



Sukkah Village 2021

D'var Torah by Rabbi Adena Blum

The Jewish holiday of Sukkot, the Festival of Booths, is an opportunity for those of us who live in safety and security to venture out of our cozy homes. We leave behind our protective roofs, our sturdy walls, and doors that lock to live in a sukkah for 7-8 days. A sukkah—a temporary structure whose roof purposefully exposes us to the elements, whose walls are just strong enough to stay upright, whose doors are designed to be open to guests. We eat and sleep in the open as a reminder of the vulnerability of life, that many people do not have safe places to call home, and even those of us who do are at the mercy of Mother Nature. The tornadoes and flooding from tropical storms in recent weeks have shown us how fragile all our structures really are. And while this lesson of Sukkot may be unsettling, it is intended to guide us toward gratitude. Sukkot is fundamentally a celebration of life, a harvest festival meant to acknowledge the abundance we are able to enjoy. So this Sukkot, let us thank the Source of Life for food and for shelter and for creating us with the power to care for one another, inside and out.