TUB'SHEVAT A TEMPLE JUDEA FAMILY HOLIDAY GUIDE



TU B'SHEVAT

Tu B'Shevat is known as the New Year for Trees and is like the American holiday of Arbor Day, when people are encouraged to plant trees. It is also a time where Jews remember their connection to the physical land of Israel. People plant trees, or donate to have trees planted in Israel, as a demonstration of life, rebirth, connection, and hope for the future. In modern times, this holiday increasingly focuses on environmental protection and green living.

CUSTOMS

To celebrate Tu B'Shevat, people plant trees and enjoy fruits. We appreciate nature and the land of Israel. Tu B'Shevat even has its own seder that has special rituals honoring the seasons. The holiday is all about caring for the environment.

SAWBOF2

On this holiday, many Jews enjoy the seven species mentioned in the Torah: figs, grapes, pomegranates, wheat, olives, barley, and dates.

PRAYERS

Blessing for Fruit of Tree

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech בָּרוּהְ אַתָּה יְי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפָן: ha'olam, bo're p'ri hagefen

Translation

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech דָּרוּהְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הָעַץ ha-olam, borei p'ri ha-eitz.

Translation

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יָיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְרִי haʻOlam borei pri ha-adamah.

Translation

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.



I love the mountains.

I love the rolling hills.

I love the fountains.

I love the daffodils.

I love the fireside when all the lights are low. Boom-dee-ah-dah (x3). Boom.



Scan the QR code to enjoy these songs and more in Miss Jenny's Margaux School Holiday Songs playlist on Spotify.

HOLIDAY READING



Netta and Her Plant by Ellie B. Gellman Netta learns about caring for nature and growth, as she takes care of her plant and experiences changes in her life.

Happy Birthday, Tree! A Tu B'Shevat Story

by Madelyn Rosenberg Joni celebrates the trees in her neighborhood and around the world.





Sammy Spider's First Tu B'Shevat by Sylvia A. Rouss: Sammy Spider and Josh Shapiro learn about caring for trees through changing seasons and all about the things trees provide to animals and people.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

In the spirit of being green, take a plain canvas tote bag and decorate it to use instead of plastic bags. You can also go on a nature walk and be mindful of the greenery around you.

VALUES

Tu B'Shevat reminds us to appreciate nature and the connection Jews have to the land. Day-to-day, it is easy to get caught up in minutiae and forget the difference we can make in the world. This holiday is great at reminding us to slow down and enjoy the beauty around us.



