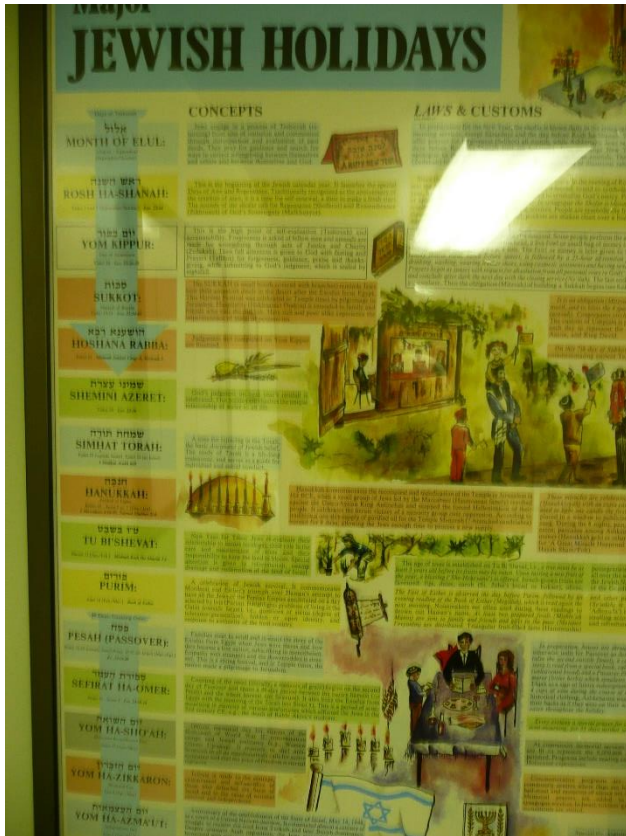


Jewish Religious Holidays

Rosh Hashanah - This is a period of self-examination and repentance. It is customary to eat apple dipped in honey and to wish others "a good and sweet year".



Yom Kippur - This is the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar. The day is spent fasting and praying.

Succoth - Temporary shelters or "tabernacles" of branches are built on porches, terraces, roofs, in the yard, etc. and observant Jews eat their meals and may sleep within these huts. There are services at the beginning and end of this festival, marked by singing and dancing, and on Simchat Torah, the last day, the reading of the Law is completed.

Pesach - This festival, Passover, is the best-known of all Jewish festivals, recalling the deliverance of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. It lasts for eight (8) days and is marked by the eating of the seder meal, where traditional dishes are eaten, songs are sung, and the deliverance from Egypt is recounted in the Hagadah. Unleavened bread, matzoh, is eaten; products containing leaven or yeast will not be eaten during this period.

Shavuot - This festival commemorates God's gift of the Law to Moses. The Ten Commandments are read, and some Jews sit all night meditating on God's Law.

One of the minor festivals is **Chanukah**. Jews may work on this day. This festival lasts for eight (8) days and many Jewish families light one candle each day on a menorah, an eight-branched candlestick, until all the candles are alight on the eighth day.