This Week at
Temple Israel of Long Beach
Experiencing the Warmth of Tradition



February 15, 2025 17 Shevat 5785 Shabbat Yitro





Candle Lighting 5:12 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat – 5:22 pm For week of 02/15/25 - 02/21/25



ORIGIN OF PRESIDENTS' DAY

Growing up, February 22 was celebrated as George Washington's birthday, a day of remembrance of inarguably the most important figure in American History. This coming Monday, February 19, we will celebrate Presidents' Day to recognize all U.S. presidents.

So, what happened to Washington's birthday holiday?

Throughout the 1800's, Washington's birthday was an unofficial observance. In 1879, February 22 became a federal holiday along with 4 other recognized federal bank holidays...Christmas Day, New Year's Day, the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

In 1968, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act shifted several federal holidays to predetermined Mondays, thus creating more three-day weekends for workers. Washington's birthday was designated as the third Monday of February. As part of this action, Lincoln's birthday, February 12, was combined with the new observance of Washington's birthday. Columbus Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day were also shifted. But in 1978, Veterans Day was returned to its original date of November 11 after protests from veterans' groups and the general public.

Although officially recognized by the federal government as Washington's birthday, the third Monday of February has become popularly known as Presidents' Day, a time to shop for sales, the start of a week off from school and, hopefully, a day to remember George Washington and all those who followed.

Courtesy of Hon. Stephen J. Kohut



We thank the following donors for their generous contributions to Temple Israel this past week.

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The Tu B'shvat Sedar scheduled for Sunday February 16th is cancelled due to the upcoming poor weather prediction.