

## **Rabbi's Column**

**April 1, 2019**

During services recently I have been making use of Robert Alter's new translation. As it happens, it flows off the tongue and avoids a lot of language with extraneous underpinnings. I especially liked his use of "offense offerings" instead of "sin offerings", since "sin" in English has a lot of ramifications that the Biblical Hebrew word does not. I will make use of his translation during most weeks when the text is rather technical in nature, and my freestyle translations would include a lot of "this word only appears in this context, and I have no idea what it actually means."

This coming Shabbat is another opportunity for three Torah scrolls to be taken out and read from in case there is a minyan. We were able to swing one the last time this happened - we'll see if we can make it two in a row.

This past Friday evening there was a community solidarity event hosted by the ACLU and Wyoming Equality at St. Marks Episcopal Church. I was able to represent Mount Sinai Congregation in an expression of support for the groups who were the targets of hateful bullying at a local Junior High. The Sanctuary there was completely filled with community members.

There are elections in Israel coming up. Here is a link from the JTA concerning the elections, since the process is very different than the process here in the USA. <https://www.jta.org/2019/03/13/israel/a-beginners-guide-to-the-2019-israeli-elections>

This website has some very neat graphics, showing how the election results will look if they happen as the polls predict. There are also some areas that show updates in popularity of particular parties over time. : <https://israelpolicyforum.org/elections/>

Let's hope the next week is a lot less eventful than the last couple of weeks have been.