



# Temple Beth Sholom

January 2013 5773

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

חזק חזק ונתחזק  
Be strong, be strong, and may we be strengthened.



Coming attractions on the Jewish Calendar: **Tu B'Shvat** (The New Year of the Trees), begins **Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** and ends in the evening of **Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**.

In other words: we can celebrate **Tu B'Shvat** together at **Friday Evening Prayers, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm.**

Do you realize that the Jewish People have our choice of New Years?

We celebrate **Rosh HaShana**, the **Jewish New Year**, on the first day of Tishre in the Fall, because the Jewish calendar says to do so.

Apples and honey, the sound of the shofar, family meals, all combine with spending time at the synagogue to remind us that a new year has begun.

But the Jewish People aren't the only human beings on our planet. So we also use the secular calendar, as well as our own, to tell time.

(If you were to put Tevet 12, 5773 at the top of a business letter, not many people would know what to make of it.)

The evening of December 31st marks another New Year's celebration for many of us.

Parties, hats, noise makers and Auld Lang Syne - all part of the celebrations that occur on **New Years Eve**.

In Israel, December 31<sup>st</sup> is called "Silvester", from the Catholic Holiday, Saint Silvester's Day, celebrated on his Yahrtsite.

Not much happens in Israel in the evening on December 31<sup>st</sup> nor during the day on January 1st. Stores, banks and government offices are open (unless it's Shabbat).

Not long after the New Year's champagne glasses are put away, the 15th day of the month of Sh'vat arrives.

This day marks the beginning of another "Jewish New Year".... for Trees!

**Tu B'Shevat** is considered to be the **New Year of the Trees** for the purpose of calculating the age of trees.

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## Our President's Message

A Tree Grows in Havasu.

The Jewish month of Shevat brings us the holiday of Tu B' Shevat. It is a time when we celebrate the season of planting young trees and of new growth of the established trees in Israel. The older trees awake from their winter sleep and begin to sprout new growth. There have been many interpretations of the symbolism of the trees and the state of Israel. I would like to offer one that is relative to the Jewish community in Lake Havasu.

A tree can be representative of a community. The tree has a strong trunk and roots that extend deep into the earth. The tree also has many branches and green leaves that help work to keep the air full of oxygen. The tree also provides shade from the heat of the day and some trees provide fruit to nourish our hunger.

There is a tree in Lake Havasu (Temple Beth Sholom) that is in the process of coming out of its slumber and trying to sprout new growth. The roots of the tree have been supplying the trunk and branches with food for twenty years. The founders planted the seed many years ago with the hope that each generation would supply enough nutrients to sustain its growth. There have been times when the tree could have withered and died, but the Jewish community in Lake Havasu relented to prevent this from happening. We will continue to prevent the tree from withering. It will take a community of committed worshippers to find sources of food to sustain the tree's growth. I believe that we will see new young branches and leaves sprout forth from the tree. We need to commit ourselves to our Jewish community.

Shalom

The Board and congregation of Temple Beth Sholom sends condolences to our brethren in Kingman Arizona, on the death of Rabbi Firestone. May he be remembered among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

## Temple Beth Sholom

**Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum**

### 2012 TBS Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Stuart Flamm</b>	<b>president@tbshavasu.org</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Stan Coffield</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Andrea Coffield</b>	<b>office@tbshavasu.org</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>David Weisby</b>	
<b>Members at large</b>	<b>Linda Dux, Vivien Simon and Jill Fetz</b>	
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Wayne Cohen</b>	

## Tu B'Shvat Recipe

For a very special Tu B'Shvat dish or a signature dessert, cut up the following 15 fresh fruits into a fruit salad.

Why 15? Because Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish Arbor Day, takes place on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat.

After cutting up all the fruit, add a few tablespoons of freshly squeezed orange juice.

Prep Time: 20 minutes    Total Time: 20 minutes

### Ingredients:

green apple	red apple
Orange	tangerine
Clementine	pear
Persimmon	kiwi
Banana	red grapes
Grapefruit	pummelo
Pomegranate	tangerine
canned pineapple	orange juice

### Preparation:

1. Cut up the 15 fruits into a fruit salad.
2. Add a few tablespoons of freshly squeezed orange juice.

### Jewish Daffynitions:

Feelawful (n.) Indigestion from eating Israeli street food, especially falafel.

Dis-kvellified (v.) To drop out of law school, med. School or business school as seen through the eyes of parents, grandparents and Uncle Sid. In extreme cases, simply choosing to major in art history when Irv's son David is majoring in biology is sufficient grounds for diskvellification.

Impasta (n.) A Jew who starts eating leavened foods before the end of Passover.

Kinders Shlep (v.) To transport other kids besides yours in your car.

Schmuckluck (n.) Finding out one's wife became pregnant after one had a vasectomy.

Shofarsogut (n.) The relief you feel when, after many attempts, the shofar is finally blown at the end of Yom Kippur.

Trayffic Accident (n.) An appetizer one finds out has pork

Bubbegum

(n.) Candy one's mother gives to her grandchildren that she never gave to her own children.

## **Our thanks for donations from the following congregants**

Garry Meyers for his continued generous donations  
and to Jill Fetz for the DELICIOUS home baked challahs

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The Torah states that fruit from trees which are grown in the land of Israel may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for God, and, after that, the fruit may be eaten.

Each tree is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B'Shevat, no matter when during the year it was planted.

It is customary to plant trees and partake of the fruits of the land of Israel to mark the occasion.

**Tu B'Shvat:** Yet another New Year!

But wait! What about the first day of the Hebrew month of Nisan?

The Torah states that the month of Nisan is the First Month!  
So the first day of the first month must be Rosh HaShana!!

For centuries, the first of Nisan (2 weeks before Passover) was celebrated as the Sacred New Years, while the Rosh HaShana date we now use used to be the "Secular" Jewish New Year.

The kings of Israel counted their years of reign from the first of Nisan.  
So, nu, which New Years are you going to celebrate?

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

### **Temple Beth Sholom needs your PARTICIPATION**

**If you are aware of unaffiliated families, please invite them to Sabbath services and/or advise the board. Please consider taking a more active part in running your temple.**

**Call, email or let us know at services.**

### **Upcoming services**

Jan 11th at 7:30 PM    Jan 25th at 7:30 PM

***Our Next Board Meeting will be January 10th***

***6:30pm at the Temple.***

***Plan on attending, show your support of TBS***

***Everyone is welcome***

Newsletter editor and webmaster

Stan Coffield