



## OSHER MARIN JCC 2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

<b>Sun. Jan 1</b>	New Year's Day	Center Closed
<b>Mon. Jan 16</b>	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Center Closed ( <i>H&amp;F Open 7am – 5pm</i> )
<b>Sat. Feb 11</b>	Tu B'Shevat	Center Open
<b>Mon. Feb 20</b>	President's Day	Center Closed ( <i>H&amp;F Open 7am – 5pm</i> )
<b>Wed. Mar 8</b>	All-Staff Training Day	Center Closed
<b>Sat. Mar 11</b>	Erev Purim	Center Open
<b>Sun. Mar 12</b>	Purim	Center Open
<b>Mon. Apr 10</b>	Erev Passover (1st Seder)	Center Closed at 6pm
<b>Tues. Apr 11</b>	Passover 1st Day (2nd Seder)	Center Closed
<b>Wed. Apr 12</b>	Passover 2nd Day	Center Open
<b>Mon. Apr 17</b>	Passover 7th Day	Center Open
<b>Tues. Apr 18</b>	Passover Last Day	Center Open
<b>Mon. Apr 24</b>	Yom Ha-Shoah	Center Open
<b>Mon. May 1</b>	Yom Ha-Zikaron	Center Open
<b>Tues. May 2</b>	Yom Ha-Atzm'ut	Center Open
<b>Mon. May 29</b>	Memorial Day	Center Closed ( <i>H&amp;F Open 7am – 5pm</i> )
<b>Tues. May 30</b>	Erev Shavuot	Center Open
<b>Wed. May 31</b>	Shavuot 1st Day	Center Open
<b>Thurs. June 1</b>	Shavuot 2nd Day	Center Open
<b>Tues. July 4</b>	Independence Day	Center Closed ( <i>H&amp;F Open 7am – 5pm</i> )
<b>Mon. Sept 4</b>	Labor Day	Center Closed ( <i>H&amp;F Open 7am – 5pm</i> )
<b>Wed. Sept 20</b>	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Center Closes at 6pm
<b>Thurs. Sept 21</b>	Rosh Hashanah 1st Day	Center Closed
<b>Fri. Sept 22</b>	Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day	Center Closed
<b>Fri. Sept 29</b>	Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre)	Center Closes at 6pm
<b>Sat. Sept 30</b>	Yom Kippur	Center Closed
<b>Wed. Oct 4</b>	Erev Sukkot	Center Open
<b>Thurs. Oct 5</b>	Sukkot 1st Day	Center Open
<b>Fri. Oct 6</b>	Sukkot 2nd Day	Center Open
<b>Mon. Oct 9</b>	Columbus Day	Center Open
<b>Wed. Oct 11</b>	Sukkot Last Day	Center Open
<b>Thurs. Oct 12</b>	Sh'mini Atzeret	Center Open
<b>Fri. Oct 13</b>	Simchat Torah	Center Open
<b>Sat. Nov 11</b>	Veteran's Day	Center Open
<b>Thurs. Nov 23</b>	Thanksgiving Day	Center Closed
<b>Wed. Dec 13</b>	First Day of Hanukkah	Center Open
<b>Wed. Dec 20</b>	Last Day of Hanukkah	Center Open
<b>Mon. Dec 25</b>	Christmas Day	Center Open 10am - 2pm
<b>Sun. Dec 31</b>	New Year's Eve Day	Center Closes at 6pm

**POOLS & FITNESS FLOOR CLOSE 15 MIN. BEFORE CENTER CLOSES**

*For reference: Erev means "the eve of" and Jewish holidays begin on sundown of the previous evening.*

*Holiday sensitivity will be acknowledged on Jewish holidays when the JCC is open.*



**TURN OVER FOR JEWISH HOLIDAY DESCRIPTIONS**

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# THE OSHER MARIN JCC'S BRIEF GUIDE TO MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS

## Shabbat --- Sabbath

For six days we work and create, and for one day, Shabbat, we rest.

**TIMING:** Sundown Friday through sundown Saturday

**TRADITIONS:** Lighting candles, drinking wine, eating challah (braided egg bread). Some people now "unplug" from digital devices. Havdallah is Shabbat's farewell ceremony and includes lighting a braided candle, drinking wine and smelling sweet spices (to symbolize the sweet week that will hopefully follow.)

## Rosh Hashanah --- Jewish New Year

In the month preceding and during Rosh Hashanah, we contemplate our past, present and future actions and attempt to clean the slate. This begins the Ten Days of Awe, culminating on Yom Kippur.

**TIMING:** September 21-22, 2017 (sundown September 20)

**TRADITIONS:** Eating round challah, dipping apples in honey for a sweet new year, throwing crumbs (or more eco-friendly millet) into a living body of water to symbolize tossing away our sins.

## Yom Kippur --- Day of Atonement

Holiest day of the year.

**TIMING:** September 30, 2017 (sundown October 1st)

**TRADITIONS:** Through fasting and prayer, Jews reflect upon their relationships and atone for missing the mark. At sunset, the day ends with a blast of the shofar (ram's horn).

## Sukkot --- Festival of Booths

After 40 years of wandering in the desert, we made it to the Promised Land.

**TIMING:** October 5-11, 2017 (sundown October 4)

**TRADITIONS:** Building and living in a sukkah, a temporary structure reminiscent of the huts constructed in the desert; welcoming guests & strangers; daily ceremony with lulav (palm, willow & myrtle branches) and etrog (citrus fruit).

## Shemini Atzeret --- Eighth Day of Assembly

### Simchat Torah --- Rejoicing for the Torah

The last day of Sukkot, we begin to pray for rain and, the following day (the same day for Reform Jews), we celebrate completing the Torah-reading cycle.

**TIMING:** October 12-13, 2017 (sundown October 11)

**TRADITIONS:** After finishing the last chapter of Deuteronomy, we begin a new cycle by reading from the beginning of Genesis. There's often music and dancing with the Torah!

## Hanukkah --- Festival of Lights

Eight day holiday celebrating a military victory and the miracle of the rededication of the temple when a tiny bit of oil lasted for eight days.

**TIMING:** December 13 - 20, 2017 (sundown December 12)

**TRADITIONS:** Lighting the chanukiah (nine-branched candelabrum); eating latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (donuts); playing with dreidels (spinning tops) and giving gelt (money or chocolate coins) and gifts.

## Tu B'Shevat --- New Year of the Trees

Since biblical times, we celebrate springtime renewal and growth.

**TIMING:** February 11, 2017 (sundown February 10)

**TRADITIONS:** Planting trees; eating fruit; conducting a special Tu B'Shevat seder.

## Purim --- Feast of Lots

Joyous holiday celebrating the rescue of the Jews by Queen Esther and her Uncle Mordechai from the evil Haman.

**TIMING:** March 12, 2017 (sundown March 11)

**TRADITIONS:** Reading the Megillah (scroll) of Esther aloud and making noise when Haman's name is mentioned; dressing in costume; eating hamantaschen (three-cornered fruit filled pastries); giving mishloach manot (gift baskets); attending Purim carnivals.

## Pesach --- Passover

Once we were slaves and now we are free. Never forget!

**TIMING:** April 11-17, 2017 (first seder on April 10)

**TRADITIONS:** At the seder (home-based service & festival meal) we read the Haggadah (collection of texts & commentaries on the Exodus) and eat symbolic foods. For eight days we eat matzah (unleavened bread) to remind us of leaving Egypt in a hurry (no time for bread to rise).

## Yom HaShoah --- Holocaust Remembrance Day

### Yom HaZikaron --- Memorial Day

### Yom Ha'Atzmaut --- Israel Independence Day

We mourn those who perished in the Shoah (Holocaust); remember those who gave their lives for Israel; and celebrate Israel's statehood in 1948.

**TIMING:** April 24; May 1; May 2, 2017

**TRADITIONS:** Reading names of those who perished; hearing speeches by survivors; in Israel, a siren calls for the nation to stop and share a moment of silence. On Yom HaZikaron, psalms are recited; graves are visited; and yahrzeit (memorial) candles are lit. On Yom Ha'Atzmaut there are parades and celebrations.

## Shavuot --- Festival of Weeks

We celebrate receiving the Torah and the spring harvest.

**TIMING:** May 30-31, 2017 (sundown May 29)

**TRADITIONS:** Reading the ten commandments and the Book of Ruth; eating dairy products and staying up all night studying Torah.

