

WEEKS OF JULY 14, 2023

Parshat Vaetchanan 5783 – Shabbat Nachamu

Friday, Shabbat, July 28 (Av 10)

6:30pm Plag Mincha Maariv
7:58pm Candle Lighting
8:10pm Zman Mincha Maariv

Shabbat, July 29: (Av 11)

Vaetchanan - Shabbat Nachamu

7:30am Hashkama
8:45am Haftarah Class
9:15am Shacharit
9:30am Youth Groups
11:15am Ice Cream Kiddush
High Heat Advisory – Playdate NOT Meeting
6:00pm Summer Schmooze in Library
7:00pm Afternoon Avot in Main Shul
7:35pm Mincha
7:55pm Men's Daf Yomi
7:55pm Shalosh Seudos
8:55pm Maariv
9:05pm Havdalah

Sunday, July 30 (Av 12)

7:00am Shacharit
8:00am Shacharit
9:00am Shacharit
8:00pm Zman Mincha Maariv

Monday, July 31 (Av 13)

6:00am Shacharit
6:50am Shacharit
7:50am Shacharit
6:20pm Plag Mincha Maariv
7:30pm He'Brew - Reading Course
8:00pm Zman Mincha Maariv

Tuesday, August 1 (Av 14)

6:10am Shacharit
7:00am Shacharit
8:00am Shacharit
6:20pm Plag Mincha Maariv
8:00pm Zman Mincha Maariv

Wednesday, August 2 Av 15)

Tu B'Av

6:10am Shacharit
7:00am Shacharit
8:00am Shacharit
6:20pm Plag Mincha Maariv
8:00pm Zman Mincha Maariv

Thursday, August 3 (Av 16)

6:00am Shacharit
6:50am Shacharit
7:50am Shacharit
6:20pm Plag Mincha Maariv
7:00pm Great Jewish Dynasties
8:00pm Zman Mincha Maariv

Friday, August 4 (Av 17)

6:10am Shacharit
7:00am Shacharit
8:00am Shacharit
6:20pm Plag Mincha Maariv
7:50pm Candle Lighting
8:00pm Zman Mincha Maariv

Men's Daf Yomi

Sundays at 8:45am
Mon – Fri at 7:00am

MAZEL TOV!

Mitchell Golner, celebrating his Aufruf and his upcoming marriage to Dr. Michelle Chavkin

TISHA B'AV BREAK-FAST

Sponsored by Eva Eliason, in memory of her dear husband, Marcus Eliason – Mordechai ben Isaiah z'l

SEUDAH SHLISHIT

Sponsored by the Golner Family, celebrating Mitchell's Aufruf, and in great appreciation of Rabbi Allen Schwartz & Rebbetzin Alisa Schwartz

THANK YOU TO OUR SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORS

In honor of Jordi Federman's double chai birthday - Shabbos Nachamu, and the wonderful OZ community!

Arielle & Jack Berlin, celebrating Sammy's Birthday and Bar Mitzvah Anniversary!

Anonymous – thanking Allen Katz for the Aliya on Shabbat morning during my last visit, and for the delicious Chulent at the Kiddush!

Lily, Talia, Aliza, and Alana – wishing happy summer birthdays to Aunt Rachel, cousins Arie and Devasha, and to Saba!

SUMMER SPACE

The OZ Mirpeset is a great outdoor urban patio space for your next private event! Ask us about hosting Sheva Brachot, Family Reunions, Backyard BBQs, Pizza Parties, and so much more!

KEEPIN' KOSHER

The **OZ Kosher List** is regularly updated at www.OZNY.org/Kosher and is a trusted resource for many in and out of our community - if you are a proud 'foodie' and know of establishments we may have missed, please contact office@ozny.org

ANNOUNCING CAMP ZEDEK!

Due to overwhelming requests, OZ is excited to have Morah Sofia Khaski of Yeshiva Ketana host a 'mini-camp' to bridge the extended gap between the end of camp and the start of school, from August 14 to August 31. RSVP at www.OZNY.org/Camp. **Registration closes August 2nd.**

UPCOMING EVENTS – WWW.OZNY.ORG/EVENTS

Shabbat	11:15am	July 29, 2023	Annual Shabbat Nachamu Ice Cream Kiddush
Shabbat	6:00pm	July 29, 2023	Summer Schmooze with Micah Halpern
Shabbat	7:00pm	July 29, 2023	Afternoon Avot with Rabbi Allen Schwartz
Monday	7:30pm	July 31, 2023	He'Brew Summer Reading with Joel Goldman
Thurs.	7:00pm	August 3, 2023	Great Jewish Dynasties with Micah Halpern
Tuesday	7:00am	August 15, 2023	Men's Daf Yomi starts Kiddushin
Sunday	9:00am	August 20, 2023	Rebbetzin's Annual 5k Shlep
Wedes.	4pm/7pm	August 23, 2023	Summer Cinema: Golda Movie Premiere

The Meaning of Tu B'Av, by Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau for Aish.com

Six events occurred on Tu B'Av, the 15th of Av, making it a festive day in the Jewish calendar.

The Mishnah tells us that: "No days were as festive for Israel as the 15th of Av and Yom Kippur." (Tractate Ta'anit) What is Tu B'Av, the 15th of the Hebrew month of Av? In which way is it equivalent to Yom Kippur?

Our Sages explain: Yom Kippur symbolizes God's forgiving Israel for the sin of the Golden Calf in the desert, for it was on that day that He finally accepted Moses' plea for forgiveness of the nation, and on that same day Moses came down from the mountain with the new set of tablets.

Just as Yom Kippur symbolizes the atonement for the sin of the Golden Calf, Tu B'Av signifies the atonement for the sin of the Spies, where ten came bearing such negative reports which reduced the entire nation to panic. As a result of that sin, it was decreed by God that the nation would remain in the desert for 40 years, and that no person 20 or older would be allowed to enter Israel. On each Tisha B'Av of those 40 years, those who had reached the age of 60 that year died – 15,000 each Tisha B'Av. This plague finally ended on Tu B'Av.

Six positive events occurred on Tu B'Av:

Event #1 - As noted above, the plague that had accompanied the Jews in the desert for 40 years ended. That last year, the last 15,000 people got ready to die. God, in His mercy, decided not to have that last group die, considering all the troubles they had gone through. Now, when the ninth of Av approached, all the members of the group got ready to die, but nothing happened. They then decided that they might have been wrong about the date, so they waited another day, and another...

Finally on the 15th of Av, when the full moon appeared, they realized definitely that the ninth of Av had come and gone, and that they were still alive. Then it was clear to them that God's decree was over, and that He had finally forgiven the people for the sin of the Spies.

This is what was meant by our Sages when they said: "No days were as festive for Israel as the 15th of Av and Yom Kippur," for there is no greater joy than having one's sins forgiven – on Yom Kippur for the sin of the Golden Calf and on Tu B'Av for the sin of the spies. In the Book of Judges, Tu B'Av is referred to as a holiday ([Judges 21:19](#)).

In addition to this noteworthy event, five other events occurred on Tu B'Av:

Events #2 and 3 - Following the case of the daughters of Zelophehad (see [Numbers, chapter 36](#)), daughters who inherited from their father when there were no sons were forbidden to marry someone from a different tribe, so that land would not pass from one tribe to another. Generations later, after the story of the "Concubine of Giv'ah" (see [Judges, chapters 19-21](#)), the Children of Israel swore not to allow their daughters to marry anyone from the tribe of Benjamin. This posed a threat of annihilation to the tribe of Benjamin.

Each of these prohibitions were lifted on Tu B'Av. The people realized that if they kept to their prohibition, one of the 12 tribes might totally disappear. As to the oath that had been sworn, they pointed out that it only affected the generation that had taken the oath, and not subsequent generations. The same was applied to the prohibition of heiresses marrying outside their own tribe: this rule was applied only to the generation that had conquered and divided up the land under Joshua, but not future generations. This was the first expression of the merging of all the tribes, and was a cause for rejoicing. In the Book of Judges it is referred to as "a festival to the Lord."

Over the generations, this day was described in Tractate Ta'anit as a day devoted to betrothals, so that new Jewish families would emerge.

Event #4 - After Jeroboam split off the kingdom of Israel with its ten tribes from the kingdom of Judea, he posted guards along all the roads leading to Jerusalem, to prevent his people from going up to the Holy City for the pilgrimage festivals, for he feared that such pilgrimages might undermine his authority. As a "substitute," he set up places of worship which were purely idolatrous, in Dan and Beth-el. Thus the division between the two kingdoms became a fait accompli and lasted for generations.

The last king of the kingdom of Israel, Hosea ben Elah, wished to heal the breach, and removed all the guards from the roads leading to Jerusalem, thus allowing his people to make the pilgrimage again. This act took place on Tu B'Av.

Event #5 - At the beginning of the Second Temple period, the Land of Israel lay almost totally waste, and the wood needed to burn the sacrifices and for the eternal flame that had to burn on the altar was almost impossible to obtain. Each year a number of brave people volunteered to bring the wood needed from afar – a trip which was dangerous in the extreme.

Now, not just every wood could be brought. Wood which was wormy was not permitted. And dampness and cold are ideal conditions for the breeding of worms in wood. As a result, all the wood that would be needed until the following summer had to be collected before the cold set in. The last day that wood was brought in for storage over the winter months was Tu B'Av, and it was a festive occasion each year when the quota needed was filled by that day.

Event #6 - Long after the event, the Romans finally permitted the bodies of those who had been killed in the defense of Betar (in the Bar Kochba revolt) to be buried. This was a double miracle, in that, first, the Romans finally gave permission for the burial, and, second, in spite of the long period of time that had elapsed, the bodies had not decomposed. The permission was granted on Tu B'Av.

In gratitude for this double miracle, the fourth and last blessing of the Grace After Meals was added, which thanks God as "He Who is good and does good." "He is good" – in that the bodies had not decomposed, "and does good" – in that permission was given for the burial.

To this day, we celebrate Tu B'Av as a minor festival. We do not say Tahanun on that day, nor are eulogies rendered. By the same token, if a couple are getting married on that day (and, as we will see below, it is the custom for the bride and groom to fast on their wedding day), neither fasts.

Beginning with Tu B'Av, we start preparing ourselves spiritually for the month of Elul, the prologue to the coming Days of Awe. The days begin to get shorter, the nights get longer. The weather, too, helps us to take spiritual stock: the hectic days of the harvest are over for the farmer, and the pace has slowed down considerably. Even on a physical level, the heat of the summer makes it hard to sit down and think things out, and now that the days and nights are cooler, it is easier to examine one's actions.

In earlier times, it was the custom already from Tu B'Av to use as one's greeting "May your inscription and seal be for good" (ketiva vahatima tova), the same blessing that we today use on Rosh Hashana. Those who work out the gematria values of different expressions found that phrase adds up to 928 – and so does the words for "15th of Av."

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