

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



February 14, 2026
 27 Shevat 5786
 Shabbat Mishpatim
 Shabbat Shekalim

Candle Lighting
 Shabbat - 5:10 pm
 Kabbalat Shabbat - 5:20 pm
 For week of 02/14/26 - 02/20/26



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 16, 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

Parshat Mishpatim - Shabbat Shekalim



פרשת משפטים שבח שקלים

This Shabbat is Shabbat Shekalim "Sabbath of Shekels". It takes place on the Shabbat before the 1st of the Hebrew calendar month of Adar which this year falls on February 17-18.

When the Temple stood in Jerusalem, each Jew contributed a half-shekel annually to the Temple. This annual tax was known as machazit hashekel and was due on the 1st of the month of Nissan. The courts began posting reminders about this Biblical obligation a month in advance during the month of Adar.

In commemoration, the maftir of the Torah reading of the Shabbat that falls on or before Adar is supplemented with the verses (Exodus 30: 11-16) that relates G-d's commandment to Moses regarding the giving of the half-shekel.

The funds raised were primarily used to purchase cattle for communal sacrifices. The leftover monies were used for a variety of communal purposes, including providing salaries for the judges and maintenance of the Temple.



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

Gus Wurman
Elaine Dufour
Carol Pertchik
Eileen Cohen
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