

Rabbi's Column – January 27, 2020

Today is the international commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp. It is called International Holocaust Remembrance Day - which is in addition to the days when Jews remember what happened (Farhud, Krystallnacht, Yom HaShoah v'haGevurah). Some of these days are country or region specific - Yom Hashoah v'haGevurah was chosen to reflect a moment when Jews were actively resisting genocide.

Personally, I think that this day would be nicely spent by the nations deciding to act to minimize or remove current genocides from being completed. There are plenty to choose from, still.

In the Torah we are nearly out of Egypt. A few more plagues and a long night of watching, then we finally get our marching orders. Moses locates Joseph's sarcophagus and brings it along. Keeping promises the people as a whole made is rather important. It is even more important to keep personal promises, since a promise is like a vow.

The requirement is seldom to make a promise or vow in the first place - it is to keep the promise or vow you made.

Purim will be here in less than two months. Let us hope that the world will let us do the rejoicing that is customary during that time.