

Rabbi's Column

{Purim is coming, and the mood is lighthearted and sort of silly. At least in this article.}

And the winner is...

[Caution: an opinion is being expressed, designed to encourage certain behaviors among many people.]

YOU!

Why?

Because, just by reading this, you know you have the opportunity to increase the depth of your meditative connection with God by attending services either Friday night or Saturday morning; you have the opportunity to increase the breadth of your connection among the Mount Sinai friendly folks when you attend any of the numerous social events; you can increase your Social Action Tikkun Olam points by volunteering with Family Promise through Phyllis Bloomberg; you can increase your word and Jewish information power by attending any of the Adult Education opportunities available.

In other news: Purim is coming! Look for the basket information in your regular mailboxes soon. Who will you be dressed up like?

This week's Torah portion also has a few interesting bits mixed in between the quickie review of what we already know about the Tabernacle soon to be. For example, even before asking for donations, Moses mentions Shabbat. From this, the Rabbis understood that not even a religious construction project is exempt from giving their workers the day off to focus on God. The second thing is something that all construction project people wish they had - more donations than they can use. Moses had to tell the people to stop donating.

[What is it with the desert generation? First God tells them not to have leftovers after the Seder, and then they donate too much?]

In still other news, this Rabbi attended Governor Mead's prayer breakfast this past week (at an exceedingly early time of the day) and learned a few things about the budgeting process and about wolves. We may not always like all the decision being made, but the people involved are certainly very busy. This also seems to be a tiny bit of tour season - this past week Rabbi helped a Church group understand a bit more about the congregation, the building, and Judaism in general. This week a group of young children is scheduled to drop by. They will get the Shofar, tallit, gragger and Torah treatment, as well as get any questions they might have answered.