

# Counting for the Climate: Omer 5782

ספירת  
העומר

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for  
IPLdmv.org/omer



Our religious response to climate change.

Jewish communities formally count each day starting on the second night of *Pesach* — our retelling of the exodus from slavery in Egypt — for the seven weeks until *Shavuot* — a celebration of receiving the Torah. This counting, called *Sfirat haOmer*, recalls an agricultural practice of bringing sheafs of barley — each unit an “omer” — as offerings to the Temple. This year, our Jewish community is using this calendar to both appreciate abundance in the natural world, and to journey towards greater responsibility for the ways our economic choices support fossil fuels and the harm they cause. The Jewish mystical tradition, *kabbalah*, overlaid two Divine attributes onto each of the 49 days. As we count, may we reflect on how we might bring each of these pairs of virtues to the struggle for environmental justice.

The blessing for the Counting of the Omer, said on the evening of each new day:

*Baruch atah A-donai Elo-heinu Melech HaOlam,  
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al sfirat haOmer.*

Blessed are You, A-donai our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe,  
who has sanctified us with your commandments and commanded us to count the Omer.

After the blessing, one recites the appropriate day of the count. For example:

*Hayom yom [echad] la'Omer*

Today is the [first] day of the Omer.

After the first six days, one also includes the number of weeks that one has counted.

For example: *Hayom [sh'losha asar] yom, she'hem shavuah [echad] v'[shisha] yamim la'Omer*

Today is [13] days, which is [one] week and [six] days of the Omer.

**16** *Pesach* We begin counting the Omer on the second night of Passover. As we open the door tonight for the prophet Elijah, who brings hope for a redeemed world, how can we also open ourselves to a journey through the #ClimateOmer?

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
	<i>Chesed: loving kindness</i>	<i>Gevurah: discipline</i>	<i>Tiferet: beauty/harmony</i>	<i>Netzach: eternity</i>	<i>Hod: splendor</i>	<i>Yesod: foundation</i>	<i>Malkhut: leadership</i>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<i>Pesach</i> You're invited to count the Omer and cultivate loving kindness for the world we share. You can count using this beautiful melody by Rabbi Yosef Goldman of Shaare Torah in Gaithersburg: <a href="http://bit.ly/omerniggun">bit.ly/omerniggun</a>	<i>Pesach</i> <i>Pesach</i> closes the season when our daily prayers praise G-d for causing wind to blow. Support wind power through your home energy bills! In DC or MD, sign up: <a href="http://Green-e.org/certified-resources">Green-e.org/certified-resources</a>	<i>Pesach</i> Join Jewish climate advocates across the country online at 8 pm tonight for Jewish Earth Alliance's monthly meeting, featuring inspiration and information for climate advocacy: <a href="http://bit.ly/apriljea">bit.ly/apriljea</a>	<i>Pesach</i> Join IPL-DMV, Dayenu, and Exodus Alliance in DC today at 11 am to call on banks to move their investments from fossil fuels to clean energy. Together, we'll proclaim "Dayenu—Enough!" <a href="http://bit.ly/allournightdc">bit.ly/allournightdc</a>	<i>Pesach</i> "If we eat matzah alone, it remains the bread of affliction. If we break matzah and share it, it becomes the bread of freedom." Take collective action with Rabbi Arthur Waskow's Freedom seder: <a href="http://bit.ly/streetseder">bit.ly/streetseder</a>	<i>Pesach</i> On this Earth Day, learn how faith communities here in our region and around the world are coming together to repair our world: <a href="http://EarthDay.org/faith">EarthDay.org/faith</a> , <a href="http://faithclimateactionweek.org">faithclimateactionweek.org</a>	<i>Pesach</i> Today, many will gather from 1-3 pm in Lafayette Square to speak out for climate action in Congress. Wherever you are today, cultivate loving kindness towards our neighbors and the climate we share.	<i>Pesach</i> Trees are blossoming earlier every spring in our damaged climate. Notice spring blossoms around you today, and recite <i>Birkat ha-Ilanot</i> , a blessing for fruit trees: <a href="http://bit.ly/birkat_hailanot">bit.ly/birkat_hailanot</a>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
Tonight at 7 pm, join the Jewish Climate Action Network DMV Online to count the Omer, debrief last week's bank action, and learn how we personally can move our funds away from fossil fuels: <a href="http://bit.ly/pouroutDMV">bit.ly/pouroutDMV</a>	G-d "brings forth bread from the Earth" with the help of many human hands. Consider purchasing produce from one of the many Black-owned farms in our communities: <a href="http://bit.ly/blackfarms">bit.ly/blackfarms</a>	Play a mindful role in the eternal water cycle — steward the rain that falls on your home. Look up grant programs: DC RiverSmart Homes, Montgomery Co. RainScapes, Prince George's Co. Stormwater Stewardship	<i>Yom HaShoah</i> On this Holocaust Remembrance Day, listen to "Dreaming Birds," a lullaby from the Vilna ghetto. Remember how we have prevailed through loss and grief: <a href="http://bit.ly/dreamingbirds">bit.ly/dreamingbirds</a>	Open your Shabbat dinner tonight with a land acknowledgement, a powerful discipline for honoring the original caretakers of the places we live. Look up whose land you're on: <a href="http://Native-Land.ca">Native-Land.ca</a>	Rabbi Alana Alpert offers this practice through <i>Avodah</i> : Grip everything left over from the to-do list ... exhale, release, and say "I forgive myself and everyone for all left undone. I give thanks for rest."	<i>Rosh Chodesh Iyyar</i> We say <i>Hallel</i> today, and "praise the One who made the sun ... Your loving kindness is forever!" Pay a home energy bill in MD or DC? Subscribe to community solar: <a href="http://NSunSolar.com/ipl">NSunSolar.com/ipl</a>	<i>Rosh Chodesh Iyyar</i> Today our Muslim neighbors are celebrating <i>Eid al-Fitr</i> , concluding their holy month of Ramadan. Study some of the Islamic teachings that inform a Muslim response to climate change: <a href="http://bit.ly/40greenhadith">bit.ly/40greenhadith</a>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Celebrate the multiplying beauty of native plants today, whose growth can support hundreds of interconnected species in our ecosystem. Find plants that will do the most good in your zip code: <a href="http://nwf.org/NativePlantFinder">nwf.org/NativePlantFinder</a>	Beautiful melodies can help sustain us in the struggle. This year, Dayenu produced two new Jewish climate songs, by Zo Tobi and Rena Branson. Sing them and share them: <a href="http://Dayenu.org/songs">Dayenu.org/songs</a>	What role does your Jewish community play in repairing our climate? Join together with neighbors of many faith traditions through IPL-DMV: <a href="http://bit.ly/IPLsignup">bit.ly/IPLsignup</a> . Follow and share on social media @IPLdmv.	"We have an opportunity to dismantle systems of oppression and build something new in its place." Prepare for Shabbat with a call to action from Isha Clarke, a young Black Jewish climate activist: <a href="http://bit.ly/IshaClarke">bit.ly/IshaClarke</a>	Rabbi George Wielechowski offers this harmony practice through <i>Avodah</i> : Spend time in <i>hitbodedut</i> , contemplative solitude — in nature, if you can.			

Chesed: loving kindness

Gevurah: discipline

Tiferet: beauty/harmony

URLs that begin with bit.ly are case sensitive; all other links are not.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
	<i>Chesed: loving kindness</i>	<i>Gevurah: discipline</i>	<i>Tiferet: beauty/harmony</i>	<i>Netzach: eternity</i>	<i>Hod: splendor</i>	<i>Yesod: foundation</i>	<i>Malkhut: leadership</i>
Netzach: eternity	We are commanded to love G-d with all our heart, all our might, and all of our resources. Choose to use your money for people and planet: <a href="http://dayenu.org/all-our-might">dayenu.org/all-our-might</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/greeninvesting">bit.ly/greeninvesting</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/greenbanks">bit.ly/greenbanks</a> <b>8</b>	“Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.” (Ps. 126:5) The discipline of growing food is good for the soul. This is a good time to plant beans, cantaloupe, swiss chard, and eggplant: <a href="http://GreenAmerica.org/climate-victory-gardens">GreenAmerica.org/climate-victory-gardens</a> <b>9</b>	Live out the value of <i>bal taschit</i> by using energy mindfully. Weatherize at home: DIY tips: <a href="http://bit.ly/weatherizehome">bit.ly/weatherizehome</a> , or hire pros: <a href="http://DCSEU.com/homes">DCSEU.com/homes</a> , <a href="http://Leap-VA.org/services">Leap-VA.org/services</a> , <a href="http://EnergyPrograms.org">EnergyPrograms.org</a> , <a href="http://CivicWorks.com/ipl">CivicWorks.com/ipl</a> <b>10</b>	The sun offers us all free energy indefinitely. Homeowners across our region are going solar together with neighbors this spring. Join a purchasing group in your area: <a href="http://ipldmv.org/solarcoops">ipldmv.org/solarcoops</a> <b>11</b>	The newly launched DOE Clean Energy Corps will help America meet its goals of a carbon-free power sector in 2035 and a decarbonized economy in 2050. Learn more and apply: <a href="http://energy.gov/CleanEnergyCorps">energy.gov/CleanEnergyCorps</a> <b>12</b>	It can be hard to talk about climate change. Try having a conversation at Shabbat dinner that is literally “ <i>Shem shamayim</i> ,” for the sake of our shared sky. <b>13</b>	Rabbi Elliot Kukla offers this endurance practice through <i>Avodah</i> : Reclaim the radical roots of self-care ... tend to yourself as if you are the most precious seedling or mysterious wild animal you have ever met. <b>14</b>
Hod: splendor	<i>Pesach Sheni</i> Whose land are you on? As we reflect on loving kindness across time today, learn from these Jews on Ohlone land about ways to honor the first caretakers of the lands where we live: <a href="http://bit.ly/JOOL_JYCA">bit.ly/JOOL_JYCA</a> <b>15</b>	There’s no splendor in green lawns that host only one species and are covered in chemicals. Cultivate grounds hospitable to wildlife at home: <a href="http://bit.ly/greenergrounds">bit.ly/greenergrounds</a> , and at <i>shul</i> : <a href="http://bit.ly/sacredshulgrounds">bit.ly/sacredshulgrounds</a> <b>16</b>	Tonight at 8 pm, join the Jewish Earth Alliance online to hear a call to climate action directly from a member of Congress, Rep. Andy Levin of Michigan: <a href="http://bit.ly/JEAMay">bit.ly/JEAMay</a> <b>17</b>	Many Jewish communities are powered by the sun, now including Chizuk Amuno! Check out our solar congregations map and watch our video on solar financing for congregations: <a href="http://IPLdmv.org/solar">IPLdmv.org/solar</a> <b>18</b>	<i>Lag BaOmer</i> Visit or learn about a local community garden today! Behold the beauty and splendor of neighbors growing food together: <a href="http://bit.ly/DCgardens">bit.ly/DCgardens</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/Baltimoregardens">bit.ly/Baltimoregardens</a> <b>19</b>	This Shabbat, let the splendor of creation exist without your interference. Observe the original Buy Nothing Day and consider how you might make greener purchasing decisions: <a href="http://GreenPages.org">GreenPages.org</a> <b>20</b>	Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann offers this splendor practice through <i>Avodah</i> : Free-write your way to prayer, Anne Lamott-style ... starting with “Help ...” then “Thanks ...” and finally “Wow!” What opens up? <b>21</b>
Yesod: foundation	Listen to this conversation with Piscataway people, one of the several Indigenous peoples of our region, about the meaning of Indigenous Peoples’ Day: <a href="http://bit.ly/stillherepodcast">bit.ly/stillherepodcast</a> <b>22</b>	Nourish the soil ( <i>adamah</i> ) from which we ( <i>adam</i> ) are made. Compost at home: <a href="http://bit.ly/DCcompost">bit.ly/DCcompost</a> , <a href="http://BaltimoreCompostCollective.org">BaltimoreCompostCollective.org</a> , <a href="http://CompostCrew.com">CompostCrew.com</a> , <a href="http://VeteranCompost.com">VeteranCompost.com</a> <b>23</b>	Get connected to a grassroots group that’s advocating for climate repair locally: <a href="http://ChesapeakeClimate.org">ChesapeakeClimate.org</a> , <a href="http://SierraClub.org/chapters">SierraClub.org/chapters</a> <b>24</b>	We bless our food as bread from the Earth, fruit of tree, or fruit of the vine. Connect with locally grown food this week. Sign up for a farm box: <a href="http://LocalHarvest.org">LocalHarvest.org</a> or get rescued produce weekly: <a href="http://HungryHarvest.net">HungryHarvest.net</a> <b>25</b>	Planning meals for <i>Shavuot</i> ? Explore vegan versions of holiday treats: <a href="http://Shamayim.us">Shamayim.us</a> , <a href="http://JewishVeg.org">JewishVeg.org</a> Could your <i>shul</i> go <a href="http://DefaultVeg.org">DefaultVeg.org</a> this year? <b>26</b>	This Shabbat, take some time to be like a “tree planted by the water” (Ps. 1:3), grounded in nature and connected with those you love. <b>27</b>	Rabbi Rachel Van Thyn offers this grounding practice through <i>Avodah</i> : Close your eyes and think of a time when you felt safe, strong, and loved. Breathe the moment in and feel it ... call upon it when you feel unbalanced. <b>28</b>
Malkhut: leadership	Our global climate movement must be led by those on the front lines. Read a Ugandan farmer’s call for climate justice from American Jewish World Service: <a href="http://bit.ly/ajwsclimatejustice">bit.ly/ajwsclimatejustice</a> <b>29</b>	Has your synagogue become a Hazon “Seal of Sustainability” congregation? Learn how you can lead your community to greener food practices: <a href="http://Hazon.org/seal">Hazon.org/seal</a> <b>30</b>	<i>Rosh Chodesh Sivan</i> Welcome in the month of <i>Sivan</i> with this song by Rabbi Ariel Root Wolpe, who asks: What teachings do Earth, song, and spirit offer us? <a href="http://bit.ly/ruachsng">bit.ly/ruachsng</a> <b>31</b>	“I am establishing my covenant with you, your descendants, and with every living creature.” (Gen. 9:9-10) Explore outside today, perhaps with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake’s guide: <a href="http://bit.ly/IPC-Walk">bit.ly/IPC-Walk</a> <b>JUNE 1</b>	As you prepare for <i>Shavuot</i> , learn some Torah about what this season can teach us about our place in the natural world: <a href="http://bit.ly/CanfeiNesharim-Omer">bit.ly/CanfeiNesharim-Omer</a> <b>2</b>	When the Israelites received the Torah, they assigned their children to be guarantors of the covenant ( <i>Shir HaShirim Rabbah</i> 1:4). Let’s follow the lead of young Jews, who’ll inherit the promises we make now: <a href="http://bit.ly/climatefuturevid">bit.ly/climatefuturevid</a> <b>3</b>	<i>Erev Shavuot</i> Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg offers this leadership practice through <i>Avodah</i> : Spend time ... intentionally connecting with someone you don’t see often ... remind someone that they’re loved and seen in their wholeness. <b>4</b>

## 5-6

### Shavuot I & II (for some)

We gathered during *Pesach* to ask four questions. Now, as we renew our covenant to our community and G-d this *Shavuot*, let’s ask ourselves and each other:

- If we are to be climate protectors, how will we have to live differently than we do right now?
- What can we do before next *Shavuot* to turn away from fossil fuels in our homes, our lives, and our finances?
- What can we do before next *Shavuot* to move our communities’ operations and investments away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy?
- What can we do before next *Shavuot* to speak out against those who are continuing to perpetuate and profit from fossil fuels?



Share your journey:  
#ClimateOmer

Download an *Omer*-counting app for daily reminders, traditional readings, and instructions.