

We are now in the period in the Jewish yearly calendar known as the counting of the Omer. From the second day of Pesach to the holiday of Shavuot (beginning at sundown on May 30th), we count 7 weeks of 7 days. Counting reminds us that it takes time to move from liberation to revelation. Having left Egypt does not guarantee that we are ready to learn and to teach; to receive Torah. Our people required a process of refinement, of wandering.

With Passover behind us, we too might ask, given our own people's good fortune, what must we do to merit further revelation? One of the most oft-repeated injunctions in Torah is the mitzvah to love the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Rabbi Shai Held teaches that when Torah uses the word ger, stranger, it refers to anyone who is vulnerable in a culture in which we have privilege.

For better and for worse, there are many such gerim in our society nowadays, and many opportunities through TBI for solidarity work. TBI's Board recently voted to adopt a statement of commitment to Sanctuary. Though we are not housing any undocumented people in our building, we are working in coalition with the Latinx Alliance. Judy Boles, in coalition with our Tikkun Olam/Social Justice Committee, has been coordinating our efforts. There is great need for people who are willing to provide services ranging from legal to logistical for our undocumented neighbors in Lane County. If you would like to participate, please contact Judy at judy.boles@comcast.net.

Aura Solomon has been working with the local mosque, arranging gatherings with our Muslim neighbors, so that we and they are prepared to respond appropriately should either of our communities be targeted. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Aura at aurasolomon@gmail.com.

If you are so moved, you might also consider contributing to the Tikkun Olam/Social Justice special fund, our highlighted fund for this month.

I trust that we will all do the spiritual and communal work that moves us from our own liberation experience to be worthy of revelation.