

Rabbi's Column

More on the 150th celebration of Cheyenne: If you have a good voice and are interested in joining in the choir for the interfaith service on August 6th at 10 a.m. at the Civic Center, please let me know and I will forward your name to the person in charge of that aspect. The words used in the three pieces are all appropriate. The leader anticipates a single rehearsal at 8 am that morning.

I'd like to present some of my comments about the documentary "There are Jews Here" which a group of us watched during this past movie night.

Every community examined had fewer than 200 Jews. It was never clarified whether that was the membership list for the Synagogue involved, or a number from the most recent census. [For comparison purposes, one of the recent census counts had approximately 1100 Jews in the entire state of Wyoming.]

For two of the communities, the focus was on worship services. When there are not enough leaders, or not enough people for a minyan, then the reason that a synagogue should exist seemed to vanish. The other two communities provided differing concepts of whether small or large is better for a family. The family that selected small could not afford to educate their child Jewishly because of the high prices charged everywhere. The family that might have wound up selecting large might do so because this way their children could have some other Jewish friends.

One aspect of Jewish behavior that was only touched upon in passing (in reference to a Bat Mitzvah social action project) is volunteering and helping out the general community. We do this very well in Cheyenne. Not only as an institution, but as individuals. I do not know what everyone does, but I do know that members volunteer their time at the VA, in giving people rides during the week and providing meals for the families in Family Promise. [If the charity you help out with is not listed, please let me know and yours will be added.]

Jewish congregational buildings have traditionally been used for prayer, study, and meetings/social events. Every person is reminded on the High Holidays to be involved in repentance, prayer and righteousness throughout the year. So prayer is important, yet it is not the only important thing one can do as part of the Jewish extended family.

Be kind to one another, and respectful in all settings. We all could use some more niceness these days.