SIMCHAT TORAH

Simchat Torah or Simḥath Torah (also Simkhes Toreh, meaning: "Rejoicing with/of the Torah,") is a celebration marking the end of the year-long cycle of public [Torah readings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah_reading), and the beginning of a new cycle.

The main celebration of Simchat Torah takes place in the [synagogue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synagogue) during evening and morning services. In many [Orthodox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Judaism) and [Conservative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservative_Judaism) congregations, this is the only time of year on which the [Torah scrolls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sefer_Torah) are taken out of the [ark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ark_(synagogue)) and read at night. In the morning, the last [*parashah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parashah) of [Deuteronomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deuteronomy) and the first *parashah* of [Genesis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Genesis) are read in the synagogue. On each occasion, when the ark is opened, all the worshippers leave their seats to dance and sing with all the Torah scrolls in a joyous celebration that often lasts for several hours and more.

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See also Simchat Torah for kids: [www.chabad.org/kids](http://www.chabad.org/kids)