

PHILOTORAH לה"ו

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו וא' להי אבותינו שתשלח מהרה רפואה שלמה מן השמים, רפואת הנפש ורפואת הגוף לפצועי המלחמה, ולנפגעי מעשי טרור ואנטישמיות בישראל ובכל מקום שהם - עם שאר חולי ישראל. אמן.

May HaShem protect our soldiers and the hostages; may He send Refu'ah Sh'leima to the many injured; may He console the bereaved families and all of Israel, may He end this war with total success and peace for Medinat Yisrael and Klal Yisrael wherever they are.



YERUSHALAYIM in/out times for **VA'EIRA (m)**

כ"ה טבת ה'תשפ"ה • **January 24-25, '25**

 **4:31PM** PLAG **4:01PM** •  **5:46PM** R' Tam **6:19PM**

Use the Z'MANIM link for other locales and other times



Rosh Chodesh benching for Sh'vat is on Shabbat Parshat Sh'mot 40% of the time and on Va'eira, 60% of the time.

SHABBAT M'VORCHIM

This Shabbat (Va'eira) we bench Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat - which is always only one day in our Fixed Calendar.

As all dates in Tevet and Sh'vat, R"Ch Sh'vat can fall on any of five days of the week - MON, TUE, WED, THU, or SHABBAT, but never on SUN or FRI.

This year it will be on Thursday, Jan 30th.

R"Ch Sh'vat on THU has an 20.10% frequency. Last time it happened was last year; next scheduled time is 5795, ten years from now.

As for this coming Shabbat...

רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ שְׁבַט יְהִיָּה בְיוֹם חֲמִישִׁי
הָבֵא עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל לְטוֹבָה:

The molad of Sh'vat is on Wednesday, 17 minutes and 17 chalakim after 6 in the morning.

הַמּוֹלַד יְהִיָּה יוֹם רְבִיעִי, שְׁבַע-עֶשְׂרֵה דְקוֹת
וְשִׁבְעָה-עֶשְׂרֵה חֲלָקִים אַחֲרֵי שֵׁשׁ בְּבוֹקֶר.

That's 6:10am Israel Winter Time.

The actual (astronomical) molad is on Wednesday, at 2:37pm - that's 9 hrs and 27 minutes after the announced molad.

In Rambam's notation - ד' יב:שלג

Rosh Chodesh SH'VAT

has two claims to fame (as the expression goes).

In the opening p'sukim of the Book of D'varim, the Torah tells us that Moshe commenced his "farewell address" to the people of Israel. He would review and explain all of the mitzvot of the Torah and the hashkafa of a Torah Life. This process began in the fortieth year (of wandering), in the 11th month on the first of the month - namely, Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat.

This review by Moshe Rabeinu spanned 37 days, until the 7th of Adar, when he died.

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat joins three other days on our calendar that can all be seen as days of Matan/Kabalat HaTorah.

The first date is the sixth of Sivan - or more accurately, on the 50th day following the first day of Pesach - which is the festival of Shavuot, Z'MAN MATAN TORATEINU.

The second date is Yom Kippur, the 10th of Tishrei. It was on that day that we received the second set of Tablets which replaced the Luchot that Moshe broke on the 17th of Tamuz, when he descended Mount Sinai after

40 days and 40 nights of learning all of the Written Torah and the Oral Law. Since the first Luchot were broken, Yom Kippur can also be seen as a day of Matan Torah.

Then comes Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat, as described above.

And the fourth date is Purim, the day of KIYMU V'KIBLU, the day we joyously committed ourselves to freely fulfill what we have previously received under coercion of the Mountain held above our heads. This time it was free will and joyous acceptance of Mitzvot.

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat is a good day to commit oneself to a little more Torah learning, going to a new shiur, checking out YouTube for some interesting videos of Divrei Torah and shiurim.

Really, any day is good for the above, but let R"Ch Sh'vat inspire you to increased learning experiences.

AND...

In the first mishna of Masechet Rosh HaShana, we learn that the New Year for fruit is TU BiSHVAT, the 15th of Sh'vat. However, the mishna also gives us Beit Shammai's opinion that ROSH HASHANA LA-ILANOT is the first of Sh'vat. So take a fruit to lunch on R"Ch Sh'vat for Beit Shammai.

More CALstats...

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat and TU BiShvat fall on the same day of the week.

On Monday - in a Shana P'shuta (12 month, one Adar years) or in a Shana M'uberet (13 month, two Adars year), 28.03% of years.

On Tuesday, only possible in a 13-month year, 3.87% of the time.

On Wednesday, only in a 12-month year, 18.05% of the time.

On Thursday, either 12- or 13-month years, 20.10% of the time (as mentioned above).

On Shabbat, either 12- or 13-month years, 29.95% of the time.

Sh'vat / Bishvat

The word SH'VAT has a SH'VA NA under the SHIN and is pronounced with a very short vowel sound. Not SHVAT and not SHEVAT, but SH'VAT.

However, when prefixed by a BET as in TU BISHVAT, the SH'VA under the SHIN changes to a NACH and joins the BET/CHIRIK as the first syllable of the word - BISH (rhymes with wish). No vowel sound for the SHIN at all. Second syllable - VAT (rhymes with not).