

GO NATIVE ON TU B'SHVAT!
Join our efforts to plant trees in celebration



At Temple Shaaray Tefila, the Green Team has a mission to make our Temple campus a model of environmental stewardship by reducing our carbon footprint, as well as to inspire our community to be stewards of the earth, consistent with our collective beliefs and with our commandments.

As part of the work to make the Temple more sustainable and to reduce its carbon footprint by reducing energy use and emissions, we can also capture carbon through our incredible grounds, through our trees and other plantings.

And what we do on our beautiful Temple grounds can also be done at home so that we are amplifying our actions across our community.

On the evening of January 27th, we will celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shvat. Tu B'Shvat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day, a celebration of trees, and is often celebrated as a tree-planting festival.

Planting Trees at Shaaray Tefila, Join us!

In Honor of Tu B'Shvat, Temple Shaaray Tefila will be 'Going Native' by **planting OAK TREES** on our property, by the Outdoor Classroom in back of the playground. (Did you know that oak trees support at least 557 species of caterpillars? See more about that below!)

Please consider being a part of this by donating to this specific effort. With \$1,800, we can plant Oak Trees in this location and enjoy the beauty of the trees and their shade, while also generating planet-saving benefits for years to come. Any amount raised beyond our goal of \$1,800 will go to a special fund for Shaaray Tefila's Green Team Environmental Stewardship projects.

Looking ahead to Spring

As Tu B'Shvat coincides with the time we start to look ahead to the season of Spring, it offers us, right in our Westchester community, a wonderful opportunity to think about planting trees in our own backyards.

What does planting "Native" mean? Adding trees, shrubs and plants that are originally from this region of the United States. These are the plantings that will support the native wildlife which are also originally from this region- the birds, bees, butterflies and other necessary pollinators that help to create a healthy ecosystem.

Oaks are an excellent choice of native tree. They support at least 557 species of caterpillars. 557! These caterpillars attract many species of birds. So just by planting these three oak trees, we will be bringing lots of new life and vibrancy to our temple grounds.

Join us by Going Native on your own property!

Oaks, cherries, willows, birches and poplars are great choices. They will set the foundation to support a healthy array of native North American butterflies, moths and other arthropods, providing food for a robust population of songbirds, small mammals and reptiles. Doesn't that sound exciting!?!

Simple Steps to Get Your Started

- Do a quick internet search on "Going Native." You will learn quite quickly that the more natives you plant in your yard, the more birds, insects, butterflies and vibrancy will come with them. Your property will come alive!
- Think: Diversity. A balanced landscape- one that has many different plantings- creates a network and a more robust ecosystem. Look into planting more than one thing. And don't rely on "if it looks good, plant it". With a little research, you will find there many beautiful native options.
- Make a plan. If you are going to hire someone, make sure they have knowledge about the benefits of planting native.

Think about the difference you can make in your own world just by planting a few trees.

You and your family will be doing a good thing for the environment and you will get clear positive feedback just by watching your yard come alive!

Resources:

Doug Tallamy: Bringing Nature Home

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=bringing+nature+home&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

Bedford 2030

<https://bedford2030.org/outdoors/>

Native Plant Center at WCC

<https://www.sunywcc.edu/about/npc/>