

Your Jewish Connection – Prepare for Cheshvan, Jewish Social Action Month!

Brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee

As we start the month of October, we are in the midst of Tishrei and the High Holidays – Rosh Hashana behind us and Yom Kippur yet to come. And in the middle of October there are Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah. By the time Cheshvan comes on October 28th, we've had a busy month of holidays! www.myjewishlearning.com is a great place to start if you want information about these holidays in the month of Tishrei.

Cheshvan is the only month in the Jewish calendar without a holiday. Sometimes the month is referred to as Mar (bitter) Cheshvan due to the lack of festivals and mitzvot ascribed to the month.

The High Holidays and Sukkot give us time to reflect on the past year and consider the New Year and what we will do with it. Cheshvan is when we can implement what we've chosen to do. In other words, we define Cheshvan – it is what we make of it.

It is appropriate that Cheshvan was chosen as the international month of Jewish Social Action. Jewish Social Action Month (JSAM) is an annual global initiative that takes place during the month of Cheshvan — this year from Friday, October 28, to Saturday, November 26, 2011. Its goal is to transform Cheshvan from a month without Jewish holidays into a month celebrating volunteerism; tikkun olam (repairing the world); and service learning. JSAM was initiated by Kol Dor, a global network of Jewish leaders, and is now officially recognized both by the U.S. government and the Israeli Knesset.

Cheshvan is also about Jewish unity, as we come together for JSAM to volunteer, repair, learn, and make a difference. You can join thousands of Jewish organizations and individuals around the world of all backgrounds and affiliations for a month of unity through social action. So how to get started?



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www.cheshvan.org This opens the main page of the Jewish Social Action Month web site. The Supporters page (click on Supporters in the upper right) contains a list of organizations around the world that have supported, and continue to support, JSAM, such as the World Jewish Congress, Hadassah, Hillel, and Jews United for Justice. The Act! Page (click on Act! in the upper right) contains a list of ideas for action during JSAM, from encouraging others to get involved to performing community service.

werepair.org/service-opportunities/how-to-serve This page on Repair the World provides many ideas on How to Serve. It can be simple, like making a phone call, or helping a local organization monthly, or you may choose to work for a non-profit organization.

www.canfeinesharim.org/learning/make_difference.php The Actions That Make a Difference page at Canfei Nesharim provides a list of articles about many things in living our daily lives that can make a difference to the world, such as tips on winterizing homes to save on energy, understanding the differences between tap water and bottled water, and reducing waste while shopping.

If you're in religious school, make this Cheshvan your kick-off for the social justice project you will do towards your Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Or get your class involved in a project that you all can do together.



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If the environment is your passion, check out www.biggreenjewish.org/ the Big Green Jewish Website. Find information on climate change, going green, and being green and Jewish. And the list of resources provides ideas for schools and synagogues on ways to be green.

www.hazon.org helps create healthy and sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond. You can join their mailing list to get information. There is a list of programs and blogs to give you food for thought!

You can begin right here with TBA – there are many opportunities to help out. Contact the Rabbi or TBA President Eitan Zeira to find out more. Make Cheshvan a month for Jewish social action. Make it a meaningful month for you and tikkun olam.

Other Jewish Web Resources

www.tbanashua.org Our own TBA Web site!

www.rabbijon.com Rabbi Jon's blog.

www.jewishnh.org Jewish Federation of NH.

www.hebcal.com Check Hebrew calendar dates.

www.jewishboston.com Lists Jewish events in the greater Boston area and beyond.

www.shalomboston.com More resources for greater Boston and beyond.

www.myjewishlearning.com Lots of general information.

www.jewfaq.org Provides information from a traditional perspective.

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org Has information on all facets of Jewish life.

www.cjh.org The Center for Jewish History.

www.jewishgen.org “The first source to go to for Jewish Genealogy.”

www.jgsgb.org Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.

kosherfood.about.com About.com Guide for Kosher food.

www.jwi.org Jewish Women International.

joyof.kosher.com/ Joy of Kosher blog.

www.alljewishlinks.com Jewish directory and search engine.

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