



TIFERET HASHABBAT

This Week in Tiferet

The students and teachers at Tiferet were excited to jump right back into learning Torah in Tiferet after the Nissan break. Over the course of Pesach, many of our students participated in the tiyulim that Tiferet offered students staying in Eretz Yisrael, including a trip to the Stalactite Caves, a visit to Yad Vashem, a guided tour of the Israel Museum, Matzah-baking and the amazing "Dialogue in the Dark" exhibit. We are glad that we are able to provide these opportunities to our students over the month of Nisan. On Thursday, Tiferet commemorated Yom Hashoa with shiurim, reflections from students who had attended the Heritage Program, and a talk by Mrs. Livia Shacter, a survivor of the Shoah who lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh.

תורת תפארת

Counting and Building

Mrs. Leba Schneider

Parashat Shmini – Sefirat Haomer

Coming off of the "seder", order, of the beginning of the Pesach holiday, we find ourselves in a seven week long process of counting. To understand the tremendous depth of ספירת העומר, we must look at a number of questions that surround this obligation. Firstly, a famous question is asked by the *Sefer Hachinuch*; the majority of things we count towards are usually enumerated in a descending fashion, yet we find ourselves counting upwards! Another challenge we must address is the omission in the Torah of what we are in fact counting towards. A third and more technical difficulty is the inability to use a halachic mechanism that we find by most other mitzvot, the concept of שומע כעונה.

Rav Aharon Kotler addresses the first question and answers that we normally count down, when the days stand in the way of the event. (Five days until the wedding, three days until graduation etc....) However, the ספירת העומר days are necessary building blocks towards the goal. One doesn't say that I have four more floors to finish the building, you talk about the floors already built. ספירת העומר is a time of building and refinement. It is not a coincidence that the Torah readings coinciding with ספירת העומר concentrate on קדושה and טהרה. Rav Pinkus describes that this process of refinement is symbolized by the קורבנות that commence and close the 49 days of counting. We begin with the עומר התנופה - a sacrifice of barley, animal feed, and culminate on Shavuot with a מנחה offering of refined wheat flour. These קורבנות are sending us a message that we too must detach from our animalistic side and head towards a lofty and improved persona.

Rav Mirsky suggests that this is why the halachic principle of שומע כעונה does not apply here. Normally when a mitzvah is performed, one person can make the bracha for everyone (shofar, megillah, kiddush, etc) but not by ספירת העומר. In this particular mitzvah, the

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The Tiferet Family offers its sincere condolences to Rebecca Kirschenbaum on the passing of her sister, Shani Kirschenbaum, ע"ה
יהי זכרה ברוך

תורת תפארת (המשך)

counting is individualistic. The process cannot be communal, it is subjective and challenges each individual to identify how he must perfect himself. In addition, Rav Soloveitchik explains the reason why there is no bracha of שהחיינו for ספירת העומר. We are heading somewhere but haven't arrived, so we can't make a statement of "והגיענו"; we haven't yet achieved or reached the place where we are heading!

Finally, Rav Pinkus describes how the Torah requires us to count 49 days but does not go into great detail about it culminating with מתן תורה. Rav Pinkus likens it to the instructive given to Avraham: לך...אל הארץ אשר אראך" לך; why not tell Avraham where he is headed? Until you reach the level of purity and understanding you can't possibly appreciate and understand where you are headed. מתן תורה and ארץ ישראל share that unique element, its destinations are achieved by a person. The arrival is not set in stone or static, it is earned and merited. The ילקוט שמעוני describes that when Aharon was on his death bed and Moshe asked him what he saw, Aharon responded: "איני כדאי לומר לך" - until you are in this position yourself, you can't understand.

May we all merit and tap into the strengths and potential of these seven weeks and succeed in arriving at our destination!

Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to Rebecca Schrag (5767, madricha) on her marriage to Benjy Mayer! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Melody Cutler (5770) on her engagement to Jonny Benrimon! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Alyssa Zaretsky (5770) on her marriage to Ari Ginsberg! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Ariella Saragossi (5772) on her engagement to Raffi Hopkins! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Ilana Aaron (5773, 5774) on her marriage to Chanani Teller! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Kayla Suss (5774, 5775) on her engagement to Ovadia Shalom! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

