

Thanks for allowing me to join you for the Purim Celebration. If you couldn't make it, it was fun, so maybe you can pencil in next year's date, Wednesday night, March 23, 2016.

There are a lot of column inches devoted to the Tabernacle in the Wilderness - what to build it from, what it will look like, who will build it, what will be done within it once it gets built - it almost never seems to end. One could think that this is the most important part of the experience.

It isn't.

We rediscover that this week, for when Moses gathers the people to tell them all about this new building of which God has shown him the details, he does not begin with its construction. He begins by reminding them that Shabbat is important. In a way it is like our own lives. Just because there is a physical space for something to happen (a desk, a corner of a room, or even an entire room) does not mean that the purpose of that area will ever be fulfilled.

Sometimes time slips away; sometimes there simply is no time left after doing everything else. So we carved out the time first.

Then we worked on a space in which that time would always be different.

Finally (and not exactly in this week's portion, but in last week's) we set things up so that what was done in that special space was connected with how everyone was making the day special.

That's really all anyone has to do.

Make Shabbat special.

And, if you can, drop by more often than you are used to so you can help us make Shabbat special too.

[This is also the week where we describe some of the special preparations taken so that very few people would be refused entrance to a Passover ritual because of ritual impurity. Mount Sinai's Seder preparations are proceeding apace, and are done so that all who make a reservation will have something to eat. Invitations are being worked on at this point in time.]