

SH'VAT

The *Molad*: Wednesday morning,
2:25 and 2 portions.

The moon may be sanctified until
Wednesday night, the 16th, 8:47 p.m.¹

Rosh Chodesh is on Wednesday.

Sh'vat 4, Shabbos Parshas Bo.

The special practices associated with this Shabbos are outlined by The Rebbe in *Sefer HaMinbagim* (pp. 165-166).

Sh'vat 10, Friday.

This day marks the *yahrzeit* of the Previous Rebbe, **Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn**. He passed away in 5710 (1950), and is interred in New York.

On this day, **The Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson**, assumed the leadership of the *Chabad* movement.

It is a day when *Anash* gather together to learn chapters of *Mishnayos* whose initial letters spell out the Previous Rebbe's name, and to have Chassidic *farbrengens*, recalling the life of the Previous Rebbe and dedicating themselves to the goals set by The Rebbe.

Tzedakah should be given generously to the Previous Rebbe's institutions.

The special practices associated with this day are outlined by The Rebbe in *Sefer HaMinbagim* (pp. 166-168).

Sh'vat 11, Shabbos Parshas B'shalach.

This Shabbos is also referred to as **Shabbos Shirah** (because we read the song of celebration sung by the Jews after the crossing of the Reed Sea).

The congregation should stand while the song is being read from the Torah.

The Rebbe instructed that in the passage describing the battle with Amalek (*Sh'mos* 17:8-16), both when it is read for the seventh *aliyah* and for *Maftir*, the word זכר in the phrase זכר עמלק should be read twice: first with a *segol* (*zecher*) and then with a

1. **The times for sanctifying the moon are based on Jerusalem Standard Time.** One should therefore calculate the time for sanctifying the moon according to his location.

tzeirei (zeicher).

The *Haftorah* begins *U'Devorah ishab nevi'ah* (*Shoftim* 4:4-5:31).

On this Shabbos, it is customary to eat black buckwheat, also known as *kasha*.

Sh'vat 14, Tuesday. We do not recite *Tachanun* in the **Afternoon Service**.

Sh'vat 15, Wednesday.

This day marks the **New Year for Trees**.

Tachanun is not recited, and it is forbidden to fast. This applies even to a bride and groom on their wedding day.

It is customary to eat fruit from a tree on this day,² in particular the “seven species” for which *Eretz Yisrael* is praised.³

Sh'vat 18, Shabbos Parshas Yisro.

We read the Ten Commandments using the *taam elyon*, special cantillation notes. While the Ten Commandments are being read, the congregation should stand and face the Torah.

For the *Haftorah*, we read *Y'shayahu's* vision of the Divine throne, ending with *zera kodesh matzavtah* (*Y'shayahu* 6:1-13).

Sh'vat 22, Wednesday.

This day marks the **30th yahrzeit** of **Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson**, daughter of the Previous Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, and wife of The Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. She passed away in 5748 (1988), and is interred in New York.

Sh'vat 25, Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim, Parshas Sh'kalim, and Shabbos M'varchim.

In the **Morning Service**, two Torah scrolls are taken out. Seven men are given *aliyos* for the weekly reading from the first scroll, and a half-*Kaddish* is recited. The *Maftir*, the passage from Parshas Ki Sisa (*Sh'mos* 30:11-16) which mentions the command to give the half-*shekel*, is read from the second scroll.

The *Haftorah* begins *Vayichbros Y'boyada* (*II Melachim* 11:17-12:17).

2. *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. XXVI, footnote on p. 412.

3. *Sefer HaSichos* 5749, Vol. 1, p. 222; *Sefer HaSichos* 5751, Vol. 1, p. 298.

The laws that apply if one read another *Haftorah* are discussed in the section for Shabbos Parshas Noach.

We bless the month of Adar, announcing Rosh Chodesh, which falls on the coming Thursday and Friday.

We do not recite the passage *Av harachamim*.

