

# Sefirat HaOmer



Dear Community Rabbanim and Gabbayim,  
As we've just begun counting the Omer, I think it is important to make sure all our Minyanim are consistent with our Minhagim and Halacha.

## - Best Time to Recite Sefirat HaOmer

According to **Morenu Rabbi Ben Haim**, the most **ideal** time to count Sefirat Haomer is **15 minutes after sunset** (which is Tzeit Hakochovim).

## - Earliest Time to Recite Sefirat HaOmer

However, if a Minyan finished Arvit a bit early, they may count with a beracha **only after Shekia (sunset)**. This only applies to a Minyan, and not to an individual.

## - What Point In Arvit Do We Recite Sefirat HaOmer

Lastly, as per **Morenu Mr. Bassalian**, the Mashadi Minhag is to count the Omer after *Shir Lamaalot* and **before Kaddish Yehe Shelama**. However, Mr. Bassalian explained that if the Minyan ended **before** the earliest time to count the Omer (ie: Sunset), the entire Minyan should count the Omer after *Alenu* (assuming it is after Tzeit Hakochovim). When counting after *Alenu*, we add another Kaddish Yehe Shelama for any mourners.

Be'ezrat HaShem our entire community can fulfill the beautiful mitzvah in line with our rich tradition.

Submitted by R. Michael Livi on behalf of the UMJCA Religious Council