



# FEBRUARY

## SHEVAT - ADAR

### TREE'S NEW YEAR

The 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar is the day that marks the beginning of a "new year" for trees. Commonly known as Tu Bishvat, this day marks the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. To commemorate this special day, Jews throughout the world eat foods that are distinctive to and characteristic of the Holy Land, including the seven types of fruits and grain mentioned in the Torah: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates. On this day, a new seasonal fruit is customarily eaten for the first time. The blessings Shehecheyanu and Ha'eitz are said over the fruit.

*Pictured: Valley in the Golan Heights*

### THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE

Feb. 2	Monday	Chamishah Osher B'Shevat
Feb. 16	Monday	Presidents Day
Feb. 17-18	Tues.-Wed.	Rosh Chodesh

\*\* Religious Work Proscription/Non-Working Day

**Ask Your Family & Friends to Support Aleph's Great Work by donating to The Aleph Institute!**

**[Alephne.org/donate](http://Alephne.org/donate)**

### CHESED Mentors and Mentees MENTORING PROGRAM

Mentors help inmates keep faith, have hope, and perspective. It can be hard to navigate and adapt to a new life style but our mentoring program makes that a little bit easier.

Mentors help inmates with the transition back into society, family, synagogue and community.

If you are interested in being a mentee or a mentor, please reach out to us at [info@alephne.org](mailto:info@alephne.org).



# FEBRUARY 2026

SHEVAT - ADAR 5786

SUNDAY

MONDAY





TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p><b>1</b> 14 Shevat</p> <p><b>CHAMISHAH OSSER B'SHEVAT</b></p> <p>The 15th of Shevat marks the beginning of a “new year” for trees. This day marks the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep &amp; begin a new fruit-bearing cycle.</p>	<p><b>2</b> 15 Shevat Tu B'Shevat</p>	<p><b>3</b> 16 Shevat</p>	<p><b>4</b> 17 Shevat</p>	<p><b>5</b> 18 Shevat</p>	<p><b>6</b> 19 Shevat</p> <p>Candle Lighting: 5:26 PM </p>	<p><b>7</b> 20 Shevat</p> <p>Yitro</p> <p>Shabbat Ends: 6:27 PM</p>
<p><b>8</b> 21 Shevat</p>	<p><b>9</b> 22 Shevat</p>	<p><b>10</b> 23 Shevat</p>	<p><b>11</b> 24 Shevat</p>	<p><b>12</b> 25 Shevat</p>	<p><b>13</b> 26 Shevat</p> <p>Candle Lighting: 5:35 PM </p>	<p><b>14</b> 27 Shevat Blessing of the New Month</p> <p>Mishpatim Shekalim</p> <p>Shabbat Ends: 6:35 PM</p>
<p><b>15</b> 28 Shevat</p>	<p><b>16</b> 29 Shevat Presidents Day</p>	<p><b>17</b> 30 Shevat Rosh Chodesh</p>	<p><b>18</b> 1 Adar Rosh Chodesh</p>	<p><b>19</b> 2 Adar</p>	<p><b>20</b> 3 Adar</p> <p>Candle Lighting: 5:43 PM </p>	<p><b>21</b> 4 Adar</p> <p>Terumah</p> <p>Shabbat Ends: 6:43 PM</p>
<p><b>22</b> 5 Adar</p>	<p><b>23</b> 6 Adar</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7 Adar</p>	<p><b>25</b> 8 Adar</p>	<p><b>26</b> 9 Adar</p>	<p><b>27</b> 10 Adar</p> <p>Candle Lighting: 5:51 PM </p>	<p><b>28</b> 11 Adar</p> <p>Tetzaveh Zachor</p> <p>Shabbat Ends: 6:51 PM</p>

Molad: Tuesday, 2/17 at 3:50 (12 chalakiim) AM

**Candle Lighting Times**

	Los Angeles	Miami	Jerusalem	Milwaukee	Greenfield Park	San Juan
2/6	5:11	5:50	4:38	4:53	5:02	6:03
2/13	5:18	5:55	4:44	5:02	5:11	6:07
2/20	5:24	5:59	4:50	5:12	5:20	6:09
2/27	5:30	6:03	4:55	5:21	5:28	6:12

Shabbat ends on Saturday approximately 65 min. after listed times.



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PLEASE MAKE  
SURE  
WE HAVE YOUR  
EMAIL ADDRESS!**

*Our case workers  
are ready to help  
your loved ones  
cope with the  
challenges.*

Shabbat & Jewish holidays start at Sundown.

The times listed might not be accurate for your location. Please check the Candle Lighting times for your area at [www.AlephNE.org/CandleLighting](http://www.AlephNE.org/CandleLighting)

## A Very Abridged Guide to Kosher Dietary Laws (an introductory overview only!)

"Kosher" means far more than just "non-pork." Throughout history, observant Jews have practically starved themselves rather than consume any food or drink that was not "kosher" (the word means "proper" or "fit"). A Jew's obligation to consume only kosher food is a Biblically-mandated precept as elaborated by principles set forth by Rabbis and Sages thousands of years ago, and applied today. Observant Jews believe that the slightest morsel of forbidden food taints not only the body, but the soul itself. Accordingly, the availability of nutritionally-sufficient kosher food for a Jew is not a luxury accommodation; it is an essential provision to allow that person to live.

All food and their components are divided into four categories:

(1) MEAT; (2) DAIRY; (3) PARVE (NEUTRAL); AND (4) NON-KOSHER (INCLUDING MIXTURES OF MEAT & DAIRY, AND MIXTURES OF MEAT & FISH).

### MEAT

Only certain Biblically-defined animals are kosher: ruminants with split hooves (generally cows and sheep), and poultry; only certain portions of those animals may be consumed. Animals must be slaughtered in a religiously-mandated humane way by skilled and learned Jews. Meats must be washed and salted in a religiously-mandated way observed by a rabbi or other skilled and learned people under his direction.

### DAIRY

Dairy products must be derived from kosher animals. Accordingly, milk products from a pig, camel, or other non-kosher animal is not kosher. May observant Jews will not consume milk and dairy products unless they have a high level of rabbinical supervision during processing ("Cholov Yisroel").

### PARVE

Everything kosher that does not fall under the categories of meat or dairy are called "parve" (neutral). Included are eggs, kosher fish and plants (fruits and vegetables). Only fish with scales and fins are kosher. Accordingly, no shellfish are kosher. Parve products may be eaten with either meat or dairy products (although fish may not be mixed with meat in a single dish).

### "NON-KOSHER" FOODS

**INTRINSICALLY NON-KOSHER:** all non-ruminant animals and those that do not have split hooves; most birds except poultry; all animals that have not been slaughtered, soaked, salted and inspected according to Jewish law; all shellfish; all insects and rodents; all grape juice products not supervised by a Rabbi; all hard cheese products not supervised by a Rabbi; all mixtures of meat and dairy; all mixtures of meat and fish.

**NON-KOSHER AS A RESULT OF PROCESSING:** spray-dried products; reacted flavors; production of fatty acids; some canned foods; food prepared with equipment previously used for non-kosher products. Meat and dairy products may not be cooked or eaten together, nor may a Jew derive any benefit from such mixed loads.

Accordingly, two separate sets of cooking utensils, dishes and cutlery are required: one for meat and one for dairy foods. It is customary to mark all utensils used for dairy foods so that they will not be interchanged with those used for meat. Observant Jews do not eat from the same loaf of bread if it has been used with both meat and dairy products.

Even a very small amount of meat or dairy (or their derivatives) in a product renders that product "meat" or "dairy." Care must always be taken that kosher foods are prepared and served with appropriate utensils (e.g., utensils that have not (a) been used or washed together with non-kosher foods; and (2) are not used both for meat and dairy products).

### INGREDIENTS

The overwhelming majority of basic ingredients may or may not be kosher depending on their origin or processing history. Accordingly, they require Rabbinical supervision to insure that their origin is from a kosher product, that they were processed with proper equipment and whether they are meat, dairy or parve.

**INGREDIENTS THAT CAN NEVER BE KOSHER:** civet; castoreum; carmine; ambergris.

**INGREDIENTS PRESENTLY NOT AVAILABLE IN KOSHER FORM:** musk; animal gelatin; natural cognac oil; encianina (grape skin extract).

**INGREDIENTS REQUIRING RABBINICAL SUPERVISION:** Products that may be derived from an animal source: all oil and fats; natural fatty acids, their esters and especially palmitic, stearic, oleic and

pelargonic acids; fatty alcohols, aldehydes and ketones; lactones; polysorbates, sorbitans and all emulsifiers; amino acids and hydrolyzed proteins; glycerol and esters; enzymes; enzyme-modified products; whey (arising from enzyme action); vitamins.

Products that have or may have a grape juice origin: juices; wine; encianina; natural cognac oil; fusel oil; amyl alcohol and esters; natural valeric acid; ethyl

alcohol; natural ethyl esters; natural acetaldehyde; vinegar. Products that are dairy or may have a dairy origin and will cause a product to be "dairy": milk solids; lactose, casein and derivatives; cream and derivatives; starter distillates; whey and chemicals produced from it; fatty acids from butter or cheese: butyric, caproic, propionic and myristic acids.

Many common products and national brands are labeled with symbols signifying that they have been prepared under rabbinical supervision and comply with kosher dietary laws.

### THE SABBATH, HOLIDAYS AND FAST DAYS

Sabbath and holiday meals should include wine (or grape juice), two loaves of bread (or rolls or whole matzos), fish and meat. Observant Jews may not eat foods that are cooked on the Sabbath, or even reheated by Jews on the Sabbath. Accordingly, work schedules may need to be rearranged to insure that no Jewish inmates (or staff) actually reheat any of the pre-cooked foods (e.g., instant grits, hot cereal, beef or chicken entrees) on the Sabbath. Work proscriptions for Biblically-mandated festivals are generally the same as for the Sabbath, except for more lenient rules governing the use of fire and the preparation of food. The specific prohibitions of festivals and their differences from the Sabbath are beyond the scope of this memorandum. Competent rabbinic authorities should be consulted with individual questions. Institutional staff should be aware that Jewish inmates may not be able to eat dinner at its regularly-scheduled time on the eve of certain fast days, and should be permitted to eat well before sundown. With respect to all fast days, staff should be made aware that Jewish inmates may need to wait to consume any food or drink until one hour after sundown on the fast day itself, and, if dinner is scheduled before then, those inmates should be given the opportunity to eat at a later, more religiously appropriate, time.

### PASSOVER FOODS

In addition to all of the above, the following products and their derivatives may not be used during the Jewish eight-day holiday of Passover: wheat; rye; barley; oats; spelt; corn; legumes (soy, peanut, etc); rice; mustard; alcohol; beer; dextrose (from wheat or corn); sorbitol (Sephardic Jews do eat some of these items). As a general rule, Passover products may not be manufactured with, cooked or served in utensils that were previously used with non-Passover foods. All products that require Passover certification must be manufactured under Rabbinical supervision. Matzo available year-round is generally leavened and is not kosher for Passover.

### KOSHER FOOD IN INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

Kosher food can be made available to Jewish inmates by: (1) preparing it on site with proper kitchen facilities under the direction of a qualified kosher food supervisor; or (2) obtaining pre-packaged meals from Kosher food vendors around the country (e.g., airline dinners or shelf stable packaging) and products with appropriate kosher certification symbols; and/or (3) obtaining fresh products through retail outlets and kosher food purveyors. The use of disposable plastic or paper goods is an easy, cost-effective and religiously-acceptable alternative when providing Kosher food in an institutional environment.

Adapted from "A Guide To Kosher Dietary Laws," by Dr. J. Leff, Ph.D.

### Kosher Certification of Commercially-Available Products

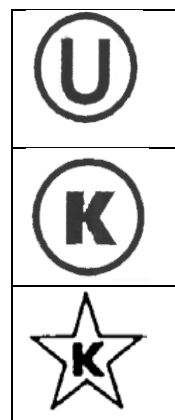
All food and their components are divided into four categories:

- (1) **Meat** (which may not be prepared with the same utensils, or consumed with, dairy products);
- (2) **Dairy** (which may not be prepared with the same utensils, or consumed with, meat products);
- (3) **Parve** (neutral products, which may be prepared or consumed with either meat or dairy products); and
- (4) **Non-Kosher** (which includes non-kosher foods, mixtures of meat and dairy, and mixtures of meat and fish).

Observant Jews will eat most food products only when they know that highly-competent skilled and learned Jews have supervised the entire process: the source, preparation and service of the product. Ingredients listed on food packaging is **not** a reliable indicator as to whether the product is kosher. Many ingredients do not list their components (e.g., "Gelatin" does not indicate whether it was derived from animal products or vegetable matter; "Flavorings" does not indicate source) and ingredients used in minute amounts are not necessarily listed. Many thousands of common commercially-available products and national brands are labeled with trademarked symbols signifying that they have been prepared under rabbinical supervision and comply with kosher dietary requirements.

The letter "K" alone printed on a food package provides no meaningful assurance. It is a generic letter that may be placed on most anything, and does not indicate that any reputable kosher certifying organization has provided any oversight at all.

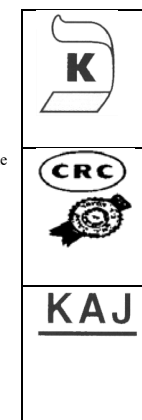
Six of the most-commonly accepted national kosher certification agencies and their trademarked symbols are:



The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations (The "O-U")  
333 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10001  
Tel.: (212) 563-4000 Fax: (212) 564-9058  
Publication: *The "OU" Kashrus Directory*

The Organized Kashrus Laboratories (The "O-K")  
1372 Carroll Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11213  
Tel.: (718) 756-7500 Fax: (718) 756-7503  
Publication: *The Jewish Homemaker*

"Star-K" Kosher Certification  
11 Warren Road  
Baltimore, MD 21208-5234  
Tel.: (410) 484-4110 Fax: (410) 653-9294  
Publication: *Kashrus Kurrents*



"KOF-K" Kosher Supervision  
1444 Queen Anne Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
Tel.: (201) 837-0500 Fax: (201) 837-0126  
Publication: *The Kosher Outlook*

Central Rabbinical Congress (The "CRC")  
85 Division Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
Tel.: (718) 384-6765 Fax: (718) 486-5574

Publication: *CRC Kashrus Directory*

K'hal Adath Jeshurun ("Breuer's" or the "KAJ")  
85-93 Bennett Avenue  
New York, NY 10033  
Tel.: (212) 923-3582 Fax: (212) 781-4275  
Publication: *KAJ Newsletter*

The letter "D" following some of these symbols signifies that the product contains dairy products (and may not be used with meat products). Always check with the certifying agency itself if you have any questions.

There are over two hundred kosher symbols and corresponding agencies that certify ingredients and packaged foods throughout the United States. *Kashrus Magazine*, a magazine for kosher consumers, publishes lists five times per year of products and manufacturers preparing kosher food, and other news and updates. One issue per year contains an extensive listing of the names, addresses and symbols used by all kosher certifying agencies. Subscriptions may be obtained from *Kashrus Magazine*, POB 204, Brooklyn, NY 11204. Tel: (718) 336-8544.

If you have any questions regarding the laws of Kashrus, are in need of assistance, or would like more information on the laws of Kashrus, please feel free to call Aleph Institute, 5804 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217, 412-421-0111 or info@alephinc.org. We can also try to direct you to Kosher vendors and provide information on available Kosher products.

# Jewish Holy Days

## According to the Gregorian Calendar

### YEAR 2026-2029

Holy Day	Hebrew Date	Work	2026	2027	2028	2029
		Permitted				
Fast of 10th of Tevet	Tevet 10		Dec. 30-25	Dec. 20-26	Jan. 9	Dec. 16
15th of Shevat	Shevat 15		Feb. 2	Jan. 23	Feb. 12	Jan. 31
Fast of Esther	Adar 13		Mar. 2	Mar. 22	Mar. 9	Feb. 28
Purim	Adar 14		Mar. 3	Mar. 23	Mar. 12	Feb. 29
Fast of Firstborn	Nissan 14		Apr. 1	Apr. 21	Apr. 10	Mar. 30
Passover {First 2 Days}	Nissan 15-16	No	Apr. 2-3	Apr. 22-23	Apr. 11-12	Mar. 31 - Apr. 1
Passover {Intermediate Days}	Nissan 17-20		Apr. 4-7	Apr. 24-27	Apr. 13-16	Apr. 2-5
Passover {Last 2 Days}	Nissan 20-21	No	Apr. 8-9	Apr. 28-29	Apr. 17-18	Apr. 6-7
Lag B'Omer	Iyar 18		May 5	May 25	May 14	May 3
Shavuot	Sivan 6-7	No	May 22-23	June 11-12	May 31 - June 1	May 20-21
Fast of 17th of Tamuz	Tammuz 17		Jul. 2	Jul. 22	Jul. 11	Jul. 1
Fast of 9th of Av	Av 9		Jul. 23	Aug. 12	Aug. 1	Jul. 21
Rosh Hashana	Tishrei 1-2	No	Sept. 12-13	Oct. 2-3	Sept. 21-22	Sept. 10-11
Fast of Gedaliah	Tishrei 3		Sept. 14	Oct. 4	Sept. 24	Sept. 12
Yom Kippur	Tishrei 9-10	No	Sept. 21	Oct. 11	Sept. 30	Sept. 19
Sukkot {First 2 Days}	Tishrei 15-16	No	Sept. 26-27	Oct. 16-17	Oct. 5-6	Sept. 24-25
Sukkot {Intermediate Days}	Tishrei 17-21		Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Oct. 18-22	Oct. 7-11	Sept. 26-30
Shemini Atzeret	Tishrei 22	No	Oct. 3	Oct. 23	Oct. 12	Oct. 1
Simchat Torah	Tishrei 23	No	Oct. 4	Oct. 24	Oct. 13	Oct. 2
Chanukah	Kislev 25, Tevet 2/3		Dec. 5-12	Dec. 25 - Jan 1	Dec. 13-20	Dec. 2-9