

Rabbi's Column – March 16, 2020

Pikuach Nefesh (saving a life) is a key concept within Judaism. It is a shorthand way of saying Pikuach nefesh docheh et hakol (saving a life cancels everything). It is very easy to see how this works in an active sense - if somebody needs medical help, then you help them even if it is Shabbat, even if it is Yom Kippur. It is a bit harder to see how this works passively (although by now everyone probably has a good idea).

As you can guess, this part of this week's article is focused on COVID-19.

Preventing somebody else from possibly getting sick because you might have something you do not know you have yet is also a method of Pikuach Nefesh. In this case, Pikuach Nefesh may wind up cancelling large events (and even some much smaller events). Stay tuned for any decisions made by the Board.

On a different topic, the Religious School has one more week to meet. They have been working hard on some wall decorations for Passover (which will go up after next week, no matter what). Hopefully you had a chance to see their decorations for Purim.

This week finishes off the book of Exodus, so we will be starting a new book and a new month at about the same time.

As things progress, may it be God's will that we all avoid the dreaded hoarding disease or buying far more of necessities than we actually need to use in any reasonable time frame.