

**April 2024**

Adar II 5784 - Nisan 5784



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# CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL'S *Newsletter*



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# Lach L'cha!

By Rabbi Howard Mandell



## “THREE MAGIC WORDS”

Having found quite valuable the one unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) that I took, while a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary, I decided to spend an entire year at Yale/New Haven Hospital participating in a chaplaincy residency program. I remember well my first morning as the chaplain assigned to the Hospital’s hematology/oncology floor.

As I knocked on the door and entered one of the rooms on the floor that morning, I found a woman lying in bed. Sitting in a chair adjacent to the bed was a man, who I took to be her husband. After introducing myself to them, I asked the patient how she was doing. She responded, “Rabbi, I have a question for you.”

“I am a special education teacher. I have always tried my best to be a good wife and mother, to attend church regularly, and to take care of myself physically, yet I have just been diagnosed with cancer.” With tears welling in her eyes, she then asked me, “[W]hy did this happen to me?”

With this being my first day on the floor, the question that she asked me — a question that would be asked of me time and time again that year — took me by surprise. Not knowing what to say, I blurted out what I was feeling, “I wish I had an answer to your question, but I don’t,” and in an effort to divert attention from what I deemed to be my totally inadequate answer, I asked her a question, “[M]ay I ask what you were feeling, when you ask me that question?”

With this having been my classmates and my first day on our respective floors, our supervisor offered to meet with us over lunch, so we could talk about our mornings and to ask her any questions that we might have. When it was my turn to report on my morning, I shared with my classmates and her what I deemed to be my extremely lame answer to the question posed to me by the patient. I then asked my supervisor to tell me how I should have answered the question. I was not prepared for her answer:

“[Y]our answer was right on the money! There is no simple or right answer to the question that the patient asked you. What the patient was looking for and what you gave her was an honest and humble answer, and then you followed up with a question showing compassion and concern.”

Why was I surprised by her answer? Because all of my life, both as a student and as a lawyer, I had been expected to have answers to the questions I was asked. As a student, saying I did not know, when asked by my professor, could cause me to fail a test, and as a lawyer, saying I did not know, when asked by a judge, could cause me to lose a case for my client. For this reason, I, perhaps many of us, have felt that we must have answers to all of life’s questions.

Over the past several months, it seems that I have been saying “I don’t know” quite a bit as a result of my frequently being asked about the situation in Gaza. While I can and do tell people, without equivocation, that what occurred on October 7<sup>th</sup> was barbaric and reprehensible and that Hamas must be destroyed, that children and innocent Palestinians not having adequate food, water, and healthcare is totally unacceptable, and that I have great compassion for my Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel as well as for those innocent Palestinians living in Gaza.

*Continued on Page 3*

# Lach L'cha!

By Rabbi Howard Mandell



I am then forced to admit, however, that I do not know what either the immediate and/or long-term solution is to what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank.

This past week, I was also prompted to say “I don’t know” as we celebrated together the holiday of Purim, and as we read in this past Shabbat’s Haftarah God’s command to King Saul to attack Amalek. More specifically, in reading *Megillat Esther*, we learn that, not only are the evil Haman and his sons killed, but that the Jewish people in Persia also killed in just a short time an additional 75,000 Persians; and in last Shabbat’s Haftarah reading, we read that God makes clear to King Saul that the Israelites are to spare no one—to kill not only the soldiers and the King but all of the Amalekite men and women, children and sucklings, and livestock and animals.

Are there justifications for the actions of the Israelites and for God’s instructions to King Saul? If there are, I don’t currently know them. Fortunately, we have a Tradition that encourages us, when we do not know the answer to a question, to acknowledge our not knowing, but then, rather than throwing up our hands and walking away, to continue to pursue the answer by asking additional questions.

Echoing the words of my chaplaincy supervisor, for example, the Talmud teaches, when we are not sure of the correct answer, to be honest and to “[T]each your tongue to say, ‘I do not know.’”

Our sacred texts go on to say, however, that the often the best way to come up with the answer to a question is, somewhat ironically, to keep asking more questions. This is exactly what the rabbis and sages of the Talmud did in seeking to find answers to difficult questions.

Returning now to my conversation with the patient on the cancer floor. After the patient asked me, “[W]hy did this happen to me,” and I responded that I did not know, I followed up with another question, “[May] I ask what you are feeling, when you ask me this question?”

She responded that she was feeling very frightened, and that her real concern was not knowing what the future held for her. Her answer to my question enabled us to have an honest and vulnerable conversation about her feelings and also gave me the opportunity to respond with empathy and compassion.

I want to conclude my article with a favorite quote of mine by Rainer Maria Rilke:

“Be patient toward all that is unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given to you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps, you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

B'Shalom Uv'racha! With Peace and Blessing! Rabbi Mandell

# MESSAGE OF THE MONTH FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

*By Caren Jacobson*

Nissan, the first month of the Jewish calendar, is fast approaching. When the tiniest slice of the crescent moon appears we know we are there. We watch with great anticipation, as the moon waxes to its fullest, and then we know Pesach has arrived. This time conjures up many feelings in us. For me it is a time of hope, rebirth, green, green, green, freedom, liberty, and struggle.

The Seder, for me, is the quintessential exemplification of what it means to be Jewish. As we read the Haggadah, we are to feel that we were actually enslaved and struggled to reach our freedom. We are supposed to teach the next generations, L'Dor V'Dor, the importance of our past. It helps us appreciate the significance of freedom and impresses upon us our responsibility to strive for freedom for all.

Questioning “why” is showcased at the Seder, as how we Jews approach life. We teach our children they should question from a young age, at least 4 times that night if not more. I’m sure we each recall when the spotlight was on us and it was our time to chant, “Manishtanah halillah hazeh.....” such anxiety and then such relief and so happy when the praises came. We did it! Questioning builds our integrity, keeps us honest and real.

“Ha Lachma Anya..” we recite in Aramaic, when we begin to tell the story of Passover, dates back to about 750 CE, appears in the Sephardic, Ashkenazic, and Mizrahi Haggadot. This proclamation speaks to our most inner Jewish values. As we uncover the Matzah and lift it up we say, “This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. All those who are hungry, let them enter and eat. All who are in need let them come celebrate the Passover. Now we are here. Next year in the land of Israel. This year we are slaves. Next year we will be free”. WOW! Elie Wiesel, in a commentary regarding this statement, remembered his early days in his home town of Sighet, his Seder table was never without a stranger. In fact, he recalls going from one small synagogue to the next searching for those in need to bring as coveted guests to their homes. He recalled, “in some towns, before Passover, Jews would raise funds discreetly for the impoverished. One by one, they would enter a room in the community house. There they would find a dish filled with money. Those who had money left some and those who needed money took some. No one knew how much was given or how much was taken. Thus the needy were taken care of with dignity”.

It is with this basis of social justice that is so prominently espoused on Passover, that we Jews and CBI community continually feel our hearts broken and stretched as we watch the Hamas Israeli war unfold. We are struggling with the pain and sorrow felt by all peoples. The Gazans are struggling with the loss of loved ones from the horror of war, survival, and hunger. The Israelis are struggling with the loss of loved ones through vicious premeditated killings and hostage taking. Their sense of security “To Be” has vanished. Their right to exist is questioned and sadly many sectors in the world look down upon Israelis and Jews alike as villains. These are very hard times for many with reverberating emotions and a sense of impotence to help right wrongs.

It is difficult to feel optimism in these times, and yet going back to the Seder metaphor, at our Seders we always end it with singing “Elihu HaNavi...” Elijah brings us Hope. He gives us a reason to keep on going and trying. I feel it is our strong, thoughtful and compassionate CBI community which continually gives us strength and possibilities of how to navigate these times together. We count on one another to be there for each other, to question and to support each other.

Chag Sameach!

## KIDDUSH SPONSORS NEEDED

We have a few dates still available for the remainder of the year. Do you have a Yahrzeit coming up? Special Birthday? How about just because?

We can do the shopping and setup for a small fee of \$75.

The following dates are available:

- ✧ April 6
- ✧ April 13
- ✧ May 4
- ✧ May 25

Please contact Janet at office [@bethisraelmv.org](mailto:bethisraelmv.org) or at 978.474.0540.



## In Loving Memory

Memorial plaques for the loved ones of CBI members and friends who have passed away are on display in the CBI hallways to be viewed at any time.

To honor the memory of your loved one with a memorial or *yahrzeit* (anniversary of death) plaque at CBI, please contact Janet at 978.474.0540 or via [email](mailto:janet@cbi.org). The cost is \$250 per plaque.

## CBI Cares

CBI Cares is here for you.

Please notify Barbara Moverman at

[Barbara.moverman@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.moverman@gmail.com) or Janet at

[office@bethisraelmv.org](mailto:office@bethisraelmv.org) if you know of someone could use a meal or support of any kind.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS!

April 12	Shabbat Chai
April 22	First Night of Passover — First Seder
April 23	Second Seder
May 5	Yom HaShoah Program
May 10	Bashert in Newburyport
May 12	Mother's Day
May 15	Jewish Heritage Night @ Fenway Park
May 19	Israeli Independence Celebration @ CBI
May 28	Red Cross Blood Drive

# 2024 PURIM

CBI celebrated Purim on Saturday, March 23rd with dinner followed by a brief service, Havdallah, and a fabulous Singalong Purim Spiel. A big thank you to Elaine Winic who did an amazing job writing new lyrics to the songs and to our very talented Bashert! Everyone had a wonderful time!



## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Consider making a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund which gives Rabbi Mandell the ability to purchase or fund items that benefit the synagogue, our members, and our neighbors in need. Kindly send your donation to Janet in the CBI office, **check made out to CBI, including the notation "RDF"**, and it will be credited accordingly.

Thank you for your generosity!



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The CBI Board of Directors will meet on Monday, **April 8th** at 7:15pm for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

All Board Meetings are open to the membership. If you would like to attend, RSVP no later than April 5th to Janet at 978.474.0540 or [office@BethIsraelMV.org](mailto:office@BethIsraelMV.org) and the Zoom link will be provided, along with an agenda.

The May 2024  
Bulletin deadline is  
Friday, May 26, 2024

Send your articles to  
[Newsletter@BethIsraelMV.org](mailto:Newsletter@BethIsraelMV.org) with  
"May Newsletter"  
as the subject.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES APRIL 2024

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

יום הולדת שמח

Amy Friedman Lee	April 1
Cindy Ochs	April 1
Barbara Moverman	April 3
Cassandra Spector	April 4
Adam Soll	April 5
Doug Cuthbertson	April 8
Larry Soll	April 10
Jason Grosz	April 12
Rebecca Fishbein	April 14
Suzanne Grosz	April 16
Tanya Gould	April 27

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ron & Suzanne Grosz	April 2
Alissa & Philip Onigman	April 8
Caren Jacobson & Blair Roberts	April 23

Best wishes for  
many more  
healthy and happy  
celebrations!



Join us for Kiddush Luncheon following Shabbat Morning Services!

**THANK YOU OUR FEBRUARY  
KIDDUSH / ONEG / SPECIAL EVENT SPONSORS**

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Occasion</u>
Jerry Golner	March 9	In honor of his 3 children's birthdays!
Rebecca Fishbein	March 16	In memory of her beloved mother, Lucille Ash Fishbein and her parents' birthdays.
The Tye Family	March 23	In memory of their beloved son, brother and uncle, Merrill Tye.

Donations to the Kiddush Fund are always gratefully accepted.

Upcoming dates are available to honor / remember loved ones  
and / or special events / holidays.

Contact Janet for more information on Kiddush sponsorships.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

☆ <b>Friday, April 12 — Shabbat Chai Potluck Italian Dinner @ 6:30</b>	☆ <b>Friday, May 10th — Bashert at Newburyport</b>
☆ <b>Monday, April 22 — First night of Passover — First Seder</b>	☆ <b>Sunday, May 19th — Israeli Independence Day Celebration @ CBI</b>
☆ <b>Tuesday, April 23 — Second night of Passover — Second Seder</b>	☆ <b>Wednesday, May 15th — Jewish Heritage Night at Fenway Park</b>
☆ <b>Sunday, May 5 — Yom HaShoah Program</b>	☆ <b>Tuesday, May 28th — Red Cross Blood Drive at CBI</b>



# Kind & Generous Donations

## TEMPLE FUND

### FROM

### TO

### OCCASION

Rebecca Fishbein &  
Mitch Guttentag

Jill Schoenberg

Thank you for facilitating the discussion of "The Postcard" and best wishes for your recovery.

Rebecca Fishbein &  
Mitch Guttentag

Ethel Somers

For your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and on your amazing recovery!

Rebecca Fishbein &  
Guttentag

Robin Inuik &  
Hank Eppich

Mazel Tov on the birth of Mitch your grandson, Jamie Quinn Inuik

Rebecca Fishbein &  
Mitch Guttentag

Rich Soll

Mazel Tov on Allison & Scott's wedding!

Rebecca Fishbein &  
Mitch Guttentag

Robin & Mike Rose

Mazel Tov on Julie's engagement!

Rebecca Fishbein &  
Mitch Guttentag

Susannah & Rob Abbott

Mazel Tov on the birth of your grandson, Darius Henry

Rebecca Fishbein &  
Mitch Guttentag

Debbie & Alan Friedman

Mazel Tov on your Golden Anniversary!

Michelle & Larry Soll

Robin & Mike Rose

Mazel Tov on Julie's engagement!

Leslie & David Silverstein  
Henry Yaffa

Robin & Mike Rose  
Rob & Judy Watson

Mazel Tov on Julie's engagement!

In memory of your beloved parents, Irwin & Lydia Hammer

Henry Yaffa

John, Debbie, &  
Katie Ferrugia

In memory of your beloved parents, Irwin & Lydia Hammer

Henry Yaffa

Gail & Alison Granfeild

In memory of your beloved parents, Irwin & Lydia Hammer

Elaine Winic

Paul Garnick

Refuah Shelamah!

Elaine Winic

Susannah & Rob Abbott

Mazel tov on the birth of your grandson, Darius Henry!

Janet Damelin

Diane & Jenny Fischer

Condolences on the loss of your dear friend, Arleen Weisler.

Philip & Alissa Onigman

In honor of the February Shabbat Chai.

## Kind & Generous Donations

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>OCCASION</u>
Rebecca Fishbein & Mitch Guttentag	Rabbi Mandell	Best wishes for your birthday!
Leslie & David Silverstein	Rabbi Mandell	Wishing you a very Happy Birthday

### Yahrzeit Donations

#### MOURNER

Rebecca Fishbein  
Sandra Palefsky Marder  
Gail & Harry Spatz  
Gail & Harry Spatz  
Les Tye  
Peter & Beth Edelstein  
Herbert Zarkin  
Natalie Greenblatt  
Debby & Alan Friedman  
Beth & Peter Edelstein  
John Shuman  
Jill Schoenberg

#### DEPARTED

Lillian Ash Fishbein, Mother  
Harold Palefsky, Father  
Rita & Sidney Mizner, Parents  
Robert Mizner, Brother  
Merrill Tye, Son  
Sylvia Edelstein, Mother  
Dorothy Zarkin, Mother  
Samuel Edstine, Uncle  
Leonard Kaye Millen, Father  
Irving Jacobson, Father  
Eva Shuman, Mother  
Dora Schoenberg, Mother

### LEONARD C. MANDELL LEGACY FUND / MAY THEIR MEMORY ALWAYS BE FOR A BLESSING

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Occasion</u>
Rabbi Mandell	Caren Jacobson & Bashert	Thank you for a joyful Purim celebration
Rabbi Mandell	Hilary Guida & Elaine Winic	Thank you for their hard work in making her Bat Mitzvah so beautiful!

**LEONARD C. MANDELL LEGACY FUND / MAY THEIR MEMORY ALWAYS BE FOR A BLESSING**

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Occasion</u>
Rabbi Mandell	Ellen Macklin & Jerry Golner	Mazel Tov on the birth of their great-grandchildren!
Rabbi Mandell	Burt & Cindy Ochs	Mazel Tov on the birth of their granddaughters, Ruthie & Lina
Rabbi Mandell	Robin Insuik & Hank Eppich	Mazel Tov on the birth of their grandson, Jamie
Rabbi Mandell	Howie & Paula Flager	Mazel Tov on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophia
Rabbi Mandell	Susannah & Rob Abbott	Mazel Tov on the birth of their grandson, Darius
Rabbi Mandell	Janet Damelin	Thank you for all she does in such a humble way!

**Thank you to Temple Shalom in Newton for generously donating their unused paper goods. We won't have to buy anything for a long time!!!!**



<b>The following names will be read, and people remembered at <i>Yahrzeit</i>, on Shabbat Morning</b>			
<b>APRIL 6 - 12 27 ADAR II — 4 NISAN</b>	<b>APRIL 13 — 19 5 — 11 NISAN</b>	<b>APRIL 20 — 26 12 — 18 NISAN</b>	<b>APRIL 27 — MAY 3 19 — 25 NISAN</b>
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# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## תודה רבה ~ Todah Rabah, Thank You

Bashert for the amazing Purim Spiel!

Elaine Winic for her amazing job  
writing the song lyrics for our Purim Spiel!

Caren Jacobson for schlepping the pizzas for our  
Purim dinner (in the pouring rain).

## רפואה שלימה ~ Refuah Shelamah

Ellen Macklin  
Paul Garnick

Ellen Macklin's  
great-granddaughter,  
Gaia Esther Macklin



## THURSDAY NIGHT MINYAN

**Regularly scheduled on the 1st & 3rd  
Thursdays of each month**

**Thursday, April 4 & 18 @ 7:00pm**

You are invited to join us whenever you can to support the congregants and friends who are in mourning or observing a yahrzeit of a loved one.

Please let Janet know if you plan on attending by the Wednesday before by clicking here:

[office@bethisraelmv.org](mailto:office@bethisraelmv.org) and we will email you the Zoom link.

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### **Rabbi Howard Mandell**

Rabbi Mandell is available by calling the Synagogue or via email, [RabbiMandell@BethIsraelMV.org](mailto:RabbiMandell@BethIsraelMV.org)

### **Synagogue Office Hours**

9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Monday - Friday

It's always a good idea to call/email prior to making a trip to the Synagogue to be sure someone is available to greet you.

Phone: 978.474.0540

[office@BethIsraelMV.org](mailto:office@BethIsraelMV.org)

## DIRECTORS

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### STAFF / LEADERSHIP / COMMITTEES

Rabbi Howard Mandell = [RabbiMandell@BethIsraelMV.org](mailto:RabbiMandell@BethIsraelMV.org)  
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# April 2024

## Adar II - Nisan 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 22 Adar II	2 23 Adar II	3 24 Adar II	4 25 Adar II	5 26 Adar II	6 27 Adar II Shabbat Services @ 9:30am Parashat Shmini Shabbat Mevorchim Shabbat HaChodesh Havdalah @ 8:00pm
7 28 Adar II	8 29 Adar II Board Meeting @ 7:15pm	9 1 Nisan Mah Jongg @ 7:00pm Rosh Chodesh Nisan	10 2 Nisan	11 3 Nisan	12 4 Nisan Shabbat Chai Italian Potluck Dinner 7:05pm Candle Lighting	13 5 Nisan Shabbat Services @ 9:30am Parashat Sazria Havdalah @ 8:09pm
14 6 Nisan	15 7 Nisan	16 8 Nisan Mah Jongg @ 7:00pm	17 9 Nisan	18 10 Nisan Yom HaAliyah Minyan @ 7:00PM	19 11 Nisan 7:13pm Candle Lighting	20 12 Nisan Shabbat Services @ 9:30am Parashat Metzora Shabbat HaGadol Havdalah @ 8:18pm
21 13 Nisan Kitchen Clean-up For Passover	22 14 Nisan <b>Ta'anis</b> Bechoros Fast Begins at 4:19am Erev Pesach First Seder 7:17pm Candle Lighting	23 15 Nisan Pesach Day 1 Services @ 9:00am Second Seder 8:22 Candle Lighting	24 16 Nisan Pesach Day 2 Services @ 9:00am 1st day of Omer Havdallah 8:23pm	25 17 Nisan Pesach Day 3 2nd day of the Omer	26 18 Nisan Pesach Day 4 3rd day of the Omer 7:21pm Candle Lighting	27 19 Nisan Shabbat Services @ 9:00am Parashat Ki Tissa Pesach Day 5 4th day of the Omer Havdalah @ 8:27pm
28 20 Nisan Pesach Day 6 5th day of the Omer 7:24pm Candle Lighting	29 21 Nisan Pesach Day 7 Services @ 9:00am 6th day of the Omer 8:29 Candle Lighting	30 22 Nisan Pesach Day 8 Services @ 9:00am 7th day of the Omer 8:31 Candle Lighting				



# May 2024

## Nisan — Iyyar 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 23 Nisan 8th day of Omer	2 24 Nisan 9th day of Omer Minyan @ 7:00PM	3 25 Nisan 10th day of Omer 7:29pm Candle Lighting	4 26 Nisan 11th day of Omer Shabbat Services @ 9:30am Havdalah @ 8:36pm
5 27 Nisan 12th day of Omer Yom HaShoah Program @ 10:30am	6 28 Nisan 13th day of Omer Yom HaShoah Board Meeting @ 7:15pm	7 29 Nisan 14th day of Omer Mah Jongg @ 7:00pm <b>Yom HaAtzma'ut</b>	8 30 Nisan 15th day of Omer Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	9 1 Iyyar 16th day of Omer	10 2 Iyyar 17th day of Omer 7:37pm Candle Lighting Bashert @ Newburyport	11 3 Iyyar 18th day of Omer Shabbat Services @ 9:30am Havdalah @ 8:45pm
12 4 Iyyar 19th day of Omer 	13 5 Iyyar 20th day of Omer Yom HaZikaron	14 6 Iyyar 21st day of Omer Mah Jongg @ 7:00pm	15 7 Iyyar 22nd day of Omer Jewish Heritage Night at Fenway Park	16 8 Iyyar 23rd day of Omer Minyan @ 7:00PM	17 9 Iyyar 24th day of Omer 7:44pm Candle Lighting	18 10 Iyyar 25th day of Omer Shabbat Services @ 9:30am Havdalah @ 8:54pm
19 11 Iyyar 26th day of Omer Israeli Independence Day Celebration @ 6:30pm	20 12 Iyyar 27th day of Omer	21 13 Iyyar 28th day of Omer Mah Jongg @ 7:00pm	22 14 Iyyar 29th day of Omer Pesach Sheni	23 15 Iyyar 30th day of Omer	24 16 Iyyar 31st day of Omer 7:51pm Candle Lighting	25 17 Iyyar 32nd day of Omer Shabbat Services @ 9:30am Havdalah @ 9:01pm
26 18 Iyyar 33rd day of Omer Lag BaOmer	27 19 Iyyar 34th day of Omer	28 20 Iyyar 35th day of Omer Red Cross Blood Drive Mah Jongg @ 7:00pm	29 21 Iyyar 36th day of Omer	30 22 Iyyar 37th day of Omer	31 23 Iyyar 38th day of Omer 7:57pm Candle Lighting	