

Rabbi's Column – December 30, 2019

Just a reminder, before I begin my normal column, that this week Hamantashen dozens prepaid preorders \$12 each may begin to be sent to Rebbitzin Andrea Moldo - by cash in person, or by check (made out to Mount Sinai Congregation with Hamantashen Dozens in the memo) either in person or by mail.

This past week has once again abounded in antisemitic actions in the United States. The majority of the victims have been either members of Chabad or those who are visibly Orthodox; the reported attacks have been in the New York area.

World wide hatred did not take a break during this season of the year, but seemed to intensify throughout Hanukkah (please note that there are so many transliterations of Channukah in English, and since they are transliterations, all of them (and none of them) are correct). Some people seem to have a problem with Jews adding light to anything.

In the Torah, Joseph reunites with his brothers once he sees that Judah is willing to protect Benjamin. The solidarity of the family as a family is shown to be more important than remembering which brother came from which mother and treating them differently. This seems a good week for all to remember that particular lesson as it applies to modern Judaism.

As the secular year and decade changes, please try to increase your personal solidarity with all of the oppressed peoples in this country and on the planet. To paraphrase Hillel yet again - if I am not affected when Jews are attacked, who will care if I am attacked? If I am only affected when Jews are attacked, what have I become? Why delay showing my concern?