



**JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND
USA**

Your Voice in Israel

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January 2022

Kislev 5782

Dear Parents,

Long before there was Earth Day there was Tu BiShvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees, which falls on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat (this year on January 17, 2022) and marks the time when trees begin to drink in the rainfall of the new year. It is a celebration of spring's rebirth and renewal, an appreciation of the interconnectedness of people and nature.

Since its founding, Jewish National Fund-USA has planted more than 260 million trees in Israel to protect the land, prevent soil erosion, green the landscape, and preserve vital ecosystems. JNF-USA's success at planting trees in Israel has resulted in naturally expanded forests.

"Tu BiShvat reminds us that no matter what happens, we all have to share this planet and care for it," said Russell F. Robinson, CEO of Jewish National Fund-USA. "Over the years, Tu BiShvat has taken on the theme of planting trees in Israel, making it JNF-USA's holiday," he added. "Perhaps no other organization is as strongly associated with a holiday as JNF-USA is with Tu BiShvat."

This year, your child's class will be joining classrooms across the country to participate in Jewish National Fund-USA's annual Tu BiShvat Across America program! We at JNF-USA are proud to be part of this celebration with you and your child.

This year's program, "Tu BiShvat Through the Ages," highlights how different Jewish communities have celebrated Tu BiShvat in different times and different places throughout Jewish history. Our students will be able to learn about four different ways of celebrating Tu BiShvat, and determine which of these ideas most closely fits with how they choose to celebrate the holiday. There will also be videos, a poster, and due to the success of our Theodor Herzl Chia Pet last year, we will be including a David Ben-Gurion Chia Pet in which your child will be able to plant parsley seeds for Passover. Please visit jnf.org/tbs2022 for these materials, videos, and additional Tu BiShvat activities and materials.

As always, JNF-USA provides these resources in the hope that families plant trees in Israel. Planting trees helps maintain forest health, combat desertification, protect watersheds, and manage water flow. You can plant a tree to honor a loved one for any occasion, such as birthdays or memorials. Each school or organization that participates in our annual tree competition will be entered for a chance to win multiple prizes! To see what prizes you can win, and to start selling trees, visit the link above.

Thank you for your continued support for Jewish National Fund-USA and for joining us in our vision to ensure a greener Israeli landscape for all of Israel's citizens.

Sincerely,

Daniel Friedman
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