

Dear Families,

Lag B'Omer is a minor holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot.

The Omer is a time of semi-mourning, when weddings and other celebrations are forbidden, and as a sign of grief, observant Jews do not cut their hair. The most often cited explanation for the Jewish practice comes from the Talmud, which tells us that during this season a plague killed thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students. The mourning behavior is presumably in memory of those students.

There are a few explanations why we celebrate Lag B'Omer, one is that according to a medieval tradition, the plague ceased on Lag B'Omer. As a result, Lag B'Omer became a happy day, interrupting the sadness of the Omer period for 24 hours.

If ever there was a time when we could use a break from "our plague," it is now when the weather is getting warmer and the restrictions are growing tiresome. Thankfully, due to the vaccine roll out and continued mask wearing and social distancing, there is light at the end of the tunnel. A HUGE shout out to Brittany Cohen for her work getting vaccine appointments for thousands of people!!!)

We're reaching a period where we can return to the small things that give us the greatest joy...hugging our grandchildren, seeing a dear friend, or celebrating a mitzvah with others.

Very often, Lag B'Omer is considered a children's holiday. Many Israeli school-children celebrate with picnics or "field day". This year, make a special day for your special kid...a trip to the ice cream store, an outing to the park, or a walk into town. Let us all (safely) rejoice in a break from the grief that has plagued us this year.

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