

Simchat Torah

HOW CAN WE CELEBRATE THE JOY
OF BEING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH TORAH YEAR AFTER YEAR?

BACK STORY

שמחת תורה Simchat Torah (the Joy of The Torah) marks the conclusion of the annual public reading of Torah. We end with the death of Moses at the end of Deuteronomy. We immediately begin the reading cycle again with the creation of world at beginning of Genesis. The reading is surrounded by parading (7 times around the sanctuary), dancing and singing in honor of the Torah. Klezmer music often accompanies the festivities. The processions are accompanied by prayers that praise God for the gift of the Torah.

Simchat Torah falls on the 22nd of Hebrew month Tishre in Israel and among Reform Jews worldwide, on the same day as Shemini Atzeret - the end of Sukkot. It falls on 23rd Tishre or Conservative and Orthodox Jews outside of Israel. It always falls in October.

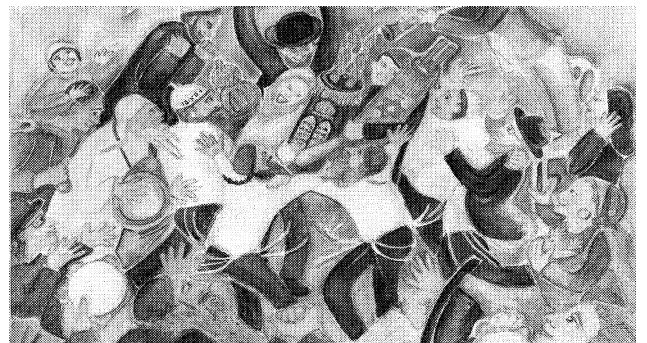
Created in the 10th Century CE, Simchat Torah is not referenced in the Torah itself.

Children often make and/or hold flags for their Torah processions. Many children and adults often eat candied apples as a sign of the sweetness of Torah study.

It is a great honor to march with the Torah, to hold the Torah and to offer blessings for the Torah.

People greet each other with these words:

- גט יונטף - Gut Yontiff - A Good Holy Day (Yiddish)
- חג שמח - Chag Sameach - Happy Holy Day



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