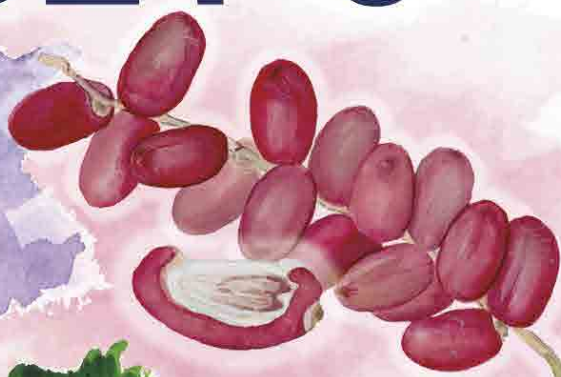




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סדר ט"ו בשבט



2021
תשפ"א

The Celebration of Tu Bishvat

Celebrating Tu Bishvat the way we do is a relatively new concept.

With origins of the seder dating back to only the 1600s, Tu Bishvat is now celebrated as a holiday of Eretz Yisrael. By saying blessings and partaking in many kinds of fruits, specifically the Shivat Haminim, we have the opportunity to thank Hashem for the wonder of renewed life, reawaken our own physical and spiritual connections to the land, and to express gratitude for returning us to our homeland.

ארבעה ראשי שנים הם

באחד בניסן ראש השנה למלכים ולרגלים.
באחד באלול ראש השנה למעשר בהמה. רבי אלעזר ורבי שמעון אומרים, באחד בתשרי. באחד בתשרי ראש השנה לשנים ולשמיטין וליובלות, לנטיעה ולירקות.
באחד בשבט, ראש השנה לאילן, כדברי בית שמאי. בית הלל אומרים, בחמשה עשר בו.
(ראש השנה, פרק א, משנה א)

There are four Roshei Shana

"The first of Nisan is the Rosh HaShanah for kings and holidays.

The first of Elul is the Rosh HaShanah for tithing animals. Rabbi Elazar and Rabbi Shimon said, "The first of Tishray [is the Rosh HaShanah for tithing animals].

The first of Tishray is the Rosh HaShanah for years, Shemitah, Yovel, for planting and for vegetables.

The first of Shvat is the Rosh HaShanah for trees, according to Beit Shamai. Beit Hillel says it is on the fifteenth [of the month]."

(Rosh HaShanah chapter 1, Mishnah 1)

שירת העשבים

Written and composed by Naomi Shemer
Based on the works of Rabbi Nachman

Know that
each and every shepherd
has his own unique melody.
Know that
each and every blade of grass
has its own unique song,
And from the song of the grasses
we will create the shepherd's
melody

How beautiful,
how beautiful and lovely
it is to hear their music.
It is great
to pray among them,
serving God in joy
And from the song of the grasses
The heart fills up and yearns

As the heart
awakes from the grasses' song
And yearns for Eretz Yisrael
A great light
is drawn toward it
from the holiness of the land
And from the song of the grasses
We will create the melody
Of the heart

דע לך
שכל רועה ורועה
יש לו ניגון מיוחד משלו
דע לך
שכל עשב ועשב
יש לו שירה מיוחדת משלו
ומשירת העשבים
נעשה ניגון של רועה
כמה יפה
כמה יפה ונאה
כששומעים השירה שלהם
טוב מאוד
להתפלל ביניהם
וביראה לעבוד את השם
ומשירת העשבים
מתמלא הלב ומשתוקק
וכשהלב
מן השירה מתעורר
ומשתוקק אל ארץ ישראל
אור גדול
אזי נמשך והולך
מקדושתה של הארץ עליו
ומשירת העשבים
נעשה ניגון
של הלב

Avraham Fried Version



Naomi Shemer Original



Wheat and Barley are both tied together by one Mitzvah: Sefirat HaOmer.

Sefirat HaOmer ties the Korban Omer given on the second day of Pesach (consisting of barley) and the Shtei Halechem (consisting of bread made from wheat) given on Shavuot. While one could explain the difference of the korbanot based on harvest periods - Barley is harvested around Pesach and wheat are Shavuot - our sages have taught us a different lesson. The Gemara in Sota refers to barley as "food of animals," whereas the wheat is for humans. Many of our Sages and commentators explain the process of Sefirat HaOmer as a development process from our simple, animal-like needs and actions, to fulfilling our designation as humans and specifically as Jews, with the capability of speaking, recognizing Hashem's dominion, learning Torah and doing Mitzvot, and taking part in the continued creation of the world, by fulfilling Hashem's purpose of creating us - (לעבדה ולשמרה (בראשית ב:טו) - To work [toil] and protect the world.

Mezonot Wheat & Barley ארץ חיטה ושעורה

Take a cookie or cracker and make the Bracha

"בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא מִיְּבֵי מְזוֹנוֹת"



Did you know?

- Aaron Aaronson, Agronomist and founder of the NILI spy organization, discovered Israel's wild wheat (referred to as mother-wheat) thereby establishing what type of wheat would grow best in Eretz Yisrael.
- Israel recently started a project called "Eretz Chita" where they are encouraging more and more people to plant traditional wheat varieties that have been developed over the years in the Land of Israel, as opposed to modern varieties cultivated to produce a higher yield and quantity.

On the Map

- The mother-wheat was found near Rosh Pina, a city next to Tzfat. Rosh Pina was started in 1882 by Romanian immigrants, after a previously failed attempt to build a Jewish agricultural settlement further down the valley in 1878. The name was inspired by the pasuk: אֶבֶן מַאֲסֵה הַבּוֹנִים הִתֵּה לְרֹאשׁ פִּנָּה (תהילים קי"ח:כ"ב) The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.



Hagefen

Grapes גפן

Pour some wine or grape juice and make the bracha:

"בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגֶּפֶן"



Did you know?

- Grapes are the fruit with the highest concentration of sugar
- While definitely known for its ancient wine history, Israel is also a rising star in the modern day world wine industry, winning awards at worldwide competitions, and spurring a lot of interest in wine connoisseurs all over the world.

On the Map

- The Israeli wine industry was started by Baron Edmund Rothschild, who provided funding for growing grapes to young agricultural settlements starting from 1882. Perhaps the most well known of those settlements is Zichron Yaakov. Although considered as the birthplace of the modern Israeli wine industry, wine grapes are now grown everywhere in Israel, from the Golan and upper Galil, all the way down to the Negev desert.



"Why is Israel compared to a vine? Because just as in the case of a vine, when its owners seek to improve it,

what do they do? They uproot it from its place and plant it elsewhere, and then indeed it flourishes. Similarly, when G-d intended to make Israel's known throughout the world, what did he do? He uprooted them from Egypt and brought them into the wilderness, where they began to improve. They received the Torah, and their reputation spread throughout the world." (Midrash Rabba Shmot)

In order for the grapevine to reach its full potential, it needs to be placed in the right environment. Bnei Yisrael needed to be moved to the desert, where they will be able to receive the Torah, and develop as a nation. But even then Am Yisrael was not able to reach its full potential, and therefore Hashem took us to Eretz Yisrael.

Olive

זית

Take an olive and make a Beracha over it. Before reciting the Beracha, have in mind that this Beracha is being recited for all the other tree fruits you will eat at the celebration. If you do not eat olives and will only be eating a different fruit, remember to recite the Beracha before eating that fruit:

”בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ”



On the Map

- The Gemara in Menachot refers to the olive oil produced in Tekoa as the finest in the land, and it was from there that they brought the oil to the Beit Hamikdash for the Korbanot. Tekoa of the Galil is identified as an ancient village on the slopes of Mt. Meron where Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai had a Beit Midrash. Considered as a satellite community of Meron itself, it would offer an additional explanation of Rashbi being buried on Har Meron.



“Why is Israel likened to an olive-tree?”

To tell you that just as the olive produces its oil only after being pounded, so Israel returns to the right way only after suffering. (Talmud - Menachot 53b)

Everybody makes mistakes, and everyone may make an incorrect decision from time to time. What this Gemara is teaching us is that through the process of sinning and the ensuing punishments, there is a pure and refined product that may be achieved. We don't see our shortcoming and downfalls, as a one-off, but rather as part of a process to becoming better each day.

Can you recall a time when you were “pounded” (made a mistake) but you were able to produce fine oil (corrected your ways)?

Did you know?

- Most of the oil that is contained in the olive is actually in the pit, which is why, unlike any other fruit, when you extract the liquid out of it, you need to crush the pit as well.

“There is no waste in any part of the date-palm.”

The dates are eaten, the branches are used for Hallel, the twigs for schach (Sukkot), the bast for ropes. The leaves are used for besoms, and the planed boards for ceiling rooms. So, it is with Israel that none are worthless in Am Israel. (Midrash Rabba, Genesis 12,1)

Did you know?

- Dates from the Judean desert were a known and valued delicacy in the whole Roman empire. Recently, scientists have been able to regrow the ancient date palm species from 2000 year old seeds found in ancient ruins in the Judean desert. This past summer 2020, those scientists were able to taste the first fruits of one of the “ancient” trees.

Date

תמר

The dates are eaten, the branches are used for Hallel, the twigs for schach (Sukkot), the bast for ropes.



On the Map

- The center of ancient date production in Eretz Yisrael was Ein Gedi, which is also famous for another extremely valuable commodity in the Roman Empire - Afarsimon oil. Mentioned in Tanach as one of Yehuda's border cities, Ein Gedi is not only the site of beautiful nature, freshwater springs, and breathtaking hikes, but also home to an ancient synagogue with an impressive mosaic floor.



“Why was the Torah likened to a fig-tree?”

Because, while the fruit of most other trees- the olive-tree, the vine, and the date-tree- is gathered all at once, that of the fig-tree is gathered little by little and it is the same with the Torah. One gathers a little learning today and much tomorrow, for it cannot be learned in one year nor in two years.”
(Midrash Rabba, Numbers)

Did you know?

- Unlike all other trees, fig trees don't produce visible flowers to grow their fruit. The flower itself is inside the fruit that grows and fertilizes itself.

Fig

תאנה

Unlike all other trees, fig trees don't produce visible flowers to grow their fruit.



On the Map

- Between Mevasseret and Tzuba lies a beautiful park and hiking area with trails, views, and ancient agricultural landscapes called the Sataf. At the heart of this scenic paradise lies two springs, one of them named Ein Bikura. The spring carries the preceding Arab name of Bikura, which, similarly to Hebrew, means ripening of the fig fruit.



Pomegranate

רימון

“Your temples are like a split pomegranate” (Song of Songs 4:3). As the Gemara previously interpreted homiletically: What is the meaning of the word “Your temples [rakatekh]”? Even the most ignorant [reikanin] among you, Israel, are full of mitzvot like a pomegranate.” (ברכות נ"ז)

Have you ever judged someone?

by one or two things that they have done? Or by their outside appearance? This Gemara teaches us that even those who appear to not have any merit are still full. Just as you would never expect to see so many beautiful seeds inside the pomegranate until you open it, so too we need to look inside of those around us, and realize all the beautiful merits that they have.



Did you know?

- The Pomegranate is a common Jewish symbol found on many items, both ancient artifacts and new art, which symbolizes prosperity, fertility, righteousness, and wisdom. For example, the Kohen Gadol coat had pomegranates on it, and an ivory pomegranate was found near Har Bayit bearing the inscription “לביית ה' קודש כהנים” and dating back to the first Beit Hamikdash. It's on display in the Israel Museum.

On the Map

- During one of the heroic moments of battle against the Plishtim, Yonatan and his weapons-bearer sneak between the cliffs of Nachal Michmash to approach the Plishti camps. While this is happening Shaul is sitting “under the pomegranate [tree]” in Migron. While we do not know exactly where ancient Migron is today, the presumption is that it's in the general vicinity of where the modern day Migron is located, right below the Psagot Winery.



Almonds

שקד

Almonds are botanically not considered nuts

The almond tree is quickest to sprout

(the first tree to blossom in spring) (*Rashi*). The staffs produced almonds that have a double meaning of diligence and haste. So Aaron was quick to run into the midst of the people to stop the plague. Also, when Moshe was meeting HaShem at the burning bush, God said, "Behold, he comes to meet you, He sees you and rejoices in his heart." Behold has a meaning of eagerness. Everything a person does eagerly, he certainly enjoys doing. So Aaron went joyfully to meet his younger brother Moshe and didn't feel jealous of Moshe's position of leadership. Because of Aaron's eagerness, he was given the leadership of priesthood. (*Kli Yakar*)



Hashkediya

The almond tree is blooming,
A golden sun is shining;
Birds from every rooftop
Notify of the coming holiday
Tu BiShvat is here
-Holiday of the trees!

השקדיה פורחת,
ושמש פז זורחת.
צפרים מראש כל גג
מבשרות את בוא החג:

ט"ו בשבט הגיע - חג
האילנות!
ט"ו בשבט הגיע - חג
האילנות

Did you know?

- Almonds are botanically not considered nuts, but rather related to the stone fruit family of cherries, plums, peaches, etc.

On the Map

- Created as a Moshav in 1957, Shokeda was built for olim from North Africa in the Northern Negev, near Gaza. Similar to the explanation that almonds represents hastiness and eagerness, this name represent that hasty and eagerness of olim to return home to Eretz Yisrael, and also reflects the eagerness of the Kalaniot - red anemones, to bloom right around Tu Bishvat each year, blanketing the landscape with full red flowers.



HaAdama & Shehakol

In many Tu Bishvat Seders, it is customary to recite all the different brachot

Here are a couple suggestions for Pri HaAdama and SheHakol:

- Celebrate Israeli agricultural pioneering with cherry tomatoes
- A fresh Israeli salad never disappoints - just chop up some cucumbers and tomatoes (onion optional), and dress with olive oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper

- Peanuts - nothing too Israeli about them, but they like to eat them...

- ... or Bamba?

- Try a nice cold 'Beera Shchora' or malt/black beer, an Israeli favorite drink made with malt; give barley a nod of appreciation for a chilled SheHakol.

- Or perhaps make a tribute to the famous Jaffa oranges, once served on the Queen of England's table with some orange juice

”בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה”

”בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַכֹּל נִהְיָ בְּדַבְּרוֹ”

“Master of the Universe,

may it be my custom to go
outdoors each day
among the trees and grass -
among all growing things and
there may I be alone, and enter
into prayer,
to talk with the One to whom I
belong.

May I express there everything in
my heart, and may all the foliage
of the field -

all grasses, trees, and plants -
awake at my coming,
to send the powers of their life
into the words of my prayer so
that my prayer and speech are
made whole
through the life and spirit of all
growing things,

which are made as one by their
transcendent Source. May I then
pour out the words of my heart
before your Presence like water,
O L-rd, and lift up my hands to You
in worship, on my behalf, and that
of my children!”

Prayer of Outdoor Meditation

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov

In Conclusion

May It Be

Your will, O God of our mothers and fathers, that through our eating of the fruits, which we have blessed, that the trees will be filled with the glory of their ability to renew themselves, to blossom and grow, from the beginning of the year to its end. May our lives, as well, be renewed and filled with goodness, blessings, and peace.

Leshana Tova
Umevoretchet
May the year be fruitful
and blessed!

Leshana Tova
B'Yerushalayim
Habnuya
Next year in rebuilt
Jerusalem!

"When you look out at the world around you, you are looking at God; and He is looking back at you."

(Reb Kalonymus
Kalman Shapiro)

ברוך אתה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

על פירות משבעת המינים
על הגפן ועל פרי הגפן
על העץ ועל פרי העץ
על חמשת מיני דגן
על המחיה ועל הכלכלה

ועל תנובת השדה ועל ארץ חמדה טובה ורחבה שרצית והנחלת לאבותינו
לאכול מפריה ולשבוע מטובה. רחם (נא) אֱלֹהֵינוּ על ישראל עמך ועל
ירושלים עירך ועל ציון משכן כבודך ועל מזבחך ועל היכלך ובנה ירושלים
עיר הקדש במהרה בימינו והעלנו לתוכה ושמחנו בבנינה ונאכל מפריה
ונשבוע מטובה ונברכך עליה בקדשה ובטהרה

בשבת: ורצה והחליצנו ביום השבת הזה
בר"ח: וזכרנו לטובה ביום ראש החדש הזה
בר"ה: וזכרנו לטובה ביום הזכרון הזה
ביו"ט: ושמחנו ביום חג (פלוגי) הזה

כי אתה אֱלֹהֵינוּ טוב ומטיב לכל ונודה לך על הארץ

על פירות משבעת המינים
ועל המחיה
על של א"י
ועל מחיתה
על היין
ועל פרי הגפן
על של א"י
ועל פרי גפנה
על חמשת מיני דגן
ועל הפרות
על של א"י
ועל פרותיה

ברוך אתה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

על פירות משבעת המינים
ועל המחיה
על של א"י
ועל מחיתה
על היין
ועל פרי הגפן
על של א"י
ועל פרי גפנה
על חמשת מיני דגן
ועל הפרות
על של א"י
ועל פרותיה

ברוך אתה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בורא נפשות רבות וחסרונן על כל מה
שבראת להחיות בהם נפש כל חי, ברוך ח' העולמים



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