>	Julie Seltzer	Synagogue
	<i>If you look inside a Torah scroll, you may notice certain oddities: a word with a series of dots above, as if droplets of ink have spilled; a giant or miniature letter in the middle of an otherwise unremarkable word; backwards or upside down letters. We will learn some interpretations of these unusual scribal traditions, then find them in the scroll, adding another layer to our understanding of the text.</i>		
	<b>Farm Tour</b>	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>			
5:45 – 7:00 PM	<b>How We Read Torah: The Possibilities and Limits of Interpretation</b>	Panel facilitated by Danya Ruttenberg	Synagogue
	<i>"Turn it, and turn it, and turn it," said Ben Bag Bag in Pirke Avot. And historically the Jews have, indeed, turned Torah a myriad of ways, approached it from a dizzying array of angles and perspectives. But does that mean that anything goes in the reading and interpretation of our sacred texts? And if not, what are the limits? What are some ways --or modalities or media--for thinking about or interpreting Torah that are ripe for exploration? When should we (if ever?) engage with the texts on their own terms? Are there times when textual activism is appropriate? And if so, how can we do so with integrity? This lively conversation about the hows around reading Torah--and what those open doors and boundaries might look like for each of us--will hopefully challenge and expand all of our thinking right as we prepare to begin it all again.</i>		
<b>7:07 PM</b>	Candlelighting		Great Hall
7:15 – 7:30 PM	Ma'ariv		Tent
7:45 – 9:00 PM	Holiday Dinner		Sukkat Shalom
9:15 – 11:00 PM	Hakafot + Torah Reading + Conclusion		Tent
9:15 PM	Desserts, Drinks, & Snacks		Tent

## Simchat Torah: Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

When	What	Who	Where
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Yoga	Nina Embiricos	Beige Yurt
8:30 – 10:00 AM	Breakfast		Dining Hall
9:00 – 12:00 PM	Camp Adamah (ages 5-12)	Teva Staff	Arts & Crafts
	Gan Adamah (ages 2-4)	Teva Staff	Beige Yurt
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Shacharit + Hallel + Hakafot		Tent
12:15 – 1:30 PM	All Streams Kiddush + Holiday Lunch		Dining Hall
1:30 – 5:30	Camp Adamah (ages 5-12)	Teva Staff	Arts & Crafts
1:30 – 3:30 PM	Torah Service + Musaf + Mincha		Tent
4:00 – 5:15 PM	<b>Storytelling with Darlene Kascak of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation</b>	Darlene Kascak	Fire Circle
	<i>It is a complicated privilege to celebrate the joy of Simchat Torah in safety and community on this beautiful, unceded Mahican land. Today, the day before Indigenous People's Day, we have the exciting, and tragically uncommon, opportunity to honor and learn indigenous wisdom of this place. Having just heard Bereishit read from the Torah this morning, join Darlene beside the lake as she shares creation stories passed down to her from tribal elders.</i>		
5:45 – 7:00 PM	Dinner		Dining Hall
<b>7:05 PM</b>	Chag Ends		
7:05 – 7:20 PM	Ma'ariv		Tent
7:30 PM	<b>All Streams Havdallah</b>		Fire Circle
7:45 PM	Bonfire		Fire Circle

## Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

When	What	Who	Where
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Yoga	Rebecca Bloomfield	Beige Yurt
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast		Dining Hall
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Departure Shuttle</b>		
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Check-out and Departure</b>		