

Lag B'Omer



Lag B'Omer is a day observed on the 18th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar. According to the Bible, we are obligated to count the days from the second night of Passover until the day before the holiday of Shavuot, or seven weeks. This period is known as the counting of the Omer. These 49 days represent the days of preparation from leaving Egypt, to the giving of the Torah. Through the years, many sad events occurred during the Omer period, including massacres during the period of the Romans and during the Crusades. It is said that in the days of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, there was a rabbi named Rabbi Akiva who had many students. Many of these students died during this seven week period. Only on one day, Lag B'Omer, or the 33rd day of counting the Omer, none of the students died, so this day was made into a festival in the middle of the days of mourning.

During this seven week period, weddings are not held, hair is not cut, and music is not heard. However, on Lag B'Omer, the day is celebrated with picnics, games, singing and dancing.

At Shalom Village, we have an intergenerational program with children from the Kehila School.