

We are grateful for creation in all its majesty: the ever-replenishing waters, the possibility of azure skies, the complex life of Earth's ever healing, sustainable forests, algae from the ocean replenishing oxygen, and healing Your protecting atmosphere.

Creator of Aytz Chaim and Aytz Chacam, in honor of Yom Huledet Aytzim, Tu B'Shvat, we pray for discernment and discretion. As Your People and in Partnership with You we affirm Your natural wonders. Let us bring Kavanah this day, this year, and in our lifetimes to preserve Your creation.

The life of all creatures and our own lives are one, profoundly dependent upon each other.

As our ancient Israelite ancestors cultivated HaAretz, the Torah cultivates our minds and souls. Your "Aytz Chaim," tree of life", like the ancient fields and the State of Israel's new forests, sustain us.

Torah teaches us all of creation is interconnected. Like the trees, we need both strength and flexibility to bend to the winds of change. The uplifted branches of trees point to our future. The Psalmist was right when he said, "like a tree planted by the waters, we shall not be moved" and in uplifting herself twice, Ruth by her very flexibility became the grandmother of King David.

We are grateful for our lives and the saplings we can plant in our lifetime. Although we may not see their fruit, we pledge to lift up our voices both in praise of You and in defense of Your Creation.

Composed by David Cohen

Blessing theme: Tu B'shvat