

## CONGREGATION ANSHE EMETH JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

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### **SHABBAT SERVICE & TU B'SHVAT SEDER SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 10 AM**

*(In case of inclement weather, please call Steve, 937-726-2116)*



Even though many of our trees are far from blooming, in Israel, it's the season for Tu B'Shvat - the New Year of the Trees. Named for the 15th of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat, the holiday begins Sunday evening.

*From URJ: Tu B'Shvat is not mentioned in the Torah. Scholars believe the holiday was originally an agricultural festival, corresponding to the beginning of spring in Israel. But a critical historical event helped Tu B'Shvat evolve from a simple celebration of spring to a commemoration of our connection to the land of Israel.*

<https://reformjudaism.org/have-tu-bishvat-seder>

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Judy Feinstein

We will **begin Saturday at 9:15** with a Hebrew review of the letters in Tu B'Shvat and what they stand for. Then, I look forward to continuing our lively discussions of Jewish ethical dilemmas in the series, *You Be the Judge* by Joel Lurie Grishaver.

### **TORAH STUDY**

with Steve Wyke

**Friday, 1/25/2019, 6 – 7 PM, Parshat Yitro**

## MESSAGE FROM STUDENT RABBI ELIZA



I hope you all had a restful and peaceful secular New Year filled with family and friends. It is a pleasure to be back in the States after a visit home to my own family over the winter break.

When I was back in Australia, I was asked to teach a session about “the human body and prayer” at my home congregation, where we talked about both how the body is depicted in our liturgy (e.g. as a gift from God fitted with the tools that make us capable of worship), and how we use our bodies to pray (e.g. when we sit, stand, or bow). Ever since then, and although it may sound strange, I’ve been thinking a lot about the different systems that comprise our world.

There is, as mentioned, our bodily systems, which allow us to function.

There is also the nature system, for example in the dichotomy between the summery Sydney sands I was in and the cold Cincinnati snow I have returned to.

There is then the calendar system, seen in our holiday season that has just passed and our recent Tu B’Shvat festival, also known as the “birthday of the trees”.

There is additionally the family system, which is prominently on my mind after spending time with my family.

Of all of the systems we might be able to think of, this is possibly the hardest one to be away from, being a central source of love, support, connection and comfort to the individual.

However, in the next Torah portion that we will read together, we see the creation of another system - the judicial system - after Moses’ father-in-law (Yitro, the namesake of the portion) notices that he is overwhelmed by the sheer volume of work he is performing as a judge (*shofet*) of the people. Moses heeds his advice, proving beneficial to both himself through the reduction of his work burden, and to the people, who no longer need to wait for hours on end to receive judgements and decisions. In other words, he learns that he cannot operate alone - just as we in our own lives cannot be without a support system. It also made me think about how lucky we are in our Jewish tradition to have multiple support systems, from our families to our congregational communities.

As such, I look forward to strengthening our community system, when we next see each other on January 26 for Shabbat services and Tu B’Shvat celebrations!

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**WITH GRATEFUL THANKS.....**

**GENERAL FUND**

**Lauren Schmidt** in memory of her Dad, **Harvey Buller**

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**Lois Foster**  
**Jeff Foster**

**SOUP AND LATKE SUPPER AND DECEMBER ONEG**

THANK YOU! Julie Cull, Karen Bowman, Brenda and Bill Peck,  
Judy and Mike Feinstein, Lauren Schmidt and Eileen Litchfield with assistance from  
Libbie Murstein Hospitality Fund

**MISHABEIRACH PRAYERS FOR HEALING FOR:** Jackson  
Hogenkamp, Shelly Roberts , Mitzi Saeman and continued prayers for healing to:  
Darl Blevins, Jenny Huddleston, Rosemary Kaufman, Rabbi Alyssa Stanton,  
Clara Gee Stamaty Ziment and Milton Ziment

**WE REMEMBER ...OF BLESSED MEMORY....**

BILL FEINSTEIN	SARA KASTNER
LEE KAUFMAN	ROSALIND KRAMER
ALBERT LEVIN	BEN NEWMAN
LIBBIE MURSTEIN	