

# JUST FOR KIDS - JANUARY 2024

## JANUARY HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

### NEW YEAR'S DAY – JANUARY 1, 2024

#### **FACTS ABOUT NEW YEAR'S** (ages 8-10)

This year, 2023, is coming to an end. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, we begin the year 2024. Why do we have fireworks? Why do we make resolutions? Why does it start January 1<sup>st</sup>?

Check out this site to get some facts about New Year's Day and about some of the different ways it is celebrated.

<https://www.cbc.ca/kids/articles/whats-the-story-new-years-day>

#### **NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD** (ages 7-12) **video**

Watch this video to visit different countries and see some interesting ways people celebrate the arrival of the new year. Smashing dishes, dancing in bear costumes, wearing certain colors of underwear, and smashing pomegranates are some of the traditions. Learn where these traditions are carried out and the meaning behind them.

<https://youtu.be/DDNOTBIFWWY>

### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – JANUARY 15, 2024

#### **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.** (ages 7-10) **video**

On the third Monday in January, we honor the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was a civil rights leader who used peaceful ways to get equal rights for all. This short video will tell you more about this leader of the civil rights movement and about how we honor him today.

<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/8cb55681-9129-467d-96e6-0bd7b5bd16e5/martin-luther-king-day-all-about-the-holidays/>

#### **I HAVE A DREAM** (ages 8 and up) **video**

This is actual video of Dr. King giving his famous speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism in the United States.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4iY1TtS3s>

### TU B'SHEVAT – SUNSET JANUARY 24 - 25, 2024 (ages 7-10)

What is Tu B' Shevat? Sometimes it is referred to as "The Birthday of Trees" or "The New Year of Trees". Find out more here:

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/819824/jewish/What-is-Tu-BShevat.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/819824/jewish/What-is-Tu-BShevat.htm)

## **LEARN ABOUT SHABBAT**

### **SHALOM SESAME: SHABBAT SHALOM GROVER** (ages 4-7) **video**

It's almost Shabbat! Everyone is busy getting ready for the holiday but Grover doesn't know what "Shabbat" is. Shoshanna shows Grover the meaning of Shabbat by including Grover in the preparations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucEIP0xR-bs>

### **SHALOM SESAME: CELEBRATING SHABBAT** (ages 4-7) **video**

Follow a kindergartner in Tel Aviv as she shows you how she and her classmates get ready for Shabbat.

[https://youtu.be/k5UQXz\\_wHmQ](https://youtu.be/k5UQXz_wHmQ)

## **STORIES**

### **NEW YEAR'S**

#### **SQUIRREL'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTION** by Pat Miller (ages 4-6) **Read aloud**

It is the start of the new year and all of the animals in the forest have made their New Year's resolutions, everyone except Squirrel. She starts off by asking Bear what a resolution is and if he has one. Bear explains what a resolution is and tells Squirrel what his resolution is. Squirrel feels determined to come up with a resolution after talking to Bear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPRZZFW05W4>

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING**

#### **I AM MARTIN LUTHER KING JR** by Brad Meltzer (ages 5-8) **Read aloud**

As a child, Martin Luther King, Jr. was shocked by the terrible and unfair way African American people were treated. When he grew up, he decided to do something about it—peacefully, with powerful words. Listen to Martin tell story in this book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xajQz49mRU>

#### **A PICTURE BOOK OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.** by David A. Adler (ages 7-10) **Read aloud**

Learn how Martin's childhood experiences sparked his interest in equality and how he helped to change things in America.

<https://youtu.be/x6orRByAzBc>

#### **MARTIN'S BIG WORDS: THE LIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.** by Doreen Rappaport (ages 7-10) **Read aloud**

Martin grew up in a place where people used words that made him feel bad. Let's see how Martin was able to use words to help people and make the world a better place.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rc39Ka8ut6k>

## TU B'SHEVAT

### **PLANTING PARSLEY** by Pamela Ehrenberg (ages 3-6) **animated**

Many people celebrate this holiday by planting saplings and participating in a meal that like a Tu B'Shevat seder, where fruits, nuts, and wine or grape juice are on the menu. Others also spend plant a tree, work in a garden, eat a special fruit, or do something else to show some love for trees and the earth. Enjoy this story, about two children planting parsley.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfxCfly1WGk>

### **\*PEARL MOSKOWITZ'S LAST STAND** by Arthur A. Levine (ages 7-11) **Read aloud**

Pearl loved her street. She loved the people on her street, and she loved the trees on her street -- planted there by her mother years before. So, when the city wants to cut them down, it's time for Pearl to take a stand

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xrV067STh8>

*\*You can borrow this book from our synagogue library*

## SHABBAT

### **\*FRIDAYS ARE SPECIAL** by Chris Barash (ages 4-7) **Read aloud**

Fridays are not like other days. Fridays are special! There's challah to bake, dinner to cook, family to greet, and lots of cozy fun to be had, all in preparation for Shabbat. Listen to this sweet rhyming book about this special day of the week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY0rh7QuT08>

*\*You can borrow this book from our synagogue library*

### **\*THE SABBATH LION** retold by Howard Schwartz (ages 8-12) **Read aloud**

In this Jewish folktale from Algeria, young Yosef makes a long journey by caravan to claim an inheritance for his family. But the cruel-hearted leader refuses to stop for the Sabbath. Yosef is afraid to leave the caravan, but his devotion keeps him from going on, and he stays alone and prays. Then something wonderful happens...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3FUgfW7vYg>

*\*You can borrow this book from our synagogue library*

## MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

### NEW YEAR'S SONG

#### **A NEW YEAR'S SONG FOR KIDS!** (ages 5-8)

This is a great song to do as a round. "Cheer the year" and sing this New Year song to bring in the new year!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka1E7g9z3EQ>

Check out these **TU B'SHEVAT** related songs:

**IF I WERE A TREE WHAT A TREE I'D BE** (ages 4-6) **animated music video**

Sing along learn about trees and act out the parts of the tree with this fun video  
<https://youtu.be/7mt79JW9u18>

**MR. R'S TREE SONG** (ages 6-8) **animated music video**

Learn about Trees -- Roots, and Trunks, and Leaves! Why do we need them? Watch this fun science song video and soon you'll be singing along with the chorus!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7dKRBZVLvI>

## **SHABBAT SONGS**

**OSEH SHALOM** (all ages)

This is the Jewish prayer for peace, and in this karaoke style lyrics video, you and your parents can learn all the words. There are lots of versions of Oseh Shalom, this one is a traditional Israeli melody by Nurit Hirsch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ODQuc6PzVk>

**IT'S SHABBAT!** (ages 4-6)

If you know "Baby Shark," you already know the tune to this song. Watch the Maccabeats, a Jewish a cappella group, sing a Shabbat parody of Baby Shark. Then join the fun and sing along.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCwOQnIInnU>

**SHABBAT SHALOM - HEY! (THE BIM BAM SONG)** (ages 4-8)

In this video, you can learn the popular Shabbat Shalom HEY song and get the family in the mood for Friday night dinner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHrlizly-S8>

## **ACTIVITIES**

**TU B' SHEVAT FRUIT PLATES** (ages 7 and up) **with parent's help**

On Tu B'Shevat we celebrate the new year for trees by eating fruit, especially the seven fruits of Israel which include pomegranates, dates, figs and grapes. Make these fun fruit plates to represent trees in each season - summer, fall, winter and spring.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/2461849/jewish/Tu-BShevat-Fruit-Plates.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2461849/jewish/Tu-BShevat-Fruit-Plates.htm)

**FROZEN YOGURT GRAPES** (ages 5 and up)

On Tu B'Shevat it's traditional to eat fruit—especially some of the fruits of Israel: figs, dates, pomegranates, grapes and olives.

Here's an easy way to jazz up your grapes and make them a little more fun.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/2846488/jewish/Frozen-Yogurt-Grapes.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2846488/jewish/Frozen-Yogurt-Grapes.htm)

**Check this out:**

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT CORRELATE WITH THIS MONTH'S TOPICS  
AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY**

**SHABBAT**

1. Havdalah Sky, A Poem for the End of Shabbat, Chris Barash (*board book*)
2. Fridays Are Special, Chris Barash (**FICTION**)
3. The Cricket and the Ant, Naomi Ben-Gur (**FICTION**)
4. In the Market of Zakrobat, Ori Elon (**FICTION**)
5. No Baths At Camp, Tamar Fox (**FICTION**)
6. Shai's Shabbat Walk, Elilie Gellman (*board book*)
7. This is the Challah, Sue Hepker (**FICTION**)
8. The Friday Nights of Nana, Amy Hest (**FICTION**)
9. Joseph and the Sabbath Fish, Eric Kimmel (**FICTION**)
10. Clarence's Topsy-Turvey Shabbat, Jennifer Tzivia MacLeod (**FICTION**)
11. Many Days, One Shabbat, Fran Manushkin (**FICTION**)
12. Shabbat Shalom, (20 festive songs ) Cindy Paley (**NONFICTION**)
13. The Schmutzy Family, Madelyn Rosenberg (**FICTION**)
14. The Kiddish Cup Who Hated Wine, Byrd Salop (**FICTION**)
15. Mrs. Moskowitz and the Sabbath Candlesticks, Amy Schwartz (**FICTION**)
16. The Sabbath Lion, A Jewish Folktale from Algeria, Retold by Howard Schwartz and Barbara Rush (**FICTION**)
17. Yitzi The Trusty Tractor, Naomi Shulman (**FICTION**)
18. Let's Celebrate Shabbat, Adam Siegel editor (**NONFICTION**)
19. The Shabbat Box, Leslie Simpson (**FICTION**)

**TU B' SHEVAT**

1. Pearl Moskowitz's Last Stand, Arthur A. Levine (**FICTION**)
2. It's Tu B' Shevat, Edie Stoltz Zolkower (*board book*) (**NONFICTION**)