

## Rabbi's Column

Purim is over. It was great seeing the large number of people who were able to show up, given that many of the regulars had various conflicts that evening. We all know that once Purim is over, it is time to focus in on Passover. Please return your reservation forms for the Seder to the Sisterhood in a timely fashion.

One interesting tweak this year. Shabbat, April 27th will include the Yizkor service (as well as the normal parts of a Shabbat Yom Tov service like Hallel, Song of Songs and a potential Torah Reading). It will also have a group from Highlands Presbyterian Church visiting. I do not know how many people from that Church will be attending, but it would be nice to have a good group of people from this congregation there. I project that Yizkor will start sometime between 11 and noon that morning, but I do not have the exact timing figured out.

In terms of Torah, this week we read about a rather depressing moment. During the days when the Priesthood was to be established for the first time, part of the Priestly family dies. This leads to revealing what foods are appropriate to eat, so that future Priests do not risk their lives by allowing the wrong kind of animals to be brought forward. After the deaths, Moses is still consumed with the meaning of each action for the nation as a whole. Aaron reminds him that sometimes, concern for your own family takes precedence over the perceived needs of the nation.

Religious school is over for the year so that Passover preparation can happen appropriately on a personal level, and so that the classroom can be reconfigured for Yiddish Food Festival needs. We will start up again in the fall. Bat Mitzvah and other private sessions continue throughout the year.

As Passover approaches, let us hope that eventually slavery will be a mere memory everywhere in the world.