



KKL-JNF – TU BISHVAT CELEBRATING WITH TREES

*"For as the days of a tree
shall be the days of my people."
Isaiah 65:22*



קרן קיימת לישראל
KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND



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lmond trees in Israel begin to bloom on Tu Bishvat
The countryside becomes a carpet of colorful wildflowers
On this day, everyone in Israel heads outdoors.

The smell of damp earth mingles with the fresh scent of young plants.

Forest and field are filled with thousands of children digging holes and packing dirt around tender seedlings. The Jewish people have reaffirm their connection with the earth.

The earth embraces the young trees. In a few years, these trees will cover the land in green and embrace us.

Every year, on Tu Bishvat, Jewish houses set their festive table with the fruits for which the land of Israel was legendary - raisins, figs and dates, olives and pomegranates. Special blessings would be recited over flowering and fruit-bearing trees.

"For the Lord... brings you into a good land... a land of wheat and barley, vines, fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey."
Deuteronomy 8:7-8

The participants of the Tu Bishvat "Seder" would drink four cups of wine:

White wine symbolizing slumbering nature in winter,
White wine mixed with a little red wine symbolizing nature awakening in spring.

Red wine mixed with a little white, for the conflict between rain and sun and the victory of heat over cold,
And the last cup – Red wine symbolizing the splendor of sun in summer.

Fruit for Thought

**The trees have been planted
Will they grow and be strong?
How long will they live?**

The Talmud instructs us to paint in red a tree that loses its fruits before they ripen. When people pass by they will see that the tree is not thriving and will pray for its recovery. **Planting is not enough – trees need care and love to survive!**



At KKL-JNF we want our forests to be sustainable – not disposable.

We want to plant and stay – not plant and walk away.

We want to give our trees the best – so they can give us their beauty, their shade and their fruit.

This Tu Bishvat, as you walk out into the field and enjoy the trees and forests, take a good look – Where will they be next year? Here, alive and healthy, growing strong – or sick and scraggly, maybe even dead.

KKL-JNF now works long-term – making sure these trees will be here for us next year and for many years to come.

In ancient times, the New Year for Trees was an important milestone in the Jewish calendar year. Trees have importance beyond their beauty and utility. They signify growth, renewal and the continuity of life.

Help us embark on this long but important journey – a journey into the future.

"...then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy." Psalms 96: 12