


a mere six days after Tisha B'Av, which commemorates the destruction of both Jerusalem Temples and other calamities in Jewish history, the 15th Day of Av is an ancient festival of love. According to tradition, in the glow of a full summer moon, young women robed in white would dance in the fields outside the walls of Jerusalem. The men would follow in hopes of finding a bride. Tu B'Av was celebrated at a distance from the Temple Mount as a way of holding the two truths of destruction and rebirth apart, even if just for a day.

How might the proximity of Tisha B'Av and Tu B'Av speak to us? I wonder if it is Judaism's way of emphasizing that our lives are made up of many complex stages and experiences. The rabbis were indeed wise in juxtaposing these seemingly contradictory observances, because they both hold their place, contributing to the totality of our story. In a well-loved passage, the Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that "to everything there is a season... a time to weep and a time to laugh/ a time to grieve and a time to dance." Sometimes those times occur years apart, and sometimes our attention is pulled right from one to the other and back again, in very close proximity. Being present for the full emotional and spiritual spectrum is where the challenge lies, but it's where the blessing lies too. Tisha



I'll also use this opportunity to officially invite all of you to our second "End of Summer Schmooze" to be held on Tuesday August 23 at 6 pm where, in a panel setting, you can schmooze with our Temple leadership about things that are important to you and what you're looking for from B'nai Tikvah. This meeting, along with others we'll have roughly each quarter, is an opportunity for open dialog and continues the theme of transparency in our community. I hope you'll be able to join us!

The past two months have seen a lot of activity at our Temple. A few highlights:

- We celebrated Judy Blum's retirement and welcomed Amanda Radman as our Temple Administrator.
- Completed another year of Religious School and graduated 18 seventh graders on Friday June 10th... Yasher Koach Seventh Graders!!
- Renewal of our lease with Contra Costa Midrasha where we hope most of those 18 seventh graders will continue their education next year.
- Continued our six-part educational series called "Walking in the Hallways of the Shul: A Jewish New Britain for All!"