

# CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

Volume 7 | Issue 5 | January 2022 | Tevet/Shevat 5782

## Congregation Sons of Zion

378 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
Phone: (413) 534-3369

Email:

[office@sonsofzionholyoke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoke.org)

Website:

[www.sonsofzionholyoke.org](http://www.sonsofzionholyoke.org)

## Inside This Issue:

Message from the Rabbi.....	2-3
January Calendar.....	4
Dates to Remember.....	5
Help us Restore the Garden.....	6
SOZ Book Club/YouTube Instructions.....	7
Help Needed with our Social Media.....	8
Sustaining Members.....	9
Legacy Society.....	10
Donations.....	11
Yahrzeits.....	12
Pictures .....	13-14
Ads from our Sponsors.....	15



## About the Month of Shevat

Tu B'Shevat gets its name from the calendar- Tu is 15-thus, the 15th day of Shevat. We celebrate *the New Year of the Trees* with a seder featuring a feast of fruits and nuts and wine. Eating and drinking in a specific order while reciting blessings, singing and dancing. We celebrate ecological awareness!



## Message from the Rabbi

I'm writing this article on the new moon, the first day (Rosh Hodesh) of the month of Shvat on the Jewish calendar. In just about two weeks, on the full moon, we will celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shvat - The Fifteenth of Shvat. That's its official name, but just like the Fourth of July is the name of the holiday we refer to as Independence Day, Tu b'Shvat is also known as The New Year of the Trees.

Why were our ancestors initially concerned about a new year for trees? Basically for tax purposes.

"Each year one-tenth of the increase of the earth - one tenth of the fruit of a tree (and of other things that grew from the earth)...was brought to the Temple to be offered to God and given to priests and the poor for eating. That tradition seems simple at first glance - but what is a 'year'? Fruit from one year could not be used to tithe for another year..."

"Fruit that appeared after the 'new year' day could not be used to pay the tithe for a crop of fruit that had appeared before that day, and vice versa." Following the House of Hillel, the Rabbis agreed that the first day of the new year for the growth of fruit would be the fifteenth of Shvat, "the full moon of deepest, wettest winter...possibly half a year before the appearance of the fruit on which the tithe was to be taken."

The dates for our secular income tax year and fiscal years are basically arbitrary, with no connection to the natural world. By contrast, the tithe (the one tenth part of the produce given for taxes to benefit the landless Levites and the poor: the foreigner, the widow, and the orphan) was intrinsically connected with the yearly cycle of growth and yield of the harvest of fruit trees.

When we pay our secular income tax, we just write a check. We do not usually consider it a religious act. But our ancestors brought the tithe from that which grows from the earth to the Temple and made a declaration which includes this part that sounds, in contrast, very much like a prayer. They asked God to "look down from Your holy abode, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the soil You have given us, a land flowing with milk and honey, as you swore to our forebears."

We affirm that our abundant fruit and other produce is dependent upon God, the Source of the rain, sun, and soil, that makes it all possible. And those who may be fortunate enough to be landholders acknowledge that dependence and express their gratitude by bringing a tenth part of that abundance annually to the Temple to share with landless Levites and poor.

Tu B'Shvat as a day marking the beginning of a new yearly cycle for measuring tree-born produce in the land of Israel that was to be brought to the Temple with gratitude to be shared with landless Levites and the poor came to a disastrous end in 70 C.E. That was the year the Romans destroyed the Temple and Jewish independence ceased in the land of Israel. "Tu B'Shvat, which had been so closely tied to growing trees and Temple tithing...remained only a little more than a memory. No tithes were being taken, and the community had scattered into many lands. No longer was there a sense that the rain and sun and fruitfulness of a single land would be shaped by the actions of a single people."

At this calamitous moment in Jewish history when the Temple, the focal point to which the Tu B'Shvat tithe

## Message from the Rabbi (Continued)

had been brought, lay in ruins, it might well have been expected that Tu B'Shvat would have become irrelevant and abandoned. It was also a time that the traumatized and newly dispersed Jewish people who had observed it, might have ceased to exist as a community and a religion.

Thankfully, quite the contrary happened. Our people overcame this disaster – and many other challenges throughout our history -- and brought new meaning to this former tax date.

The kabbalists of Safed/Tsfat developed new spiritual and mystical dimensions to the holiday, linking the tree as a symbol of the divine energy that flows from heaven to sustain all life. They created the Tu B'Shvat seder that “not only was the one ceremonial meal in all of Jewish practice that was defined as vegan/vegetarian – using no product of any animal –but it included only those fruits of the earth that required the death of not even a plant...Nuts and fruits are exactly what trees toss out into the world in far greater profusion than necessary to reproduce themselves and at no danger to their own lives.”

Later the Zionist movement revived the Tu B'Shvat connection with nature and our people's roots in the land. They focused on “renewing the relationship between individual Jews, the Jewish people, and the very earth itself of the Land of Israel. Many...saw this relationship as the heart of a Jewish spirituality that had been damaged and distorted by millennia spent separated from the land...from its very soil and soul.

“Planting trees became both the practical means and the symbolic representation of planting Jewish communities in the Land of Israel...Perhaps in part influenced by Arbor Day, which was then current in America and which had been copied elsewhere in the world, the settlers began to have their children plant trees on the fifteenth of Shvat.”

In our own day as we face real concerns about the survival of life on planet Earth, Tu B'Shvat has taken on renewed significance as a focal point for environmental and climate healing. Trees, Earth, and Torah points out that Tu B'Shvat comes both at the most precarious moment in the year, in deep in winter, “when trees and other vegetation must struggle to begin again,” and also “in a dark moment of earth's history, when the web of life is for the first time endangered by one of its own species – the human race itself...[Tu B'Shvat today] may be an especially appropriate moment to commit ourselves to renew the flow of nature's life in our own generation.”

Tu B'Shvat has clearly come a long way from its beginning as a marker of a new period for taxing the annual produce of trees. The holiday itself embodies the resiliency of our people to face adversity, to adapt, and flourish. We continue to derive renewed understandings and meaning from this New Year of the Trees.

Rooted in tradition, developed over the centuries, Tu B'Shvat once again is proving to be a deep source of strength, hope, and inspiration at this difficult and challenging time.

Join us on zoom on Sunday, January 16, erev Tu B'Shvat, for a seder in celebration of the New Year of the Trees, of the spirit of our people, of gratitude for the God-given gifts of nature, and of hope and healing for the precious planet that we share.

*Rabbi Saul Perlmutter*

Quotes in this article are taken from Trees, Earth, And Torah – A Tu B'Shvat Anthology, edited by Ari Elon, Naomi Mara Hyman, and Arthur Waskow.

Tevet/Shevat  
5782

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 22 Tevet	27 23 Tevet Minyan Cancelled	28 24 Tevet	29 25 Tevet Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	30 26 Tevet	31 27 Tevet  New Year's Eve	1 28 Tevet Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Happy Secular New Year Va-Era
2 29 Tevet	3 1 Shevat Minyan Cancelled  Rosh Chodesh Shevat	4 2 Shevat Virtual Tour of the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, Russia: 11 AM (Zoom)  Jews Around the World, 7 PM (Zoom)	5 3 Shevat Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	6 4 Shevat	7 5 Shevat	8 6 Shevat Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Bo
9 7 Shevat	10 8 Shevat Minyan Cancelled	11 9 Shevat Virtual Tour of Jewish Moscow, 11 AM (Zoom)	12 10 Shevat Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)  SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30 pm (Zoom)	13 11 Shevat	14 12 Shevat	15 13 Shevat Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Be-Shallach
16 14 Shevat SOZ Book Club, 10:30 am (Zoom) Tu B'Shevat Seder, 5:30 PM (Zoom)	17 15 Shevat Minyan Cancelled  Tu B'Shevat Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18 16 Shevat	19 17 Shevat Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	20 18 Shevat	21 19 Shevat	22 20 Shevat Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Yitro
23 21 Shevat	24 22 Shevat Minyan Cancelled	25 23 Shevat	26 24 Shevat Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	27 25 Shevat	28 26 Shevat	29 27 Shevat Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Mishpatim
30 28 Shevat	31 29 Shevat Minyan Cancelled					

\*(Zoom) and cancelled Monday minyanim assume that COVID-19 restrictions continue.



# DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 AM (Zoom)

*Happy Secular New Year*

Monday, January 3, 2022

*Rosh Chodesh Shevat*

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Virtual Tour of The Hermitage  
Museum in St Petersburg, Russia,  
11 AM (Zoom)

Jews Around the World,  
7 PM (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Ma'ariv Minyan (Zoom): 5  
PM Schmooze, 5:15 PM Service

Saturday, January 8, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 AM (Zoom)

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Virtual Tour of Jewish Moscow,  
11AM (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Ma'ariv Minyan (Zoom):  
5 PM Schmooze, 5:15 PM Service  
SOZ Board Meeting,  
6:30 PM (Zoom)

Saturday, January 15, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 AM (Zoom)

Monday, January 17, 2022

*Tu B'Shevat*

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

Sunday, January 16, 2022

SOZ Book Club, 10:30 AM (Zoom)

Tu B'Shevat Seder,  
5:30 PM (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Ma'ariv Minyan (Zoom):  
5 PM Schmooze, 5:15 PM Service

Saturday, January 22, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 AM (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Ma'ariv Minyan (Zoom):  
5 PM Schmooze, 5:15 PM Service

Saturday, January 29, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 AM (Zoom)



# Help Restore the SOZ Garden

SOZ used to have a thriving garden of flowers and vegetables in the yard. It is time to bring that back!



A small group of dedicated volunteers has started clearing the vines and tangles from along the perimeters of the SOZ yard. The plan is to continue the work and to hire professionals with the right equipment to complete the job.

We need help raising the funds to make this vision a reality.

Please help by contributing whatever you are able to the SOZ Garden Fund.

Contributions can be mailed to SOZ: 378 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

You can also donate by clicking the button below or by using PayPal on our website. Please add a note stating that the donation is marked to Restore the SOZ Garden.

**Donate Now**

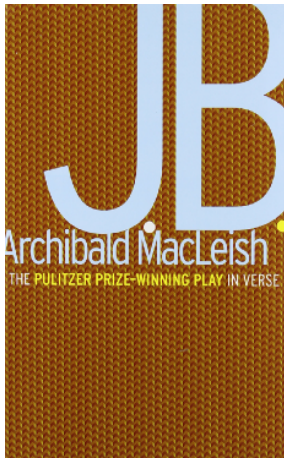
For the convenience of being able to make donations on our website, PayPal takes 2.9% plus 30¢ of your donation as part of their fee. There is an option to help offset the cost of processing. Please consider using this option so that SOZ will receive all of your thoughtful donation.



Congregation Sons of Zion  
378 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

# SOZ BOOK CLUB MEETING

Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am



**J.B.** by Archibald MacLeish

**J.B.** is a 1958 play written in free verse by American playwright and poet Archibald MacLeish, and is a modern retelling of the story of the biblical figure Job – hence the title: J.B./Job. The play went through several incarnations before it was finally published. MacLeish began the work in 1953 as a one-act production, but within three years, had expanded it to a full, three-act manuscript.

## How to Watch SOZ's Past Shabbat Services on YouTube:

*(Zoom services are not recorded)*

Turn on your computer and speakers.

1. Run an internet browser (Internet Explorer or Chrome, for example)
2. Type [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) in the navigation bar and press enter.
3. In YouTube, type [Congregation Sons of Zion](#) (not just "Sons of Zion") in the box that says Search and then click on the magnifying glass or press enter.
4. Click on the video that has a red "Live" button on the bottom right corner. It may take up to 45 seconds for the video to load.

***Services start at 10:00am. Shabbat Shalom!***

## Help Needed with our Social Media

Do you love Facebook/Instagram???

Do you have a few hours a week to help SOZ???

We need help keeping our pages in Facebook and Instagram up to date. Honestly, it is embarrassing. We are reaching out to members and friends. Please call Joan, (413) 535-8679 or email [joanrosner@comcast.net](mailto:joanrosner@comcast.net) if you can help.

Thanks for considering our request.

Kol tuv (Be Well),

Joan





## A Special Thank You to Our Sustaining Members

Andrew Barowsky  
Ned and Cindy Barowsky  
Richard and Ellen Freyman  
Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki  
Norman and Marion Halpern  
Alfred and Lee Hutt  
Stephen and Lois Levin  
Buddy and Margie Resnic  
Michael and Joan Rosner  
William and Joanne Saltman

*Please consider joining our generous Sustaining  
Members...at any time!*

## Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society

### ☆ Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society ☆

The following congregants have made arrangements in their wills to leave a bequest to Congregation Sons of Zion and/or have named Congregation Sons of Zion as a beneficiary in their life insurance policy and/or have established a tax-deductible fund for the synagogue, retaining a lifetime income from the fund.

Anonymous (4)	Aaron & Gail Lansky
Elaine Baskin	Stephen & Lois Levin
Irene Bernstein*	Stephen & Joan Levine
Joseph Boucher	Sidney* & Elizabeth* Paul
David & Nancy Carmen	Burton & Marjorie Resnic
Louise Citron	Michael & Joan Rosner
James Eisenstock*	William Robbins* & Mollie Blatt*
Andrea Fox	Ellen Saltman*
Richard & Ellen Freyman	Paul Saltman
Albert Goldberg*	William & Joanne Saltman
Herbert* & Barbara* Goldberg	Elihu & Joan Schepps
Debra Goldberg and Seth Waxman	Nitza Seaver
Rose Gorin*	Charles Weinstein
Janet & Richard Greenfield	Frances Welson & Thomas Osborn*
Rachel Henderson	Sherwin & Rhoda Wernick
Alfred & Lee Hutt	Thomas & Eleanor Wilson
Ira Laby	*Deceased

Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society has participated in Create a Jewish Legacy of Western Massachusetts, which is jointly funded by the Jewish Endowment Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The Federations of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshires are program partners.

For further information about supporting Congregation Sons of Zion through a legacy or planned gift, please contact Michael Rosner at [office@sonsofzionholyoake.com](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoake.com) or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.





# Donations: Thank you!



## Building Fund

- ✦ Alfred and Lee Hutt: Year End Match to be used for the building needs

## Cemetery Fund

- ✦ Jay Eisenstock: In memory of his mother, Shirley Eisenstock
- ✦ Jay Eisenstock: In memory of his grandfather, George Eisenstock
- ✦ Rhoda and Oz Wernick: In memory of their mothers, Sarah Lipnick and Bertha Wernick

## Garden Fund

- ✦ Alfred and Lee Hutt: Year End Match to be used for the garden needs

## General Fund

- ✦ Anonymous: Year End Match
- ✦ Anonymous: Year End Match
- ✦ Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's father, Mischa Barowsky
- ✦ Marjorie Bloom: Year End Match
- ✦ Max Chorowski: Year End Match
- ✦ Fred and Elaine Clein: Year End Match
- ✦ Andrea Fox: Year End Match in honor of her birthday
- ✦ Andrea Fox: Year End Match in honor of a special other December Birthday brother
- ✦ Rich and Ellen Freyman: Wishing Deb Levine a speedy recovery
- ✦ Jacob and Lucy Greenburg: Year End Match
- ✦ Jodi Greenspan: In memory of her parents, Sunny and Ed Greenspan
- ✦ Norman and Marion Halpern: Year End Match
- ✦ Barry and Diana Hirsch: Year End Match
- ✦ Alfred and Lee Hutt: Year End Match
- ✦ Steve and Ellen Kappel: Year End Match to be used towards the synagogue's pressing needs
- ✦ Judith Katz: Year End Match
- ✦ Ira Laby: Year End Match
- ✦ Paul Lambert: Year End Match
- ✦ Lois and Steve Levin: In honor of our wonderful SOZ Community
- ✦ Deborah Levine: Year End Match
- ✦ Deborah Levine: With deep gratitude for all of the support, assistance and well wishes during my recent surgery
- ✦ Jarred Morris: General Donation



# Donations: Thank you!



## General Fund

- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Wishing Mady Schorsch a swift and complete recovery
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Wishing Bill Saltman a swift and complete recovery
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Wishing Nitza Seaver a comfortable recovery
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Wishing Lee Hutt good health!
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Wishing the Neddeau Family the best of health
- ✦ William and Joanne Saltman: Year End Match
- ✦ Joan and Elihu Schepps: Year End Match
- ✦ Betsy Tarr: In memory of her brother, Stephen Barowsky
- ✦ Rick Tessler: Year End Match
- ✦ Laura S. Weiss: Year End Match



"Toda" Thank You

## December 2021 Yahrzeits

### **December 26 – January 1: Rich Freyman**

December 27 \*George Eisenstock  
 December 28 \*Martin Bassell  
                   \*Bertha Wernick  
 December 29 Benjamin Tenenbaum  
 December 30 Lena Rubinwitch

### **January 2 – 8: Andrea Fox**

January 3 Adelaide R. Firestone  
                   \*Jerome Jaffe  
                   Samuel Samel  
 January 5 \*Leopold Mausel  
 January 7 \*Clarence Irving Garber  
                   \*Rebecca R. Katz  
 January 8 \*Lenore Kingsberg  
                   \*Elizabeth Orlen

### **January 9 – 15: Ira Laby**

January 10 Isidor Becker  
                   Richard Wernick  
 January 14 \*Samuel Karukin

### **January 16 – 22: Lois Levin**

January 17 \*Samuel Garber  
 January 18 Rebecca Wolfe  
 January 19 Doris Goldberg Selbie  
 January 20 \*Frances Brams Evarts  
 January 22 Harris Cohan

### **January 23 – 29: Steve Levin**

January 24 \*Eda Solomon  
 January 25 \*Edwin A. Os  
                   \*Rae Schepps  
                   \*Michael Shulman  
 January 27 \*Beatrice Kahan

### **January 30 – February 5: Deb Levine**

January 30 \*Sylvia G. Welson  
 February 1 \*Marcia Greenspan Friedman  
 February 2 Theodore Belsky  
                   \*George Rose  
 February 3 \*David Epstein





## 8th Night of Hanukkah at the Rosner's

Provided by Rana Morrissey and Nora Gerard



## 8th Night of Hanukkah at the Rosner's

Provided by Andrea Fox





## Ads from our Sponsors

### ASCHER ZIMMERMAN Funeral Home, Inc.

Funeral Directors: 413-734-5229  
 RYAN S. ASCHER 888-827-2437  
 ROBERT P. ZIMMERMAN

EMAIL: ascherzimmerman@aol.com  
 WEBSITE: ascherzimmerman.com

44 SUMNER AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, 01108



DAVE CARMEN, AIA, NCARB

**CARMEN ASSOCIATES**  
 ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS

MEMBER OF AMERICAN  
 INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

15 MARY LYON DR.  
 GRANBY, MA 01033  
 TEL/FAX (413) 467-9471  
 carmenarch@netscape.net

RESNIC  
 BEAUREGARD  
 WAITE &  
 DRISCOLL

Attorneys At Law

330 WHITNEY AVE.  
 SUITE 400  
 HOLYOKE, MA 01040

BURTON S. RESNIC

413-536-0653 x 104  
 FAX 413-536-4074

email kstdenis@rbwd.com

### EMILY DUMALA

EmilyDumala@SmithMonuments.net

OFFICE: (413) 568-8682

CELL: (413) 374-2692

104 COURT STREET WESTFIELD, MA 01085

SMITHMONUMENTSWESTFIELD.COM

### SOUTH HADLEY DENTAL ASSOC., INC.

MARJORIE S. BLOCK, D.M.D.  
 15 DAYTON STREET  
 SOUTH HADLEY, MA 01075

(413) 536-4455  
 FAX (413) 532-1757

Dr. Steven A. Markow, Optometrist



**Village Eye Care**

7 Hadley Street, South Hadley **536-6100**

*Friendly, relaxed atmosphere*

**Business Card Ads: \$180/Year - Please contact the  
 synagogue office at (413) 534-3369 OR  
 office@sonsofzionholyokey.org**

**There is always room for more!!!**

SOZ activities funded in part by:



**The Jewish Federation**  
 OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
 Serving Hampden, Hampshire & Franklin Counties

**JEWISH ENDOWMENT  
 FOUNDATION**