



The Anusim Center and Synagogue

הַגִּידָה
טוֹ בִּשְׁבַט

Tu b'Shvat Service



Today we come together to reaffirm our bond with the life of Israel and rejoice in the rebirth occurring in our Land. Tu b'Shvat ראש השנה לאילנות (Rosh haShannah la'Elanot) marks the awakening of nature after its winter slumber.

עֵץ־חַיִּים הַיָּא לְמַחְזִיקִים בָּהּ, וְתַמְכִּיהָ מֵאֲשֶׁר. דְּרָכֶיהָ דְרָכֵי־נַעַם,
וְכָל־נְתִיבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם.

Eitz-chaim hi lamachazikim bah, v'tomchehah m'ushar. D'racheihah darchei-no'am, v'chol-n'tivotehah shalom. Proverbs 3:17-18

Just as Torah is a tree of life to those who hold fast, living trees are models for how we nurture our lives so that they become pathways of pleasantness and peace. As we celebrate this Seder, we renew our awareness of how trees are metaphors for our lives. As we stand before God on Rosh haShannah to be judged, so are trees judged on Tu b'Shvat

En este día nos reunimos para reaffirmar nuestra conexión con Israel y regocijarnos con el renacimiento y despertar de la naturaleza. Así como la Torá es el árbol de la vida, al celebrar este Seder renovamos nuestro entendimiento de lo que los árboles significan en nuestras vidas. En Rosh Hashaná somos juzgados, en Tu b'Shvat los árboles son juzgados.

Fill first cup with white wine and grape juice/Llenamos la primer copa con vino blanco y jugo de uva.

The first cup we drink is white — without color. We have spent so long in the winter of our year, thirsting for the color we know must yet come. We drink and recall nature's dormancy these many months. We eagerly await the warmth of spring and the annual cycle of rebirth.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Blessed are You Living-Breathing-Presence-Within-the-Universe our God, Sovereign of all space and time, who enables us to bring out the juice from the fruit of the vine.

All drink the first cup of wine and grape juice/Se toma la primer copa de vino con jugo de uva.

La primer copa representa la inactividad de la naturaleza durante el invierno sedientos del color que está por llegar. Esperamos ansiosos el calor de la primavera y el renacer del ciclo anual.

The first kind of fruit we eat has an outer inedible shell — the almond. In Israel, the almond tree (shkeidiah), now blooms. Its white blossoms tinged with pink, brighten the countryside after the bleak colorless days of winter.

To flower and produce fruit while winter is still in force is a brave act. It is not easy to move about in the real world and we frequently need protection. So, as the almond, we develop a strong outer shell to protect our being.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הָעֵץ.

Blessed are You Living-Breathing-Presence-Within-the-Universe our God, Sovereign of all space and time, who enables us to harvest the fruit of the trees.

All eat the almonds/todos comen de las almendras.

La almendra, es el primer fruto que comemos que nace con cáscara. En Israel los almendros están floreciendo e iluminan el paisaje sin color del invierno. El florecer y dar fruto en el invierno es un acto de valentía. Así como el almendro nosotros creamos un caparazón que proteja nuestras vidas.

Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai used to say: “If you should have a sapling in your hand and be suddenly told that the Messiah has come, plant the sapling first and afterwards go to welcome the Messiah.”

Rabí Yojanán ben Zakai solía decir: “Si tienes un retoño en la mano y de repente te dicen que el Mesías ha venido, planta el retoño primero y luego ve a recibir al Mesías”.

Fill the second cup with white wine, grape juice mixed with a few drops of red/Llenamos la segunda copa con vino blanco, jugo de uva y unas gotas de vino tinto.

This cup we drink is white — but tinged with red. The sun’s rays shine upon our earth and thaw the frozen ground. In Israel pink and white flowers now dot the hills and mountains. We see in our cups the hint of springtime and the earth’s reawakening.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, בורא פרי הגפן.

Blessed are You Living-Breathing-Presence-Within-the-Universe our God, Sovereign of all space and time, who enables us to bring out the juice from the fruit of the vine.

All drink the second cup of wine and grape juice/Tomamos la segunda copa de vino con jugo de uva.

Esta copa que tomamos de color blanco con un tinte de rojo se asemeja a la flores rosas y blancas que adornan las montañas en Israel. Vemos en nuestras copas un indicio de la primavera y el despertar de la tierra.

The warmth of our world spreads into our lives. At work and away we make friends. We are ready to share ourselves with our neighbors, but only to a point. Like the date, we offer our outer being, as we protect the intimacy of our hearts. When Scripture speaks of “a land flowing with milk and honey,” it refers to the honey from the date palm, the (tamar). The tamar is one of those trees which abound in blessing, for every part of it can be used by humans. For this reason our rabbis compare the people of Israel to this tree.

Israel is like a date palm, of which none is wasted; its dates are for eating, its lulavim are for blessing; its fronds are for thatching; its fibers are for ropes; its webbing for sieves; its thick trunks for building — so it is with Israel, which contains no waste.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, בורא פרי העץ.

Blessed are You Living-Breathing-Presence-Within-the-Universe our God, Sovereign of all space and time, who enables us to harvest the fruit of the trees.

All eat the dates/Comemos de los dátiles.

El calor de nuestro mundo se esparce en nuestras vidas. Al estar con nuestros amigos y vecinos somos como el dátil, ofrecemos lo que tenemos fuera, pero protegemos lo más íntimo de nuestros corazones. La Escritura habla de “la tierra que mana leche y miel”, se refiere a la miel de la palma del dátil, que abundan con bendición pues se puede utilizar en su totalidad. Es por esto que los rabinos comparan este árbol con el pueblo de Israel. Nada se desecha, sirve para alimentar, bendecir, proteger, construir,

צְדִיק כַּתְמֵר יִפְרָח כַּאֲרֵז בְּלִבְנוֹן יִשְׁגָּה שְׂתוּלִים בְּבֵית יְהוָה
בַּחֲצֵרוֹת אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִפְרִיחוּ

Tzadik katamar yifrah k'erez ba'L'vanon yisgeh. Sh'tulim b'vayt Adonai b'hatzrot Elohaynu yafreekhu. Od y'nuvun b'sayvah, d'shaynim v'raananim yeeyu. L'hagid kee yashar Adonai tzuri v'lo avlata bo.

The righteous shall flourish like palms, grow tall like cedars in Lebanon. Rooted in the house of God they shall be ever fresh and green, proclaiming that God is just, my Rock, in whom there is no wrong. Psalm 92:13,14

אֶרֶץ זֹבַת חֶלֶב וְדָבָשׁ

Eretz zavat halav u'dvash

This is a land of milk and honey.

El justo florecerá como la palmera. Crecerá como un cedro en el Líbano. Plantados en la Casa del Eterno, florecerán en los atrios de nuestro Dios, para declarar que el Eterno es recto. Es mi roca en la que no hay injusticia.

Fill the third cup with red wine, grape juice mixed with a few drops of white/Llenamos la tercer copa con vino tinto, jugo de uva y unas gotas de vino blanco.

Now our drink is red with but a hint of the winter's whiteness we now see passing. As spring arrives the earth becomes soft. The farmers turn the soil and place their seeds in its moist warmth.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Blessed are You Living-Breathing-Presence-Within-the-Universe our God, Sovereign of all space and time, who enables us to bring out the juice from the fruit of the vine.

All drink the third cup of wine and grape juice/Tomamos de la tercer copa de vino con jugo de uva.

Ahora nuestra bebida es roja con un indicio de la blancura del invierno que está por terminar. Al llegar la primavera la tierra es suave y los agricultores plantan semillas en su cálida humedad.

Our friends become dear. We can drop our defenses and open our hearts. Like the fig's fruit which is entirely edible, both freshly picked as well as thoroughly aged. Our actions become love as we share our joys and sorrows, our hopes, dreams and fears. Now, together we can raise a future.

Every fruit has in it something inedible; dates have pits, grapes have seeds, pomegranates have skin. But every part of the fig is good to eat. So it is also with Torah.

Yalkut Shimoni Joshua 1

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הָעֵץ.

Blessed are You Living-Breathing-Presence-Within-the-Universe our God, Sovereign of all space and time, who enables us to harvest the fruit of the tree.

All eat the figs/Comemos de los higos.

Al amar a nuestros amigos bajamos las defensas y abrimos nuestros corazones. Asi como el fruto de la higuera que se puede comer fresco o añejo, nuestras acciones se convierten en amor al compartir tristezas, sueños, deseos y temores. Juntos construiremos el futuro. Todas las partes del higo son buenas para comerse, como lo es la Torá.

Fill the forth cup with red wine and grape juice/Llenamos la cuarta copa de vino tinto con jugo de uva.

Our drink is completely red. In its richness we sense the full glow of summer. The crops will grow and the flowers will bloom. We are about to leave our gathering to where the reality of winter's cold still cuts at our skins. As the drink and the seasons warm us, may we be reminded that our time of joy has not yet come.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינ מלך העולם, בורא פרי הגפן.

Blessed are You Living-Breathing-Presence-Within-the-Universe our God, Sovereign of all space and time, who enables us to bring out the juice from the fruit of the vine.

All drink the fourth cup of wine and grape juice/Tomamos de la cuarta copa de vino con jugo de uva.

Ahora nuestra bebida es totalmenta roja y podemos ver en ella el brillo del verano. Los campos crecerán y las flores florecerán. Estamos a punto de terminar este servicio y saldremos al frio invernial que nos corta la piel. Al beber y permitir que las estaciones del año nos brinden calor, recordemos que nuestro tiempo de gozo aún está por llegar.

Artza alinu; K'var kharashnu, v'gam zara'nu; Aval od lo katzarnu.

We have gone up to the land; we have plowed and sown, but we have not yet harvested.

The Holy One led Adam through the Garden of Eden and said: "I created all my beautiful and glorious works for your sake. Take heed not to corrupt and destroy My world." (Source unknown.)

El Santo condujo a Adán a través del Jardín del Edén y dijo: "Creé todas mis obras hermosas y gloriosas por ti. Tened cuidado de no corromper y destruir Mi mundo". (Fuente desconocida).

May it be your will, our God and God of our ancestors, that our blessing and eating of the fruits this day, inspire in us a deeper sensitivity to nature's gifts.

Que sea tu voluntad, Dios nuestro y Dios de nuestros antepasados, que nuestra bendición y el comer de los frutos de este día, inspiren en nosotros una sensibilidad más profunda hacia los dones de la naturaleza.

May the day soon come when the trees of Israel will renew themselves by blossoming and growing, and that we will see the living globe of our earth as a comfortable home for all Your creatures.

Que pronto llegue el día en que los árboles de Israel se renueven floreciendo y creciendo, y que veamos el globo viviente de nuestra tierra como un hogar confortable para todas Tus criaturas.

