

From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

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The festivals of Pesach and Shavuot are spaced exactly seven weeks apart and unlike the interval between any other festivals, Jewish tradition makes quite a big deal about this particular inter-festival period, known as the *omer*.

The period of the *omer* was one of great anticipation and anxiety for farmers in ancient Israel as they waited to see what the first grain crops of the season would yield.

Thousands of years later, even though we have become quite used to finding grains and fresh produce year-round at our local markets, the Jewish People continue this ritual of counting the 49 days between Pesach and Shavuot.

In addition to its agricultural significance, the *omer* is also a countdown (or *countup*, actually) of the seven weeks between our Exodus from

Egypt and the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. Our sages explain to us that the Exodus wasn't an end in itself, but rather a means to an end: God took us out of the impurity of the Egyptian bondage in order to give us the purity of revelation. Spiritually, we as a people needed to be free from the tyranny of Pharaoh in order to enter a liberating relationship with the Blessed Holy One.

Therefore, every year the *omer* is the Jewish version of the Times Square Ball Drop, when Jews count aloud in unison every evening. To the uninitiated, it might seem like a rather peculiar practice to make a daily point of announcing: "Today is the first day of the *omer*" and then the next day, "Today is the second day of the *omer*", etc. for 49 days on end. But at another level, even in our modern age it serves a function by providing us with a unique opportunity to take stock of our lives and of God's gifts to us.

The Pesach *Haggadah* reminds us that in each and every generation, one ought to

see oneself as personally having left Egypt, a place and experience of constriction and restriction. In our lives, we all have habits and behaviors which trap and sabotage us and impede the progress we would like to make. These comprise our own personal Egypts which we yearn to escape, our own individual worlds of slavery which we long to abandon so as to move forward and enter worlds of greater personal, social and spiritual responsibility.

The Jewish mystics viewed this time of year as being pregnant with possibility, offering great potential for spiritual growth and development. It also helps that the promise of spring coincides as a sort of redemption itself after a long and punishing winter, inspiring and encouraging us to feel hopeful and positive about what we ourselves can accomplish. The *omer*, then, is our reminder to set time aside to focus on our own growth and flourishing.

The psalmist of old famously requests of God in Psalm 90:

(Continued on page 2)



From the President

Andrew Berger

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There have apparently been many sunrises and sunsets since February 2005. By the end of the time period covered by this May/June 2018 Bulletin, the “little girl I carried” will have had her bat mitzvah. Karen and I look forward to seeing many of you on June 23 as the TBD community celebrates. B’nai mitzvot at TBD are not quite as rare as solar eclipses, but they are uncommon; this is the only one during the 2018, and we have one scheduled for 2019 (Seth Katzman).

In the last Bulletin, I asked you to send us information about *yahrzeit* plaques. Thank you to all who replied! Now that we have a sense of numbers, we are laying plans to put plaques on display, with room to grow as more requests come in. I want to thank Ed Drexler and the members of his Artwork Committee (Sue Lederer, Sue Drexler, Alison Helms, Linda Phillips, and Scott Davis), as well as Rebecca Weber, for their continued hard work.

Plans are afoot to pack lunches for the needy once again. Lunch packing was a program that many of you enjoyed in years past. We’re still working out the details, and we’ll make a full announcement as soon as possible. I wanted to mention it here as an example of what happens when a pair of motivated people talk to each other and say, “We should do this!” If you have an idea of something you want to see happening – whether it’s a Tikkun Olam activity like this, or a social gathering, or a learning opportunity -- I would love to hear from you.

Regards,

Andrew

“Teach us to number our days, so that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Well, I can’t help thinking that the *omer* is at least one solution to this challenge; it is a counting/numbering technique that our tradition itself came up with to help our hearts grow wiser, our lives feel more spiritually fulfilled and our souls feel closer to God.

Many of us are used to setting plans to achieve goals, whether they be financial goals, diets to reach a weight target, exercise regimens to reach fitness levels, etc. Similarly, the *omer* is our opportunity to set spiritual and personal growth goals – the kind of goals we almost always overlook.

Make a plan and start counting. Be aware of the importance of the work you need to do with yourself, trust in how much you deserve to reap the rewards of this work and make the most of this auspicious and fruitful period.

Bivrachah / / בברכה with blessings,

Rabbi Michael Silbert

All in the Family



May Birthdays

Alice Nussbaum	May 2
Kevin Fleissig	May 4
Sue Lederer	May 20
Evan Kashtan	May 21
Judy Wolbert	May 21
Elena Davis	May 24
Robert Hersch	May 24
Maxine Newman	May 24
Ron Kraus	May 25
Burt Segelin	May 26
Sandra Cohen	May 28

May Anniversaries

Tom & Judy Wolbert	May 24
Michael & Laurie Peres	May 29
Ron & Nancy Kraus	May 31
David & Sue Langmann	May 31
Burt & Marilyn Segelin	May 31

June Birthdays

Howard Brill	June 1
Barbara Grosh	June 1
Jonathan Rich	June 1
Risa Saltzman	June 1
Rheva Kleinberg	June 2
Sue Eckhaus	June 6
Lisa Keeley	June 8
Nancy Kraus	June 10
Mayim Smookler	June 10
Steve Wolbert	June 11
Judy Fleissig	June 16
Juliet Lande	June 16
Joanne Katzman	June 22
Lee Lande	June 23
Sam Kashtan	June 27
Mira Phillips	June 30

June Anniversaries

Dan & Barbara Goldman	June 5
Myron & Rheva Kleinberg	June 7
Mike & Toby Berke	June 12
Steven Meyers & Barbara Weber	June 14
Jim & Sharon Parkman	June 14
Jonathan Rich & Bonnie Abrams-Rich	June 16
Ron & Jean Brandwein	June 18
Ed & Sue Drexler	June 18
Dan & Alice Nussbaum	June 20
Paul & Judy Eissenstat	June 25



Marlena Berger

Marlena will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on June 23. She is the daughter of Andrew and Karen Berger and the younger sister of Henry. Marlena is a seventh grader at Twelve Corners Middle School in Brighton. Her passions include Irish dance, volleyball, bassoon, and languages. She has appreciated learning from Morah Alice (Nussbaum), Rabbi Smookler, and Rabbi Silbert, along with her father who has taught her the trope. The service will take place in the main B'rith Kodesh sanctuary.

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Received February 16, 2018 - April 15, 2018

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Kabbalat Shabbat

FRIDAY NIGHT FRESH

Join us for a shared Shabbat dinner.

Friday, May 18 6:30 p.m.

\$12 per person

**We will provide the main course, salmon and pasta.
You provide the salads, sides and dessert!**

RVSP to the Temple Office by May 11
and it's only \$9 per person.

Watch our weekly news for more details.

**** Open to the community ****



Erev Shavuot Day 1 May 19

Mincha Service at 7:00 p.m.,
followed by light dairy meal and study session

RVSP by May 14

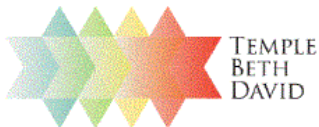
To suggest themes for the study session,
contact Gary Cohen at 329-4765.

Kabbalat Shabbat

SERVICES AND ONEG

Friday, June 15 6:00 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by
wine and challah oneg.



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Date Observed

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Kathryn Schwartz

May 2

Rhoda David

May 3

Jacob Kinel
Max Stark

May 4

Bruce Newman
Lillian Pies

May 5

Solomon Berke
Sylvia Peskowitz

May 6

Irwin Applebaum
Hetty Mentel

May 8

Phillip Keirn

May 9

Mildred Gertzog

May 10

Irving Bridge
Betty Herman

May 12

Arthur Dell
Harry Eissenstat

May 13

David Bauman
Lena Shaub Smith

May 16

Mollie Markus
Gloria (Goldie) Sosne

May 18

Samuel Hochman

May 19

Anne Hoffman
Jack Weber

May 21

Harry Ambush
Doris Cherkasky
Leo Langmann
Dorothy Shindel

May 22

Calvin Rosenbaum
Sylvia Roth

May 24

Ben Smith

May 25

Abraham Grossman
William Horowitz
Philip Ritz

May 26

Al Rosen
Jacob Stiller

May 27

Arlen Brodsky

May 29

Joseph M. Haymoff
Morris Levin

May 30

Leah Donsky
Sara Rousso

May 31

Harold Baker
Louis Levin
Esther Pickus
Louis Schatz

June 1

Nellie Eissenstat

June 2

Harry Cohen
Lois Markus
Thelma Messinger

June 3

Estelle Frieder Berke
Janet Steinfeld-Feldman

June 4

Eunice Freedman

June 5

Esther (Erna) Przewuzman
Ida Rosenbaum

June 6

Joseph Blumkin

June 8

Eugene Brandwein
David Shur

June 9

Hyman Freedman
Sylvia D. Stiller

June 10

Burton Lurie
Philip Lurie

June 11

Edith Krovetz Jaffey

June 12

Markus Phillips
Jean Rosen
Ruth Rubin

June 13

Jacob Grossman

June 14

Hyman Cherkasky
Helen Davis Penzik

June 15

Celia Lurie

June 16

Aaron Kinel
Abe Rothstein

June 18

Morris Segelin

June 20

Elva Wexler

June 21

Marian Cummins
Beverly Stark Schaffer

June 22

Chaya Sarah Schnidman
Rabbi Aaron Solomon

June 23

Anna Roxin

June 24

Ida Farash
Herman Garey

June 25

Samuel Wandersman

June 27

Jacob Neuberg
Kurt Peter Schaffer

June 28

Eli Bauman
Boruch Bobkowski
Chaya Sora Bobkowski
Moshe Chemie Bobkowski
Sora Blumert Bobkowski

June 29

Al Diamond

June 30

Joseph Retta

**The yahrzeit date
that appears above
is the date of
observance using the
secular calendar.
These dates match
those of the Hebrew
calendar for the actual
date of death.**

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Note: _____

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If not, you are missing out on the latest news about Temple Beth David services and events, as well as community information. Call or email the Temple Office to add your name to the mailing list!

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Please contact the office with family news.



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