

A Revolution of the Heart

Passover-Omer-Shavuot Resource for the Fifty-Day Journey from Liberation to Revelation for 5780/2020

This is a Jewish Call to Action for a Peaceful Revolution of the Heart on behalf of All Life.

In this time of COVID-19, when the planet already stands on the brink of disaster, we hunker down and wait for the Angel of Death to pass over our homes. Yet people are also joining together as never before to meet the challenge with kindness and generosity. Business as usual just might give way -- must give way -- to the profound and unusual business of rescuing humanity and the planet.

This narrow time of quarantine contains within it a rare opportunity: a gift of time during this Planetary Pause to plan, strategize, and seed the immense changes our planet desperately needs to survive.

From the first Pesach to the Judean resistance to the Roman Empire to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, this season is by tradition a time to organize, plot, and enact revolution. This current moment may be what our tradition and all spiritual traditions have been preparing humanity for.

In this Passover season of liberation, let us dream, celebrate, debate, inspire, conspire, enact, and joyously join together in a peaceful revolution. A revolution that will not simply replace the despots, destroyers, and would-be-dictators, but render them irrelevant altogether.

Lo aleinu ham'lachnu ligmor. V'lo anachnu ben chorin l'hibatel mimenah: It is not incumbent on us to finish the work. But neither are we free to absolve ourselves of responsibility for it. If ever there was a time to prepare ourselves and take action, that time is now. And this call to action is part of a greater call being answered by spiritual and activist communities around the world.

Let us proclaim a Revolution of the Heart. And let it begin tonight.



Love is the Answer

Together We'll Create the World We Want to Live In

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.THEREVOLUTIONARYHEART.ORG

How To

You and your communities are invited to join in a fifty day journey towards building a better world. Starting on the Passover feast of liberation, we move through the forty-nine days of counting the Omer (more on that below) to the celebration of revolution-revelation on Shavuot.

- **Passover:** Start planning the revolution now! Connect with loved ones, allies, strangers and those you disagree with. We invite you to use the following suggested questions to stimulate reflection, conversation and action at your seder -- or pose your own. Then post your answers to passover.therevolutionaryheart.com



If all you do is read the call to action and read the questions below, dayenu (it would be enough)! Or read the supporting Resources below for a more comprehensive seder supplement and other resources you can use.

- 1) **After the pandemic passes, what are the changes in your life and in the world that you want to continue, instead of ‘going back to normal’?**
 - 2) **How would you describe the world that you want to live in after COVID-19?**
 - 3) **How can we be active participants in co-creating that world?**
 - 4) **Where do we go next and how can we best use this time during shelter-in-place to help make that new world possible?**
- **Counting the Omer:** Starting on the second night of Passover, special daily offerings-- videoconferences, podcasts, songs, art projects, etc. -- will be posted to omer.therevolutionaryheart.com, and continuing for forty-nine days. Milepost events and opportunities collective actions along the journey to Shavuot (May Day, Lag B'Omer, Yom HaShoah v'HaGevurah, etc.) will be posted there as well.



We encourage you to:

- Engage with the featured post
- Post your own offering/responses for any day
- Use this time to conspire and perform heart-centered, revolutionary acts to bring about the world you want to live in
- Read the Resources section of this document for more information about counting the Omer

If you would like to propose a featured offering, email omer@therevolutionaryheart.com

Here is the blessing for the first day of the omer, for those using this document as a supplement for the second night of Passover:

We bless the Source of time and space that summons us to holy action and instructs us on the counting of the omer.

Aht brucha Shechina Eloteynu chey ha-olamim asher kid'shanu b-mitz'voteyha v-tziv'tanu ahl sefirat ha-omer. (G!ddes language)

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheynu melech ha-olam asher kid'shanu b-mitz'votav v-tzivanu ahl sefirat ha-omer. (G!d language)

Hayom yom echad ba-omer. Today is one day of the Omer: Chesed sheh b'Chesed -- The Heart of Loving-Kindness (loving-kindness within loving-kindness)

- **Shavuot:** On this holiday of Revelation and Harvesting the first fruits of our labors, you are invited to share your plans, works-in-progress, and accomplishments with the world as part of an online festival to take place on revelation.therevolutionaryheart.com.
- **Beyond:** This call to action is part of a larger call for communities of practice worldwide to join together in making the possible world we dream a reality. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities at therevolutionaryheart.com



Guidelines

Let the process inspire and encourage singing and joy to arise from the group throughout the journey! For a revolution without joy and song is simply the inside-out of the oppression from which we are seeking liberation.

1. Assure room for each person to speak
2. Change or reframe the question to meet your community's needs
3. Add and expand upon any of the traditional rituals that are important to your seder, omer-counting or Shavuot ceremonies

Resource #1: The Song

Speaking of singing, there is a song and a travelling political art project for the Revolutionary Heart. The lyrics to the song, written by Jude Elf, are:



*I dream of being a part
Of a revolution led by the Heart
Where I can dance and you can sing
And we can change most anything*

You can play and download the song at song.therevolutionaryheart.com



Resource #2: Supplement for Your Seder

To include near the introduction to your seder

The Revolutionary Heart

A Passover Supplement for 5780/2020



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Since our earliest days, the Jewish people have gathered together at the full moon of Nissan to once again begin and make personal the revolutionary journey from liberation to the revelation of what we need to learn in order to make the revolution real. On the Fiftieth Day after the full moon of Nisan, we celebrate Shavuot when we receive the revelation for what we need to do next and how we shall do it. The days between liberation and revelation, we count the Omer to attach our intentions to the Tree of Life.

This Haggadah supplement, born in the time of global pandemic, is a guidebook to learn to ground our revolutionary action in the Spirit of Creation.

Now is the time to ground our passionate urgency in visionary compassion and a strong, loving strategic sense of what is needed to be seeded this Pesach in every corner of Mother Earth. The energy is gathering for the great global liberation that will accelerate our evolution to fulfill ourselves the holy human beings we are. The holy human being is each and all of us, each person who ever lived, each person who ever will live, and each of us who is alive at this moment. We are all one interconnected being, one inhabitant of the living Earth, and one small part of all creation. Together and individually we are imbued with the essence and potential of Creator. The realization of who we are and the imperative for all of us alive today to accelerate our evolution is the foundation for the Revolution of the Heart.

Our 50-day journey begins with the realization as real as the bitterness of the herbs, the salt of our tears, and the sweetness of *charoset* that we are connected to one another, to the Planet, and to the Power that energizes us, each and all of us together. In this Passover season of liberation, we are commanded to ask sacred questions.

In this Year of the Global Plague, 5780 (2020 in the Western calendar), we suggest the following questions:

- 1) **After the pandemic passes, what are the changes in your life and in the world that you want to continue, instead of 'going back to normal'?**
- 2) **How would you describe the world that you want to live in after COVID-19?**

- 3) **How can we be active participants in co-creating that world?**
- 4) **Where do we go next and how can we best use this time during shelter-in-place to help make that new world possible?**

We encourage you to share your responses to these questions -- giving each participant a chance to speak (or dance, sing, etc.) -- by posting your text, images, videos, etc. to passover.therevolutionaryheart.com

From the first Pesach of our ancient ancestors to the ancient Judean resistance to Roman occupation to the defiance of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Passover is by tradition a time of organizing, plotting, and preparing to resist and overcome the forces opposed to peace, equity for each person, and harmony with the Living Earth. At this moment, the arc of human history is accelerating as the paradigm shifts from the old age of domination and exploitation to the new age of connection to one another and the planet. We have reached a time when non-violent, peaceful and strategic tactical actions are required, lest we enable counter-productive energies to prosper.

We draw from the power latent in this season of the Fifty Day Journey to draw upon the Living Spirit that empowered the liberation of our ancestors in ancient days to energize the Revolution of the Heart in our day. This is the moment for which our history and tradition -- and indeed all spiritual and justice traditions -- have prepared us, the time for us to prepare to answer our four questions with action inspired by the contemporary expression of the same Living Spirit that brought us out of *Mitzrayim*, the *narrow places*.

On the second night of Passover:

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Hayom yom echad ba-omer. Today is one day of the Omer: Chesed sheh b'Chesed -- The Heart of Loving-Kindness [*loving-kindness within loving-kindness*]

This is a call to action, in concert with communities of practice worldwide to join together in making the possible world we dream a reality. *Lo aleinu ham'lachnu ligmor. V'lo anachnu ben chorin l'hibatel mimenah:* It is not incumbent on us to finish the work. But neither are we free to absolve ourselves of responsibility for it. If ever there was a time to prepare ourselves and take action, that time is now.

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Note: for those who want to continue the process, you can find out more about the 50-Day journey through the omer to a heart-centered revolution-revelation on Shavuot at jewish.revolutionaryheart.com.

Resource #3: A Learning Process for Our 50-Day Journey

The Seder(s)

We gather with our families and communities to remember, to celebrate with song and joy, to ask sacred questions, to learn together about the liberation that is before us. Our aspiration is to clarify as closely as possible our intentions, our strategic vision, our mission statement, for how each of us and all of us together might actualize the Revolution of the Heart in our lives and in the world.

The 49 Nights of the Omer

500 years ago Jewish mystics created a kabbalistic spiritual map to help us travel through each day and each week of the omer process, channeling and embodying Divine energies. In modern times we count the *Omer* each night on a journey through the subtleties of the *Sefirot haOmer*, climbing and descending the Tree of Life. We seek answers to our questions, grounding and expanding our understanding of our Strategic Vision and refining our intention through the lens of the night's count.

For example, we begin on day one by looking at our intention through the lens of *Chesed sheh b'Chesed* (Loving-kindness within Loving-kindness or the Heart of Loving-kindness), and continue the practice as our vision evolves through *Malchut sheh b'Malchut* (Majesty within Majesty or the Heart of Legitimate Governance).

You are invited to broadcast and share your inspirations and actions, teachings, poems, prayers, rituals, etc on omer.therevolutionaryheart.com. This will also be a place to meet, plan and share ideas for specific actions in the light of each night's journey through the Sefirot.

There are many resources available for going deeper into the sephirot and the process of counting -- including this wonderful [Sefirat HaOmer sourcebook](#) published by Kehilla Community Synagogue.

Shavuot. This Year's Revelation for How to Advance the Revolution of the Heart this Year

On Shavuot we bring the first fruits of our harvest. Shavuot night is a time of learning and revelation to enable us to give structure to the Tikkun, the fixing, of ourselves and the world so we can more effectively align our actions and the way we live with the Revolution of the Heart. Our sacred intention is to receive clarity for our revolutionary action plan derived from our

strategic visioning of our Seder night as it has been filtered through, clarified and expanded by our Omer journey through the Tree of Life.

Our actions launch on Shavuot...and continue through the great turning.

Let Us Go Forth in Joy and Make the Revolution of the Heart

Credits: This Call to Action is a joint project of The Aquarian Minyan, Derech HaAretz Outdoor Yeshiva, JeWitch Collective, and a growing list of other organizations. First drafted by Maggid Jonathan Furst, Ba'al Bracha Barry Barkin, Rabbi Jonathan Seidel, Susala Kay, and other Holy Friends.

The Revolutionary Heart was first developed in 2017 in ritual at JeWitch Camp when the theme was Nurturing and Activating the Revolutionary Heart. It became a traveling political art project, which was the seed for this supplement. For more information about the Revolutionary Heart, including pictures of the travelling political art project please go to info.revolutionaryheart.com.

Feel free to adapt this resource and send us the results! Please email info@therevolutionaryheart.com



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