

NECHAMA'S NEWSFLASH



THE MONTH OF Iyar 5784

TJJ FAMILY

The period between Passover and Shavuot is particularly significant. During these days, we engage in a ritual known as counting the Omer, where we count each day for forty-nine days, culminating on the fiftieth day with the celebration of Shavuot. This marks the moment when the Israelites received the Torah at Mount Sinai.

This journey began when we were slaves in Egypt. At that time, we were at our lowest point, both spiritually and emotionally, lacking freedom and stability. Our exodus from Egypt symbolized the start of a transformative journey from enslavement to spiritual enlightenment and maturity.

This transformation is marked by the counting of the Omer. Each day of counting represents a step in our growth and development. Starting from day one, progressing to day two, and continuing until day seven, which marks the completion of the first week. As slaves, we were like children—unstable and without the freedom to make our own choices. The counting process symbolizes our gradual development. By the time we reach day fifty, we have matured into adults—satisfied, connected, and strong.

Rabbi Moshe Shapiro offers a profound comparison between this process and two phrases from the Torah that describe the reunion of Esau and Jacob after years of separation. Esau says, "Yesh li rav" (I have a lot), indicating that while he possesses much, he is not truly satisfied and always craves more. In contrast, Jacob says, "Yesh li kol" (I have everything), expressing a sense of completeness and contentment.

Notably, the Hebrew word "kol" has the numeric value of fifty, which aligns with the concept that true maturity and satisfaction are achieved when one accepts their reality and recognizes their stability.

This period of counting the Omer prepares us to receive the Torah, which is viewed as a guide for living a fulfilling and purposeful life. The ultimate purpose of creation, according to Jewish tradition, is for humanity to uphold and live by the teachings of the Torah.



At the OU: Welcome Our Israeli Soldiers Brunch



Pre- Mother's Day Challah Bake at the Young Israel of Woodmere

This past month, we baked matzah at The Mid-Island JCC. We also had our annual Challah Bake at the Young Israel of Woodmere. We were joined by TJJ Moms, TJJ Dads, our Teens, and Members of the community. It was a beautiful event. This month we also joined IDF Soldiers at the OU as they shared their personal stories of resilience, triumph, and success in Battle.

The "Friday Night of Inspiration Home Edition" was filled with new experiences for both hosts and guests. As we grow as a group, it is essential for the communities we grow in to know about us.

The idea, in short, is to have community members host and learn more about us through the eyes of TJJ moms and dads.

- 44 guests were hosted in Woodmere and North Woodmere.
- 18 guests were hosted in New Rochelle, NY.
- 3 guests were hosted in Scarsdale, NY.
- 4 guests were hosted in Livingston, NJ.
- 6 guests were hosted in Brooklyn, NY.

In total, 75 people were hosted by 14 families, all for TJJ moms and dads.

Testimonials from Friday Night of Inspiration: Home Edition

We really had such a fabulous time!!! They are a great group of women. Told them they are invited anytime and it does not have to be a formal TJJ weekend

Host from woodmere

Thank you so much for having us for shabbat. Osey- you are a role model of strength, caring, and resilience. It shows in your amazing children. It was truly a shabbat of inspiration. My daughter loved the conversation. She connected spirituality with your family and your sister and brother-in-law and their family and all the friends.

Heather

North woodmere

We cannot thank you enough for the most INSPIRING, DELICIOUS, MEANINGFUL, WARM and WELCOMING SHABBAT! We absolutely loved being at your gorgeous Shabbat table with your GORGEOUS family!! We have been talking all day about what an amazing family you are!! Arielle.... You truly outdid yourself and I hope to try out some of your recipes! Marc and I were in awe of how amazing your kids are! You have such a warm and welcoming family and home!! We loved this special Shabbat with you!

Melissa, Long Island, NY

It was so so wonderful! Thank you for organizing. A beautiful night.

A guest in New Rochelle

The host family were amazing hosts! They have 3 adorable children and their friends Dina and Rafi and their 3 children were there too. Such a wonderful evening!!!!!!!!!!!!

New Rochelle

We had soooo much fun with them and their family. It was very special

Shabat in Livingston, NJ

It was an extremely special and meaningful night sharing it with the Bernstein family. So appreciative you're set this up for us!!!

TJJ Mom

Thank you again to you and Steve for a beautiful Shabbat dinner! We loved spending time with you and your family. And the meal was delicious!

Robin, Long Island NY



I wanted to personally thank you for setting up the amazing evening we had at Rabbi Isaac's house with Yael. It was especially meaningful because they had family visiting and the Zadie who is 93 years old was there and could not be more amazing. I loved lighting the candles with them and reciting the prayers and it was the most delicious filled meal with just a very, very warm feeling. Thank you so much for making that happen. I can't stop telling everyone about it!!

Susan, Livingston NJ

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Pre- Shavuot Candle Decorating:** June 5 at the home of Michelle Gentile. Sign up now: <https://new.ncsy.org/pre-shavuot-in-merrick/>
- **College Birthday Boxes:** After Passover, we're excited to kick off our Birthday Box initiative—a heartfelt way to celebrate and uplift our college students on their special day. Look out for upcoming order information.
- **Where will you be in Fall '24?** Do have a high school senior? Have them fill out a short survey and they will receive a FREE Nike DRI-FIT Cap!
<https://ncsy.org/drifitcap/>
- We are getting ready for **The Most Meaningful Summer Ever** with our TJJ Moms. We have a group of amazing women and an amazing itinerary planned. Am Yisrael Chai!

*If you would like more information please contact Nechama at:
nechama@ncsy.org*

We are very excited to launch our TJJ for Moms website!

Check it out:

<https://tjjformoms.ncsy.org/>

