



Congregation Iyr Ha-Melech



Volume 7, Issue 6
January 05, 2021
21 Tevet, 5781

Happy Sylvester Edition

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And Book Club
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Outreach

REMAINING SHABBAT WEEKENDS

Led by Rabbi William S
Tepper

1. February 19-20, 2021
2. April 16-17, 2021

Led by Religious Educator,
Sue Potechin

3. March 12-13, 2021
4. May 14-15, 2021

Congregation Iyr Ha-Melech
206 Concession Street
Kingston, Ontario
K7K-2B5 Canada

SERVICE WEEKEND

Led by Religious Educator Sue
Potechin

Friday January 15, 2021 at 7:30pm

Study Session

Topic: Tu Bishvat Seder

*Everything you ever wanted to know about Tu
Bishvat (or didn't) in a "nutshell".*

Adapted from a workshop by Rabbi David Burstein,
from "Jewish Family Life: Traditions, Holidays and
Values" by Yosif I. Abramovitz and Rabbi Susan
Silverman and from "Tu B'Shvat Seder" by Rivkah
Zuckerman and Ilana Sobel.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614748169
?pwd=REsvZ0lxZC9YVEwyR3UzVFo4
elZWQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614748169?pwd=REsvZ0lxZC9YVEwyR3UzVFo4elZWQT09)

Meeting ID: 861 474 8169

Passcode: IHM5781

Dial by your location. Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614748169>

Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 10:00am

Shabbat Day Service

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614748169
?pwd=REsvZ0lxZC9YVEwyR3UzVFo4
elZWQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614748169?pwd=REsvZ0lxZC9YVEwyR3UzVFo4elZWQT09)

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SYLVESTER DAY

*In Israel the secular New Year is referred to as "Yom Sylvester." Where does
this name come from?*

The Aish Rabbi Replies:

In 46 BCE the Roman emperor Julius Caesar made adjustments to the Roman
calendar, including beginning the new year on January 1 rather than in March.
(He egocentrically decreed that the calendar should henceforth be called the
"Julian" calendar.)

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

...and Book Club

Date: Monday, January 11, 2021

Title: The Plot Against America

Author: Philip Roth

ISBN-10: ISBN-10: 9781400079490

ISBN-13: ISBN-13: 978-1400079490

Hosted By: Anna



Join Zoom Meeting at 1:30pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86147
48169?pwd=REsvZ0lxZC9YVEwyR3UzVFo4
elZWQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614748169?pwd=REsvZ0lxZC9YVEwyR3UzVFo4elZWQT09)

Meeting ID: 861 474 8169

Passcode: IHM5781

Dial by your location.

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614748169>

MEN'S GROUP

Thursday January 07 at 7:30pm.

We had another lively discussion On
December 03, with 8 attendees
including Rabbi Tepper! If you are
unfamiliar with ZOOM or have any
tech problems, please contact Richard
at iyrhamelech@gmail.com ahead of
time, so we can start on time.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86147
48169?pwd=REsvZ0lxZC9YVEwyR3UzVFo4
elZWQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614748169?pwd=REsvZ0lxZC9YVEwyR3UzVFo4elZWQT09)

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Congregation Iyr HaMelech

KINGSTON JEWISH COUNCIL

Virtual Tu Bishvat Celebration








Led by Rabbis William S Tepper and Erin Polansky

Thursday, January 28, 2021 / 15 Shvat 5781

A combined virtual learning program, on the topic of Tu B'Shvat, for Iyr HaMelech, Beth Israel and the larger Kingston Jewish community.

A one hour program, including items/visuals for screen-sharing. Rabbis Tepper and Polansky will each teach two of the first four topics, and then share in teaching the final one.



-  Introductions/B'ruhim HaBa'im
-  Sources of Tu B'Shvat - Rabbinic
-  Commentaries - modern and older
-  Foods and the Seder
-  Popular customs associated with Tu B'Shvat
-  Tu B'Shvat and the future of our communities
-  Questions, Comments, Wrap-up

Sylvester Day (Continued from previous page)

In practical terms, all cultures celebrate the new year according to their particular calendar and the Romans were no different. When the Roman Empire became the Holy Roman Empire under Constantine, at his mother Helena's behest, the Christian world carried on the custom of celebrating the Roman new year.

In many European countries this day was named after Saint Sylvester. There have been three popes named Sylvester (who later became Saints), but this day is named after Sylvester I (314-335).

Christianity grew under his rule and it is believed that he died on December 31. In addition, during his rule it was believed that he had been swallowed by the Leviathan sea monster and that the monster would return in the year 1000 to destroy and kill. When it did not, people were relieved and they celebrated.

As you see, there is nothing remotely Jewish about "Sylvester Day" yet it is celebrated as a secular holiday in Israel.

Tuesday, January 05, 2021 Newsletter

KJC AND ISK WOMEN'S OUTREACH

About three years ago, the Kingston Jewish Council initiated an outreach program. Initially, Muslim and Jewish women came together to get to know one another and learn about each other's faiths. We then decided to embark on a Tzedakah (acts of kindness) project. We chose to work with the Elizabeth Fry society. Our group specifically wanted to partner with a non-profit social service agency that was not on everybody's radar.

EFry works with women who are in the justice system and/or are transitioning back into society. They also work with Marginalized and homeless women. They run many programs such as supportive housing, transition housing, educational and leadership programs, economic literacy, community luncheons to name a few.

Word got around that we were running this successful program and other faiths wanted to join - so now we have the "Kingston Women's Interfaith group" which consists of around 40 members to date.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We provide lunch at EFry once a month, where members of our group each bring a dish. We make sure that all the food groups are incorporated and that we are not duplicating contributions. Each woman brings enough food to feed about 30 people. We eat and socialize with the women in the WeHub on Charles Street, and as a result, we have developed a trusting camaraderie with the women.

We either make or buy food, depending on our schedules and availability. Not all of our group can attend, so they kindly drop off the food.

In addition, we collect food parcels and household and toiletry items and clothing which we donate to EFry. This is done around three times a year. (fall, spring and summer)

The Executive director, Katherine Londry, has repeatedly told us how much the women look forward to our monthly lunches, and how they feel that we care about them as individuals. The lunches went on a hiatus due to the pandemic but have started up again where the food is brought to EFry and then packed into individual meals for distribution.

Some members of Congregation Iyr Ha'Melech are happy to be involved in the program. They include Ruth Dukas, Esther Quirt, Martha Scheinman, and Renee O'Farrell. If any other women are interested in becoming involved, they are invited to contact Janice Barling at 613-531-4930 or email at Janicebarling@gmail.com.