

Rabbi's Column

Pesach is approaching. Just thought I would warn you, in case you forgot or something.

This past Thursday, I went to a Holocaust Educational event in Casper. The drive was fairly smooth, and I learned a couple of things during the course of the day. The sessions I was able to attend were on Women Guards; Soccer and Women Partisans. I also came back with some materials: Soccer Under the Swastika: Stories of Survival and Resistance During the Holocaust by Kevin E. Simpson; a Puffin Book titled "I Am A Star: Child of the Holocaust" by Inge Auerbacher; the Educator Toolkit from the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation.

We begin a new book this coming Shabbat - VaYikra (Leviticus). One of the interesting issues in the next couple of weeks is that it is presumed that the leadership will occasionally mess up. Both political leadership and religious leadership are presumed to be fallible. Not only that, but the steps to help the leadership recover connections with God and the people are listed first. As a final piece of somewhat modern thinking, there is a sliding scale in case the person who messed up is not all that wealthy (and one of the items brought by the wealthy is the same as one brought by a poor person, so nobody can presume a person is wealthy or impoverished simply based on what they are bringing.

During this next week, please be kind to one another. Also, be kind to yourself - you deserve it.