

Rebbetzin's Corner

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Let's face it. Historically, the Rebbetzin business has been pretty unwelcoming to single folks. But I remember what it was like to be unpartnered: the acne, the dial-up internet, the college-admissions angst (I was seventeen when I met your Rabbi). As a token of empathy, and in recognition of how hard it is to be single around the mid-February holiday of Tu B'Shevat, I devote this Rebbetzin's Corner to problems of romance.

Ever since JDate became open to everyone, it's hard to figure out if my date is Jewish. For our first get-together, he suggested the IADS Tu B'Shevat seder. What clues should I look for during the seder to see if he's a Red-Sea Pedestrian?

The key is the second cup of wine. A member of the Tribe will sip the pink mix and say, "This is sweet! How come I don't mix it like this all year long?!" Anyone else will barely be able to complete the blessing with a straight face due to cringing at the ongoing oenological disaster.

I wanted to take this woman I'm interested in out for a romantic dinner to celebrate the Birthday of the Trees and Shabbat, but the earliest reservation I could get wasn't until four days later. How can I let her know that my feelings for her are more than platonic, despite the scheduling snafu?

There's just no way to convert a dinner on the 19th of Shevat into a romantic gesture. Pull the plug on that plan and take her to the IADS seder on February 11 instead!

To keep peace between the families, my boyfriend and I alternate our Tu B'Shevat seders between his family at Congregation T'Chiyah and my family at RCD. This year, we just don't feel like travelling so much. We'd like to celebrate closer to home. How can we break the news to our folks?

Good news: this year, everybody can crack nuts together! All three communities will share a seder in our building on Tu B'Shevat afternoon. What a great time to propose!