

Rabbi's Column

Passover is over. At least, for us, everything but returning all the pots and pans back to where they were before cooking for it began.

It is an intense week, which introduces a rather quick succession of modern holidays. Yom HaShoah v'HaG'vurah; Yom Hazikkaron; Yom Ha'Atzmaut; Yom Yerushalayim - as well as the traditional moments of LaG Ba'Omer and Shavuot. The good news is that Israel's 70th birthday will last the whole year, so whenever we get around to celebrating it will be fine. Which is really the case for every year, as evidenced by New York City. The Israeli Independence Day Parade has been placed sometime in the season at the convenience of the city, and everyone in the surrounding areas helps make it a fairly large event.

After the brief interruption, we also go back to the regular Torah cycle. We are continuing with the installation of Aaron and his sons as Priests of the Tabernacle. We also get the first listing of the kashrut rules - which for Aaron were a matter of life and death. Two of his sons have died for being in the right place at the wrong time, or for deciding on their own that the Divine Fire would be a good thing to use for all time rather than a human built fire, or for hoping the older generation would die off already, or for being too perfect for the stubborn Israelites to have as Priests (as even if they also became ritually impure every so often, they would take a dim view of misbehaving as a normal human probably would). How, Aaron wondered, could he help protect his other children from a like fate, and through them the future Israelites? Knowing what is permitted to eat, and therefore to bring to the pot luck barbecue would certainly be a good beginning.

On a separate note, I want to express appreciation yet again for Jeff and Mary Weinstein who take care of cleaning the kitchen and switching to Passover and back again. Please be patient as they get things back to pre-Passover mode - I know how long it takes to do my own kitchen, and the synagogue kitchen is much larger.

May we strive to be kind to one another as we wait for the entire world to realize that each of us is part of God's creation, and much as you shouldn't weed somebody else's garden without permission and instruction, so we should not attempt to weed God's creation - we have neither permission nor instruction, and I know that I would be far more likely to pull the favorite plant without quite detailed instruction