

Rabbi's Column

We are counting down the days until the anniversary of the Revelation at Mount Sinai. The original one.

It has often been a tense time period, wondering whether the rainy winter season was the right kind of moisture to enable the seeds we planted to grow. A time for holding one's breath, as it were, waiting for verification that the following year will be one of plentiful sustenance.

Later history added other kinds of stressful incidents. Side by side with these events, there was a concept that this time enabled spiritual growth. Each week was a focus on one God connection, and within each week, each day was devoted to how that week's focus was affected by another God connection. For example, kindness is one of these metaphorical power outlets, and beauty is another. So a particular day might ask how one's kindness can be done in a way other people would consider wonderful to look at, and the mirror day during beauty's week might be asking whether it is more kind to work on adorning oneself (through good deeds) or helping somebody else to be adorned in that fashion.

I have a complete chart of this, and a list of questions, somewhere in my files. One year I hope to find that information in time to make use of it and help us all grow a bit.

Torah tidbit: This week we are reminded yet again that God owns everything. We might think we own something, and we might have a piece of paper that proves ownership - but really, when it comes down to it, we are caretakers at best. Let us strive to be good ones.