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Five Sukkahs, Two Artists, 10+ Events
Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan and JCC Harlem
Bring Harvest Festival Celebrations to New York in Unique Way
Now through October 8

New York, NY (September 17, 2018) – In celebration of Sukkot, the Jewish harvest festival, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan and JCC Harlem are proud to present New York City with two artist-created Sukkahs – temporary outdoor structures made of natural materials – as well as three additional traditional sukkahs, including one in Brooklyn. This is one of the largest Sukkot projects in the city.

Between the five sukkahs, there will be over 10 public programs, plus open hours for the community to bring their own meals and dine in the tradition of the week-long holiday. To learn more and to register for programs, visit jccmanhattan.org/sukkot.

“We’re thrilled to host Avner Sher, one of Israel’s most successful commercial architects, and his incredible sukkah project, which explores the intercultural encounters taking place in Jerusalem’s Old City as a crossroads between geography, history, art, reality, truth, and fantasy,” said Megan Whitman, director of The Lambert Center for Arts + Ideas at the JCC. “The large-scale sukkah is contemporary in design, with its gorgeous artistic elements, but is still a traditional, kosher space to observe the harvest holiday.”

Sher’s installation, entitled “Jerusalem 950m2 (quarter acre) Alternate Topographies,” is not about Jerusalem as it is today, but rather as it could have been, presenting the city as a concept and not a specific place. The sukkah and the artworks within are made mostly of cork, the external bark of the cork tree, peeled off the trunk once every nine years. The renewal process of cork is integral to the spirit of Sher’s proposed concept of Jerusalem. It will be on the sidewalk on Amsterdam Avenue in front of the JCC on the Upper West Side through October 8.

“Partnering with local artists is at the core of JCC Harlem’s work, and we are excited to bring the arts outdoors with Art in Flux artist V. Cybil Charlier’s incredible sukkah,” said Meg Sullivan, director of JCC Harlem. “For Sukkot this year, JCC Harlem is beginning to address the question, ‘who is a stranger?’ which is helping us consider how to thoughtfully placemake in this historic community. Cybil’s unique take on the traditional structure of a sukkah is a warm, welcoming communal space for gathering, sharing a meal, and enjoying the harvest festival.”
Charlier’s sukkah, entitled “The Stranger Next Door” reinvents the traditional sukkah through the typical architecture of the Antilles. The intricate cutouts of the walls are indeed reminiscent of the fanciful wooden designs of gingerbread houses, while the structure of the room itself references the Taino-inspired countryside dwellings of many Caribbean islands. The architecture syncretism of the piece brings attention to the often overlooked Jewish population of the Caribbean archipelago and simultaneously questions how a traditional structure as the sukkah may be affected by the cultural presence of such populations in New York.

Below are Sukkot program descriptions. Register at jccmanhattan.org/sukkot.

**Wednesday, September 26, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.: Sukkot Celebration (age 4 and under)**
Experience the harvest holiday of Sukkot in the Roberts Family Rooftop Sukkah and celebrate as a community through art, stories, music and more. In case of rain, the event will be cancelled.
*Free; Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan*

**Wednesday, September 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Build & Decorate Engage Brooklyn’s Sukkah (adults 50+)**
Join Engage Brooklyn for the mitzvah of building and decorating our rooftop sukkah. No experience is required and lunch will be provided.
*Free; 159 20th St., Brooklyn*

**Wednesday, September 26, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: An Evening of Radical Welcome**
Join JCC Harlem, Harlem Havruta, Kehillat Harlem, Based in Harlem, and the NYC Commission on Human rights in the parks and under the stars for an evening of food, ritual, song, and community in a sukkah created by Harlem-based artist V. Cybil Charlier.
*Free, JCC Harlem*

**Wednesday, September 26, 7 to 10:30 p.m.: JQY and Out at the J’s Annual Sukkot Party + Cocktail Hour**
Join over 250 LGBTQ and ally Jews in the JCC’s spacious rooftop sukkah overlooking the New York skyline and enjoy an open bar, delicious snacks, and great friends! Presented by JQY (Jewish Queer Youth) and the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, and co-sponsored by A Wider ridge, UJAPride, Keshet, and Eshel.
*$25 (must be over age 21); Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan*

**Thursday, September 27, 5 to 6:30 p.m.: Shakshukah in the Sukkah**
Celebrate Sukkot with other Russian-speaking families in the Roberts Family Rooftop Sukkah with Generation R. Create your own sukkah with recycled and natural materials in a fun family art project, and gather with the group to eat shakshukah and other traditional Israeli dishes.
*$10 individuals, $25 families, children under age 2 free; Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan*
Thursday, September 27, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Shashlik in the Sukkah
Celebrate Sukkot in style with other Russian-speaking young professionals and enjoy a lavish dinner spread, drinks, and conversation in the Roberts Family Rooftop Sukkah. The multicultural event is presented by Generation R in partnership with the Bukharian Jewish Union and Limmud FSU, and intends to explore the different ways Sukkot is celebrated around the world.
$20; Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

Friday, September 28, 12:30 to 2 p.m.: Adaptations 40s+ Group: CSN Sukkot Lunch
The Center for Special Needs at the JCC welcomes its community to enjoy the beautiful rooftop sukkah together. Bring your own lunch, meet new community members, and learn about the meaning of Sukkot and how it might apply to your life. Dessert and drinks will be provided. Contact Caitlin McInerney at cmcinerney@jccmanhattan.org to obtain an intake form if you are a new participant.
$10; Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

Friday, September 28, 3:30 to 5 p.m.: Who Is Strange? How to Talk About Difference
Children make sense of differences around them through what caregivers model for them, and their curiosity drives incredible questions about the world around us. Join JCC Harlem for music, games, and conversation to explore what we model, and discuss strategies for how to talk about things our kids might find “strange.”
$10 per child, adults free; JCC Harlem

Friday, September 28, 7 to 9 p.m.: 40s, 50s + 60s Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah
Celebrate the harvest festival of Sukkot with a catered Shabbat dinner under the stars. Socialize and mingle while enjoying good food and good company.
$30 members, $30 public; Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

Saturday, September 29, 4 to 6 p.m.: Circles of Welcome Sukkot Celebration
Celebrate Sukkot with other young couples with at least one Jewish partner. Come together in the JCC’s beautiful Roberts Family Rooftop Sukkah to begin building community and exploring Jewish life together.
$10 per couple; Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

Sunday, September 30, 3 to 6 p.m.: 20s + 30s Annual Rooftop Sukkot Party
Celebrate Sukkot and Sunday Funday with our annual party! Enjoy drinks and food of the season, music, games, and over 200 Jewish singles.
$20; Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

About JCC Harlem
An initiative of the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan in collaboration with UJA-Federation of NY, JCC Harlem creates unique and diverse access points to Jewish and communal life for members of the Harlem community. It is an institution that is at once both intentionally Jewish and committed to facilitating experiences between those who identify Jewishly and those who identify otherwise – in service of connecting, growing, and learning within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. It is located at 318 W. 118th Street. Learn more at jccharlem.org.
About the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located at 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. The cornerstone of progressive programming in Manhattan, the JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that reach beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at jccmanhattan.org.

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