

## Your Jewish Connection – Jewish Crafts

Brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee

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The longest night of the year has passed and we look forward to spring in a few months. On the 15th day of Shevat, or Thursday, February 8, 2012, we celebrate Tu B'Shevat. This day marks the beginning of a New Year for Trees. It's the season when the earliest-blooming trees in Israel come out of their winter sleep and start to grow and bear fruit for the coming year. Tu B'Shevat focuses on what trees provide, such as fruits and nuts as well as wood and shade. Celebrate the holiday with a Seder and decorations.

The Creative Jewish Mom blog has ideas for year round crafts and for Tu B'Shevat (<http://www.creativejewishmom.com/holiday-tu-bshevat-crafts/>). You can find crafts with polymer clay, fruit decorations, recipes, even a “cherry blossom” tree to approximate the blooming of almond trees in Israel around this time. Scroll down the page to see all the ideas.



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Perhaps in the middle of winter you'd prefer real greenery on Tu B'Shevat. Go to the Joyful Jewish blog for growing a cress and mustard seed garden without dirt. Start this project several days before Tu B'Shevat. After the sprouts are big enough, use them in salads and sandwiches (<http://joyfuljewish.wordpress.com/2011/01/08/tu-bshevat-for-kids-a-dirt-free-cress-and-mustard-garden/>). Click on the Tag “Tu B'Shevat” in the right column for more ideas from Joyful Jewish.

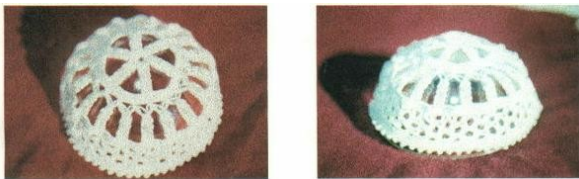
If you or your kids are into “wormy” foods, check out this page from Texas Tech University: [http://courses.ttu.edu/thomas/courses/edel4375\\_F02/fun\\_worm\\_recipes.htm](http://courses.ttu.edu/thomas/courses/edel4375_F02/fun_worm_recipes.htm). There are several “wormy” recipes bound to get your attention and appetite!

For more general crafts, and ones that are good for children, look at Helping Kids with Art (<http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/jewishcraftsideasactivitieskidsjews.html>). There are many craft ideas for stars, menorahs, cards, and ornaments including paper crafts and those that use recycled materials. Use these ideas as a jumping off point for your own craft ideas!

If you enjoy paper crafts, try some Jewish origami. Go over to <http://www.origami-resource-center.com/jewish.html> for origami stars.

Are you a fan of (counted) cross-stitch? There are several free designs available for Shabbat and holidays (<http://www.cross-stitch-pattern.net/Free-Judaica-Charts.aspx>). And if you need a Hebrew alphabet, there are three posted here: <http://www.knitting-and.com/crafts/hebrewalphabet.htm>.

Crochet a simple kippah with the directions at the Purl Bee (<http://www.purlbee.com/crocheted-passover-yarmulke/>). This includes photographs of stitches and the completed kippot. Looking for something not so simple? Try the kippah patterns at Keeping Rita's Vision Alive (<http://www.directions2.clicksitebuilder.com/index.html>).



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Perhaps you prefer to sew. There are 10 sewing projects at All Free Sewing (<http://www.allfreesewing.com/Jewish-Holiday-Projects#>). Most can be done in a few hours or less. Use the Afikomen bag for the Afikomen or at any time of year to hold treats or gifts. Embellish it and change the size to suit your purpose.

For something a bit different, check out the My Jewish Home blog and its Crafts page (<http://www.myjewishhome.com/ns/category/crafts/>). The Homemade Gifts section has a nice variety of items. Also look at the other categories, such as Baking, Cooking, and Holiday Ideas. Just click on the name in the horizontal menu.

Are you inspired to do something crafty? It's a great way to spend time during the winter. And there's a wonderful sense of satisfaction after completing a project, don't you think?

NOTE TO EDITOR: Please format this into columns as needed, and place images appropriately. You can resize the images to fit. Thanks!

NOTE TO EDITOR: The following list can go in a sidebar if that makes it easier to fit into the bulletin.

### **Jewish Web Resources**

[www.tbanashua.org](http://www.tbanashua.org) Our own TBA Web site!

[www.rabbijon.com](http://www.rabbijon.com) Rabbi Jon's blog.

[www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org) Jewish Federation of NH.

[www.hebcal.com](http://www.hebcal.com) Check Hebrew calendar dates.

[www.jewishboston.com](http://www.jewishboston.com) Lists Jewish events in the greater Boston area and beyond.

[www.shalomboston.com](http://www.shalomboston.com) More resources for greater Boston and beyond.

[www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com) Lots of general information.

[www.alljewishlinks.com](http://www.alljewishlinks.com) Jewish directory and search engine.

[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org) "The first source to go to for Jewish Genealogy."

[www.jgsgb.org](http://www.jgsgb.org) Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.

[kosherfood.about.com](http://kosherfood.about.com) The About.com Guide for Kosher food.

[joyof.kosher.com/](http://joyof.kosher.com/) Joy of Kosher blog.

[www.biggreenjewish.org/](http://www.biggreenjewish.org/) The Big Green Jewish Website.

[www.coejl.org](http://www.coejl.org) The leading Jewish environmental organization in the US.

[www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com) Online edition of Haaretz Newspaper in Israel.

[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com) The Jerusalem Post - English daily newspaper.

[www.camera.org](http://www.camera.org) Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, CAMERA.

[www.thejewishadvocate.com](http://www.thejewishadvocate.com) The Jewish Advocate, greater Boston's Jewish newspaper.

[www.aish.com/jl/h/cc/48955806.html](http://www.aish.com/jl/h/cc/48955806.html) The Jewish influence on the founding fathers of America.

[www.fau.edu/library/brodytoc.htm](http://www.fau.edu/library/brodytoc.htm) Jewish Heroes/Heroines of America from 1600s to 1900.

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