

# MY JEWISH YEAR Necklace 😊

## DIRECTIONS

Cut out each rectangle below and then hole punch each circle. String a long piece of yarn through each hole and then tie the end. Now you have a special MY JEWISH YEAR necklace!

● **MY JEWISH YEAR**

● **1 NISSAN**

● **2 IYAR**

● **3 SIVAN**

● **4 TAMMUZ**

● **5 AV**

● **6 ELUL**

● **7 TISHREI**

● **8 CHESHVAN**

● **9 KISLEV**

● **10 TEVET**

● **11 SHEVAT**

● **12 ADAR**

While everyone follows the “regular” (or secular) calendar, Jews also follow the Hebrew calendar which lets us know the dates of all the Jewish holidays.

The Hebrew calendar is based on the moon, so each new month begins at the new moon (called *Rosh Chodesh*), which is when the moon is just a tiny sliver.

To make sure the Jewish holidays happen around the same time each secular year, the Hebrew calendar has a system of 19-year cycles in which seven of those years have an added leap month called *Adar II*. Although it seems like the timing of Jewish holidays is haphazard because they fall on different days on the secular calendar each year, on the Hebrew calendar, they are always the same. Rosh Hashannah, for example, always starts on the 1st of *Tishrei*.

When holidays are celebrated on the same Hebrew date year after year, it makes these celebrations extra special.

For *Rosh Chodesh* (the beginning of each Jewish month), we say the *Shehecheyanu* blessing:

*Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu lazman hazeh.*

Translation: Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this day.

When we say the *Shehecheyanu* for *Rosh Chodesh*, it reminds us that one of the greatest gifts of Judaism is making time special.