

# the SHOEFAR



TEMPLE BET YAM

February 2022

Shevat/Adar 5782



**Tu Bishvat Highia Chag Ha Ilanot "Tu Bishvat has arrived, the Festival of Trees."**

Last month, on January 16-17 our Jewish faith celebrated Tu Bishvat, "The Festival of the Trees. It is the holiday in which we celebrate "The New Year of the Trees." The "Tu" in Tu Bishvat are the letters tet and vov which together

are the number 15. "Bishvat" means "in [the month of] Shevat." So the name of this celebration is the rather prosaic 15th of Shevat.

What is its origin?

This "New Year for Trees," as we've come to call it, first appears in the Mishnah (c. 200 CE) as the date the rabbis chose to begin calculating the tithes on one's crops that were collected as a Temple tax. Of course for Jews not living in the Land of Israel, there was no tithing, and by the time the Mishnah was written, there was no collection anyway because the Temple had been destroyed over 100 years before! So not surprisingly, even in the days of the Mishnah, the celebration of Tu Bishvat was little more than a memory.

I have learned that the commemoration took on new life in 1890 Palestine when students from the agricultural colony of Zichron Yaakov decided to plant trees on Tu Bishvat. This custom was later adopted by the Jewish National Fund (Keren HaKayemet L'Israel) which was established in 1901 to oversee land reclamation and forestation of the Land of Israel. And for over 100 years now, we've filled those little blue JNF boxes. I remember in my childhood I called them "pushkes." Based upon the Passover Seder, our ancestors created the Tu Bishvat Seder. That Seder goes back over 500 years when it was introduced in

Tzvat by the Spanish and Portuguese Jews who immigrated to the Land of Israel following the Inquisition. These mystics (Kabbalists) found in Tu Bishvat an opportunity to celebrate the spiritual connection of "Jew to Jewish land." They gathered for group study at tables with baskets of fruit and pitchers of wine-- white and red.

The white symbolized the slumber and the falling of leaves which begin on the Tu B'Av (the Fifteenth of Av, late July, and August), and the red symbolized the awakening of nature, flowering, and growth on Tu Bishvat six months later.

In an early description of the "seder", we read that they divided the fruits of the land into groups corresponding to three worlds. By eating thirty kinds of fruit (ten per level), one ascends through the three worlds. The first world Olam Ha-asiya (the World of Doing) was represented by ten shelled fruits (almonds, nuts, oranges). The second world Olam HaYetsira (The World of Creation) was represented by fruits of which the external portion was eaten, and the inside discarded (plum, peach, apricot). Ascension to the third and highest world, Olam HaBeriyah (The World of The Creation) is symbolized by the eating of fruits that are eaten in their entirety (strawberries, figs). The drinking of four cups of wine, progressing from pure white to pure red, integrated with the eating of the fruits, symbolized the passage between seasons and spiritual mystical ascent.

Our Torah is called a tree of life. This holiday reminds us of the importance of respecting nature. Let's do our best to take care of our health and respect our environment.

B'vracha

Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan, MD, MBE, MEd

# THE SHOFAR

Temple Bet Yam

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Ritual: **Terre Wallach**

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Sisterhood: **Elaine Stecker**

Men's Club: **Bill Rosenthal**

Sunshine: **Laura Weiss & Terri Beasley**

Shofar Editor: **Jen Sherman**

The Shofar is published monthly. It is distributed free of charge to members and advertising sponsors. Advertising inquiries should be addressed to Sue Kinkela at (412) 600-9553 or at [abbeyrd45@comcast.net](mailto:abbeyrd45@comcast.net).

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month which preceeds the month of the publication. Late submissions will be held for the following issue.

# *Let's Celebrate!*

## February Anniversaries

**February 3rd, Jane & Hal Gray**

26th anniversary

**February 10th, Patricia & Bill LaPolt**

43rd anniversary

**February 12th, Ruth & Bob Feldheim**

67th anniversary

**February 14th, Melinda & Alexander Toro**

7th anniversary

**February 15th, Emily & Jeremy Gordon**

19th anniversary

**February 21st, Bruce Simon & Ann Cheiky**

22nd anniversary

**February 24th, Tracey & Jose Gueits**

26th anniversary



## February Birthdays

**February 2nd, Auri Love,**

16th birthday

**February 3rd, David Rieser**

**February 4th, Dorit Cohen**

**February 8th, Dean Stecker**

**February 13th, Mark Cohen**

**February 13th, Holly Guglielmo**

**February 22nd, Emily Gordon**

**February 24th, William Rosenthal**

**February 24th, Mimi Selig**

**February 26th, Ron Rich**

**February 27th, Alan Gramet**

**February 28th, Spencer Glicksman,**  
13th birthday

**February 28th, Ronald Rideman**



## *In Memoriam*

**February 1st, Adele Aronowitz**  
Aunt of Jackie Witte

**February 1st, Dr. Howard Polish**  
Father of Tracey Gueits

**February 1st, Rose Rosenbaum**  
Aunt of Renee Speisman

**February 2nd, Samuel Sloan**  
Father of Nancy Sorkin

**February 3rd, Lynn Rich**  
Wife of Steve Rich

**February 4th, Seymour Rich**  
Father of Ron Rich

**February 4th, Irving Rudnick**  
Husband of Shirley Rudnick

**February 6th, Stuart Garr**  
Brother of Bernice Cruise

**February 6th, Mary Catherine Rhodes**  
Mother of Cathy Kasriel

**February 6th, Anna Tinkoff**  
Mother of Bernie Tinkoff

**February 7th, J.T. Rhodes**  
Brother of Cathy Kasriel

**February 9th, Adam Jung**  
Grandfather of Pamela Diamond

**February 9th, Ethel Sukel**  
Grandmother of Debra Morris

**February 10th, Herman DeCastro**  
Father of Norma Tinkoff

**February 10th, Harry Greenfield**  
Father of Paul Greenfield

**February 10th, Charles Solomon Raskind**  
Grandfather of Rabbi Fred Raskind

**February 10th, Richard Tinkoff**  
Father of Bernie Tinkoff

**February 11th, Harry Kihn**  
Brother-in-law of Alice Kihn

**February 11th, Nathan Weinberger**  
Father of Renee Speisman

**February 12th, Mildred Firestone**  
Aunt of Terre Wallach  
& Barbara Carman

**February 13th, Rose Miller**  
Grandmother of Phil Kushner

**February 14th, Saul Freed**  
Brother of Mimi Selig

**February 14th, Miles Goldstone**  
Brother of Howard Goldstone

**February 15th, Jack Broudy**  
Brother of Martin Broudy

**February 15th, Sherman Meiselman**  
Father of Chuck Meiselman

**February 15th, Norma Tinkoff**  
Mother of Wendy, Glen,  
& Adam Tinkoff

**February 16th, Sadie Meiselman**  
Grandmother of Chuck Meiselman

**February 16th, Mildred Hale Rinehart**  
Mother of Bev Darkatsh

**February 17th, Rubin Diamond**  
Father of Meri McCarthy

**February 17th, Isador Ehrlichman**  
Uncle of Harvey Hoffman

**February 17th, Charles Meiselman**  
Grandfather of Chuck Meiselman

**February 17th, Fred Strock**  
Grandfather of Rabbi Fred Raskind

**February 19th, Martin Broudy**  
Father of Joan Broudy-Harris

**February 19th, J. Wendall Fargis**  
Grandfather of Merrie Meiselman

**February 20th, Allen J. Jedel**  
Father of Joan Guglielmo

**February 20th, Sarita Kasriel**  
Sister of David Kasriel

**February 20th, Harry Stoll**  
Grandfather of Ellen Miller

**February 22nd, Max Markowitz**  
Grandfather of Meryl Goldman

**February 22nd, Miriam Bernstein**  
Mother of Gary Bernstein

**February 23rd, Paula Carr**  
Wife of Bud Carr

**February 23rd, Meri McCarthy**  
Wife of Leo McCarthy

**February 23rd, Sadye Salinger**  
Mother of Ellie Sussman

**February 24th, Dora Freed**  
Mother of Mimi Selig

**February 24th, Victor Kasriel**  
Uncle of David Kasriel

**February 25th, Renee Lynn Beskind**  
Wife of Bob Beskind

**February 25th, Betty Cohen**  
1st Cousin of Marcia Rector

**February 25th, Sidney Young**  
Father of Phyllis Keiser

**February 26th, Jack Ehrlichman**  
Uncle of Harvey Hoffman

**February 27th, Louis Hoichman**  
Uncle of George Goldberg

**February 27th, Frank Kinkela, Sr.**  
Father of Frank Kinkela

**February 28th, Pearl Lucas**  
Grandmother of Merri Meiselman

*May  
their  
memory  
be a  
blessing...*



## *Donations Made To Temple Bet Yam*

### **General Fund**

Barbara Stafford & Rob Armstrong - In memory of those members of our TBY family we lost this year

Marcia Rector - In memory of Min Stone

Laura Weiss & Robert Dawkins - In honor of our congregants and in memory of those we've lost

Barbara & Art Rogove - In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Riley Bukens, granddaughter of Patty and Barry Savage; in memory of Min Stone

Jackie Witte - In memory of my Aunt Adele Aronowitz

Ellen Mensh - Get well wishes to Nancy Sorkin; speedy recover to Phyllis Keiser

Wendy Tinkoff - In memory of my parents Bernie & Norma Tinkoff

Terre Wallach - In memory of Min Stone and Jen Sherman's stepmother

Cathryn Perretti

### **Religious School Fund**

Andi & Joe Marx - In memory of Joe's father, Herbert Marx

Ron Rich - In memory of my father, Seymour Rich

### **Mitzvah Fund**

Stasha and Mark Cohen for Dining with Dignity

Ellen Mensh - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

### **Contingency Fund**

Mimi Selig in appreciation for the donation towards the purchase and installation of TBY's new acoustical system



## Upcoming Events for February. Mark your calendar!

### **Board Meeting**

Tuesday, February 1st, 7:00 – 8:00pm

### **Shabbat Service**

Friday, February 4th, 7:30 – 9:30pm

### **Religious School**

Sunday, February 6th, 10:00am – 12:00pm

### **Religious School**

Sunday, February 13th, 10:00am – 12:00pm

### **Sisterhood Book Club: *The Magpie***

### ***Murders by Anthony Horowitz***

Wednesday, February 16th, 1:00 – 2:00pm

### **Men's Club**

Wednesday, February 16th, 6:00 – 9:00pm

### **Mah Jongg Tournament**

Thursday, February 17th, 1:00 – 4:00pm

### **Shabbat Service**

Friday, February 18th, 7:30 – 9:30pm

### **An Evening with Author of *A DOORWAY TO HEROISM*, Jack Romberg**

Saturday, February 19th, 7:00 – 8:00pm

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, February 22nd, 5:30 – 6:30pm

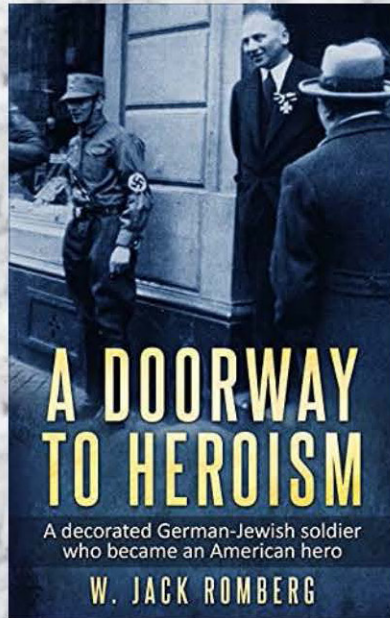
### **Sisterhood Meeting-Seder Planning**

Wednesday, February 23rd, 10:00 – 11:00am

### **Religious School**

Sunday, February 27th, 10:00am – 12:00pm





*"Imagine a German Jew who was a decorated German soldier in World War I, a protestor in Cologne at the start of Hitler's reign of terror, and a heroic Silver Star decorated U.S. soldier in World War II. Three heroic actions, at three different times, in three different places.*

*This is the story of Richard Stern, whose photograph of his protest hangs in multiple German museums, showing a rare Jewish protest in Nazi Germany. He was my great uncle."*

The Ways and Means Committee and the Life Long Education Committee are proud to co-sponsor:

*An Evening with Author, W. Jack Romberg, on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7 PM, at Temple Bet Yam, Saint Augustine, FL.*

Mr. Romberg, a member of TBY, will speak about his book,  
**A DOORWAY TO HEROISM.**

*Copies of the author's book will be available for purchase.*

**MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED**

**CONTRIBUTION FORM****TEMPLE BET YAM****PO BOX 860098****ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32086****DONOR NAME:****ADDRESS:****CITY/STATE:****ZIP:****TELEPHONE:****IN HONOR OF:****IN MEMORY OF (OR OTHER DESIGNATION)****DESIGNATION****AMOUNT****GENERAL FUND****MITZVAH FUND****RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND****PRAYER BOOK FUND****SANCTUARY FUND****TORAH FUND****MURRAY WEISS MEMORIAL FUND****HIGH HOLY DAYS CONTRIBUTION****RABBINIC LEADERSHIP FUND****TOTAL TBY CONTRIBUTION****\*RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*\*NOTE: A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND.*

*PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO TEMPLE BET YAM, WITH NAME OF FUND ON THE MEMO LINE. THANK YOU.*

## Donations

The custom of making donations as an expression of prayer traces back to Biblical times and has always been a practice of congregations. The amount given is less important than the deed. At TBY, we have a number of offerings for you to consider when making donations. Here is an explanation of a few of them. Additional funds are listed on our Contribution Form.

**Memorial Board Plaques** – When you purchase a plaque for your loved ones, you memorialize them on our memorial board in the sanctuary, as well as in the Book of Remembrance. All names on the Memorial Board are recognized during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. See the Donation form on our web site, TempleBetYam.org or contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

**Celebratory Wall** – Celebrate a simcha in your family or honor a TBY member by purchasing a plaque for our commemorative garden wall. For additional information and order forms, please contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

**Murray Weiss Memorial Fund** – In the spirit of Tzedakah, this fund helps congregants in need. Past gifts have helped pay for dental surgery, medications, enrollment for children in a Jewish summer camp, and past due mortgage payments. Requests are held in the strictest of confidence. For more information, contact Mimi Selig at (904) 461-4316. To make donations, see the Contribution Form on the next page.



## Trees For Israel



We are enjoying huge success with our Trees for Israel. Every tree purchased is not only recognition of some significant event in your life or in the life of someone close to you but is also a mitzvah for Israel and contributes to our Temple fundraising effort. Please use this very important program as a memorial to a friend or loved one or in celebration of a happy occasion for someone dear to you.

Israel's forests are not only a valuable source for water preservation, but are a source for boosting the morale of Israel's citizens by providing a haven in which to put aside the pressures of living in a nation under siege.

JNF will acknowledge every donation with a receipt to the donor and a certificate to the recipient of the honor. Your donation will also benefit Temple Bet Yam with a portion of the donation amount. It is a double Mitzvah.

Trees may be ordered by contacting Toby Weintraub at 904-471-0418. Please provide Toby with your name, address, phone number, the name and address of the person being honored and the name and address of the person you want to receive acknowledgment.

Donations for Trees for Israel are \$18.00 per tree.  
Checks should be made out to Temple Bet Yam.





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