



יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אללהי אבوتינו ואילahi אבוזינו שתשלח מהרה רפואה שלמה מן השמים, רפואת הנפש ורפואת הגוף לפצועינו הפלחים, ולנפנעי מעשי טרור ואנטישמיות בישראל ובכל מקום שהם - עם שאר חולי ישראל. אמן.

May HaShem protect our soldiers; may He send Refu'ah Sh'leima to the many injured; may He console the bereaved families and all of Israel; may He facilitate the return of the last hostage body; may He end this war with success and peace for Medinat Yisrael and Klal Yisrael wherever we are.



YERUSHALAYIM in/out for SHABBAT SHIRA

י"ג שבט ה'תשפ"ז • 26 January 2026

4:36PM PLAG 4:05PM • 5:51PM R' Tam 6:24PM

Use the Z'MANIM link for other locales

Kiddush L'vana

By now, regardless of one's minhag, everyone should have already said Kiddush L'vana.

But just in case you haven't said it yet - the last opportunity for KL is Sunday night, the eve of TU BiShvat, February 1st.

HAKARAT HATOV

There is a minhag to feed birds on Erev Shabbat Shira. Doing so is an act of HAKARAT HATOV.

From Parshat B'shalach, we owe bird two acknowledgments.

1) Main method of human communication is talking. For birds, it is singing. Bnei Yisrael at the Sea borrowed the birds' special talent (so to speak) to sing praise to HaShem for being saved by the Splitting of the Sea; and

2) the Midrash tells us that Datn & Aviram spread MAHN around the camp on Shabbat morning, to make a liar out of Moshe who told them that the MAHN would not fall on Shabbat. Birds came and ate up the MAHN, thus "saving" G-d's and Moshe's honor (again, so to speak).

So we thank them for both.

Take this one step further. Realize that birds have a more difficult time finding food in the winter (the ones that stick around and don't fly to warmer places for the winter). So don't limit the feeding to just Erev Shabbat Shira.

On the practical side of this minhag, here's an email I received from a PhiloTorah reader/listener.

Hi Phil. Re the custom of feeding birds on Friday before Shabbat Shira, I would offer the following. Many people, including me formerly, think that bread crumbs and bread pieces are the ideal food for birds. Actually they don't like it. It is not even among the top 10-20 foods most birds like. For the past few years, I have been spreading out sunflower seeds. They are a BIG HIT!

According to the Royal Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, these are the favorite foods of urban birds: Fruit - apples, pears and soft fruits, raisins.

Suitable seeds and grains - like millet, oats, and sunflower seeds.

Peanuts - must be unsalted, fresh and that they don't contain aflatoxin (a poison caused by fungus mould). Small birds might choke on whole peanuts, so chopping the peanuts is a good idea.

Food scraps - cooked pasta, rice and boiled potatoes... Thanks, Mark