Numbers

Numbers are funny things. On the one hand, they seem utterly devoid of meaning: think of the sterility of bureaucracies ("Go to Window #14 and fill out form #3062") or the banality of an address like "25 20th Street." On the other hand, consider how numbers are used when we say things like, "Eighteen years' experience in the business"; "A $450,000 home"; or "This is our child. She's three."

Counting something makes it real to us: only when we have assigned it a quantity can we understand what it means to us and how we can use it. Imagine that you are given a chest full of gold coins. You thank your benefactor and take it home. As soon as the door is securely bolted, what's the first thing you do? Count them, of course. Sure, it feels great to be able to say, "I'm a rich man." But if you want to do something with your riches, you have to know: How much?

"And you shall count for yourselves from the morrow of the Shabbat, from the day on which you bring the Omer offering, seven complete weeks they shall be; until the morrow of the seventh week, you shall count fifty days... And you shall proclaim that every day a holy festival" (Leviticus 23:15-21)

The people of Israel departed Egypt on the 15th of Nissan, celebrated ever since as the first day of Passover. Seven weeks later, on the 6th of Sivan--marked on our calendar as the festival of Shavuot--we assembled at the foot of Mount Sinai and received the Torah from G-d.

Every year, we retrace this journey with a 49-day "Counting of the Omer." Beginning on the second night of Passover, we count the days and weeks. "Today is one day to the Omer," we proclaim on the first night of the count. "Today is two days to the

Continued on page 12
Chabad Women’s Circle - April 24

Beth Kern hosted a lovely evening of inspiration and fun with Guest Lecturer, Bronya Shaffer speaking on the topic: Shabbat: Sanctifying Time, Space and Self. Shari Pollock, Professional Quilter, led the group in fashioning their very own richly patterned throw pillow.
Join Chabad for a host of events for the entire family on Shavuot!

Shavuot Dinner at Chabad

Tuesday night, May 22, 2007
Ma'ariv: 9:00 PM.
Yom Tov Dinner: 9:30 PM.

Cost: $30 per person
RSVP: www.chabadwestside.org

Followed by all night learning

Session I 12:00 - 1:15 AM
Halachic Issues in the Messianic Age
With Rabbi Yisroel Fried

Session II 1:30 - 2:45 AM
"Every Jew Has A Place In The World To Come" (Pirkei Avot)
With Rabbi Meir Ossey

Session III 3:00 - 4:15 AM
Moses, Kind David and the Ba'al Shem Tov:
The Three Central Figures of Shavuot
With Rabbi Shlomo Kugel

Coffee and plenty of refreshments

Chabad Kids Shul invites you to its annual

Shavuot Children's Ice Cream Party!

Hear the Ten Commandments read from the Torah and then enjoy a great party.

Wednesday, May 23

Shacharit: 9:45 am

Reading of the Ten Commandments: 11:15 am (approximately)

Followed by our super delicious Ice Cream Party!

See you at Chabad - 101 West 92nd Street
Please note the change in dates for the final Chabad Kids Club events this year.

Stay tuned for further details...

Thursday, May 17

\textbf{Shavuot Carnival}

5:00 - 6:30 pm
101 West 92nd Street

Sunday, June 3

\textbf{CKC Family Trip to the Jewish Children's Museum}

9:00 am departure
1:00 pm return

School bus pick up and drop off at 101 West 92nd Street.

\textbf{Happy Birthday!}

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hebrew Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eva Ingber</td>
<td>15 Iyar</td>
<td>May 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elliot Saad</td>
<td>14 Iyar</td>
<td>May 2</td>
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<td>Zachary Jonas</td>
<td>14 Iyar</td>
<td>May 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Shemesh</td>
<td>11 Iyar</td>
<td>April 29</td>
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<td>Sam Applebaum</td>
<td>14 Iyar</td>
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<td>Laura Grant</td>
<td>14 Iyar</td>
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<td>Zachary Gorton</td>
<td>9 Iyar</td>
<td>April 27</td>
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<td>Lindsey Winter</td>
<td>12 Iyar</td>
<td>April 30</td>
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\textbf{ONGOING CLASSES}

\textbf{Monday Evenings} 8:15 pm

\textbf{In-Depth Tanya}

\textit{with Rabbi Meir Ossey}

\textbf{at the Chabad Shul}

\textbf{Wednesday Evenings} 8:30 pm

\textbf{Practical Halacha}

\textit{with Rabbi Yisroel Fried}

\textbf{at the home of}

\textbf{Naava & Danny Ecksten}

\textbf{20 West 87th St. Apt. #1B}

\textbf{Wednesday Mornings} 10:45–11:30

\textbf{Pathways to the Soul}

\textit{a Class for Women}

\textit{with Rabbi Shlomo Kugel}

\textbf{Coffee & Discussion}

\textbf{at the home of}

\textbf{Deborah & David Shimko}

\textbf{500 West End Ave. Apt. #8C}

\textbf{Shabbat} 9:00 am

\textbf{The Chassidic Parsha}

\textit{with Rabbi Yisroel Fried}

1 hour before Mincha

\textbf{Rambam Shiur}

\textit{with Rabbi Yisroel Fried}

\textit{at the Chabad Shul}
Don't Lose It!

Summer Camp Season is Almost Here!

Hang on to all your great stuff this summer. With Mabel's Labels' stick-ons, your children will come home with their sports equipment, towels, swim bags and even their water shoes!

Help support the PA while getting your family organized! Ensure that 15-20% of your order goes directly to the PA by logging on to:

www.chabadelc.mabel.ca

If you have any questions or would like more information about this program, please contact Chaviva Kaplan (Einav, PN1) at 212-724-3430.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 30</td>
<td>Music 92</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 1</td>
<td>Music 97</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 2</td>
<td>Pesach Sheni</td>
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<td>Library Day 97</td>
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<td>Kinderdance 97</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 3</td>
<td>N &amp; PK Torah Theater</td>
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<td>Kinderdance 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 6</td>
<td>Lag B’Omer</td>
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Laptop Search
Have you recently upgraded to a new laptop? Donate your old one to Chabad ELC, get a tax write-off and a mitzvah at the same time!

We are looking for a basic laptop that can be used for classroom and teacher training purposes. Please contact the school office for more information.

Mitzvah Opportunity
Is your blood type A+ (or O)? There is a young woman in need of this blood type at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. If you are able to donate or know someone who can, please contact our office (212-864-5010 / celc@chabadwestside.org) for details.

Tuesday Soccer @ 97
Due to great demand, an additional soccer class will open at 97th Street. The new class will be on Tuesdays at 2:45 pm. Please contact Debbie if you are interested in participating in this class.

No Flip Flops, Please!
Children need to wear shoes that support their growing feet without putting too heavy a strain on their legs. While flip flops and ballet flats are fun for the beach or at home, they are not appropriate for school wear.

Having to keep catching falling shoes or tripping while playing outdoors is not safe or fun. Please make sure your child wears shoes that can be firmly secured.

After-School Classes Coordinator
Debbie Rudt (Adam, N2)
(212) 501-8834 / debrudt@rcn.com

Noticed Our New Boxtop Boxes?
Boxtop collecting has just gotten even savvier! No need to stop off at the office - just drop your clipped boxtops in the conveniently placed collection boxes in the hallways at either location. Each one makes a difference - so keep on clipping!

Register at the Boxtops Marketplace and have a percentage of your online shopping benefit the CELC PA! It takes less than a minute to register and then you can enjoy online shopping knowing that it will directly benefit the children at Chabad ELC.

Use this link to sign up:
https://www.boxtops4education.com/login.aspx
You are cordially invited to join

Morah Pearl’s Birthday Farbrengen

Celebrate Pearl’s special day with singing and sharing of food for body and soul.

Wednesday, May 9
8:00 pm
Hosted by Sarah Zitter Milstein
100 West 89th Street #6F

RSVP to the school office - 212-864-5010 / celc@chabadwestside.org

~ For Women Only~

Farbreng (Yiddish) To gather in chassidic spirit (verb)
Farbrengen (Yiddish) An informal gathering characterized by singing and inspiring talk (noun)
The Garden
There are people who do many good things, but with pessimism - because to them the world is an inherently bad place. Since their good deeds have no life to them, who knows how long they can keep it up?

We must know that this world is not a dark, sinister jungle, but a garden. And not just any garden, but G-d's own pleasure garden, full of beauty, wonderful fruits and fragrances, a place where G-d desires to be with all His essence.

If the taste to us is bitter, it is only because we must first peel away the outer shell to find the fruit inside.

*From the wisdom of the Lubavitcher Rebbe; words and condensation by Tzvi Freeman’s *Bringing Heaven Down to Earth.*

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**Something Old, Something New**

Please join us for a community wide two-part refresher course on Taharat Hamishpacha; Family Purity.

Given by Rebbetzin Peshi Neuberger
May 2 and May 9, 2007
8:30 pm at The Jewish Center

Sponsored by the West Side Mikvah
One of the Torah's commandments in Parshah that govern human relationship is the one against taking revenge. This commandment is quickly followed by the one not to harbor a grudge.

Rashi, citing the Talmud, explains these two commandments with an example of a person who tries to borrow an axe from his neighbor. His neighbor refuses.

A few weeks later, the neighbor's axe breaks so he comes to the first person-who by now had already purchased a new axe - and asks him whether he can lend him the axe. His answer: "No! You didn't want to lend me yours when I needed it, I will not lend you mine."

This is revenge.

A second scenario is where the first person, who was originally turned down, does in fact agree to lend his neighbor his axe - but with the added caveat: "I'm not like you. You wouldn't lend me your axe when I needed it, but I will lend you mine."

This is bearing a grudge.

Maimonides explains that the reason the Torah prohibits bearing a grudge is that it is a precaution against revenge. If people would bear grudges and keep those spiteful thoughts and emotions pent up inside of them, it might ultimately lead down the slippery slope to actually taking revenge.

This is one of a number of examples of where the Torah forbids one thing to prevent another violation. This type of commandment is usually something the rabbis would do. They always built "fences around the Torah," making rules that would help avoid transgressing the Torah's laws, but for the Torah to introduce its own preventative measures to prevent transgressing some of its own laws - is almost unheard of.

The fact that this precautionary measure does exist here is a sign that the Torah considered revenge to be more serious than most other transgressions - transgressions for which the Torah did not legislate additional precautionary measures.

What is it about revenge that has to be avoided at any cost?

The simple approach to this is that an act of revenge will lead to the attacker's reprisals that will in turn provoke a stronger response. This cycle of violence can lead to catastrophic consequences.

Needless to mention, the topic of revenge must be distinguished from legitimate self-defense. Indeed, this week's parsha also commands us "not to stand idly on the blood of our fellow." This, the Talmud explains, means that we must do whatever we can to protect someone's life, even to kill the attacker. But it is important to distinguish between attacking to prevent an attack and attacking for the sake of revenge.

One could suggest a deeper explanation for the Torah's extreme position concerning bearing a grudge and revenge. When a civilized person does something to harm another, he or she usually feels a certain amount of guilt for having caused that harm. Even if there was a reason for the assault or the insult, a normal person often recognizes that their reaction was not justified. So when the person offended does nothing, time and calmer heads contribute to the diffusing of the situation.

When the other takes revenge, he ups the ante, and the dispute takes on a life of its own, because now both parties begin to convince themselves that they are fighting a holy war. When people have arguments and they begin to ascribe "higher" motives to their own personal agendas, there is little chance that their dispute will ever be resolved.

And, once again, it should be noted, that we're not discussing legitimate differences of opinion or ideological differences between different groups. We are discussing when these differences of opinion convert into hatred and recriminations. Even if they were originally based on some principles, they quickly deteriorate into personal animosity and endless fights that have nothing to do with principle.

The Talmud predicts that before Moshiach ushers in the Age of Redemption, when true peace and unity will prevail, there will be much fragmentation and division within the Jewish community. Unfortunately this prophecy has come true and though it is a harbinger of Moshiach it is not one that we should relish because when Moshiach comes to save us from ourselves, he comes in spite of us. By contrast, when we bring unity and peace, we become part of the process that makes the Redemption possible.

**Moshiach Matters...**

One might think that since we are now at the threshold of the Redemption, there is no need for further exertion: all he has to do is to wait for Mashiach to arrive. We note, however, that even when our forefathers encamped only briefly in the wilderness, they established themselves on a permanent basis. They erected the Mishkan with all of its components, even though the very next day they would have to disassemble it. Even if we are in exile for only one moment longer, that single moment should be lived as if it were permanent: that single moment needs to be filled with the erection of the Mishkan, i.e., with Torah and mitzvos.
**Halachic Times**

**Week of April 26 - May 2**

Earliest Tefillin (latest of the week) .......... 4:59 AM
Latest Shma (earliest of the week) .......... 9:26 AM
Torah Reading: Acharei-Kedoshim (Leviticus 16:1 - 20:27)
Haftorah ................. Amos 9:7 - 15*
Earliest Kiddush Levana. Tues., 4/24, 12:45 & 13:18 PM
Pirkei Avot Chapter 3

*according to the Chabad custom

**Shabbat Parshat Tazriah - Metzorah**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 20**

Candle Lighting ................. 7:29 pm
Mincha ......................... 7:40 pm
Dvar Torah ..................... Rabbi Kugel
Kabbalat Shabbat .................. 8:10 pm

**SHABBAT, APRIL 21**

Parshah Class ..................... 9:00 am
Shacharit ........................ 9:45 am
Dvar Torah ..................... Rabbi Fried
***Kids Shul & Junior Minyan ......... 11:00 - 12:15***

*Kiddush is sponsored by by Alan and Michelle Cutler in honor of their move to Riverdale ... approx. 12:30 PM

Rambam and Pirkei Avot classes ............ 6:35 pm
Mincha ......................... 7:35 pm
Ma’ariv & Havdallah ............... 8:33 pm

Each week, a Video of the Rebbe is shown after Havdallah.

**Daily Minyan:**

Sunday & legal holidays: .................. 9 AM
Monday & Thursday: .................. 7:15 AM
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: .......... 7:30 AM
Rosh Chodesh: .................. 7 AM

Learn Rambam everyday at
www.chabadwestside.org/dailystudy/rambam.asp

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**New Pirkei Avot Class!**

In keeping with the emphasis put on learning Pirkei Avot - Ethics of the Fathers - as a preparation for Shavuot and throughout the summer (as discussed in last week’s Shul Bulletin), Rabbi Kugel will be giving an in-depth class on the study of Pirkei Avot every Shabbat afternoon. The class begins one hour before Minchah every Shabbat afternoon at Chabad. Men and women are welcome and no knowledge of hebrew is required.

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**Halachic Corner - More Omer questions**

**interesting questions posed by our readers**

**Question:** What is the requirement for women with regard to counting the Omer?

**Answer:** It is a well established custom that both men and women count the Omer each night. Though it is true that the Omer is a time bound, positive Mitzvah, which means that women are officially exempt from doing it, many women have nonetheless taken upon themselves to fulfill this Mitzvah. One of the reasons for counting the Omer is to help us prepare for receiving the Torah on Shavuot. Just as one counts and looks forward to a much anticipated upcoming event in one’s life, so too, the commentaries say, the jews after the Exodus counted the days looking forward to receiving the Torah. Clearly, women’s love for the Torah and anticipation for receiving it was and is as great as that of men.

The Omer also reminds us of the building of the Third Temple, since the Omer was actually a sacrifice of barley brought in the Temple on the second day of Pesach. The counting of the days coincided with the bringing of this sacrifice. (For this reason the first prayer said after counting the Omer is one that asks G-d for the rebuilding of the Temple.) Since it says that in the merit of righteous women we were redeemed from Egypt and in their merit we will be redeemed from this exile, it is only fitting that women be involved in this Mitzvah, which prepares us for the coming of Moshiach.

As we mentioned last week, if one did not count the Omer for an entire day, one should continue counting the Omer on subsequent days, but without reciting the brachah.
Kiddush Sponsorship Opportunities:

Sponsoring a Kiddush is a great way to share your Simchah or special family event with the community!

Kiddushim can be sponsored to celebrate a birthday, graduation or to commemorate the Yahrzeit of a loved one. Kiddush sponsors are encouraged to share some words of Torah at their Kiddush. Kiddushim cost $300, $400 or $500.

To sponsor a kiddush, please email Rabbi Fried at ryf@chabadwestside.org, or call at 212-864-5010 x 14.

Kiddush Schedule:

Shabbat Acharei - Kedoshim, April 28, ......................
Kiddush is sponsored by Alan and Michelle Cutler in honor of their move to Riverdale

Shabbat Emor - May 5,...........................................
Kiddush is sponsored by Ben Goldstein in honor of the Yahrzeit of his mother, Channah Bat Yehoshua HaKohen, 13 Iyar

Shabbat Behar - Bechukotai - May 12, .........................
Kiddush is available

Thank you for the Seforim

Chabad is always looking to expand its library. Our most recent donation came from Mayo Simon who donated the newest volume of the Chassidis Heritage Series entitled “Creation and Redemption,” a discourse of the Previous Rebbe with translation and commentary. The sefer was donated in honor of his new granddaughter, Ava Rose Simon. To donate to the Chabad library, please contact our office.

Important Dates:

May 1 - 13 Iyar, May 2 - 14 Iyar, Pesach Sheni

13 Iyar, Tuesday, May 1, is the Yahrzeit of Rabbi Yisroel Aryeh Leib, the Rebbe’s brother. He is buried in the holy city of Tzefat, in close proximity to the Arizal.

It’s Never Too Late - No Justification For Despair

14 Iyar, Wednesday, May 2, is Pesach Sheni, the “Second Pesach.” The Torah relates that in the first year after the Exodus, when the Jewish people were preparing to bring the Pesach sacrifice: There were [certain] men who were impure and they could not bring the Pesach offering. They came before Moshe... and said, "We are unclean... [but] why should we be held back from bringing the offering of G-d in its time?..." G-d said..., "If any man be impure... or on a distant way [on the day of the Pesach offering]..., he shall sacrifice the Pesach offering to G-d, in the second month, on the fourteenth day at dusk...."

Anyone who did not bring a Pesach offering, whether because of impurity or even because he had willfully transgressed G-d's will, was thus given the opportunity to compensate for his shortcoming by bringing an offering on Pesach Sheni.

The Previous Rebbe explained that, "Pesach Sheni teaches us that 'Nothing is ever lost: it's never too late!' Our conduct can always be rectified. Even someone who is impure, who was far away and even desired to be so, can still correct himself." There is no justification for despair. Every individual, no matter what his situation, always has the potential to make a leap forward (the literal translation of the Hebrew word Pesach) in his service of G-d.

But why was it instituted a full month after Pesach, in the month of Iyar? Wouldn't it have been better to atone for our deficiencies at the earliest opportunity, in Nissan?

We can answer this question by comparing the spiritual characteristics of Nissan and Iyar. Nissan is the month of revelation, the month during which G-d revealed His greatness and redeemed the Jewish people despite their inadequacies. Iyar, by contrast, is the month of individual endeavor, a quality that is exemplified by the mitzvah of counting the Omer. The theme of Iyar, self-refinement initiated by the individual himself, is in keeping with the nature of Pesach Sheni, the festival in which an individual who was not motivated by Pesach is given an additional opportunity to elevate himself.
Omer," "Today is seven days, which are one week to the Omer", "Today is twenty-six days, which are three weeks and five days day to the Omer," and so on, until: "Today is forty-nine days, which are seven weeks to the Omer." The fiftieth day is Shavuot.

The Kabbalists explain that we each possess seven powers of the heart--love, awe, beauty, ambition, humility, bonding and regality--and that each of these seven powers includes elements of all seven. These are represented by the seven weeks and 49 days of the Omer count.

Every Passover, we are granted a treasure chest containing the greatest gift ever given to man--the gift of freedom. It is also a completely useless gift. What is freedom? What can be done with it? Nothing, unless we open the treasure chest and count its contents.

So on the second day of Passover, after we've taken home our treasure, we start counting. We count seven times seven, because the gift of freedom has been given to each of the seven powers and 49 dimensions of our soul. Indeed, what use is a capacity for love, if it is a slave to external influences and internal neurosis? Of what value is ambition, if we are its pawn rather than its master?

Each evening for the next seven weeks, we open our treasure chest and count another coin. We count our loving love, intimidating love, beautiful love, ambitious love, humble love, bonding love and regal love. We assign a number to the regality of our awe ("Today is fourteen days, which are two weeks to the Omer") and to the beauty of our humility ("Today is thirty-one days, which are four weeks and three days to the Omer").

We count them all--and then we present ourselves at Mount Sinai.