

Congregation OR ZARUA

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2002

Observing Tu B'Shevat

By Ron Meyers

The idea of a new year for the trees is beautiful, but what is the motivation to create a holiday for trees? Tu B'Shevat arose originally to serve the administrative purpose of separating one fiscal year from another with respect to the mandatory tithes that were collected to support the Temple. For the purpose of tithing,

fruits flourishing before Tu B'Shevat would be counted in the prior year, and those gleaned from Tu B'Shevat onward would be counted for the upcoming year. The dividing line was placed in the middle of Shevat since the rainfall in the land of Israel is mostly complete at this point, such that fruits blossoming after this date

would naturally be viewed as belonging to the following year.

Poetic meanings have been layered upon the original practical purposes of the holiday through the ages. The mystical tradition views Tu B'Shevat as the turning point from the darkness of the winter *continued on page 8*

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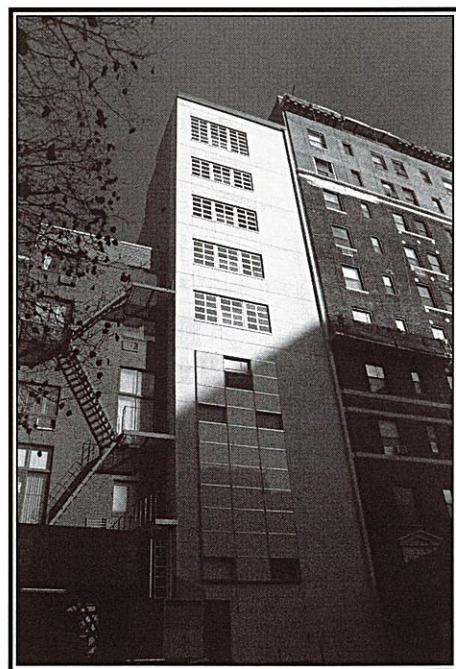
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Welcome Home Festivities

A week's worth of events is planned for March 3-10, to mark the much-awaited opening of our new building on East 82nd Street. In Or Zarua style, it will include study and celebration, dancing and praying, as well as food and drink.

Or Zarua turns thirteen at the end of January, and the opening of the building will provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our bar-mitzvah year. The dedication will be a chance for members to see what we have created, as well as for us to begin to use this beautiful new building.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join in the festivities!



We will celebrate the opening of our new building on East 82nd Street during the week of March 3-10, 2002.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION
**OR
ZARUA**
A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

Office

1384 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10128

phone: 212-410-6041 fax: 212-410-2137

www.orzarua.org

Due to on-going construction at the
synagogue, services are held elsewhere
as noted in this newsletter.

DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi*ALISA ROBBINS DOCTOROFF, *President*JEANETTE BRIZEL, *Newsletter Editor*

HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

By Tahl BenYehuda Saidel

In November, the Hebrew School students listed what they love most about wintertime. Many students mentioned the Thanksgiving feast with family, celebrating Hanukkah, the festival of lights, drinking hot cocoa, and going out on crisp snowy days bundled up in warm coats, boots, and mittens. They talked about skiing, and about taking winter vacations in warm places. We then discussed that all over the world, and in particular, here at home in New York, there are so many people who cannot look forward to even one of those things. The Hebrew School participated in a drive to collect warm hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for MACHSAN, the New York Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty. This clothing drive provided the students with the opportunity to meet the most basic needs of another person, and our students wanted to go even beyond the drive to collect money to give to those less fortunate this holiday season. It is so wonderful that we have such a generous and empathetic group of students.

On December 11th, the Hebrew School held its annual family

Hanukkah celebration. We lit the Hanukkiyah, ate latkes and sufganiyot, sang, danced, opened gifts and played traditional Hanukkah games. The Parents' Association was invaluable in organizing and hosting this party.

January 28th is Tu B'Shevat, and the Hebrew School will hold a special seder on Tuesday, the 29th. Parents are invited to attend this seder, and you will hear more about this in a mailing in early January. Our school will also be holding a JNF tree drive. Please call the Hebrew School office if you would like to receive information on how to buy trees in Israel.

The Hebrew School Purim carnival will be on Tuesday, February 26th. All Hebrew School children are invited to attend, and the High School students will be hosting the carnival this year.

Finally, January 26th and February 23rd are the upcoming Shabbat Classes. Attendance has been wonderful at the Shabbat Classes. Please continue your support of our Hebrew School by encouraging your children to attend this important part of our curriculum.

Editor's Note

The *OZ Bulletin* welcomes articles submitted by congregants. Articles should be no longer than 250 words and may be edited for length and clarity. They should be submitted by e-mail (as an attachment, as well as pasted into the text) to the office at: admin@orzarua.org.

In order to be included in the March/April edition, submissions must be received by Wednesday, January 23rd. The deadline for the May/June issue will be late in March; the exact date will be provided in the March/April edition.

Many thanks for your help in enabling our newsletter to appear in a timely fashion.

Book Club

The next Book Club meeting, on Sunday, January 27th, will discuss Joseph Berger's book, *Displaced Persons*. Please contact the office for the location of the meeting.

While not an endorsement of any retailer, most books are available at bestbookbuys.com (one of the least expensive sources), Barnes and Noble, and the public library.



OR ZARUA

JANUARY 2002

At: Temple Shaaray Tefila
250 E. 79 St. (entrance on 2nd Ave.)

At: 92nd Street Y
1395 Lexington Ave.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 4:22pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv (<i>Shaaray Tefila</i>)	5 9am Shaharit, Shemot (92nd Street Y)
6	7	8	9 8-9:30pm Talmud Class Bet Midrash	10	11 4:29pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv (<i>Shaaray Tefila</i>)	12 9am Shaharit, Vaera (92nd Street Y)
13	14 Rosh Hodesh Shevat	15	16 8-9:30pm Talmud Class Bet Midrash	17	18 4:37pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv (<i>Shaaray Tefila</i>)	19 9am Shaharit, Bo (92nd Street Y)
20	21 Martin Luther King Day Office closed	22	23 8-9:30pm Talmud Class Bet Midrash	24	25 4:45pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv (<i>Shaaray Tefila</i>)	26 9am Shaharit, Beshalah Shabbat Shirah 9:30 Hebrew School Shabbat class (92nd Street Y)
27 7:30pm Or Zarua Book Club	28 Tu B'Shevat	29	30 8-9:30pm Talmud Class Bet Midrash	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 4:54pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv	2 9am Shaharit, Yitro
3	4	5	6 8-9:30pm Talmud Class	7	8 5:02pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv	9 9am Shaharit, Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim
10	11	12 Rosh Hodesh Adar	13 Rosh Hodesh Adar 8-9:30pm Talmud Class	14 Hesed Committee Meeting 7:30pm	15 5:11pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv	16 9am Shaharit, Terumah
17	18 President's Day Office closed	19	20 8-9:30pm Talmud Class	21	22 5:19pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv	23 9am Shaharit, Tetzaveh Shabbat Zakhor 9:30 Hebrew School Shabbat class
24	25 Fast of Esther, Erev Purim, Megillah Reading & Spiel, UJA Federation 5:30-10pm	26 Purim 7am Purim/Shaharit	27 8-9:30pm Talmud Class	28		

Note: No locations are specified for this month. We will keep you informed of the location of services and classes as soon as they are known.

Israel and Middle East: News You Can Use

By Aliza Kaplan

Seeking accurate information about what is taking place in Israel and the Middle East? Following are some Web site resources that may facilitate getting involved, electronically:

● www.imra.org.il

IMRA, Independent Media Review and Analysis, is a news organization that provides a digest of Arab and Israeli media, polls and significant interviews and events.

● www.memri.org

The Middle East Media and Research Institute (MEMRI) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization that studies and analyzes intellectual developments and politics in the Middle East. MEMRI provides primary source material translated from the original Arabic and Hebrew.

● www.camera.org

Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) is a media watchdog. CAMERA uses fact-checking, analysis and grassroots efforts in monitoring anti-Israel bias.

● www.honestreporting.com

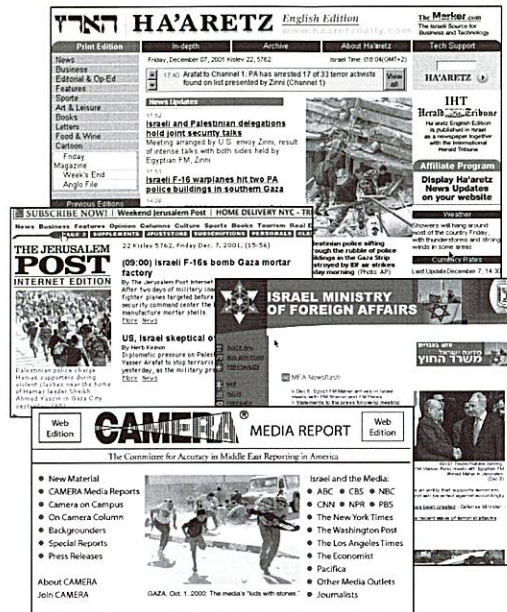
Honestreporting, part of Media Watch International, is dedicated to ensuring that Israel receives fair media coverage. Honestreporting monitors media and directs subscribers in contacting the news agency concerned.

● www.haaretzdaily.com

Ha'aretz is an Israeli independent daily newspaper with a broadly liberal

outlook both on Israeli domestic issues and on international affairs.

This site is available in English.



● www.jpost.com

The Jerusalem Post Internet Edition is the English language Israeli daily newspaper.

● www.mfa.gov.il

The official web site of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

● www.idf.il

The official web site of the Israel Defense Forces.

● www.us-israel.org/jsource/myths/mftoc.html

At this site is the well-known *Myths & Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, providing accurate information about the establishment and history of the State of Israel, as well as recent developments, key documents and statistics. The paperback edition can also be purchased at the site.

Visiting Israel as a tourist or on a mission can provide an entirely new perspective from that portrayed by the media. While missions are sponsored by various Jewish agencies, United Jewish Communities and UJA Federation-New York have the following Israel Now Missions – 2002 planned:

- 1) Departs February 17 and returns February 22, 2002 (5 days)
- 2) Departs April 14 and returns April 21, 2002 (7 days)
- 3) Departs May 19 and returns May 24, 2002 (5 days)

Program Highlights

The following activities are scheduled for all missions (*subject to change*):

- Group arrival on day one, transfer to hotel and opening dinner
- Missions include programming and most meals.
- Top level briefings and analysis of the current situation in the Middle East
- Meet with Israelis
- Interactive JAFI/JDC site visits (to see how funds are used)
- Full day program with lunch, including site visits
- Closing Day: half day programming, afternoon at leisure, farewell dinner and transfer to airport
- For April Mission: Observe Yom Ha'Zikaron and celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut

For more information contact UJA-Federation NY directly at (212) 836-1548 or by e-mail: missions@ujafedny.org.

HESED COMMITTEE

More First Aid for the Soul

The Or Zarua Hesed Committee has a project for you that could change your life. We are adding to our group of shul volunteers who will be part of Lenox Hill Bikur Cholim. Established over ten years ago, LHBC provides volunteer visits to the approximately 150 Jewish patients who may be at Lenox Hill Hospital at any one particular time.

Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick) is a mitzvah that the Torah states was actually performed by God when He visited Abraham. It transforms the lives of both the recipient and the volunteer. A visit to someone in the

you may distribute to the patients cheerful gift packages donated on their behalf. The good that such a visit can do is immeasurable.

Your involvement is whenever you can make it. You can volunteer once a week, once a month or whenever your schedule permits.

Please contact David Pine at 472-7506 (evenings) or 214-5403 (daytime) or return the tear-off coupon on page 5 to the synagogue office to share in this most important and worthwhile activity.

Please join us! Thank you!



hospital recovering from an illness brings hope, friendship and optimism at a time of vulnerability.

Volunteers may visit patients during the week, Friday night or Shabbat afternoon, helping to alleviate some of the loneliness patients may experience. The visit can usually include just sitting for a few minutes and talking. Around Jewish holidays



We will be conducting an orientation followed by a group visit at Lenox Hill Hospital on Sunday,

January 13, 2002 from 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Led by OZ member Zella Goldfinger, who is Executive Director of LHBC, this orientation is both for newcomers and a follow-up for those who attended last year. We will receive training on how to conduct a visit and then use our new skills to see several patients. Refreshments will be provided at the orientation.

Or Zarua congregants preparing for the DOROT Rosh Hashanah Package Delivery and visits on September 9, 2001.

Far left (clockwise from upper right): Yoav Sisley with his two daughters, Adriana and Nadia; Naomi, Tamar, Mike and Anat Hoffman, holding their other daughter, Ruth.

Above (from left): Gerry and Phyllis Solomon, David Pine and Stephanie Failla, Mina Greenstein, Diane Okrent and Aaron Shelden.

Youth Services

Two Or Zarua Youth (OZY) Services, one for children ages infant through 6 (children 3 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult) and another one for children ages 7 through 13 (parents need not attend) are held every Shabbat morning. The OZY service for children ages infant through 6 begins at 11 AM and ends at noon. The Junior Congregation service for children ages 7 through 13 begins at 10:30 AM and ends at noon. At the conclusion of the OZY/Junior Congregation services, the children are escorted from their classrooms to join our congregants in the concluding services and Kiddush.

On weeks when there is a Hebrew School Shabbat Class, children who wish to attend the 7-to-13-year-old Junior Congregation are invited to join the Hebrew School Shabbat Class. Please see the calendar for dates when Hebrew School Shabbat Class meets.

EDUCATION

Talmud Class

Rabbi Wechsler's weekly Talmud class continues on Wednesdays from 8 to 9:30 pm. Please call the office for the location of the class. The class studies the seventh chapter of Talmud-Berakhot, "On the Grace After Meals."

The Talmud class is free to members and nonmembers alike, and may be joined at any time. No knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is required; nor is attendance at last year's class required.

Purim Spiel 2002

The OZ Players enthusiastically announce the production of Congregation Or Zarua's 2002 Purim Spiel Spouse Terrific, a tropic island tale featuring rapacious sugar planters, a controlling mother-in-law, malleable son, independent daughter-in-law, and the other familiar (and not so familiar) Purim characters we play each year. Details are as follows:



Date: Monday, February 25, 2002

Time: 5:30 pm for Minhah and Spiel to follow

Place: UJA Ballroom
130 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

Bikur Cholim Training

Please return this reply form by mail or by fax to the office at (212-410-2137).

Or Zarua Office: 1384 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128

☒ **Yes,** I will attend the Lenox Hill Bikur Cholim Training on January 13 at Lenox Hill Hospital.

Name _____

Address _____ E-mail address _____

Telephone _____ Best time to call _____

Comments/Questions _____

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

NEW MEMBERS

Boris Rjavinski & Tanya Astrakhan

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Fred & Vivian Kenvin on the
November 5, 2001 birth of their
son, Matthew David

CONDOLENCES TO

Barbara Roth on the death of her
father, Philip Roth
Richard Schottenfeld on the death of
his father, Marvin Schottenfeld

Contributions

All contributions listed were received
on or before November 29, 2001

*Capital Campaign and Bimah Fund
contributions are not listed.*

DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE GIFT FUND

Arthur & Willi Aeder

HESED FOOD FUND

Jack & Esther Oberman, in honor of
Vicki Wimpfheimer's birthday
Barry & Judith Schneider
Lynda Wertheim

HESED FUND

Bart & Georgia Farber
Glenn & Zella Goldfinger, in honor
of the birth of Esther Chana Katz,
daughter of Michael and Meredith
Katz
Glenn & Zella Goldfinger, in honor
of the bat mitzvah of Amital Isaac,
daughter of Catherine and Phil
Isaac

Glenn & Zella Goldfinger, in honor
of Jonathan and Barbara Bromberg's
son, Alex, winning the Akiba
Award

Charles Spielholz, Sharon Seiler
& Talia Spielholz, in memory of
Sharon's maternal grandmother,
Esther Silverstein

Charles Spielholz, Sharon Seiler
& Talia Spielholz, in memory of
Sharon's paternal grandfather,
Max Seiler

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Sylvia Adelman, in memory of Sylvia
Zagorin, beloved mother of Audrey
Whitman

Jerry & Patti Josepher, in memory of his
father Ben Josepher, on his yahrzeit

KIDDUSH FUND

Joseph Allerhand & Randi Schatz, in
honor of the bat mitzvah of their
daughter, Lauren Allerhand

Abby Araten, in honor of the aufruf
and subsequent marriage of her son,
Jeffrey Araten, to Wendy Mirsky
Abraham & Anna Ascher, in honor
of the aufruf and subsequent
marriage of their son, Stephen,
to Rebecca Klapper

Barry & Bobbie Collier, in honor of
Lorraine Shapiro receiving an
"Outstanding Educator" award from
the New York Board of Education
Barry & Bobbie Collier, honoring
Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur
Rosenbloom on the birth of their
grandson, Matthew David Kenvin
Barry & Bobbie Collier, in appreciation
of Laura Resnikoff's enlightening
and thoughtful clippings

Barry & Bobbie Collier, in honor
of Alan Davidson's 75th birthday
Barry & Bobbie Collier, in honor
of the birth of Arthur and Willie
Aeder's grandson, Matan Yossef
Auerbach

Ira, Laurie, Jordana, Talia & Ean
Greenberg, in memory of Laurie's
mother, Esther Boxer, on her
yahrzeit

Jesse & Isadora Hecht, in honor of
the bar mitzvah of their son, Jonah
Philip & Catherine Isaac, in honor of
the bat mitzvah of their daughter,
Amital

Michael & Meredith Katz, in honor
of the birth of their daughter,
Esther Chana

Fred & Vivian Kenvin, in honor of
the November 5th birth of their
son, Matthew David

Mickey Krulwich, in honor of her
nephew David Stone's birthday
Laura Resnikoff, in memory of her
mother, Joy Hellman Resnikoff,
on her yahrzeit

Marvin & Linda Shulsky, in memory
of her father, Arthur Rosenfeld,
on his first yahrzeit

Edward & Elyse Siegel, in memory of
the 51st yahrzeit of Elyse's mother,
Bryna Roth

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Nancy Bach
Robin Balik
Paula Chalfin
Phyllis Cornell
Alexander & Susan Deutsch
Mona Dreier
Barton & Georgia Farber
Barry & Audrey Feldman

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Miriam Frankel
 Jerry Gliklich & Jane Salmon
 Elizabeth Goldberg
 Glenn & Zella Goldfinger
 Robert & Trudy Gottesman
 Leonard & Fleur Harlan
 Lawrence Hass & Marydale DeBor
 Anat & Michael Hoffman
 Abraham & Clarita Kaufman
 Stefan & Karen Kieserman
 Benno & Joy Kimmelman
 Mendel Klepper
 Neal & Beth Kotin
 Ivan Kreitman & Susan Altman
 Douglas & Debra Lehrman
 Irwin & Francine Levine
 Steven & Margret Magid
 Dara Murray, in memory of
 the heroes and victims of
 September 11th
 David & Erica Panush
 Owen & Pearl Pell
 Daniel & Suzan Rosen
 Marcella Rosen
 Alan Schwartz
 Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent
 Marvin & Linda Shulsky
 Robert & Vera Silver
 Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler
 David & Lisa Sreter
 Elliott & Susan Sussman

LIBRARY BOOK FUND

Vicki Wimpfheimer, in honor of
 Ruth Druss' 93rd birthday

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Andrew & Lisa Ballheimer, in honor
 of Samantha and Jordan Rusoff
 Joseph & Dorothy Bamberger

Fredrick & Mara-Lee Bierman, in
 honor of the birthdays of Larry,
 Jordan and Samantha Rusoff
 Ellen Conovitz, in memory of her
 father, Benjamin Elgart
 Samuel & Ruth Perelson, in gratitude
 for Ruth's aliyah as Kallah Breisheit
 Samuel & Ruth Perelson, in honor of
 Dr. Larry Norton and his family
 David & Meredith Rusoff, in honor
 of Jordan Rusoff's and Samantha
 Rusoff's second birthday
 Barry & Judith Schneider, in memory
 of her father, Benjamin Elgart
 Rabbi Efray Spectre

GENERAL FUND

Linda Eidelberg, yizkor, in memory of
 her father, Benjamin Basch
 Linda Eidelberg, yizkor, in memory of
 her mother, Rose Basch
 Linda Eidelberg, yizkor, in memory of
 her husband, Albert Eidelberg
 Cheryl Fishbein, in memory of her
 mother, Adele Fishbein, on her
 yahrzeit
 Ronald & Ruthe Golden, in honor
 of Meredith, Michael and Esther
 Chana Katz
 Jesse & Isadora Hecht, in memory
 of her father, Jack Silverman, on
 his yahrzeit
 Richard Hyfler & Amelia Rosner, in
 memory of Rose and Sol Kaufman
 Mira Kimmelman, in honor of her
 children
 Samuel & Francine Klagsbrun, in
 honor of Sharon Strassfeld
 Mendel Klepper
 Terry Krulwich & Paul Posner, in
 honor of Alan Davidson's 75th
 birthday

Nancy Ehrlich Lapid
 David & Judith Lewittes, in memory
 of his father, Israel Lewittes, on the
 occasion of his yahrzeit
 Jeremy Mack, in appreciation for
 Bonnie Maslin's many acts of
 generosity
 Bonnie Maslin, in honor of Yehuda
 Nir serving in the 1973 war in
 Israel and missing their wedding
 Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in
 memory of Annette Eichenbaum
 Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in
 honor of their friends, the Rosen
 Family
 Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in
 memory of Steven Jay Maslin
 Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to
 Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur
 Rosenbloom for many nice doings
 Laura Resnikoff, with happy birthday
 wishes to David Stone
 Laura Resnikoff, with mazel tov to
 Shelly and Marty Spergel for the
 many nice events in the family
 Laura Resnikoff, in honor of the birth
 of Fred and Vivian Kenvin's son,
 Matthew David
 Reed & Anne Schneider, in honor of
 the bat mitzvah of Dena Adler
 Reed & Anne Schneider, in honor of
 the bat mitzvah of Lauren
 Allerhand
 Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of
 her mother-in-law, Ida Kaplan
 Schwartz, on her yahrzeit
 Edward & Elyse Siegel, Levi aliyah
 Strauss Zelnick and Wendy Belzberg

Tu B'Shevat

continued from page 1

toward the light of the spring. It is at this time of the year that the sap begins to run and that the first blossoms appear, heralding a new agricultural season, and also invoking the constant aspiration of turning from the darkness of exile to the light of redemption.

Tu B'Shevat also gives expression

to our connection with the Land of Israel. In fact, the holiday took on greater, not lesser, significance after the destruction of the Temple extinguished its original administrative purpose, as the desire to assert a connection with the Land took on greater force for Jews dispersed in other lands. In our times, Tu B'Shevat offers an opportunity to recall the heroic achievements of the first settlers of the modern State of Israel in

transforming the swamps and deserts into a viable and productive nation. In present days, it is also a natural invitation to focus on our concerns for environmental preservation.

Tu B'Shevat, the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat (the "Tu" is a spoken form of the Hebrew letters that designate the number 15), is observed from Sunday evening, January 27th through Monday, January 28th.

RE: LOCATIONS

Please note that our offices and operations (administration, services, school, etc.) will be moving out of current quarters and into the new

building at different points over the next two months as the space becomes usable. Consequently, locations are not specified on the February 2002 calendar for activities such as Talmud classes, for example.

We will keep you informed of any moves as soon as they are definite. Keep an eye on your mail and please call the office if you have any questions. Thanks for bearing with us!

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA
Office: 1384 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10128

