

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Joan Frommer Bloom, beloved sister of Edward Kraut.

Jerome (Jerry) J. Hackman, beloved husband of Linda Katz Hackman.

Rabbi Marilyn Werman, beloved mother of Dr. Howard (Gwen) Werman.

Gerald Greenberger, beloved brother of Dr. David (Susan) Greenberger and uncle of Sarah, Jonathan, and Rebecca Greenberger.

Robert Spira, beloved father of Scott (Cynthia Weiss) Spira.

Jennie Zeidman, beloved mother of Barry (Tamara Rehmar) Zeidman and grandmother of Dyan (Halen) Johnson.

Robert Weiner, beloved brother of Jerry (Evie) Weiner.

May their memories be for a blessing.

Todah Rabah!

The congregation is grateful for the sponsorship of Shabbat kiddush on Saturday, March 7, by the **Tifereth Israel Sisterhood** and **Men's Club** in honor of Sisterhood & Men's Club Shabbat.

How to Read the Jewish Bible

Weekly | Fridays | 8:15 to 9:15 am

We are diving into, "How to Read the Jewish Bible." In this book, biblical scholar Marc Zvi Brettler argues we can best understand ancient Hebrew scripture by understanding more about the culture that produced it. Led by Rabbi Alex Braver. For information, contact Joy at jcontreras@tiferethisrael.org or 614-928-3291. New students welcome at any time. **ZOOM Link**/Member ID: 334951636

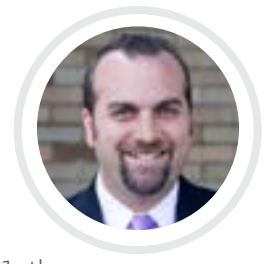
Short Story Group

Wednesdays | May 6-June 10 | 10:30 am

Join our lively discussions of intriguing stories that engage and entertain. **ZOOM Link**/Meeting ID: 243651229

Counting the Omer and the Quarantine is Meaningful

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik | hskolnik@tiferethisrael.org



Each year, on the second night of Passover, we begin the counting of the Omer. The Torah specifically instructs us to count seven complete weeks, from Passover to the holiday of Shavuot. It is a counting which begins with day 1 and continues through day 49 as we consciously count up (as opposed to counting down) to the experience of revelation at Mount Sinai.

This year, when it came time for counting the Omer during our second seder, the Skolniks did two countings. We counted the Omer, but also did our "counting of the quarantine." Some of you might have seen us on Facebook on a daily basis as we count the days since our children have been to school. It has become a serious daily ritual for us and, I dare say, for those who watch our videos on a daily basis. As we each share something positive that has happened that day, we declare ourselves actively ready to fulfill the act of saving lives by staying home. We recite a blessing thanking God for answering us in times of crisis

and then count each day of the quarantine. May 1, the date of publication of this issue of the Forum, will be day 47.

Last week we passed the 40-day mark, which meant that we had been in this social isolation longer than Moses had been on Mount Sinai. In the coming days, we'll pass day 49, which will take us into higher numbers than the Omer has ever gone and will ever go. To be honest, there are moments when I find that to be depressing, as it has been so long since we've all been together in person. But, there are other moments when I am inspired by our communal perseverance, ability, and willingness to maintain these physical boundaries for the sake of saving lives. And, through it all, I remember each day of counting of the quarantine is also counting up toward a new normal for our congregation, our city, our state, our country, and our world. May we arrive at that new normal safely, speedily, and in good health.



Lunch & Learn

Join Rabbi Hillel Skolnik and Rabbi Alex Braver for stimulating, timely, and relevant examination of Jewish tenets, through a modern lens. All during your lunch hour!

Wednesday, May 13, 12:00-1:00 pm

The Book of Ruth & Environmental Justice

ZOOM Link/Meeting ID: 85402370218

Wednesday, June 10, 12:00-1:00 pm

Healing Prayers

ZOOM Link/Meeting ID: 82523560642

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!