



**TU B'SHVAT BOOKS AT THE BETH SHOLOM  
LIBRARY  
February 2009**

**FOR ADULTS:**

Buxbaum, Yitzhak. *A Person Is Like a Tree: A Sourcebook for Tu BeShvat*. (Jason Aronson, 2000; ISBN: 0-7657-6128-9). This excellent reference includes sections about the history and customs of the Tu BeShvat celebration, the spiritual meaning of Tu BeShvat and the Tu BeShvat Seder and Feast. Several sections include the references made to trees and seeds throughout Jewish texts, and there is a collection of stories. The appendix includes "Preparing for a Tu BeShvat Feast" and "Items to Buy and Prepare." There is also a glossary, a bibliography and an index.

Elon, Ari; Hyman, Naomi Mara; and Arthur Waskow, editors. *Trees, Earth, and Torah: A Tu B'Shvat Anthology*. (JPS, 1999; ISBN: 0-8276-0665-6). A comprehensive collection of Jewish resources for observing the holiday that draws from biblical, rabbinical, medieval, and modern sources—from art, music, recipes, and crafts, as well as fiction, poetry and essays.

**FROM HOLIDAY BOOKS:**

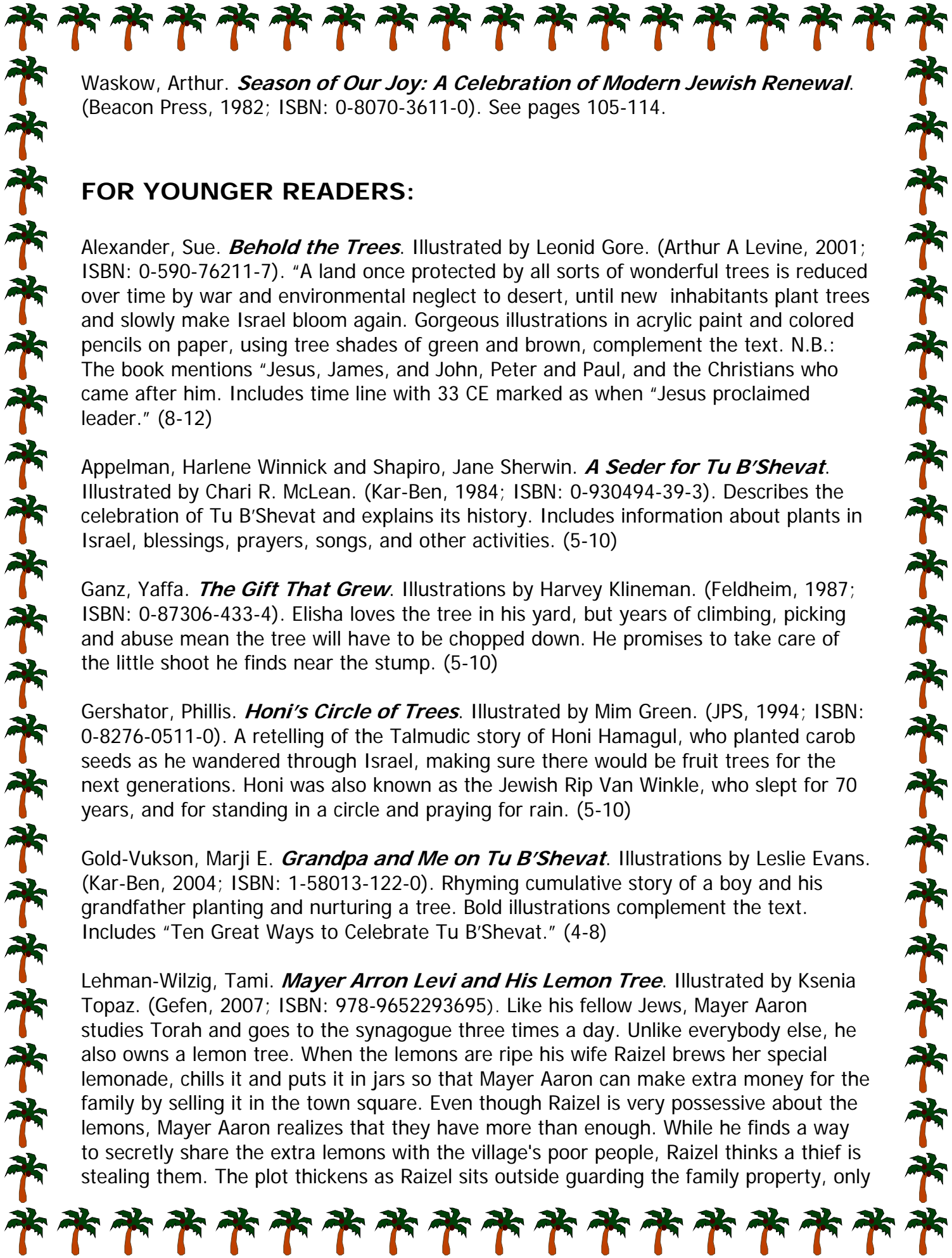
Kitov, Issachar. *The Book of Our Heritage*. (Feldheim, 1978; ISBN: 0-87306-152-7). See pages 346-357.

Klagsbrun, Francine. Jewish Days: *A Book of Jewish Life and Culture Around the Year*. Illustrated by Mark Podwal. (Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996; ISBN: 0-374-17923-9). See pages 88-90.

Miron, Issachar. *Eighteen Gates of Jewish Holidays and Festivals*. Illustrations by Arthur Szyk. (Jason Aronson, 1993; ISBN: 0-87668-563-7). Short section includes quotes from Scripture, a long poem and a song. See pages 98-105.

Steinberg, Paul. *Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays*. (JPS, 2007; ISBN: 978-0-8276-0842-9). See pages 77-119.

Strassfeld, Michael. *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide & Commentary*. (Harper & Row, 1985; ISBN: 0-06-091225-1). See pages 179-186.



Waskow, Arthur. *Season of Our Joy: A Celebration of Modern Jewish Renewal*. (Beacon Press, 1982; ISBN: 0-8070-3611-0). See pages 105-114.

## FOR YOUNGER READERS:

Alexander, Sue. *Behold the Trees*. Illustrated by Leonid Gore. (Arthur A Levine, 2001; ISBN: 0-590-76211-7). "A land once protected by all sorts of wonderful trees is reduced over time by war and environmental neglect to desert, until new inhabitants plant trees and slowly make Israel bloom again. Gorgeous illustrations in acrylic paint and colored pencils on paper, using tree shades of green and brown, complement the text. N.B.: The book mentions "Jesus, James, and John, Peter and Paul, and the Christians who came after him. Includes time line with 33 CE marked as when "Jesus proclaimed leader." (8-12)

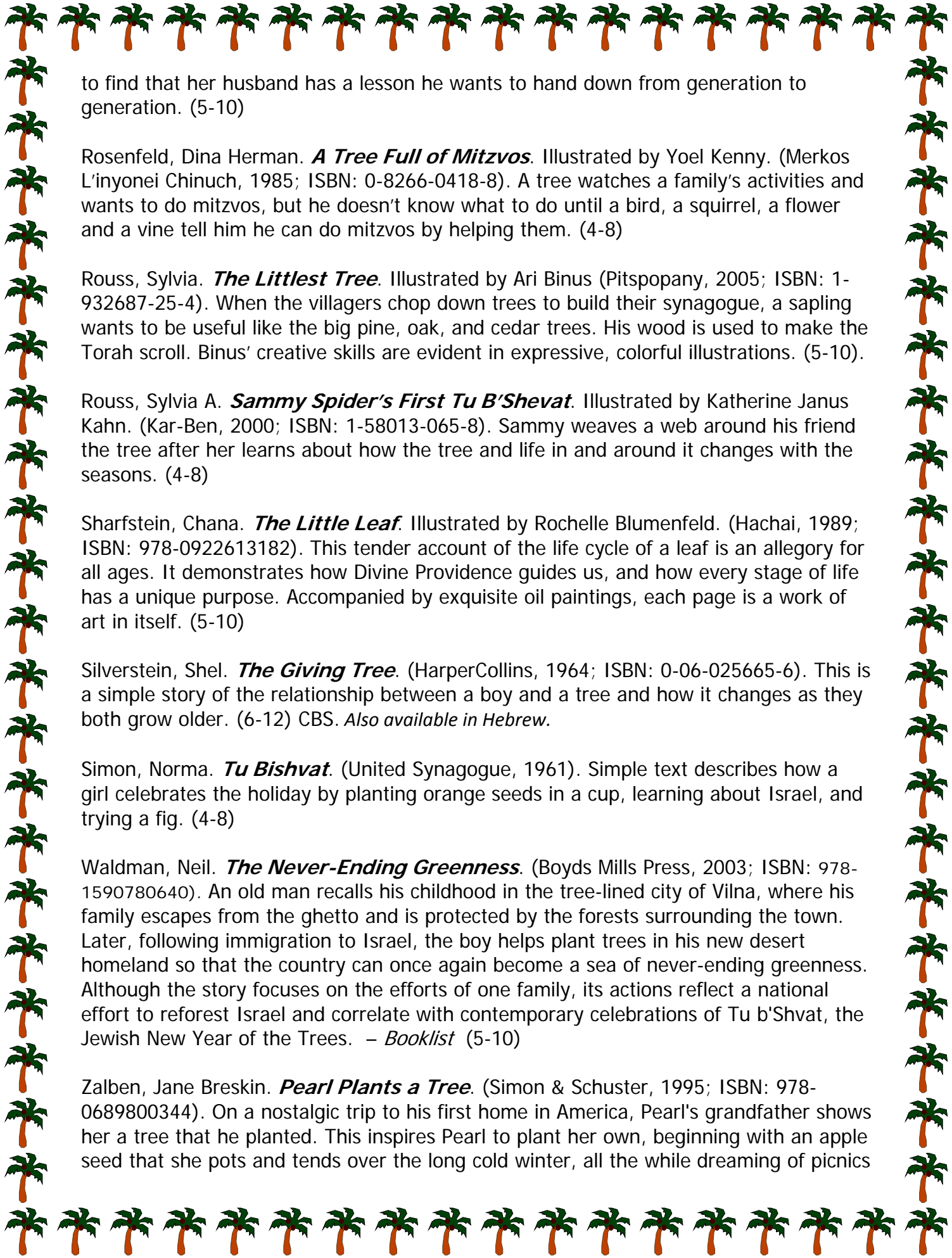
Appelman, Harlene Winnick and Shapiro, Jane Sherwin. *A Seder for Tu B'Shevat*. Illustrated by Chari R. McLean. (Kar-Ben, 1984; ISBN: 0-930494-39-3). Describes the celebration of Tu B'Shevat and explains its history. Includes information about plants in Israel, blessings, prayers, songs, and other activities. (5-10)

Ganz, Yaffa. *The Gift That Grew*. Illustrations by Harvey Klineman. (Feldheim, 1987; ISBN: 0-87306-433-4). Elisha loves the tree in his yard, but years of climbing, picking and abuse mean the tree will have to be chopped down. He promises to take care of the little shoot he finds near the stump. (5-10)

Gershator, Phillis. *Honi's Circle of Trees*. Illustrated by Mim Green. (JPS, 1994; ISBN: 0-8276-0511-0). A retelling of the Talmudic story of Honi Hamagul, who planted carob seeds as he wandered through Israel, making sure there would be fruit trees for the next generations. Honi was also known as the Jewish Rip Van Winkle, who slept for 70 years, and for standing in a circle and praying for rain. (5-10)

Gold-Vukson, Marji E. *Grandpa and Me on Tu B'Shevat*. Illustrations by Leslie Evans. (Kar-Ben, 2004; ISBN: 1-58013-122-0). Rhyming cumulative story of a boy and his grandfather planting and nurturing a tree. Bold illustrations complement the text. Includes "Ten Great Ways to Celebrate Tu B'Shevat." (4-8)

Lehman-Wilzig, Tami. *Mayer Arron Levi and His Lemon Tree*. Illustrated by Ksenia Topaz. (Gefen, 2007; ISBN: 978-9652293695). Like his fellow Jews, Mayer Aaron studies Torah and goes to the synagogue three times a day. Unlike everybody else, he also owns a lemon tree. When the lemons are ripe his wife Raizel brews her special lemonade, chills it and puts it in jars so that Mayer Aaron can make extra money for the family by selling it in the town square. Even though Raizel is very possessive about the lemons, Mayer Aaron realizes that they have more than enough. While he finds a way to secretly share the extra lemons with the village's poor people, Raizel thinks a thief is stealing them. The plot thickens as Raizel sits outside guarding the family property, only



to find that her husband has a lesson he wants to hand down from generation to generation. (5-10)

Rosenfeld, Dina Herman. ***A Tree Full of Mitzvos***. Illustrated by Yoel Kenny. (Merkos L'inyonei Chinuch, 1985; ISBN: 0-8266-0418-8). A tree watches a family's activities and wants to do mitzvos, but he doesn't know what to do until a bird, a squirrel, a flower and a vine tell him he can do mitzvos by helping them. (4-8)

Rouss, Sylvia. ***The Littlest Tree***. Illustrated by Ari Binus (Pitspopany, 2005; ISBN: 1-932687-25-4). When the villagers chop down trees to build their synagogue, a sapling wants to be useful like the big pine, oak, and cedar trees. His wood is used to make the Torah scroll. Binus' creative skills are evident in expressive, colorful illustrations. (5-10).

Rouss, Sylvia A. ***Sammy Spider's First Tu B'Shevat***. Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. (Kar-Ben, 2000; ISBN: 1-58013-065-8). Sammy weaves a web around his friend the tree after her learns about how the tree and life in and around it changes with the seasons. (4-8)

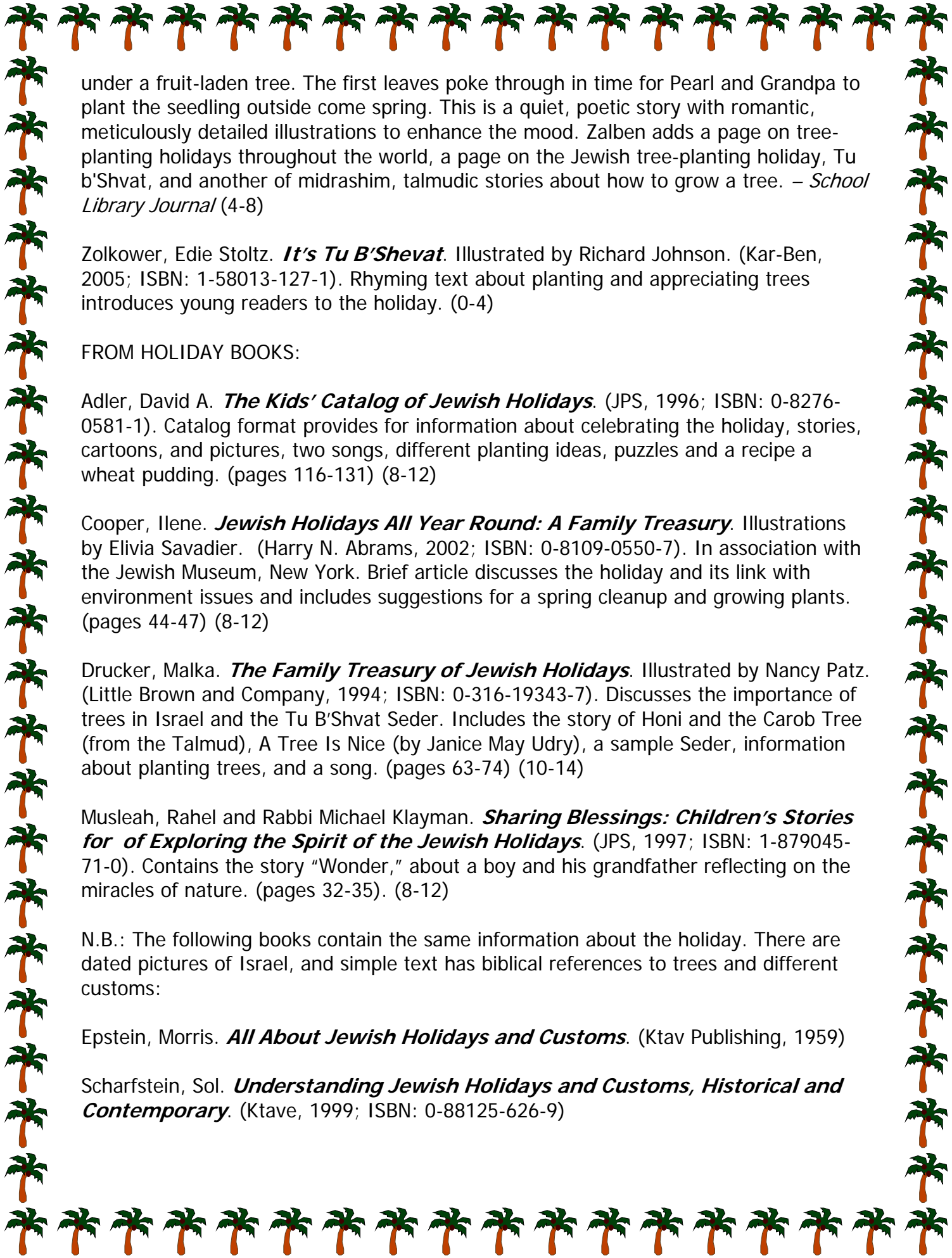
Sharfstein, Chana. ***The Little Leaf***. Illustrated by Rochelle Blumenfeld. (Hachai, 1989; ISBN: 978-0922613182). This tender account of the life cycle of a leaf is an allegory for all ages. It demonstrates how Divine Providence guides us, and how every stage of life has a unique purpose. Accompanied by exquisite oil paintings, each page is a work of art in itself. (5-10)

Silverstein, Shel. ***The Giving Tree***. (HarperCollins, 1964; ISBN: 0-06-025665-6). This is a simple story of the relationship between a boy and a tree and how it changes as they both grow older. (6-12) CBS. *Also available in Hebrew.*

Simon, Norma. ***Tu Bishvat***. (United Synagogue, 1961). Simple text describes how a girl celebrates the holiday by planting orange seeds in a cup, learning about Israel, and trying a fig. (4-8)

Waldman, Neil. ***The Never-Ending Greenness***. (Boyds Mills Press, 2003; ISBN: 978-1590780640). An old man recalls his childhood in the tree-lined city of Vilna, where his family escapes from the ghetto and is protected by the forests surrounding the town. Later, following immigration to Israel, the boy helps plant trees in his new desert homeland so that the country can once again become a sea of never-ending greenness. Although the story focuses on the efforts of one family, its actions reflect a national effort to reforest Israel and correlate with contemporary celebrations of Tu b'Shvat, the Jewish New Year of the Trees. – *Booklist* (5-10)

Zalben, Jane Breskin. ***Pearl Plants a Tree***. (Simon & Schuster, 1995; ISBN: 978-0689800344). On a nostalgic trip to his first home in America, Pearl's grandfather shows her a tree that he planted. This inspires Pearl to plant her own, beginning with an apple seed that she pots and tends over the long cold winter, all the while dreaming of picnics



under a fruit-laden tree. The first leaves poke through in time for Pearl and Grandpa to plant the seedling outside come spring. This is a quiet, poetic story with romantic, meticulously detailed illustrations to enhance the mood. Zalben adds a page on tree-planting holidays throughout the world, a page on the Jewish tree-planting holiday, Tu b'Shvat, and another of midrashim, talmudic stories about how to grow a tree. – *School Library Journal* (4-8)

Zolkower, Edie Stoltz. *It's Tu B'Shevat*. Illustrated by Richard Johnson. (Kar-Ben, 2005; ISBN: 1-58013-127-1). Rhyming text about planting and appreciating trees introduces young readers to the holiday. (0-4)

FROM HOLIDAY BOOKS:

Adler, David A. *The Kids' Catalog of Jewish Holidays*. (JPS, 1996; ISBN: 0-8276-0581-1). Catalog format provides for information about celebrating the holiday, stories, cartoons, and pictures, two songs, different planting ideas, puzzles and a recipe a wheat pudding. (pages 116-131) (8-12)

Cooper, Ilene. *Jewish Holidays All Year Round: A Family Treasury*. Illustrations by Elivia Savadier. (Harry N. Abrams, 2002; ISBN: 0-8109-0550-7). In association with the Jewish Museum, New York. Brief article discusses the holiday and its link with environment issues and includes suggestions for a spring cleanup and growing plants. (pages 44-47) (8-12)

Drucker, Malka. *The Family Treasury of Jewish Holidays*. Illustrated by Nancy Patz. (Little Brown and Company, 1994; ISBN: 0-316-19343-7). Discusses the importance of trees in Israel and the Tu B'Shvat Seder. Includes the story of Honi and the Carob Tree (from the Talmud), A Tree Is Nice (by Janice May Udry), a sample Seder, information about planting trees, and a song. (pages 63-74) (10-14)

Musleah, Rahel and Rabbi Michael Klayman. *Sharing Blessings: Children's Stories for of Exploring the Spirit of the Jewish Holidays*. (JPS, 1997; ISBN: 1-879045-71-0). Contains the story "Wonder," about a boy and his grandfather reflecting on the miracles of nature. (pages 32-35). (8-12)

N.B.: The following books contain the same information about the holiday. There are dated pictures of Israel, and simple text has biblical references to trees and different customs:

Epstein, Morris. *All About Jewish Holidays and Customs*. (Ktav Publishing, 1959)

Scharfstein, Sol. *Understanding Jewish Holidays and Customs, Historical and Contemporary*. (Ktave, 1999; ISBN: 0-88125-626-9)