

## **Welcome to the Leaders Guide!**

(Written for the Tu B'Shvat Seder Haggadah created by Sarah Glatherine 5772/2012 this is a good enough guide that actually got written, rather than the perfect one that didn't.)

Please insert some well written, non-offensive, non-guilt trippy 'think of the environment and avoid printing this out unnecessarily' statement. I wasn't sure how to! Ta Muchley!

(If you are helping me run this on Sunday I'll have copies for you when you arrive 😊)

### **This Guide includes sections on:**

The context of the haggadah

Resources

How to use the haggadah

EXTRA GAMES – JUST IN CASE!

Lyrics to the songs for turning into big readable poster versions

### **The context of the haggadah**

This haggadah has all sorts in, gathered from lots of different Tu B'Shvat sources – including other haggadot. Very little of it is from original thought and a few of those that might have been, have been found later in my research...  
The joy of coming from a rich history 😊

This is aimed at 0 – 10 year olds and their families. I've done my best to blend ideas for sophisticated thinkers and activities for sophisticated doers and people inbetween. Because I'm not sure how many people will attend there are 2 games at the end of this guide that work thematically if the seder takes less than the 2 hours that it's scheduled to take (and people are hungry for them).

The haggadah is not the Seder – it is a prop for the Seder. It is there to support an experiential communal event.

There is a list of things to set up for it before the main how to use the haggadah section.

## Resources to set up:

(made from recycled materials where possible – my choice & also to fit in with Tu B'Shvat as an ecological learning time)

Glue for sticking (PVA)

A 3D tree.

Blossom

Summertime leaves for the tree

Fruit

Jewish idea/values bunting

Jewish calendar with months (*the First Jewish Catalog* has a lovely one that Heidi photocopied and enlarged for me. Thank you Heidi!)

a paper arrow to point at Shvat

A Full Moon (a circle of tinfoil stuck on card)

Lyrics for the songs readably big on the wall

A 2D tree trunk and branches

Cotton wool balls to stick on (an almond blossom amount)

Soft toys (bears etc) for acting out the stories.

Length of paper for the community forest.

Brown paint(s)

Green Paint(s)

Brushes for painting onto peoples' hands.

Fruit (& knives for cutting them up)

Red and white grape juice (& cups to drink from)

Napkins/babywipes

(a discreet bin for those avoiding eating the fruit?)

A red balloon

2 of the Shivat HaMinim in a way that they can be passed around a circle (see the games at the end)

## How to use the haggadah:

These are notes on anything where notes would be of benefit (or to remind me how I'm thinking about doing it at the moment!).

### Front cover:

Oy! My lovely husband, the artist (kvell, kvell....). Many thanks to Adam for letting me use this image. It's beautiful.

My preference is for the spine of the haggadah to be on the right as you look at the cover.

God's name is only on page 3 to make it easier for the haggadah to be recycled.

### Page 2.

Unless a warm up is needed for the very cerebral (if so, point out the calendar and full moon stuck up on the wall for the date), after saying:

**Thank you for being here!**

Head straight to under the question marks.

Pause after the first (**what do they like about trees**) question and give people a minute to ask and listen.

Read out Nachman of Bratzlav quote and then give people a mo to (tell each other) '**what use have trees have been?**' question.

### Page 3.

Introduce Gratitude Garland activity and do it.

Mention next to the blue arrow is where we'll head back to for brachot.

*(From page 4 - 7 the layout is vaguely like pages of (more visual) Talmud)*

## Page 4

Introduce 3D tree and what looks like its emptiness.

Read the top right block 'Tu B'Shvat is the day.... so can we'

Teach/sing 'Trees are blowing in the wind'

Bracha then drink cup of white grape juice. Bracha/ot then eat fruit that need peeling/shelling.

Read bottom right block 'A person whose... from it's place.'

Ask someone to start an explanation of what it means.

A few volunteers to be the wind

Everyone else pretends to be trees – 3 stomps and bellow/holler 'mitzvah' with each stomp. Then trees shake leaves (jazz hands ish) and say 'wisdom'. This sequence happens 3 times. The volunteer wind interrupts the third time with whooshes and whistles and the trees firmly stand their ground.

Switch round volunteers so wind can be trees and a few trees can be wind.

## Page 5

Add blossom to the 3D tree

Read the top right block

Bracha then drink cup of white with a drop or red grape juice. Bracha/ot then eat fruit with stones.

Teach/sing 'Tu B'Shvat Higia'

Digital Rainstorm:

Everyone gets into a circle (kneeling? Some position that people can stamp their feet and drum their hands on the floor). There is one leader. Everyone follows what the person on their right does.

The leader first claps with (just) index fingers (everyone follows in turn), then index and middle (everyone follows in turn), then index, middle and ring (everyone follows in turn), then index, middle, ring & little (everyone follows in turn), whole hand (everyone follows in turn), and

then follows the pattern drumming on the floor (and stomping with feet as a extra) and then reverses the whole sequence.

The rain storm builds up and up and then dies down and down. When it works well it sometimes feels like you've got wet. Well, that might just be for me.

## **Page 6**

Add summer leaves to the 3D tree

Read the top right block

Bracha then drink cup of half red and half white grape juice. Bracha/ot then eat fruit that can be eaten whole.

Breathe in and out

(perhaps a little explanation of the carbon dioxide to oxygen to carbon dioxide to oxygen relationship with trees (plants) and humans (animals) with curved hands – one is a tree, one is a human: )) then (( then )) etc)

Take some time to, well, breathe...

Read middle left block 'No part of the date... and others give much charity and ask for someone to start an explanation of what it means...

**OR** (participant/atmosphere dependent)

Explain that in a good and healthy community everyone's (unique?) contribution is important (there's a great Midrash that I can't quite remember (it might be about Zuzya??) that says with something like on the day of reckoning I won't be asked 'why were you not like Moses?' I'll be asked 'why were you not Sarah?'. Please let me know if you know the source...)

Go to Our Community Forest and make brown hand prints for trunks and green finger prints for leaves. Clean up well...

## **Page 7**

Add fruit to the 3D tree

Read (under sparks block)

Read the top right block

Bracha then drink cup of white with a drop or red grape juice. Bracha/ot then smell fragrant spices

Teach/sing 'It's a tree of life' \*=hand claps

Play the finding divine spark game (time dependant)

Put flour in a bowl (pyrex bowl internal shape). Bury a shiny thing in the flour to represent divine spark. Put a plate on top of the bowl, upturn it all and take off bowl.

There will now be a dome of flour with a shiny thing somewhere inside on a plate.

Everyone who is able takes a spoon. They take turns to take off part of the flour (a sort of downward cutting motion). As they do, everyone says 'Mitzvah!'. When the divine spark (shiny thing) is found, everyone cheers.

*(If very cerebral/quiet crowd read bottom right Mitzvah Seeds paragraphs whilst doing so or after if plenty of time & the mood seems right)*

## **Page 8**

Read left paragraph 'one day [Honi] ... I plant them for my children'

Ask someone to begin to explain/translate what the story means.

Act it out with toys (with a person being the carob tree)

Read middle Pirkei Avot quote 'It is not... desist from it'

Ask someone to begin to explain/translate what the quote means.

Look at the 3D tree. Add Mitzva/Jewish values bunting.

Say its time to plan for the future – if parsley is planted on Tu B'Shvat it is ready to be dipped in saltwater at Pesach Seders.

Read top right quote 'Rabbi Simon... Grow'

Plant parsley seeds.

Teach/sing And The Youth Shall See Visions

## **EXTRA GAMES – JUST IN CASE!**

So far there has been no mention of the seven species (the 7 agricultural products mentioned in the Torah as being special products of Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel) – Dvarim / Deuteronomy 8:8). Five of them are fruit and can be used with the following cups:

1<sup>st</sup> Cup **Pomegranates**

2<sup>nd</sup> Cup **Olives**

2<sup>nd</sup> Cup **Dates**

3<sup>rd</sup> Cup **Grape**

3<sup>rd</sup> Cup **Fig**

Another way to introduce one of the species or other are in the following games:

### **Pomegranate Game**

*Competitive version:*

The group is divided into two teams. A cord is stretched to divide the room into two sides.

A large red balloon, representing a pomegranate, is tossed to the ceiling in the center of the room. As it comes down, the players blow at it, trying to make it touch either an opponent or the floor of the opposite side.

*Non-competitive version:*

A large red balloon, representing a pomegranate, is tossed to the ceiling in the center of the room. Everyone keeps it up in the air

### **Fruits of Israel**

*Competitive version:*

The Players sit in a circle. Two pieces of carob (or other of the seven species) are passed around the circle in opposite directions. They are passed quickly in order to catch up with one another.

If a player is holds both pieces, they are out of the game. A player is also out if they drop one.

When the leader says 'balagan!' (Chaos in Hebrew) the fruit is passed in the opposite direction.

*Non-Competitive version:*

The Players sit in a circle. Two pieces of carob (or other of the seven species) are passed around the circle in opposite directions. They are passed quickly in order to catch up with one another.

If a player is holds both pieces, they say (are supported to say) 'Shivat HaMinim!'. If a player drop one, people understand!

When the leader says 'balagan!' (Chaos in Hebrew) the fruit is passed in the opposite direction.

Here are pictures of the seven species / shivat haminim in case they are useful to you:

## Shivat Haminim שבעת המינים

1. barley שְׂעוֹרָה 
2. date תְּמָר 
3. fig תְּאֵנָה 
4. grapes עֲנָבִים 
5. olive זֵית 
6. pomegranate רְמוֹן 
7. wheat חֲטָה 

**Lyrics for posters are from the next page.**



# Trees Are Blowing in the Wind

Let's dig a hole,  
Let's dig a hole and plant a seed,  
Let's water it , oh let's water it -  
Because it is Tu B'Shvat.

*Trees are blowing in the wind they're  
blowing,  
Trees are blowing in the wind  
WHOOSH  
Trees are blowing in the wind they're  
blowing,  
Trees are blowing in the wind*

Look at the leaves,  
Look at the leaves they're growing now,  
Let's water it , oh let's water it -  
Because it is Tu B'Shvat.

Look at the trunk,  
Look at the trunk it's wider now,  
Let's water it , oh let's water it -  
Because it is Tu B'Shvat.

Just look at me,  
Just look at me I'm taller now,  
Don't water me, please don't water me  
Because it is Tu B'shvat.

By Debbie Friedman  
(slightly adapted)

# It's a tree of life

Shalom, Shalom

\* \* \* \*

Shalom, Shalom

\* \* \* \*

Shalom, Shalom

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

It is a tree of life to them that hold fast to it  
And all of its supporters are happy

It's a tree of life to them that hold fast to it  
And all of its supporters are happy.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

# **(part of) And The Youth Shall See Visions**

**by Debbie Friedman, based on Joel 3:1**

**And the old shall dream dreams**

**and the youth shall see visions**

**and our hopes shall rise up to the sky**

**We must live for today,**

**we must build for tomorrow**

**Give us time, give us strength, give us life.**

# מ"ו פְּעֻקֵי הַגֵּי'עַ

**Hashkaydiyah porachat**

הַשְּׁכַיִדִיָּה פּוֹרַחַת

**Vshemesh paz zorachat**

וְשֶׁמֶשׁ פַּז זוֹרַחַת

**Tziporim mayrosh kol gag**

צִפּוֹרִים מַרְאֵשׁ כָּל גֵּג

**Mvashrot et bo hechag**

מִבְּשָׂרוֹת עֵת בּוֹ הַחַג

**Tu B'Shvat higiya chag haiylanot**

ט"ו פְּעֻקֵי הַגֵּי'עַ חַג הַחַיִּילָנוֹת

**Tu B'Shvat higiya chag haiylanot**

ט"ו פְּעֻקֵי הַגֵּי'עַ חַג הַחַיִּילָנוֹת

The almond tree blossoms,

And the golden sun shines,

Birds from every rooftop announce

The coming of the holiday

'Tu B'Shvat has arrived, the holiday of the trees!'

'Tu B'Shvat has arrived, the holiday of the trees!'

(for more verses see page 382 of the MRJ siddur)