

Rabbi's Column – January 6, 2020

A secular year begins again. It would be nice if this renewal of sorts also led to a renewal of niceness worldwide. It usually doesn't, and this year it seems bound and determined to remain a year when religious minorities are persecuted worldwide. (In this case, a religious minority is considered such by virtue of their relative numbers within the country persecution is happening in, not by their relative numbers in America.)

Christians can be, and are persecuted in some countries as a religious minority, for example.

Sunday began the next set of Daf Yomi (a page of Talmud a day). Seven and a half years from now that set will be completed. To dip a toe in, as it were, the first issue is when the recitation of the evening Shma is supposed to happen. Along the way, we find out about a lot of other things that happen during the evenings and are exposed to a large number of Rabbinic opinions.

REMINDER REMINDER January is Hamantashen dozens pre-order month! REMINDER REMINDER

Yesterday in NYC there was a huge (tens of thousands strong) gathering of Jews marching. Fairly quickly put together as a way of solidarity with those who have been attacked more violently during the past few weeks (attacks against those who are quickly identifiable as Jews have been an ongoing problem for years in the greater NYC area), there were contingents from states up and down the East Coast and inland to Ohio, according to self reporting. The Presidents of Yeshiva University and Hebrew Union College walked together during parts of the march. There was also a gathering in Israel at approximately the same time.

One other proposed act of solidarity (which the timing of the newsletters does not allow all of us to participate in at the same time as everyone else) was to wear during the day today something in public that helps identify one as a Jew. A Magen David necklace, an article of clothing with Hebrew on it, a kippah were some examples given. The social media selfie crowd are planning on taking and posting pictures of what they choose to wear.

Tu Bishvat is coming in little over a month. The Religious School has already started to decorate for the day with artwork focusing on trees and bushes. One of the students came up with a quick cartoon showing what might happen if somebody in Wyoming were to try and actually plant a tree in Wyoming on Tu Bishvat itself. You can find their decorations in the Social Hall.

May we find with greater frequency in our lives people who are kind and compassionate.