

# TU B'SHVAT



## The Birthday of the Trees!

**Jewish Earth Day** *Tu B'Shvat* (literally, the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat) is the New Year of the Trees or the Birthday of the Trees. *Tu B'Shvat*, a sort of ancient Jewish "Earth Day," reminds us that caring for the earth is a central tenet of Jewish tradition. It is a minor holiday with roots that extend back 2,000 years in Israel when, for tax purposes, it marked the fiscal new year for fruit trees; it later evolved into a celebration of fruit and fruit trees.

*Tu B'Shvat* has become a day to renew our commitments to the land, an opportunity to take on a new responsibility of environmental awareness and make Jewish values a part of our everyday lives through actions like...

- ***Recycling***
- ***Planting***
- ***Picking up trash in our community***
- ***Combining errands to save on gas and walking or riding a bike when possible***
- ***Turning off lights and appliances that aren't in use***
- ***Using environmentally friendly materials***

**Seder** Think a *seder* is only for Passover? It is a word that means "order" and there is a customary order as part of a *Tu B'Shvat* celebration. For some examples of what is included and how to do your own *Tu B'Shvat seder*, we like <http://www.reformjudaism.org/have-tu-bishvat-seder>.

## Still have questions?

For more information about *Tu B'Shvat*, jHUB and interfaith programs or Jewish culture, contact us at [jHUB@jecc.org](mailto:jHUB@jecc.org), 216-371-0446.