

DIVERSITY AWARENESS

TEAM: OCTOBER



Oct 4-11 : Jewish Holiday of *Sukkot* is a seven day festival giving thanks for the fall harvest.

Oct 11-12: *Shemini Atzeret* is the day after the Sukkot festival where gratitude for the fall harvest is deeply internalized.

October 12-13: Simchat Torah marks the end of the weekly readings of the Torah.

Fast Facts

- “Sukkot” is 1 of the 3 mandated holidays in the Jewish calendar.
- Jews are commanded to live in “temporary shelters” for 7 days. These are usually huts that have roofs made from branches. They are called “Sukkahs”.
- All meals are taken place in the Sukkah, and sometimes even sleep.



The word Sukkot, (pronounced "Sue COAT") means “booths” in Hebrew.

It refers to temporary dwellings that Jews lived in for 40 years while wandering in the Sinai Desert after their exodus from Egypt.

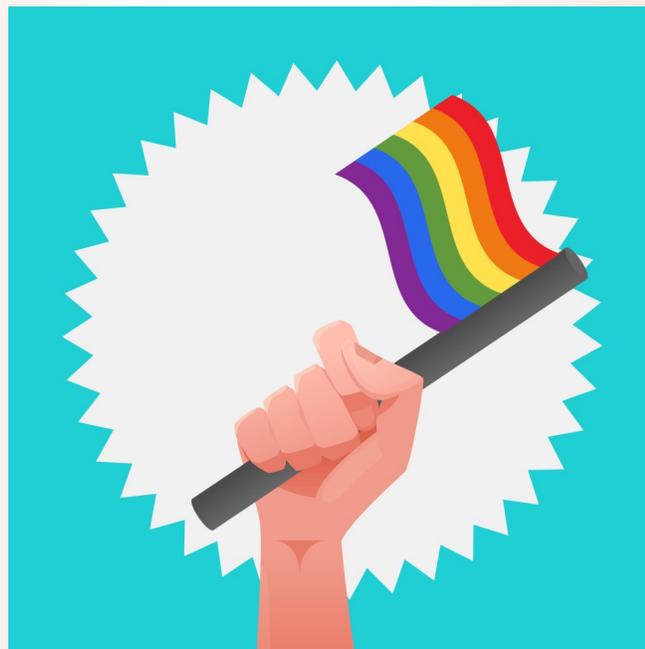
During that time, the Hebrew Bible describes how the huts shielded them from the outside elements. The holiday holds metaphorical meaning, representing how fragile we are and to appreciate the shelter of our homes and bodies.

October 11

National Coming Out Day



For those who identify as LGBTQ,
this day celebrates coming out and the recognition of
the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality



October 19: Hindu New Year– Diwali, is the most famous and celebrated holiday in India. The five day long celebration is also known as “the festival of lights”.



Day 1: Spring cleaning

Day 2: Decorations are put up around the newly cleaned home

Day 3: The main day; families gather to pray before a feast and fireworks

Day 4: The start of the new year; gifts are exchanged

Day 5: Final day where brothers visit their sisters and are greeted with love and an extravagant meal.

October 20: The day Sikhs celebrate Sri Guru Granth Sahib who is their spiritual guide.

- The holiday is usually celebrated with a cover-to-cover reading of the Sikh holy book
- Followed by a musical recitation of hymns from the Sri Guru Granth Sahib and lectures on Sikhism
- There is also sometimes a procession with the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, and free sweets are offered to the general public outside “gurdwaras” (the Sikh place of worship).



On behalf of the Diversity Awareness Committee

Email: DAT@Continuumct.org