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TU B'SHEVAT IN JEWISH TRADITION

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees. The word "Tu" is not really a word; it is the number 15 in Hebrew. Judaism has several different "new years." This is not as strange a concept as it sounds at first blush; in America, we have the calendar year (January-December), the school year (September-June), and many businesses have fiscal years. It's basically the same idea with the various Jewish new years.

Tu B'Shevat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. See Lev. 19:23-25, which states that fruit from trees may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for God, and after that, you can eat the fruit. Each tree is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B'Shevat, so if you planted a tree on Shevat 14, it begins its second year the next day, but if you plant a tree two days later, on Shevat 16, it does not reach its second year until the next Tu B'Shevat.

Tu B'Shevat is not mentioned in the Torah. There is only one reference to it in the Mishnah, and the only thing said there is that it is the new year for trees, and there is a dispute as to the proper date for the holiday (Bet Shammai said the proper day was the first of Shevat; Bet Hillel said the proper day was the 15th of Shevat. As usual, we follow Beit Hillel.

There are few customs or observances related to this holiday. One custom is to eat a new fruit on this day, or to eat from the Seven Species (shivat haminim) described in the Bible as being abundant in the land of Israel. The Shivat Haminim are: wheat, barley, grapes (vines), figs, pomegranates, olives and dates (honey) (Deut. 8:8). You can make a nice vegetarian pilaf from the shivat haminim: a bed of cooked bulgur wheat or wheat berries and barley, topped with figs, dates, raisins (grapes), and pomegranate seeds, served with a dressing of olive oil, balsamic vinegar (grapes) and pomegranate juice.

Some people plant trees on this day. In earlier years, Jewish children commonly went around collecting money to plant trees in Israel at this time of year.

In the 16th century, kabbalists developed a seder ritual conceptually similar to the Passover seder discussing the spiritual significance of fruits and of the shivat haminim. This custom spread primarily in Sephardic communities, but in recent years it has been getting more attention among Ashkenazim. Temple Israel will be holding one of these Sederim as part of our January music service and congregational dinner on Friday, January 14.

Rabbi Gary Atkins

Rabbi Gary's Notes

Coat Drive: Thank you to everyone who helped to make our coat drive a success.

Gabbai/Leviim: TI is holding a special service on Jan 8 to thank our "Leviim," those who assist in preparing for and conducting services. Come honor your fellow congregants learn about what **you** might be able to do to assist!

Mee Shebayrach: Rabbi Atkins feels that this prayer, for strength and healing, is one of her most essential prayers of our services. You are welcome to forward any names to the office to be included. Names are kept on the prayer list for the month of submission and the following.... After which they will be removed unless the office is informed their presence should be continued.

Shaliach Kesef: It is a special mitzvah to give someone the prayer for a safe journey, supplemented by a donation to be given to charity. If you're traveling, whether on business and pleasure, Rabbi Atkins will be happy to do this mitzvah with you! Just let him know!

Vacation: Rabbi Atkins will be on vacation January 24-31. Arrangements have been made for emergency coverage

Mazel Tov to Lexi Guttman

***Called to Torah at
Temple Israel Manchester
on December 11 at 10:00am
We are so proud of you!***





- Dina Weber for her help with proofreading and mass mailings
- Morgan Hallock for help with proofreading
- Our Jewish Book Club Chairs - Benay Birch, Ken Cohn, and Aida Koocher
- Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies
- Our Temple Board for meaningful service options and activities
- Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues
- Stephen Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans
- David Winthrop for maintaining our yahrzeit boards and Torahs
- Michael Sydney for his continued efforts on behalf of the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery
- The Singer/Sydney family for groundskeeping services
- John Weber for his financial acumen and continued support
- Carol Sternberg Chairperson of Kitchen Krew, Lunches and Gift Shop
- Kiddush Krew - Benay Birch, Renee Brenner, Ken Cohn, Josh Nathan, Merle Paltrow, Carol Pressman, Rachel Spierer, Carol Sternberg & David Winthrop

Memorial Tzedaka

Celine & Dustin Belanger in memory of Leslie Todd
 Rosalind Ekman Ladd in memory of Nathan Ekman
 Phyllis Levine in memory of Ida Cavall
 Rochelle & Gary Lindner in memory of Philip Haller
 Sandra Hoexter in memory of Herbert Hoexter
 Carol Krensky in memory of Carl Krensky

Carol Krensky in memory of Rosalind Shaer
 Michele Plotkin in memory of Balfour Plotkin
 Kim Pratt in memory of Won Bai Barbour
 Steven Rifkin in memory of Leon Rifkin
 Millie Rosenberg in memory of Samuel Edward Rubin
 Ruth & Jay Zax in memory of Jacqueline Fineblit

Other Donations

Iris & Rabbi Gary in memory of Emily Andler
 Laurie & Ronnie Bayer in honor of Steve Saulten
 Stephen Dolman for Hebrew School Upgrades
 Marion & Seth Eisen for Gruber Family USP
 Phyllis Levine in honor of Rabbi Gary Atkins

Robert Singer in honor of Joy & Michael Sydney
 Singer/Sydney Family for Kol Nidre
 Carol & Bob Sternberg in honor of Gary Singer
 Bernice Taube in honor of Rabbi Gary Atkins
 Amy & Mitchell Weinberg for Sandwiches in the Sukkot

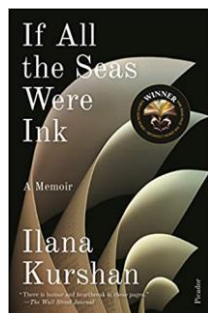


The Book club sends a Big Hearty THANK YOU, to Michael Davidow, for his live in-person discussion of

his latest book, "the hunter of talyashevka." Miss the meeting? No problem, use type the link below into your browser for the recorded video of his talk.

<http://indepthnh.org/2021/12/17/video-davidow-speaks-in-manchester-about-his-latest-novel-and-jewish-history/>

Our 2022 Jewish Book club blasts off at 4:30pm on Wednesday January 12th with "If Al the Seas Were Ink" by author Ilana Kurshan. Rabbi Gary will lead the discussion via Zoom.



About the Book: This is a story of heartache and humor, of love and loss, of marriage and motherhood, and of learning to put one foot in front of the other by turning page after page. Kurshan takes us on a deeply accessible and personal guided tour of the Talmud. For people of the book—both Jewish and non-Jewish—*If All the Seas Were Ink* is a celebration of learning, through literature, how to fall in love once again.



If you have ever read the Torah Sparks reprinted weekly at Temple Israel, you will recognize her as the author. A regular contributor to Lilit Magazine, where she serves as the Book Reviews Editor, her writing has appeared in The Forward, The World Jewish Digest, Hadassah, Nashim, Zeek, Kveller, and Tablet. Kurshan is a Harvard University graduate (BA, summa cum laude, History of Science) and Cambridge University (M.Phil, English literature). She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and four children.

Our February book will be "The Binding of Isaac". Its local author, Jeff Salloway, will lead the discussion of his book. If you are new to Judaism or a veteran, you will want to read this book.

Questions? Please contact:

Ken Cohn: newbegin04@yahoo.com

Aida Koocher: akoocher@comcast.net

Benay Birch: benay.a.birch@gmail.com



The Green Muumuu

A true story of human triumph by Ruth Chevion

Preface: International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as designated by the United Nations, occurs this year on Thursday, January 27. In honor of those who died, and in gratitude for those who survived, I offer this piece about my mother that I wrote 20 years ago.

It is the middle of the day, in the middle of the week, and my mother is stretched out on the couch in her green muumuu reading Stalingrad by Anthony Beevor. She's a busy person by nature, even at age 76. Ordinarily she would be shopping or something, but this book has really grabbed her. Every time we talked on the phone in the last few days she talked about Stalingrad.

Yesterday, she seemed almost out of breath, as though she had run all the way from the year 1942 to the present to answer the phone. Her voice had a quality I had not heard before, even though we have talked about the war a thousand and another thousand times. She sounded alert. That's the only word I can come up with.

I've always been a bit mystified as to how my mother managed to survive the war. Her exploits, her ingenious evasions, seem so out of character with the soft motherly way I experience her. But the tone in her voice yesterday was a clue. While reading the book, she had somehow slipped, like a chameleon, into her clever twin, the one who did those daring things during the war.

"It was all happening while I was there. I was there," she says. "The Germans attacked Russia in June 1941. The height of the attack was in September '42 when their

advance reached Stalingrad. I left the ghetto on September 1, 1942. Aunt Fela came and gave us false papers, me and my mother and Oswald. You remember. I told you. Imagine it was all happening at the same time."

"Imagine in January of 1943 they lost Stalingrad and in March of 1943 they took my mother and Oswald. They were losing already. It was ending already, but they still put so much effort into killing Jews. They didn't have enough gasoline at the front but the little they had they used for killing Jews. Imagine, they had to choose between winning the war and killing the Jews and they chose killing the Jews."

"They sent four gestapo officers after me. Four." "You mean in the Post Office?" I ask. I had always thought it was two. "Four. They sent four gestapos to hunt down one 18-year-old girl."

I'm getting a special thrill hearing her this time. She sounds triumphant. After all, there she is on the couch in an elegant Manhattan apartment in her green muumuu with the air conditioner on, and the Nazis are dead.



Special thanks to our Braverman Chanukah Party Volunteers



Rabbi Gary Atkins
Ilana Jacobs
Linda Sinkow
Arielle Welch

Pat Biagi
Morgan Hallock
Marc Stober
David Winthrop

Benay Birch
Josh Nathan
Emily Verbun

Karen Jacobs
Rachel Russell
Joan Vick





TEVET 28 - SHEVAT 31

Happy Anniversary to
Sharon Borak & John Crites-Borak - Jan 12 - 25th anniversary

Happy Birthday to

Jan 1 - Max Stober
Jan 3 - Jennifer Aldrich
Jan 6 - Paula Fredriksen
Jan 10 - Golan Kilechsky
Jan 12 - Debbie Manning
Jan 19 - Peter Hallock
Jan 21 - Nathaniel Davidow
Jan 24 - Rachel Spierer

Jan 2 - Philip Borenstein
Jan 5 - Michelle Kelman
Jan 7 - Paula Winer-Veale
Jan 10 - Paul Schill
Jan 14 - Monique Baskin
Jan 19 - Nadav Matthews
Jan 23 - Ruth Chevion
Jan 25 - Michael Welch

Jan 2 - Seth Guttman
Jan 5 - Hannah Stober
Jan 9 - Aida Koocher
Jan 11 - Rani Paltrow-McCole
Jan 19 - Renee Brenner
Jan 19 - Mitchell Weinberg
Jan 24 - Emily Frydman Verbun
Jan 28 - Joy Sydney



Thanks to your amazing generosity, we are just \$12,630 from our goal!

Anonymous Donor
Sharon & John Crites-Borak
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Phyllis Levine
Sedra Michaelson & Ron Deeter
Harry Shepler
Rachel & Mel Spierer
Ruth & Jay Zax

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Renee Brenner
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Elizabeth & Alan Gaby
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Cindi & Gary Singer
Bob & Carol Sternberg

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Helena & Steve Guttman
Sheryl & Denis Hammond
Mallory & Scott Sandler
Robert Singer
Dina & John Weber

Let us add your name to the list!
Send us a check or use PayPal and send to office@templeisraelmht.org

Thinking of buying or selling your home?
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JANUARY													
SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
												1	Tevet 28 New Years Day
2	Tevet 29 Hebrew School 9:30am	3	Shevat 1	4	Shevat 2 Rabbi Atkins Adult Ed on Zoom 7:00pm RSVP required	5	Shevat 3 Morning Minyan 7:00am	6	Shevat 4	7	Shevat 5	8	Vaera Shevat 6 Shabbat Service 10:00am Gabbia/Leviim honors & catered kiddush RSVP required Bo Shevat 13
9	Shevat 7 Hebrew School 9:30am	10	Shevat 8 Rabbi Atkins Adult Ed on Zoom 7:00pm	11	Shevat 9	12	Shevat 10 Morning Minyan 7:00am	13	Shevat 11	14	Shevat 12 Shabbat & TuBishevav Dinner 6:00pm RSVP required	15	Shevat 13
16	Shevat 15 Hebrew School 9:30am	17	Shevat 16 Martin Luther King Day Office closed Tubshevat Rabbi Atkins Adult Ed on Zoom 7:00pm	18	Shevat 17	19	Shevat 18 Morning Minyan 7:00am	20	Shevat 19	21	Shevat 20 Candles 4:17pm	22	Beshalach Shevat 21 Shabbat Service 10:00am w/presentation by congregant and Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Mitchell Yitro Shevat 27
23	Shevat 21 Hebrew School 9:30am	24	Shevat 22 Rabbi Gary is away	25	Shevat 23 Rabbi Gary is away	26	Shevat 24 Morning Minyan 7:00am Rabbi Gary is away	27	Shevat 25	28	Shevat 26 Shabbat 6:30pm Rabbi Gary is away	29	Rabbi Gary is away
30	Shevat 28 Hebrew School 9:30am Rabbi Gary is away	31	Shevat 29 Rabbi Gary is away								Candles at 4:35pm		Mishpatim

SUNDAY			MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SATURDAY		
																1	Tevet 28 New Years Day			