

Bnai Shalom Bulletin

Volume 5 – ISSUE 6

Rabbi Adrienne Rubin
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February, 2025
Shevat – 5785

SERVICES

Friday Shabbat Services
7:30 p.m., February 7 (festive Oneg celebrating
Tu BiSh'vat), 14, 21 and 28

Saturday Shabbat Services
10:00 a.m., February 1 and 15

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ritual Committee Meeting, Tuesday,
February 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 19,
at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CBS Book Club – Sunday, February 2, at
10:30 a.m. (see page 5 for details)

CBS Bingo – Sunday, February 2, at 1:00 p.m.
Doors open at 12:00 p.m. (see page 6 for details)

Dinner with the Rabbi – Friday, February 7
at 6:00 p.m., honoring our newest members.
(see page 3 for details)

Knitting Club Wednesday, February 19
at 10:30 a.m., in the CBS Library

Coffee and Conversation with the Rabbi on
Wednesday, February 19, at 3:00 p.m., in the
CBS Library

Scout Shabbat – Friday, February 28,
at 7:30 p.m. (see page 6 for details)

Tzedakah: The Jewish Approach to Giving.
Thursday evenings: March 6, 20, and
April 3 at 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom
(see page 4 for details)

PJ Library TOT Shabbat at CBS – Friday, March
14, at 3:30 p.m. (see page 4 for details)



A Word From Rabbi Adrienne

Shalom to my Bnai Shalom family!

This month we will observe Tu BiSh'vat, the new year for trees. Why have a new year for trees? The simple reason is that

the Israelites tithing their fruit needed to have a cutoff date in order to know which fruit counts for one year and which counts for the next year, sort of like December 31st being the end of our tax year. But trees have a greater meaning in Jewish tradition. We refer to our Torah as the Tree of Life. Our origin story of the Garden of Eden centers around the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. We are commanded not to destroy the fruit trees during a siege. And we have a long-standing tradition of planting trees in the land of Israel.

Our Talmud tells the story of the wise one, Honi Ham'ageil, Honi the Circle-Maker, so called because in times of draught, he would draw a circle around himself and stay in it, praying, until rain came. One day, he was walking along the road when he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him how many years it would take the tree to bear fruit. The man replied that the tree would not produce fruit until seventy years have passed. Honi then asked whether the man expected to live another seventy years and benefit from the tree he was planting. The man answered that he might not, but since he himself had found a world full of carob trees, trees that were planted for him by his parents and grandparents, so is he planting for his children and grandchildren.

It is cold here in Pennsylvania, but if you are like the man in the story and are inspired to plant a tree for future generations, I encourage you to plant a tree in Israel through JNF. You can do so here: <https://shop.jnf.org/collections/tu-bishvat/>.

Kol Tuv – All good things,
Rabbi Adrienne :)

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