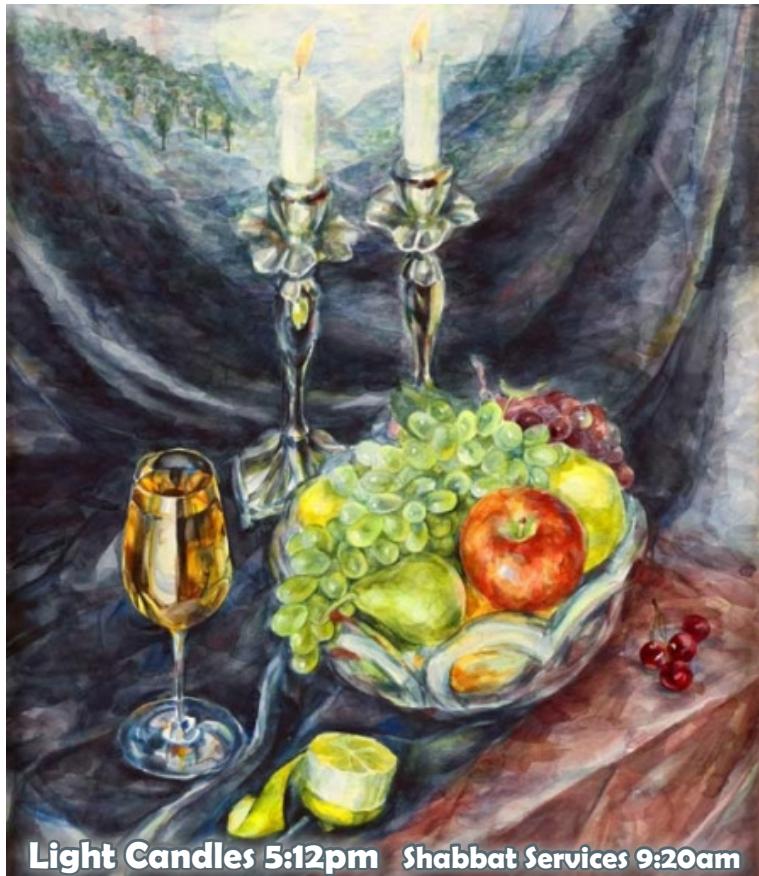




# Carnegie Shul Chatter

## January 10, 2019



**Light Candles 5:12pm   Shabbat Services 9:20am**

## A Great Success Story

I remember when I was just starting Hebrew school all those many years ago, and a collection was being taken to plant a tree in Israel in memory of a congregant who had just passed away. It was explained to us that Israel was planting trees to help preserve and green the desolate, barren areas of the country.

And what a great success story this has been.

Below is a story from today's israel21c.org celebrating the trees of Israel, coinciding with Tu B'Shvat, which was observed on Monday.

## Amazing Israel

Sometimes it is absolutely amazing what Israel can do.

Let's face it: the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey is, in many ways, not a particularly good piece of ground. Unlike the neighboring Arab states, there is no oil -- and the wealth that oil provides -- underneath the deserts of Israel.

And there are deserts, many deserts, not the best environment for growing crops to feed a nation.

But through hard work and determination, Israel has turned these seemingly infertile lands into farms and orchards and forests that are a rightful source of national pride.

Throughout our history, the Jewish people have managed to overcome every obstacle that has ever been thrown in their way. A little desert to overcome? As Israel has shown, just a small obstacle on the way to a beautiful country.

# 8 Magnificent Photos of Trees in Israel for Tu B'Shvat

The 15th day of the Jewish month of Shvat is the New Year for Trees, a winter holiday heralding the coming crop of fruits across the land.

By Abigail Klein Leichman January 17, 2019, 8:00 am

Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees, will be celebrated this year from sunset January 20 to sunset January 21, corresponding to the 15th day of Shvat on the Hebrew calendar.

Yes, it's still winter in Israel, but traditionally the 15th of Shvat is when the earliest hint of pink blossoms start appearing on the almond trees, heralding the coming crop of bountiful fruits.

In ancient times, Tu B'Shvat was the date used to calculate the beginning of the agricultural cycle for the purpose of taking tithes from produce. Since 1892, Tu B'Shvat has been celebrated in Israel by planting trees.

In modern times, Tu B'Shvat has turned into an international Jewish Earth Day with its own Seder showcasing Israeli wines and fruits.

Remarkably, there were few trees standing when the first Jewish pioneers arrived in the land of Israel toward the end of the 19th century. After centuries of neglect and foreign conquest, the land was rather desolate.

Since it was founded in 1901 to buy and develop land in Ottoman Palestine, Keren Kayemeth L'Isra'el-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) has planted more than 240 million trees in the arid and semi-arid soil of Israel.

In 1948, about two percent of Israel was covered in trees. Now it's up to around 8.5%. Due to a focus on rehabilitation and afforestation, Israel is believed to be one of the only countries in the world that ended the 20th century with more trees than it had at the start.



*A woman stands at a field of blossoming almond trees near Kiryat Gat. Photo by Gershon Elinson/Flash90*



*Olive trees grow among pink and yellow flowers in the Golan Heights. Photo by Doron Horowitz/Flash90*



*View of pomelo trees in the Jezreel Valley. Photo by Anat Hermoni/Flash90*

The variety of trees planted by KKL-JNF's forestry service includes conifers, deciduous trees and fruit trees. Some are indigenous to the region and some were brought to Israel from other countries.

Over the past year, when an estimated 2,600 acres of KKL-JNF forests in the Western Negev were destroyed by fires caused by incendiary devices launched from Gaza, KKL-JNF is working with Gaza border residents to plant more trees as a symbol of life and hope.



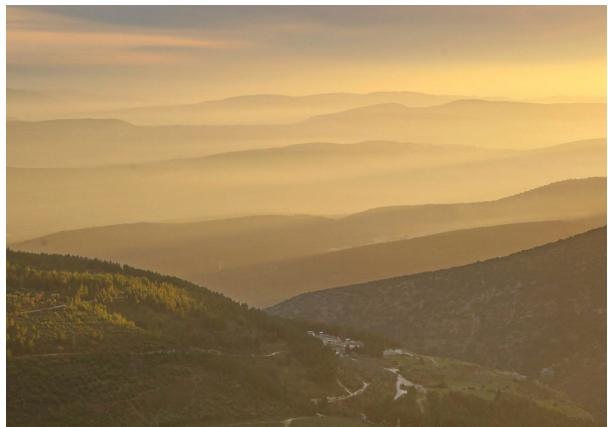
*Israeli kids planting trees for Tu B'Shvat in Haifa. Photo by Yossi Zeliger/Flash90*



*Palm trees in the desert near the Dead Sea. Photo by Maor Kinsbursky/Flash90*



*Storks make a night stop as they make their way Africa to Europe, near Moshav Nahalal, in the Jezreel Valley. Photo by Anat Hermony/Flash90*



*View of the Upper Galilee Mountains as seen from the northern Israeli city of Safed. Photo by Yaakov Lederman/Flash90*



*Pine and cypress trees in the Jerusalem Forest. Photo by Nati Shohat/Flash90*

# **Yahrzeit Plaques**

Commemorate a loved one by dedicating a yahrzeit plaque in his or her memory at the Carnegie Shul. These beautiful plaques, mounted on the sanctuary walls, are lit on the loved one's yahrzeit, Yom Kippur, and days when Yizkor is recited. The names are also read aloud from the Bimah during services on the Sabbath of the yahrzeit and on Yom Kippur. To purchase a plaque, for only \$175, please email Mike Roteman at [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).



## **Sponsor a Kiddush**



Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush in honor or in memory of a loved one, for only \$36. Your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah and in the weekly Chatter. To sponsor a Kiddush, email [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).

**Carnegie Stage (Off the Wall Theater), in cooperation with  
Classrooms Without Borders, presents**

## **Etty**

### **A moving one-woman play set during the Holocaust**

Adapted and performed by Susan Stein • Directed by Austin Pendleton



Etty Hillesum's life ended at Auschwitz when she was only 29 years old. In the play, drawn entirely from Hillesum's diaries and letters of 1941-1943, we meet a remarkable young Dutch woman: insightful, determined, poetic, sensual. Through the voice of actress Susan Stein, Hillesum speaks directly to her audience, frankly, and with compassion — even for the enemy. Seeking the meaning of her life — and all life — during the terror of Nazi occupation, Hillesum discovers a reality she calls God and opens herself to the power of being fully alive and present, bearing witness to the catastrophe unfolding around her. In her gentle yet forthright way, Hillesum asks us not to leave her at Auschwitz, but to let her have a "little bit of a say" in what she hopes will be a new world.

**February 7, 7pm**

**February 8 & 9, 8pm**

**Carnegie Stage**

25 W Main St. • Carnegie, PA 15106

For more information and tickets: <https://www.carnegiestage.com/etty-the-play>

*Medical &  
Utilities      Dental Bills  
Student Grants to Israel*

Credit Card Consolidation  
*Acute Food &  
Housing Needs      Furniture*

# *Do You Need Money For?*

*Burial      Car  
Purchase  
Tuition Assistance*

Transportation  
Life Cycle Events      Small  
*Home Repairs      Business*

*South Hills Jewish Pittsburgh  
Welcomes JFunds to the South Hills!*

*Thursday, January 31*

*6:30 - 8:00 pm  
South Hills JCC  
345 Kane Blvd., 15243*

Meet representatives from JFunds, a new partnership of the Hebrew Free Loan Association, Jewish Assistance Fund, JFCS Squirrel Hill Food Pantry, JFCS Scholarships, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

FREE and open to the entire community. You do not have to be Jewish to attend.

*Register: [southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org/jfunds](http://southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org/jfunds)*



a network of jewish financial support services

