

# MAKE YOUR OWN LULAV AND ETROG FOR SUKKOT

On Sukkot we build a “**Sukkah**” and eat our meals there with our invited guests (or maybe just our imaginary guests). Another very important celebration ritual for this **Harvest Festival** is the blessing and the waving of the **Lulav and Etrog**.

The **Lulav** is a combination of **date palm, willow and myrtle branches** held together by a woven palm branch. The **Etrog** or **citron**, is a lemon-like fruit with a wonderful citrus smell. On the PJ Library site for Sukkot, if you click on the “How to Shake the Lulav” link, you will find instructions on how to put together a **Lulav** as well as how to shake it and say the blessings.

In Southeastern Connecticut, where we live, it is certainly not easy to find an **Etrog** (which can also be quite expensive) or to find palm, willow and myrtle branches for the **Lulav**.

For those of us who live outside of Israel, a new custom is growing among Jews in the US - TO MAKE YOUR OWN **LULAV AND ETROG** BY USING SPECIES AVAILABLE IN YOUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD OR BACKYARD. After all, we are celebrating the local Fall Harvest!!!!

So use your imagination:

For the **Etrog** use a **lemon, apple, small pumpkin, zucchini, pinecones.....**

For the **Lulav** use branches from CT trees like **maple, oak, elm, ash, birch, black cherry** or even a **corn stalk.....**

Finally, if you really want to be creative and thoughtful in your choices remember that the parts of the **Lulav** represent parts of our body.

The **palm** branch - the spine

The **myrtle** - the eyes

The **willow** - the lips

The **etrog** - the heart

**HAVE FUN!!!**

