

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 681-6547

www.BethShalom-Brandon.org

FROM THE PULPIT

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

May 2022
Volume 32 Issue 12

Shabbat Service

Friday evenings 7:00 PM

Zoom available



Oneg

See May Schedule
on page 4

Education

Classes with the Rabbi
Hebrew and Torah Study
Every Thursday at 6:30

Board Meetings

Tuesday, May 3rd
6:30 Executive Board
7:00 Entire Board

Dinner with the Tribe

Saturday, May 21st at
6:00 PM
Pizza Rock

Page Turners

To be announced...

Food Bank

Sunday, May 15th
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM



Lag BaOmer is a minor holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot. The date is the 18th of the month of Iyar.

This is a time of semi-mourning due to the deaths of thousands of Rabbi Akiva's student from the plague because they were disrespectful to one another according to a Talmudic explanation. On the 33rd day, which is known as Lag BaOmer, the plague ceased. This one day would become a joyous day, interrupting the 49 days of semi-mourning. Rabbi Akiva was an ardent supporter of Bar Kochba who in 132 CE led a revolt against Roman rule in Judea. They were unsuccessful and thousands of Judeans died, including many of Rabbi Akiva's students. Being cautious about angering the Romans who remained in power, the plague may have been a way to explain the mourning of their deaths. Also, Lag BaOmer may have been a pause in battle or the celebration of a short-lived victory.

Also, on this day, Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai passed away. He was a great sage and mystic. He had always wanted his day of passing to be a celebration and a happy day throughout the world. Nowadays, Jews celebrate with bonfires, parades and other joyous events. Also, tens of thousands of Jews make a pilgrimage to Meron in northern Israel to visit the burial place of Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai.

Another explanation of Lag BaOmer has nothing to do with Rabbi Akiva's students or Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai. Some scholars consider this a time to prepare spiritually for the receiving of the Torah on Shavuot. The counting of the Omer is a representation of divine emanations which we must pay attention to for the purity of our mind and soul.

B'Ahava,
Rabbi Lefkowitz

The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Shalom Everybody,

Congregation Beth Shalom is getting to be like a fine wine, it keeps getting better with age. We are continually seeing new members come in during our Shabbat Service and they are enjoying what they are experiencing. We are also moving forward with things to make our Temple a better place to worship as well. With the assistance of Stephen and Anna Feldman and others, we are scheduled to beautify the exterior of our temple with a pressure washing and painting. Gabe Liftschitz is spearheading our application for a federal grant that will provide money to pay for things that are on our wish list, but we would not be able to afford at this time. Marvin Shienbaum is having a private bathroom and living quarters constructed within our Temple for our Rabbi as well as Julie Shienbaum taking the helm with our gourmet dinners and our Passover seder at the temple.

Our second day Passover seder this year was AMAZING!!! Julie Shienbaum and Sandra Santucci prepared most of the delicious meal (others brought parts of the meal too) and so many others helped served the gourmet kosher meal. With our Esteemed Rabbi leading our Seder and Sandy treating us with her lovely voice in song, it could not have been more enjoyable. Our Temple was filled with full bellies and Jewish spirit by the end of the night. During Passover we had a Saturday morning service as the first night was on a Friday. Our Saturday morning service was beautiful, and I thought a welcome change of pace. I would like to entertain the possibility of having a Shabbat service on Saturday once every other month or quarter if the majority of the temple would enjoy this and participate. Something to think about and discuss among yourselves.

With the positive energy coming in and out of the Temple, I welcome you to come join us at our services and events. I hope you will enjoy yourselves as much as I do.

In closing, I would like to publicly say that I am humbled to be here as your President at this most important time in our history (Post Covid) and hope we can all take an active part in bringing Congregation Beth Shalom back to its original Splendor. I pray that you all stay healthy, happy, and positive in your daily lives.

Your Humble President,

Steve Billor



Rabbi

Robert Lefkowitz

Cantorial Soloist

Sandy Santucci

Executive Board:**President**

Steve Billor

Past President

Gerry Pliner

First Vice President

Gerry Pliner

Second Vice President

Toby Koch

Third Vice President

Sheryl Finke

Secretary

David Friedman

Treasurer

Sandy Schwartz

Members at Large:

Anita Clifford

Lynn Kaler

Gabe Lifschitz

Allan Weber

Social Action

Meral Ginsberg

***The Kibbitzer***

Volume 32, Issue 12

Published Monthly by
 Congregation Beth Shalom
 706 Bryan Road
 Brandon, FL 33511
 Phone 813-681-6547

Email: CBS-brandon@outlook.com

Email and articles for publication:
 TheKibbitzer@hotmail.com
 For current news and events
 see the congregation's website:
<http://www.bethshalom-brandon.org>

Congregation Contacts

813-681-6547 • CBS-brandon@outlook.com

Office hours:

By appointment.
 Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily.
 Office is closed on holidays

Weekly Email Blast submissions**MEMBERSHIP**

Becoming a partner in our congregation offers an opportunity for enduring friendships and a personal spiritual journey. A place in our Jewish community.

Members also have free access to many of our educational and entertainment events.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 6th	7:49 PM
Friday, May 13th	7:53 PM
Friday, May 20th	7:57 PM
Friday, May 27th	8:01 PM



Oneg Schedule

May Sponsors

There can be no joy without food and drink.

Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

May 6th	Meral Ginsberg	In Honor of Food Bank Volunteers
May 13th	Janice Perelman	In Honor of my granddaughter, Lauren Brennen, and her engage- ment to Alister Bent
May 20th	Open	Please bring a dish to share
May 27th	Linda Guincho	

**If you'd like to sponsor an oneg, please call
Judith Pliner at (856)816-2174**

Dinner with the Tribe & Men's Club



Myron Feldman



Anita Clifford

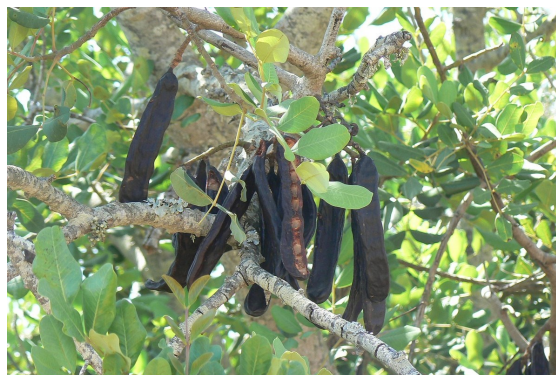
Pizza Rock
401 South Parsons Avenue
Brandon, FL 33511
813/657-7625

Saturday, May 21st
at 6:00 PM

Put this on your calendar! Join us, and even bring your friends to the heart of Brandon where we'll enjoy delicious, mouth watering, wood fired brick oven pizza. It is New York style with Italian roots. Their salads are huge and great also. They even offer gluten free varieties. Let Anita Clifford, niewdnarb@yahoo.com know who's coming so we can set a place for you.

The Miracle of Carobs During Lag BaOmer

In some circles it is customary to eat carobs on Lag BaOmer. This commemorates a lifesaving miracle that Rabbi Shimon experienced. For a period of thirteen years, Rabbi Shimon and his son were fugitives from the Roman regime, in hiding in a cave in northern Israel. Miraculously, a carob tree grew at the entrance of the cave, providing nourishment for its two holy occupants.



From Chabad.org

Donations

Donations

Carol Roberts
Martino Spino
Judith & Gerry Pliner
Irving Gerry Lawrence
Sheryl & Mark Finke
John Zelatis and Denise Walker
Jackie Kalbas
Lynn & Larry Kaler

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sandy & Howard Saviet

High Holidays

Anna & Stephen Feldman

Dishwasher

Anonymous - Multiple Donors

Building Fund

Anna & Stephen Feldman
Stephanie Ferry

Thanks



Kibbitzer Kudos

I would like to thank those who were responsible for making Passover a huge success. The social hall was filled with many wonderful people, and the food was very tasty. We are looking forward to many more successful activities throughout the year. Thank you for making all this possible.

Rabbi

Julie Shienbaum

Our CBS Chef Extraordinaire. There just isn't enough room to list every task that Julie performs for us.

Myron Feldman

Exceptional Kudos for driving to Orlando **twice** for food supplies

Anna Feldman

Cleaning the Temple in preparation for the Seder

Helping prepare the Seder Meal

Kitchen Clean Up after the Seder Meal

Sandy Santucci

Helping prepare the Seder Meal

Sophia Oliveira

Food preparation

Sophia Oliveira

Seder Dinner Set-up

Jewell Alfaya

Food preparation

Seder Dinner Set-up

Carol Anne & Dave Friedman

Providing the asparagus

Carol Anne Friedman

Helping to serve the Seder Dinner

Sheryl & Mark Finke

Event Hospitality

Meral Ginsberg

Seder Dinner Set-up

Steve Billor

Seder Dinner Set-up

Jennifer Billor

Helping to serve the Seder Dinner

Stephanie Ferry

Seder Volunteer

Christine Stockelman

Seder Volunteer

B.J. Covington

Seder Volunteer

Marvin Shienbaum

Seder Volunteer

If anyone was inadvertently left off the Seder Kudos list, your efforts are enormously appreciated and Julie and the congregation thank you from the bottoms of our hearts!

Thanks



Our Congregation

Yahrzeits

5/3	Barbara	Berkley Shapiro	Mother	of	Jan	Sperry
5/4	Elmer	Kalbas	Father	Of	Bill	Kalbas
5/8	Shirley	Cohen	Grandmother	Of	Sheryl	Finke
5/9	Joseph Leopold	Reisner	Grandfather	Of	Gary	Ronay
5/9	Rose	Reisner	Grandmother	Of	Gary	Ronay
5/9	Alice	Koch	Mother	Of	Toby	Koch
5/11	Sable M.	Zazulia	Mother	Of	Iylene	Miller
5/13	Marilyn G.	Rowen	Sister	Of	Judith	Pliner
5/14	Katherine	Verlin	Mother-In-Law	Of	Gail	Verlin
5/17	Anna	Kobler	Grandmother	Of	Stephen	Feldman
5/20	Paul D.	Goldstein	Father	Of	Judith	Pliner
5/23	Paul	Neff	Grandfather	Of	Scott	Ellis
5/27	Bernie	Friedman	Father	Of	David	Friedman

Birthdays



5/2 Michael Garbett
5/9 Jackie Feldman



CBS Business

Shabbat Services

Meeting ID: 979 479 3696
 Password: 2592 Our Shabbat services will take place Friday Nights at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary as well as online. Our livestream feed is available on Zoom and Facebook. For outdoor services, the Zoom link will not work, so please sign in to Facebook. Join us in the celebration of Shabbat and you are welcome to like, comment, and share.

We established a new Zoom link. You will be able to login from our weekly eNews. The process has not changed, just the link. For your information here is the new link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9794793696?pwd=N3JhSzI4YURTbnhUL0hDVkVzODJtUT0955>

We are glad that you enjoy our shabbat services and hope to see you on the Zoom screen this Friday.

Facebook Information for Shabbat Service:
<https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomBrandon/>



Advertise in The Kibbitzer

Business Card—New Ads at
 \$10/month for the first six months,
 then \$20/month.

Get a 10% Discount by
 Prepaying for one year.

To reserve your place in the next
 issue, e-mail John Zelatis
 at

jzelatis@zomesa.com or call the
 CBS office at
 813-681-6547.

CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. Someone can be reached at [cbs-brandon@outlook.com] and 813-681-6547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 407-222-6393 or rlefkowi@bellsouth.net. Rabbi Lefkowitz will be available for in person meetings on Fridays. Call him at 407-222-6393 to schedule an appointment.



Although our hours are limited, we are always here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out with any needs, concerns or questions.



SHARE A MAZEL TOV!

Do you have a family member, friend, spouse or congregant you would like to wish Mazel Tov to in our Kibbitzer? You can send an email to thekibbitzer@hotmail.com with their name and accomplishment, engagement or birth. It's important during these times to see the good in our community.



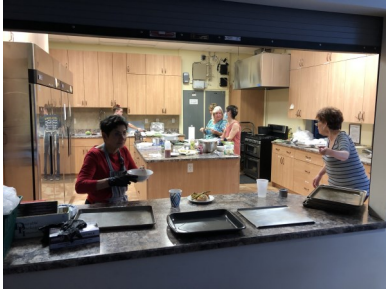
Rabbi's service was wonderful. The dinner, including the matzah ball soup, served hot, by the way, along with the main course, was perfect! The deserts were bountiful and yummy! "Rave reviews!"

OK, so there was one hiccup - the freezer quit working a few days before! But it was quickly repaired. I look forward to the next Seder. See you next year!

A detailed illustration of a flowering branch, likely a cherry blossom branch, featuring a dense cluster of pink and purple blossoms. The blossoms are in various stages of bloom, with some showing five petals and others as buds. Green leaves are interspersed among the flowers. The background is plain white.



Passover Seder



**But, if you can't make it to Jerusalem next year,
Congregation Beth Shalom will save you a seat...**

Bricklets are Back!

Question: What is a bricklet?

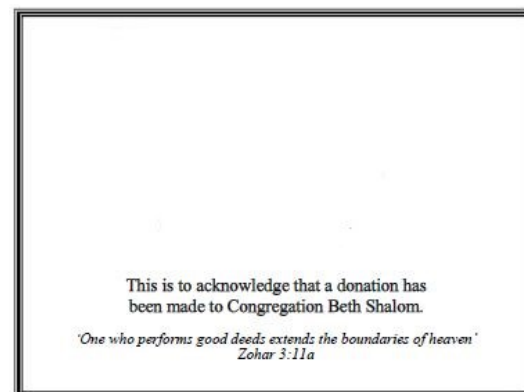
Answer: A unique greeting card created especially for CBS

A Bricklet Card is a greeting card that you can send to friends and family. It is a convenient way to acknowledge an occasion, such as a birthday or condolence message, which is also a donation to CBS. The cost is \$9 and the card will be mailed to the person you wish to acknowledge, stating that a donation has been made in his or her name to Congregation Beth Shalom.

If you'd like to purchase a Bricklet, send an email to: cbs-brandon@outlook.com with the information you want included in the card, along with the name and address of the recipient. The Bricklet card will be mailed and your CBS account will be billed. If you prefer, you can mail a check to CBS, 706 Bryan Rd, Brandon FL. 33511, and be sure to include all the pertinent information. Sending a Bricklet is a convenient way to connect to a relative or friend.



Front of Bricklet Card



Inside of Bricklet Card



Support our Advertisers

THE LOGICAL SOLUTION FOR COMPUTING
TECHNICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CO.
 AND WORLDWIDE WEB COMMUNICATION

ON-SITE INNOVATIVE COMPUTER & NETWORK ADVISORS **SINCE 1996**

STEVEN ALEXANDER
 The Boss & Executive Producer
 World Class Customer Service

P.O. BOX 1854
 BRANDON, FLORIDA 33509
813.689.2370
techresmgmt@earthlink.net
www.TheOriginalOnsiteGeeks.com

VIRUS PREVENTION, DETECTION & REMOVAL

WEB/GRAPHIC DESIGN & MARKETING

ON-SITE COMPUTER TRAINING

ALL WINDOWS OPERATING SYSTEMS,
 SERVERS & WORKSTATIONS, LINUX AND
 APPLE PRODUCTS

SOFTWARE/HARDWARE SUPPORT, SET UP,
 DEBUG, UPGRADE & REPAIR

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

TCP/IP CONFIGURATIONS, NETWORKING,
 VPN'S, CLIENT/SERVER & INTERNET
 (Wi-Fi, Cable & Wiring, Troubleshooting & Repair)

SERVING BRANDON + 50 MILE RADIUS
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL



ILENE R. SCHWARTZ
 REALTOR®

(813) 625-2942

ileneRschwartz@gmail.com

www.realtorilene.com

415 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Brandon, FL 33511

HomeXpress
 Realty, Inc.



Thank you for your referrals!

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

We ♥
 Advertising

*Improving the health
 of women every day.*

Our Doctors:

Stephen Zweibach, MD
 Natasha Champion, MD
 Mariel Rotundo-Patino, DO

Now Accepting:
 Tricare Members



Our Services:

- Gynecology & Obstetrics
- Bladder Problems
- Bleeding & Pain Problems
- Weight Management
- Botox

Women's Care Florida offers obstetrics and
 gynecologic care for women through all phases of life,
 from your pre-teen years to post-menopausal years.
Call today to schedule an appointment!



515 S. Kings Ave., Suite 1300 • Brandon, FL
 13148 Vail Ridge Dr., • Riverview, FL

813.571.2777 *Se Habla Espanol*

Kids R Kids
 Learning Academy

BEN FERNANDES & KEITH BALOT
 OWNERS

phone: 813.657.6200
 fax: 813.413.2045
Keith@krkvalrico.com

4321 Lynx Paw Trail
 Valrico, FL 33596
Ben@krkvalrico.com

www.krkvalrico.com



Your 100% Satisfaction is Absolutely
 Guaranteed!

Clarke Automotive Systems

*If you have a problem with your car, let us give you our honest, expert
 & straightforward advice so the job is done right—the first time!*

Bob Clarke
(813) 685-2939

131 Central Ave
Brandon, FL 33510

Committees/Chairpersons**Building/Capital Fund**

Gerry Pliner

Finance

Gerald Pliner

Fundraising

Open

Life Long Learning

Open

Strategic Planning

Steve Feldman

Membership

Judith Pliner

Caring Committee

Judith Pliner

Oneg

Open

Publicity

Toby Koch

Ritual

Open

Facility and Safety

Gabe Lifschitz

Social Action

Meral Ginsberg

Religious School

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

Eblast:

Toby Koch and Carol Anne Friedman

Other Programs**CBS Singles Over 50**

Anita Clifford

Chavurah

Open

Dinner With the Tribe

Anita Clifford

Kibbitzer Editor

Lynn Kaler

Library

Sandy Saviet

Men's Club

Myron Feldman

Page Turners

Anita Clifford

Web Administrator

Toby Koch

Got something to sell?

What's better than a garage sale?

A CLASSIFIED AD IN THE KIBBITZER!

A 5-line add is just \$9 for members

\$18 for non-members



Your ad for selling household items benefits CBS and reaches hundreds of current and former members!

Congregation Beth Shalom

provides a meaningful spiritual home for people of all ages and levels of knowledge, a place to learn and to question, a place to worship and to celebrate, and a place to find a community that cares.

We offer:

- ☆ Friday worship services at 7:00 PM
- ☆ Complete B'nai Mitzvah preparation
- ☆ Adult Education classes
- ☆ Community-wide events, including Mitzvah Day
- ☆ Community Food Bank



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Congregation Beth Shalom.

Jewish Holidays in May

Yom Hazikaron: Israel's Memorial Day

This day honoring fallen soldiers immediately precedes Israel's Independence Day.

The fourth of Iyar, the day preceding Israel's Independence Day, was declared by the Israeli Knesset (parliament) to be a Memorial Day for those who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for all military personnel who were killed while in active duty in Israel's armed forces. Joining these two days together conveys a simple message: Israelis owe the independence and the very existence of the Jewish state to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it.

Yom Hazikaron, the Israeli Memorial Day, is different in its character and mood from the American Memorial Day. For 24 hours (from sunset to sunset) all places of public entertainment (theaters, cinemas, nightclubs, pubs, etc.) are closed. The most noticeable feature of the day is the sound of a siren that is heard throughout the country twice, during which the entire nation observes a two-minutes "standstill" of all traffic and daily activities. The first siren marks the beginning of Memorial Day at 8 p.m., and the second is at 11 a.m., before the public recitation of prayers in the military cemeteries. All radio and television stations broadcast programs portraying the lives and heroic deeds of fallen soldiers. Most of the broadcasting time is devoted to Israeli songs that convey the mood of the day.

Yom HaAtzma'ut 2022: Israel's Independence Day

Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israeli Independence Day, commemorates the declaration of independence of Israel in 1948 and is the official national holiday of the state and the only official non-working day in Israel. The holiday is celebrated on 5 Iyar according to the Jewish calendar or is transferred to the preceding Thursday if 5 Iyar falls on Friday or Saturday.

History of Israeli Independence Day

The Gregorian date for the day in which Israel independence was proclaimed is May 14th, 1948 when David ben Gurion publicly read the Proclamation of the establishment of the State of Israel, and the end of the British Mandate in Israel.

How is Independence Day in Israel celebrated?

An official ceremony is held every year on Mount Herzl on the eve of Yom Ha'atzma'ut. The ceremony includes speeches from senior Israeli officials, an artistic part, a ritual march of soldiers carrying the Flag of Israel, forming elaborate structures (such as a Menorah, Magen David and a number which represents the age of Israel) and the lighting of twelve beacons (each for every one of the Tribes of Israel).

Each year, dozens of Israeli citizens who contributed to the state, are selected to light the beacons.

The annual international Bible Quiz competition finals take place after the ceremony.

A highlight of the day is the cross-country flyover of military jets and helicopters.

Independence Day is preceded by Memorial Day (Yom Hazikaron) which has been Israel's official remembrance day since it was enacted into law in 1963. As well as the traditional remembrance of those who have fallen while on active duty for their country, the day also commemorates the civilian victims of terrorism.

The juxtaposition of the two days is a key element of the experience of national independence, ensuring that the celebrations of independence are not fully separated from an awareness of the cost of the achievement, often gained through the sacrifice of the fallen and their families.

*Like other Jewish holidays, Yom Ha'atzma'ut will begin at sundown on the previous day.

From MyJewishLearning.com

Statement by museums on the war crimes committed in Ukraine

Museums are bearers of history. By housing the artifacts and documents of the past, we ensure that the truth, both noble and horrific, of what humanity has done remains shared and accessible.

We at Holocaust museums around the world have a particular mission. The stories we tell are ones of destruction and pain, and of the nobility of upstanders who risked their lives to do what was right and help others. We not only aim to educate, to honor our Survivors' wishes that their stories are not forgotten, but to make a better future where the stories we tell are no longer repeated.

So it is with sorrow that we see yet another atrocity in Ukraine, 80 years after the 'Holocaust by Bullets' in which Jewish men, women, and children were shot and buried in shallow graves. We are angered by today's stories of children with their hands zip tied and buried in shallow graves. We are angered by the horrific reports of rape and wanton destruction of lives by the Russian army. These are war crimes, and if we, as the bearers of history, do not speak out, then we have failed in our mission.

We call upon our governments around the world to do more to stop these atrocities and assist those who have been brutalized. We support the International Criminal Court's investigation of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Susan Abrams • Illinois Holocaust Museum

Daniel Amar • Montreal Holocaust Museum / Erin Blankenship • The Florida Holocaust Museum

Marc Cave • The National Holocaust Centre and Museum, UK

Troy Fears • CANDLES Holocaust Museum

Mary Pat Higgins • Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum

Beth Kean • Holocaust Museum LA / Jack Kliger • Museum of Jewish Heritage

Mary Kluk • Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre

Nina Krieger • Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

Eli Mayerfeld • The Zekelman Holocaust Center

Tali Nates • Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

Dee Simon • Holocaust Center for Humanity / James Smith • Aegis Trust

Helen Turner • St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum

Sarah L. Weiss • Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center

Kelly Zúñiga • Holocaust Museum Houston

13 Facts About Counting the Omer

By Menachem Posner



1. The Omer Count Is 49 Days Long

The Omer Count is an annual mitzvah. Every day, for seven weeks (49 days), we count how much time has elapsed since the second day of Passover (16 Nissan).

2. We Count Days and Weeks

On the first day, we say, “Today is one day to the Omer.” Once we reach the seventh day, we count weeks as well, saying, “Today is seven days, which is one week to the Omer.” On the following day, we say, “Today is eight days, which is one week and one day to the Omer.”

3. It Ends the Night Before Shavuot

After 49 days have passed (on 5 Sivan), we say, “Today is 49 days, which is seven weeks to the Omer.” On the following day, number 50, we celebrate the holiday of **Shavuot**, which literally means “weeks.” Indeed, counting the 49 days actually brings about Shavuot. This means that one who crosses the International Date Line during the Omer may very well end up celebrating Shavuot on a different day from everyone else.

4. Omer Is a Measure of Grain

“Omer” is an ancient grain measurement (equivalent to approximately 43 oz.). On the first day of the Omer count (the second day of **Passover**), an *omer* of the barley from the fresh crop was offered in the Holy Temple, and after that day, grain from the new crop was allowed to be consumed.

5. Count Standing Up

The verse (**Deuteronomy 16:9**) tells us to begin counting the Omer when the scythe first meets the *kamah*, “standing [stalks].” Noting that the word “standing” is said in connection with this mitzvah, the sages tell us that it is ideal to stand when counting the Omer.

6. We Say a Special Blessing

Like we would do before just about any mitzvah, when counting the Omer each night we say a blessing: “Blessed are you, Lord, our G-d, King of the Universe, Who sanctified us and commanded us regarding counting the Omer.”

7. We Count at Night

The best time to count the Omer is after evening services, right after the new Jewish day (which starts at nightfall) has begun, so that you have a full day ahead of you. In the event that you forgot to count at night, you can count the following day as well, but you do not say the customary blessing.

8. Every Day Counts

Omer is a unique mitzvah in that it spans 49 days. In the event that you missed a day entirely, you should continue to count each night just as before, but you do not say the customary blessing, since it is possible that the missed day invalidated the completion of your mitzvah.

9. The Sadducees Counted Differently

Scripture tells us to begin counting the Omer “on the day after the rest day.” Tradition understands this to mean the day after the (first day of) Passover. However, there were once Jewish splinter groups that interpreted it to mean that the count must always begin on a Sunday, which follows Shabbat, the day of rest. This approach was thoroughly negated by the sages.

10. Each Day Corresponds to Another Spiritual Facet

According to the Kabbalah, we each have seven *middot* (emotional elements): *chesed* (“kindness”), *gevurah* (“strength”), *tiferet* (“harmony”), *netzach* (“perseverance”), *hod* (“humility”), *yesod* (“foundation”), *malchut* (“royalty”). Each of these elements further comprises all seven attributes. Thus, we have “*chesed of chesed*” followed by “*gevurah of chesed*” etc. all the way to “*yesod of malchut*” and finally “*malchut of malchut*.” This makes for a total of 49 micro attributes, since $7 \times 7 = 49$. On every day of the Omer count, we work on ourselves, attempting to refine the parts of our own personalities that correspond to that day’s attributes.

11. It Recalls the Anticipation for Sinai

The Exodus from Egypt happened on the first day of Passover, and the Revelation at Sinai happened on the day that would become Shavuot. It follows that from the day of the Exodus, the Israelites eagerly looked forward to the events that would happen at Sinai, counting the weeks and days until the time would arrive, each day refining themselves a bit more and raising their spiritual sensitivity. When we count the Omer, we relive their excitement and anticipation.

12. It’s the Only Mitzvah that Spans 3 Months

The holiday of Chanukah, when we light the menorah each night, starts during the month of Kislev and ends in the following month, Tevet. Counting the Omer takes the cake, however, spanning three months, starting in Nissan, continuing through Iyar, and concluding in Sivan.

13. Yep, There’s An App for That!

Remembering to count each night and making sure to count properly can be a challenge. To help you with your Omer count (besides for Shabbat and Jewish holidays, when technology is forbidden), Chabad.org’s team has created the super-popular Omer App. Download it and start using it—you’ll be glad you did!

Taken from Chabad.org

Jewish American Heritage Month

Stories of triumph and bravery always get us in the mood for celebrations, and this Jewish American Heritage Month in May is no different. From contributing important scientific discoveries to raising the flag for the abused and neglected, Jewish people have had a huge role to play in where America stands today on the world stage. The more than 350-year history has given us names like Albert Einstein and Ruth Bader Ginsburg — both of whom fought through hard times to emerge victoriously. In order to honor the Jewish communities' continued achievements, May was declared as Jewish American Heritage Month by former president George W. Bush back in 2006.

HISTORY OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Jews first arrived on American soil back in 1654 in New Amsterdam. In search of better opportunities and lifestyles, they made the U.S. their new home base, finding in it a space where they could openly practice their faith and lead their lives freely without the fear of persecution. The efforts to create a Jewish American Heritage Month had been in the pipeline since 1980. The U.S. Congress passed and authorized a bill that would allow President Carter to designate a special week in either April or May for Jewish heritage celebrations. Finally, in April of 2006, the whole month of May was dedicated to recognizing and honoring Jewish contributions and achievements.

Albert Einstein and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are some of the most prominent Jewish American figures. Einstein faced ridicule and bullying growing up with many of his teachers giving up on him. If he had succumbed to society's ugliness, we, as human beings, might have missed out on a lot of great things today. Likewise, Ginsburg faced sexism at her workplace. People did not want to work with her just because she was a woman and many still believed that a woman's place was in the kitchen. However, she pushed on and became the harbinger of many helpful laws, including abortion rights.

Jewish people have also been great advocates for other minorities and their rights in America. They participated in the Civil Rights Movement, making up a large portion of white Americans who showed up at voter registrations, rallies, sit-ins, etc. While, today, things may not be as difficult as they were even less than a hundred years ago, all the achievements by Jewish people, big and small, deserve to be recognized and celebrated — and there's no better time than in Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM).

Our Congregation

GERRY NEEDS OUR HELP

Gerry Pliner has been a member of CBS since 2007. During the 15 years he has served on the Board of Directors as First Vice President; acting President, twice and acting Treasurer. He unselfishly gives his time and energy to our congregation. Now he needs help from us.

Below is a copy of heart wrenching Face Book post written by Gerry's niece.

“My name is Andria Armato and I am writing this message with hope that social media can work its magic this holiday season! My Uncle Gerald, my mom's brother, is suffering from severe kidney disease and needs a new kidney as soon as possible. He is on the national donor's list and has been for some time, but as we all know that's not an easy or quick process, especially for a 77 year old man. Our family would do ANYTHING we could to help him, unfortunately none of us are a match for both blood type and other medical reasons. My uncle's blood type is O+ and he has been giving of himself his whole life, so I am hoping an angel somewhere can return the favor and give him the gift of a healthy kidney! Uncle Gerald has given decades of service as a volunteer and also has served as a Board Trustee member for numerous organizations. He was the patriarch of his immediate and extended families as my grandfather passed away long before I was born. In addition, he owned a business in his community where he served other people in need. Uncle Gerald has always taken care of us and others, and now we want to take care of him. If you are reading this and may be interested or know anyone who could be a match and would be willing to save a life, please message me at Thank you all so much and if you are unable to help personally, please share this message and story with all you know....my family and I would be ever so grateful!

Holiday blessings,

Andria Armato”

If any of the readers of this Kibbitzer can help Gerry contact him at gp@pliner-inc.com.
Thank you, Toby Koch, Second VP

Time for a Nosh

ReformJudaism.org

Marissa Solomon



Lag BaOmer is a festive day of outdoor celebration. Especially in Israel, many people celebrate with picnics and barbecues and use bonfires to symbolize the light of Torah.

You don't need to be in Israel to celebrate this festive day the Israeli way. Here are the top recipes on ReformJudaism.org that you can use at your own festive and delicious Lag BaOmer picnic or barbecue. Of course, you'll need to be safe this year, making sure to continue to socially distance as appropriate, but if you're celebrating with family or other vaccinated friends, here is a recipe you're sure to love.

Grilled Steak with Chimichurri Sauce By Tina Wasserman

CHIMICHURRI SAUCE:

1/2 cup tightly packed parsley
1/4 cup chopped onion
4 cloves of garlic, chopped
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/2 teaspoon coarse salt
1 teaspoon black peppercorns
2 1/2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

STEAK AND GARNISH:

1 1/2 pounds steak (rib eye, skirt, or club)
4 navel or Valencia oranges
Flour tortillas (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine the first 8 ingredients in a processor work bowl. Pulse on and off until the garlic and parsley appear to be minced and make a coarse paste.
2. Add the vinegar and olive oil, and pulse until well blended. Let the mixture sit for a few hours to allow the flavors to meld.
3. Brush steaks with 2 tablespoons of the sauce and let sit for 1/2 hour. Marinate skirt steak in half of the sauce for 3-4 hours to tenderize.
4. Cut the tops and bottoms off the oranges and cut away all of the rind, leaving a ball of orange. Slice the oranges horizontally into 1/4-inch slices. Set aside.
5. Grill the steak over medium-hot coals until medium rare (about 10 minutes per inch of thickness of steak.)
6. Slice the steak across the grain and place on the center of a platter. Place the orange slices around the meat and drizzle with some of the remaining chimichurri sauce.



Congregation Beth Shalom
of Brandon

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Yom HaZikaron 6:30 PM Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM Board Meeting	4 Yom Ha'atzmout	5 6:30 PM Adult Education	6 7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service	7 Parashat Kedoshim
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12 6:30 PM Adult Education	13 7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service	14 Parashat Emor
15 Food Bank 1 PM to 3 PM	16	17	18 Lag B'Omer	19 6:30 PM Adult Education	20 7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service	21 Parashat Behar
22	23	24	25	26 6:30 PM Adult Education	27 7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service	28 Parashat Bechukotai
29	30 Memorial Day	31				