

## **TBO-BT Men's Club SHOMREI HA'ARETZ/ STEWARDS OF THE LAND**

### **Shmittah Year: Humans in Balance with Earth**

**Tu B'Shevat 5775 February 4, 2015**

**Shmittah**, literally translated as the 'year of release,' and more widely known as the Sabbatical Year, is a biblical Jewish tradition, which, once every seven years, simultaneously re-adjusted agriculture and commerce to ensure an equitable, just and healthy society. The year of Shmittah was a time when agricultural lands were collectively left fallow. The Earth (land, air, water) is not merely some resource to be used and abused. If we want to live on the land, it is our responsibility to let it rest. Also, not destroy the biological productivity with trash dumps, slag heaps, chemical waste ponds and sewage.

**Tu B'Shavat** is the Jewish New Year of the trees. Trees are a metaphor for nature and the environment. The celebration and Blessings give thanks for the sustenance and material provided to humans. The combination of Shmittah and Tu B'Shevat should encourage us make the effort to be Stewards of the Land.

Conserve the forests by reusing paper (print on both sides) and cardboard boxes before recycling. Purchase goods with 80%+ consumer recycled material.

Reduce food waste, purchase and cook only what your family can eat before it spoils and compost the vegetable waste. Share the food you cannot use.

Plan to use more sustainable lawn & landscape care practices such as using native plants, water conservation and avoiding chemical fertilizers and pesticides.