

Tu BiSh'vat Resources

What: Tu BiSh'vat, also called “Rosh Hashanah La’Ilanot” ראש השנה לאילנות or the “New Year of the Trees,” is one of the four “new year’s” established by the Rabbis of the Talmud (Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 1:1). It marks the start of Spring in Israel when trees begin to bloom.

When: Tu BiSh'vat ט"ו בשבט takes place on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat.

How: Tu BiSh'vat is celebrated by eating the fruits of the land of Israel (mainly the seven species: pomegranate, olive, date, fig, grape, wheat, and barley) and learning about how to protect the Earth.

Tu BiSh'vat has become the unofficial “Earth Day” of Israel when ecological advancements are discussed and celebrated and there is a tradition to plant trees in Israel for Tu BiSh'vat. It is also customary to eat new fruits that you have not tasted before (or have not tasted yet this year) and to say the Shehecheyanu blessing. Tu BiSh'vat has also become a symbolic date for restoring the Jewish connection to the land of Israel. Starting in the Middle Ages with Rabbi Isaac Luria (also known as the “*Ari'zal*”), the tradition of hosting a “Tu BiSh'vat Seder” was born. This tradition has grown in popularity in recent years bringing awareness to a variety of social issues like ecology, world hunger, as well as spirituality and mindful practice.

VIDEOS AND SONGS

Tu B'Shvat Story: Honi the Circle Maker – A Tu BiSh'vat story for younger students by Bimbam

What is Tu B'Shvat? – A short explanation of the holiday with naturalist and former park ranger Deborah Newbrun by Bimbam

Planting Parsley – A Tu BiSh'vat Read Aloud Story by PJ Library for younger students.

OTHER RESOURCES

Celebrate Tu B'Shvat Materials – A collection of activities, sermons and Haggadot for Tu BiSh'vat. By Jewish National Fund USA.

Celebrating Tu B'Shvat – This collection of resources includes stories, activities, and more. By the Israel Forever Foundation.

How to Organize a Successful Tu B'Shvat Seder and Examples for all Ages– by Canfei Nesharim: Sustainable Living Inspired by Torah.

Malida Ceremony: Indian Jews Encourage Global Participation in Unique Tu B'Shvat Ritual by My Jewish Learning

Teva Learning Center: Jewish Environmental Education Institute – This organization offers a variety of seminars and hands-on programs for students about Judaism and the environment as well as a Tu BiSh'vat Haggadah

ReformJudaism.org – Have a Tu BiSh'vat Seder