

Tu BiSh'vat Seder



Central Synagogue May Family Nursery School

Song: "We're Building a Better World"

Adapted from Peter and Ellen Allard

*We're building a better world
We're building a better world
We're building a better world
One tree at a time.*

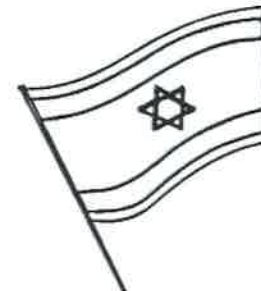
Chorus:

*And the world goes round and round,
the world goes round and round and round.
And the world goes round and round,
the world goes round and round and round.*



We begin our special Tu BiShv'at Seder by asking
Four Questions:

1. Other New Year celebrations honor calendars or people. Why does this New Year celebration honor trees?
2. On other days, we eat many kinds of foods. Why today do we especially eat fruits that grow in Israel?
3. On other days, we might take trees and fruit for granted. Why today do we think about sharing and protecting plants?
4. Here in New York and in many parts of the world, it is wintry and cold. Why today do we speak of planting?



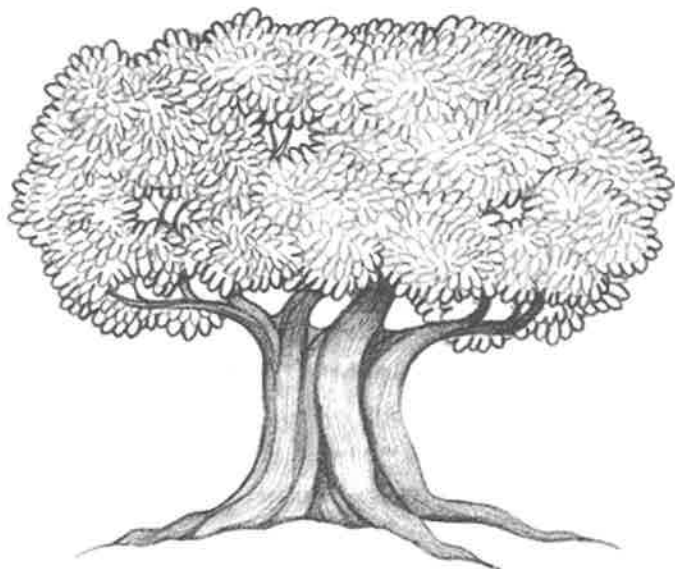
We have come together to celebrate Tu BiShv'at, the birthday and new year of the trees.

From long ago until today, trees have been very important to Jews in Israel, especially fruit trees.

Sing: "I'm a Tree"

*I'm a tree, I'm a tree, and I'm growing very tall
I'm a tree can't you see me shake my leaves (shake)
I'm a tree, I'm a tree underneath the sunshine wall
And I give a voice to the wind (whoosh!)*

*...And I give a home to the birds (chirp chirp chirp)
...And I give shade to the world*



All winter long the fruit trees rested, their branches bare. But with the beginning of the month of Sh'vat, as spring begins in Israel, the waters deep in the earth are warmed by the heat of the sun and the trees drink up the water through their roots, waking up to life.

The fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat is a day of rejoicing and celebrating trees.

Sing: "Tree Song"

*Well I have a friend,
Who comforts me.
I'm a kid,
And he's a tree.*

We grow, and grow, and grow. (x2)

*Tu-tu-tu-tu-
tu-tu-tu-tu-
tu-tu-tu-tu-
tu-tu-tu-tu-
tu-tu-tu-tu-Tu B'Shvat!*

Tree, Eitz, Tree, Eitz, Tree, Eitz, Tu B'Shvat!

*On my birthday,
We eat a lot.
On his birthday,
It's Tu B'Shvat!*

(Chorus)

First Cup of Juice and Taste of Fruit

Our first cup of juice is white.
White like the naked branches
of the trees in winter.
White like the winter snow.
White like some of spring's earliest flowers.



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן
Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Borei p'ri hagafen.

Praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of
the fruit of the vine.

Next, we taste a bite of fruit with a hard skin and an
edible inside. What hard things come from trees?

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ
Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Borei p'ri ha'etz.

Praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of
the fruit of the tree.

Sing: Plant a Tree

*I will plant a tree on Tu BiShv'at,
Maybe apples, maybe apricot.*

*I will dig, dig, dig in a sunny spot,
And I hope the rain will rain a lot.*

Repeat

Second Cup of Juice and Taste of Fruit

In Israel, pink and white flowers
begin to dot the trees.
Green grass grows.
Spring is beginning.



We lift our glass of white juice and add a drop of red
juice, making pink juice.

Pink is the color of the almond blossom, the first tree to
bloom in Israel.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן
Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Borei p'ri hagafen.

Praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of
the fruit of the vine.

We taste more fruit, this time with an edible outside and
a hard pit inside. What fruits have seeds or pits inside?

Before we eat, we say

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ
Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Borei p'ri ha'etz.

Praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of
the fruit of the tree.

Sing the adaptation of "Green Grass Grows All Around"

*There was a hole (There was a hole)
All in the wood (All in the wood)
The prettiest little hole (The prettiest little hole)
That you ever did see (That you ever did see)*

*And the hole in the ground
And the green grass grows all around all around
And the green grass grows all around.*

*And in that hole (And in that hole)
There was an eitz (There was an eitz)
The prettiest eitz (The prettiest eitz)
That you ever did see (That you ever did see)*

*Oh, the eitz in the hole
And the hole in the ground
And the green grass grows all around, all around
And the green grass grows all around*

*And on that eitz (And on that eitz)
There was an anaf (There was an anaf)
The prettiest anaf (The prettiest anaf)
That you ever did see (That you ever did see)*

*Oh, the anaf on the eitz,
And the eitz in a hole,
And the hole in the ground
And the green grass grows all around, all around
And the green grass grows all around.*

Third Cup of Juice and Taste of Fruit



Spring turns into summer.
See the deep pink color of this third cup of juice. We add more red juice to the white juice. Pink as the bright carnation that blossoms after Tu BiShv'at.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן
Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Borei p'ri hagafen.

Praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Next, we'll taste sweet fruit, that is edible inside and out. The sweet fruit reminds us of sweet gifts from trees. Sometimes, we have to wait a long time for a tree's fruit, but the gifts are worth the wait. What sweet or soft things come from trees?

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ
Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Borei p'ri ha'etz.

Praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the tree.

Sing: Plant a Tree for Tu BiShv'at

By Debbie Friedman

Let's dig a hole;
Let's dig a hole and plant a seed.
Let's water it, oh, let's water it
'Cause it is Tu BiShv'at.

Look at the sprouts;
Look at the sprouts, they're coming up.
Let's water them, oh, let's water them
'Cause it is Tu BiShv'at.

Chorus (2x):
Trees are blowing in the wind, they're blowing;
Trees are blowing in the wind (whoosh!)



Look at the leaves;
Look at the leaves, they're growing now.
Let's water them, oh, let's water them
'Cause it is Tu BiShv'at.

Look at the trunk;
The trunk is so much bigger now.
Let's water it, oh, let's water it
'Cause it is Tu BiShv'at.

CHORUS (2x)

Fourth Cup of Juice and Taste of Fruit



Our fourth cup of juice is dark red,
like the leaves on the trees in the fall.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן
Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Borei p'ri hagafen.

Praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of
the fruit of the vine.

Next, we'll taste our last pieces of fruit. Try them all and
see which you like the best.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ
Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Borei p'ri ha'etz.

Praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of
the fruit of the tree.



To plant a tree is to plant our belief in the gifts of God.
We celebrate the birthday of trees as a wish for a better
world.

Sing: "Happy Birthday" to the trees
Tell the story of "Honi and the Carob Tree"