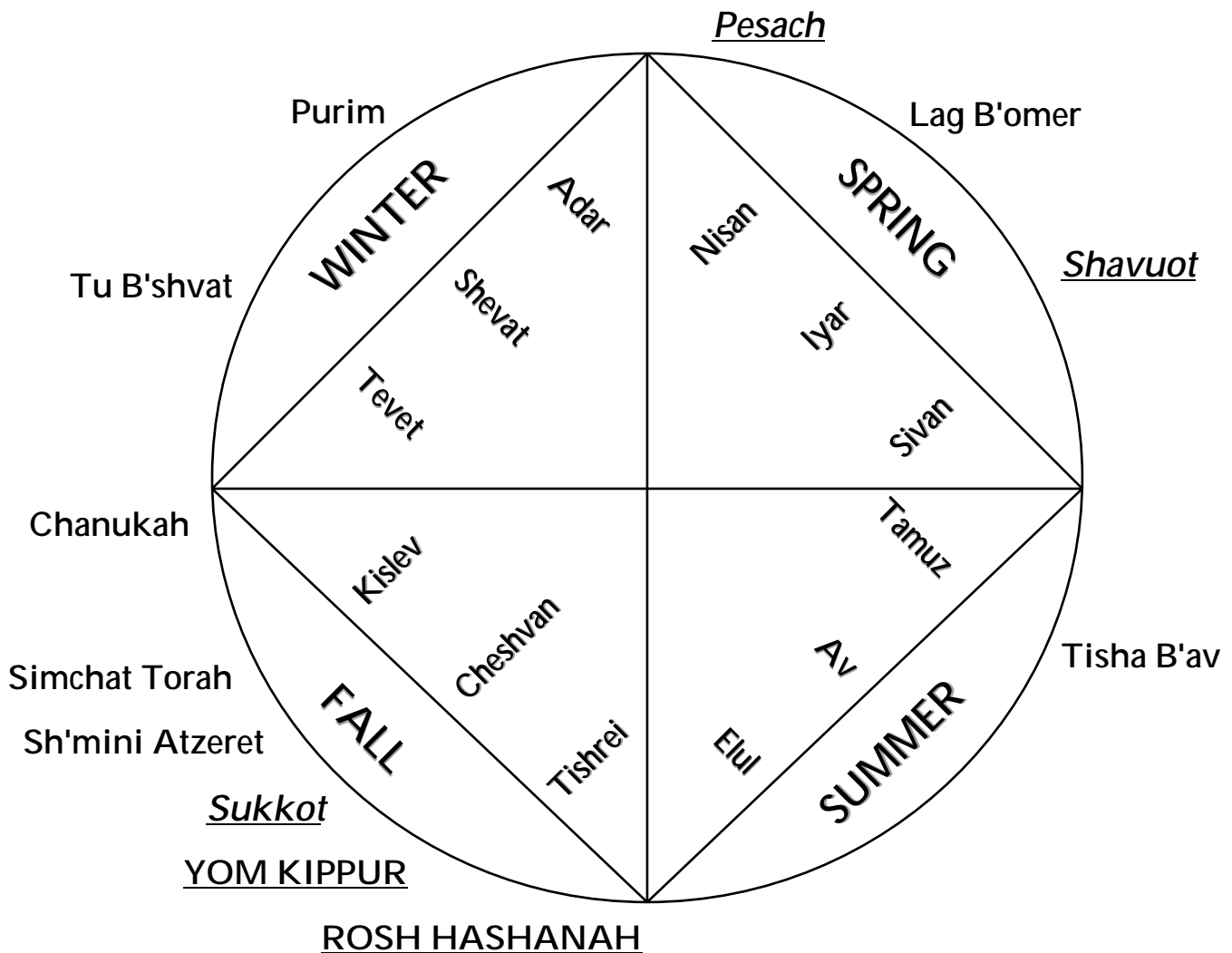


CYCLE OF JEWISH HOLY DAYS & FESTIVALS



Pesach Nisan 15 (eight days in the Diaspora and seven days in Israel)—Passover commemorates the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery and their Exodus from Egypt.

Shavuot Sivan 6—Feast of Weeks commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Tisha B'Av Av 9—Ninth of Av commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples.

Rosh Hashanah Tishrei 1 & 2—Jewish New Year for creation of the world, the calendar and jubilees, traditionally observed for two days, marks the beginning of the ten days of t'shuvah (turning), which reach their climax on Yom Kippur.

Yom Kippur Tishrei 10—Day of Atonement, which is the holiest day of the year, is marked by fasting, prayer, asking forgiveness both from people and from God, and offering restitution for wrongdoing.

Sukkot Tishrei 15—Festival of Tabernacles or Booths commemorates God's protection during the forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

Simchat Torah Tishrei 23—Rejoicing in the Torah commemorates the completion and restarting of the year-long cycle of Torah reading.

Chanukah Kislev 15 (eight days)—Festival of Dedication commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 BCE and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration.

Tu B'shvat Shevat 15—New Year for trees in the time of the Temple marked the date from when the tithing of the first fruits was calculated.

Purim Adar 14—Commemorates the deliverance of Persian Jewry from their intended destruction by Haman, chief minister of King Ahasuerus.