

Tu B'Shevat Celebration and Seder

Central Reform Congregation Pre K- 2nd Grade

Opening and Welcome (Maxine)

Opening Song: Hinei Mah Tov (led by Anne)

Introduction: (Karen F.)

Tu B'Shevat is a special holiday for our Jewish family. It is called the New Year of the Trees.

In Israel, spring is beginning and the almond trees are showing their first blossoms. But here it is still Winter and the trees look like they are still asleep! Do you ever pretend you are asleep to surprise your mom or dad? My son does this all the time. Right now the trees are pretending to be asleep. They are getting ready to surprise us with a new gift. The sap is beginning to rise! How is sap a gift? Sap is full of food for the trees. Some trees, like sugar maples, have very sweet sap. Food is scarce in the forest in late winter and the sap gives animals food until spring. Sugar maples also give humans a delicious gift – maple syrup. Who like pancakes or French toast with maple syrup? So this is the time of year that trees wake up from their winter nap and start their New Year.

Story: If You Plant a Seed by Kadir Nelson (read by Emma Donnelly)

Tu B'Shevat Seder

Introduction (Karen)

Each season of the year, trees surprise us with new gifts. Today we are going to have a seder meal. When else do we have a seder meal? At Passover! Like Passover we are going to say blessings and drink and eat special foods to tell a story. This story will be about the gifts of trees and how we can share our gifts of kindness with others. First we will sing the Shehecheyanu – that special blessing for whenever we do something new.

Blessing: Shehecheyanu (led by Anne)

Ba-ruch A-ta, A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-olam, she-he-che-ya-nu, ve-ki-ye-ma-nu
ve-hi-gi-a-nu la ze-man ha-zeh. Amen.

We praise the Holy One of Blessing, whose Presence fills Creation, who gives us life, sustains us, and enables us to reach this moment.

Winter

First Cup of Juice: White Juice

Karen: Our first cup of juice is all white and symbolizes winter. Anne will lead the blessing for the fruit of the vine.

Blessing (led by Anne)

Ba-ruch A-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-olam, bo-rei pe-rei ha-ga-fen. Amen.

We praise the Holy One of Blessing, whose Presence fills Creation, who makes possible the fruit of the vine. Amen.

Addie: I am winter, when all seems still and often white with snow and ice. In late winter, trees give us the gift of sweet sap and maple syrup hidden deep inside their roots. Everyone take a sip of your juice.

First Fruit: Fruit with a Hard Shell (Clementine Slice)

Karen: We now begin to taste fruits! Anne will lead the blessing for the fruit of the trees.

Blessing (led by Anne):

Ba-ruch A-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-olam, bo-rei pe-rei ha-eits. Amen.

We praise the Holy One of Blessing, whose Presence fills Creation, who makes possible the fruit of the tree. Amen.

Emma C: Fruits like clementines have a hard shell which doesn't taste sweet or nice. But the inside of a clementine tastes sweet! Sometimes it feels hard to share with others. We don't want to share. It feels hard when others won't share with us. We feel sad. Sharing is like the inside of a clementine – it makes us and our friends feel sweet and happy inside. Everyone can eat their clementine slice.

Spring

Second Cup of Juice: White Juice with a Few Drops of Red Juice

Karen: Our second cup of juice is light pink like the blossoms of fruit trees.

Amanda: I am spring, season of blossoms and bees. Tree flowers feed the bees who in turn pollinate the flowers. Because of the bees, the flowers can grow into fruit. Everyone can take a sip of juice.

Second Fruit: Fruit with a Pit Inside (dried apricot)

Larry: Fruits like apricots have a big seed inside and a soft, sweet outside. The outside shares its sweetness with the seed which helps it grow and grow. We have a seed of kindness within us, our heart. Every time we share our sweetness with others we help both ourselves and others to grow our seed of kindness within. Everyone can eat the dried apricot and olives.

Summer

Third Cup of Juice: Half White Juice with Half Red Juice

Karen: Our third cup of juice is deep pink like the many summer fruits.

DeDe: I am summer, season of fruits, berries and all good things. The trees give their fruit to all the birds and animals and humans. Birds and animals help spread the seeds everywhere! Everyone can take a sip of juice.

Third Fruit: Fruits Eaten Whole (fig newtons and raisins)

Charlene: We can eat the whole fruit when we eat fruits like figs and raisins. They are sweet through and through. When we share and grow our seed of kindness within, we understand that we are sweet through and through. We know we can sow seeds of kindness everywhere and they will grow and grow. Everyone can eat the fig newtons and raisins.

Fall

Fourth Cup of Juice: All Red Juice

Karen: Our fourth cup of juice is dark red like the many leaves in the fall.

Emma D: I am fall, season of colorful and falling leaves. The trees create a blanket of leaves on the earth. The leaves feed the seeds that have been spread everywhere. The trees, plants and many animals take a long winter's Shabbat to get ready for the New Year of the trees next year.

Fourth Fruit: Fragrant or Delicious Smelling Fruit

Blessing: (led by Anne)

Ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-aretz,

We give thanks to God for bread. Our voices rise in song together as our joyful prayer is said,

Ba-ruch A-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-olam, Ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-aretz. Amen.

Essie: Challah is made from thousands of wheat seeds ground together into flour. Cinnamon comes from the bark of a tree. When we all join together and sow our seeds of kindness everywhere we are connected together in a new way. Like challah which is made of many seeds and gets bigger as it bakes, the many seeds of kindness which we plant, grow and grow into something very, very sweet. And we see the sweetness of Shalom spread everywhere.

Karen: One special way that our CRC community plants seeds of kindness is through our Mitzvah Garden. Today we are going to plant seeds and keep them under a special light. They will grow until they are strong enough to plant in the garden. When they are full grown the seeds of kindness you plant today will be harvested and given to our neighbors who need food.

Closing Song: Trees Blowing in the Wind (led by Anne)

Planting Activity:

Groups will go by grade to the planting room. Each grade will plant a different kind of seed which will be planted in the spring mitzvah garden (date to be arranged).

Planting Instructions:

1. Children should take their pot to the room with them and gather around the bins of potting soil.
2. Fill the pot $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with soil.
3. Place the seed on top of the soil.
4. Fill the rest of the pot with soil
5. Put pot on tray to be carried downstairs
6. Wash hands
7. Return to your grade's classroom.