



June 2016
Iyar - Sivan, 5776

Dear Hadassah Friends,

We've been thinking about this month's obsession with counting. First, we are at the end of counting the Omer, all 49 days, with the celebration of Shavuot on June 12th. At this festival, we read the story of Ruth and Naomi. Many lessons may be drawn from this text, but I'm thinking about how much Naomi counted on Ruth, the daughter in law who chose to remain with her and travel back to Naomi's people. Naomi counted on Ruth to interact with Boaz in such a way as to ensure their security in the future.

The Shavuot service includes the recitation of Yizkor, which recalls loved ones no longer walking the earth beside us. Counting the days they have been gone is not important. Counting the beautiful, funny, and touching memories of their lives that we treasure is of utmost importance.

And speaking of counting, how many miles have you logged with Hadassah's Walking Program, *Every Step Counts*? It's the virtual walk from Jerusalem to Atlanta that began in April and will last until our Hadassah National Convention in July. Every step will make you stronger, healthier, and happier to be part of Hadassah – still going strong at 104. Jane Strom, Jan Stern and Susan Lafer are part of Team Tampa. Nationally, we're counting on our members to achieve a record number of miles, while raising a record amount for Hadassah's work.

Do you remember the movie *The Longest Day*, with such a huge cast that I have no room in this short article to include all its stars? It recounted the D-Day landings at Normandy, France on June 6, 1944. We are about to experience the longest Shabbat of 5776, since summer begins June 20 (14 Sivan). It will last from sundown to sundown, Friday, June 24 to Saturday, June 25. That will be 23 hours and 58 minutes where we live, so make that time count by enjoying your Shabbat rest.

Fortunately, we can count on Gail Meyer and Michele Norris to deliver lots of fun at Israeli dancing and Susie Magness and Joyce Hartmann Karpay, who invite us to "Get Fit As You Sit" on June 30.

Counting can indicate quantity, but we all know that quantity doesn't always equal quality. So, I'm counting on you, my Hadassah friend, to join in the fun of creating the kind of high quality chapter that raises us all up in pride of our Jewish/Zionist roots.

Wishing you a joyous Shavuot,

The Tampa Ameet Board