

Final Countdown to Summer at CSH

When to Count for the Summer

The counting for the s'omer begins on the first night after Labor Day. We count 263 day which is eight months and twenty-one days

The s'omer is counted each evening after sundown. The counting of the omer is generally appended to the end of *Ma'ariv* (the evening service).

What to Say . . . and What Not to Say

One stands when counting the s'omer, facing east (except those east of Sag Harbor who face west) and begins by reciting the following blessing:

Barukh ata Hashem Elokeinu Melekh ha'Olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tizivanu al sefirat ha s'umer.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments and commanded us to count [to] the s'umer.

Lat night we counted 257days which is eight months and fifteen days, to the s'omer

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CSH Community Shabbat Services and Dinner  
at the home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach  
258 Redwood Road (directions below)  
Friday, May 28th at 6:30 pm  
**All are invited**

**RSVP for dinner by Monday May 24th**

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Friday May 21, 2010 **Candle Lighting 7:51 pm**

This week's Torah reading: Naso

(This is the longest Torah portion with 176 verses)

Annual (Num. 4:21-7:89): Etz Hayim p. 791

Triennial (Num. 7:1-7:89): Etz Hayim p. 805

Haftarah (Judges 13:2-25): Etz Hayim p. 813

Musings on Naso... *"Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying: This is how you shall bless the children of Israel..."* (Numbers 6:23)

Reish Lakish states that anyone who says "Amen" with all his strength opens the gates of Heaven (Shabbat 119b).

Somewhat hidden in this week's very busy Torah portion, is the first mention of one of the most important words in our liturgy: *Amen*. It is a word that we often say as a matter of routine, but how often do we really appreciate the power of its meaning?

Literally, *Amen* means "I believe" and it comes from the same root as the word "*Emunah*", meaning faith. It appears in only one other section of the Torah, and its meaning there is very serious and even ominous. As the children of Israel are standing on the threshold of the Promised Land, they affirm a series of curses against those who would undermine the covenant, a ceremony that was clearly designed to put the fear of God into the people and help them steer clear of sin. After each curse, the people say "Amen".

In its first ever appearance in this week's Parsha, the word is no less awesome in its meaning. We read this week of the *Sotah*, a woman who comes to the Temple because her jealous husband is convinced that she has been unfaithful, although he cannot prove it. To clear her name and achieve reconciliation with her husband, she must drink the waters of bitterness, water in which the name of God itself has been dissolved. (If she refuses, then she can be divorced without compensation.)

As she is about to drink, the Priest declares that if she is guilty, the waters will cause her belly to swell and her thigh to fall away, and she says: "Amen, Amen". If she is innocent, then she becomes pregnant, and the pregnancy proves her to be guiltless. The genius of this result is, of course, that once she has survived the *Sotah* ordeal, her baby cannot be rejected by her jealous husband as not being his. In fact, if one looks at the ritual from a practical vantage-point, it is clearly designed not to punish adultery, but to force a jealous man to "get over it".

The Torah also says that "the man shall be free from iniquity" (5:31), from which the Rabbis derive that if he has been unfaithful to her then the waters cannot harm the woman. If she does not have faith in him, then her 'Amen' becomes meaningless.

However foreign or even shocking the *Sotah* ritual may be to modern eyes, the problem it addresses is timeless: How do we heal a relationship when one party simply refuses to have faith in the other? The answer the Torah gives is that the party who still has faith must take the first move, and declare that however faithless he is, she still has faith in herself and in him. Thus it is hard not to be inspired by the courage of the innocent *Sotah*, who by saying "Amen, Amen", forces her husband to rediscover his faith (*Emunah*) in her.

<http://www.limmud.org/publications/tasteoflimmud/5769/Naso/>

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When the Rabbis would depart from the school of Rabbi Ammi, and some say it from the school of Rabbi Chanina, they would say this to each other: May you see your world in your life. And your end be for life in the world-to-Come. And your hope encompass generations. May your heart meditate understanding. Your mouth speak wisdoms. And your tongue whisper songs. May your eyelids seek justice before you. Your eyes light up with the Light of Torah. And your face radiate as the Radiance of the Heavens. May your lips utter knowledge. And your entirety rejoice from justness. And your footsteps run to hear the words of the Ancient of Days. (Babylonian Talmud, *B'rachot* 17a)

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Live Long and Prosper. This "Vulcan salute, " as it has come to be called, was invented on the set by Leonard Nimoy during the filming of the second-season opener, "Amok Time." In this episode, Spock goes into something like a male estrus cycle, called **pon farr** in the Vulcan language. Comparing himself to a salmon swimming upstream to spawn, Spock tells Kirk that he must return to Vulcan to mate with his betrothed bride, T'Pol, or die trying. The wedding ceremony would be the first glimpse of Spock's homeworld in the series.

Nimoy felt that there should be some kind of distinctive greeting among Vulcans, analogous to a handshake or a bow. Alan Dean Foster's novelization, based on an early script, has Spock kneeling before the Vulcan matriarch, T'Pol, who places her hands on his shoulders, like royalty dubbing a knight. But Nimoy didn't care for this. Previous episodes had already established that Vulcans are touch telepaths. Therefore, a touch on the shoulders would be an invasion of privacy. Instead, Nimoy drew upon his own Jewish background to suggest the now-familiar salute. Back in the 1960s, hippies who watched "Amok Time" thought the salute was a variation of the two-fingered peace sign. But we Jews knew better. The Vulcan salute came not from protest marches, but from the pulpit of Nimoy's childhood synagogue.

Like most Jewish children, young Leonard Nimoy could not contain his curiosity about what the kohanim were really doing up there in front of the congregation. He writes:

"The special moment when the Kohanim blessed the assembly moved me deeply, for it possessed a great sense of magic and theatricality... I had heard that this indwelling Spirit of God was too powerful, too beautiful, too awesome for any mortal to look upon and survive, and so I obediently covered my face with my hands. But of course, I had to peek." (From his autobiography, I am Spock.)

Leonard survived his peeking unscathed, and saw the kohanim extending their fingers in the mystical "shin" gesture. That magical moment remained with him for life, and was there to draw upon years later, when he invented the Vulcan salute.

<http://www.pinenet.com/~rooster/v-salute.html>

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### **Yom Huledet Sameach**

To my mother, Lillian Menzer who celebrates her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on Shabbat. May she live long and prosper!

### **End Quote**

**Just to be is a blessing Just to live is holy.**

Rabbi Abraham Heschel

**Shabbat shalom.**

Stacy

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Directions to  
Home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach  
258 Redwood Road

*From East Hampton and points east (via Route 114)*

Take Route 114 north to Sag Harbor. Turn left on Union Street (there is a deli on the near left corner called Madison Market). Turn left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Sagaponack or Wainscott (via Sagg-Main)*

Take either Sag Harbor Tpke or Sagg-Main Street into Sag Harbor. Turn left on Union Street. Take the first left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Bridghampton (via Bridge-Sagg Pike)*

Take the Sag Harbor Tpke into Sag Harbor. Turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Watermill (via Scuttle Hole Road)*

From 27, turn left onto Scuttle Hole Road. Stay on Scuttle Hole Road until the end, then turn left onto the Sag Harbor Turnpike. Take the Sag Harbor Turnpike all the way into Sag Harbor, and turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Southampton, West Hampton, and points west*

Take 27 (Montauk Hwy) east. Turn left at the large green sign pointing toward Sag Harbor (just past East End Clambakes). This will be Sandy Hollow Road. Turn left at the first light onto North Sea Road. Take North Sea Road to Noyack Road – turn right onto Noyack Road, following the signs to Sag Harbor. Turn left onto Long Beach Hwy. Turn right onto South Ferry Road at the traffic circle (sign will say Route 114 South). Cross the bridge into Sag Harbor. Turn right onto Main Street (opposite the windmill and the wharf). Go straight along Main Street past the stores. Toward the end of the stores there is a fork in the road (at the monument and Allen Schneider realty); bear right to stay on Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove

Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Southampton, West Hampton, and points west - Alternate*

Take 27 (Montauk Hwy) east. Turn left at the large green sign pointing toward Sag Harbor (just past East End Clambakes). This will be Sandy Hollow Road. Turn left at the first light onto North Sea Road. Take North Sea Road for a very short distance, and make a right onto North Sea Mecox Road. Take that to the end, then turn left on Seven Ponds Road. At the end of Seven Ponds there is a stop sign, and fork in the road. Take the middle path (always a good idea anyway), onto Lower Seven Ponds Road. Make a left at the end of the road onto Head of the Pond Road, and bear right at the next fork, staying on Head of the Pond. Stay on Head of the Pond Road until the end (it will curve and turn a fair amount, then take a left turn on Scuttle Hole Road. Stay on Scuttle Hole Road until the end, and turn left onto the Sag Harbor Turnpike. Take the Sag Harbor Turnpike all the way into Sag Harbor, and turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*PARKING*

You may park in the driveway, or on the street, but please be particularly careful of the neighbors' driveways. There is also a small public parking area on the right side of Redwood Road, just past the marina and directly opposite the left turn onto Cove Road. It is then a very short walk to the house.