

TU B'SHEVAT

in a nutshell

When: 15th of Shevat
February 10th, 2019

WHAT IS IT?

Tu b'Shevat Is the New Year for the Trees! Tu b'Shevat marks the time when the trees first start coming into bloom and producing fruits.

WHEN 1 NEW YEARS PARTY WASN'T ENOUGH...

There are 4 New Years:

- 1) Pesach - New Year for the Calendar
- 2) Rosh Chodesh Elul - New Year for Animals
- 3) Rosh Hashana - New Year for the World
- 4) Tu B'Shvat - New Year for the Trees

WHAT DO WE DO?

On this day it is customary to partake of the fruit with which the Holy Land is praised (Deuteronomy 8:8): olives, dates, grapes, figs and pomegranates. If tasting any of these fruit for the first time this season, remember to recite the Shehecheyanu blessing, which is a blessing recited on joyous occasions, thanking G-d for "sustaining us and enabling us to reach this occasion." This blessing is recited before the standard "Ha'etz" blessing recited on fruit.

(source: Chabad.org)

ברוך אתה יי א-ל-הינו מלך העולם בורא פרי העץ

Baruch atah A-donay, Elo-heinu Melech Ha'Olam borei pri ha-aitz.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.

POTENTIAL, POTENTIAL, POTENTIAL

Tu b'Shevat falls out in the middle of the winter, when there are no fruit on the trees. So why do we celebrate the trees now? Because it is at this point when the sap starts flowing. It is that sap which will lead to the fruits which the trees will bear. By eating fruits on this holiday, we're celebrating the potential of the tree to produce fruits. Since man is compared to a tree, we're also very much celebrating our own potential. Tu b'Shevat is a time for us to evaluate our potential, and figure out the best ways for us to bring it all out!

WHY DO WE CARE?

The agricultural cycle is a seven year cycle, and each new year of the cycle begins on Tu b'Shevat.

When the Temples stood, specific tithes were taken depending on the year of the cycle they were in. Thus, it was important to know when the year began so they could know what year of the cycle they were in,