

## Shavuot Yizkor 5781

Teach us to count each day that we may acquire a heart of wisdom.

We never really understood Counting the Omer as a time of mourning until Covid taught us how to grieve for a period of time, an epoch, a season that became a year that entered yet another year.

Now we know.

We counted each day: Today is two days after the forty-ninth day of the Omer, that was seven weeks of the Omer.

Our hearts grow wise as we realize the moments

we have lost:

The bedside vigil the hospital advocacy the chanted misheberach the synagogue service the chapel the funeral the shiva the platters the community tears the hand holding the shoulder pump the embrace the minyan in the daily chapel the parking lot conversations the walks the sitting together the coffee date the feeling that we are not alone that we are fully realized humans.

The sense of being held in real space in real time.

We counted each day: Today is the forty-ninth day of the Omer, that is seven weeks of the Omer.

Now we are two days later than that. The Torah has been received.

Our hearts grow wise as we realize the moments

we have gained:

Hope and joy and the deep knowledge that we are more than a space or a time.

We are together not face to face but soul to soul.

Heart to heart.

Teach us to count each day that we may acquire a heart of wisdom.

Amen.

Rabbi Paula Mack Drill, Shavuot 5781