

Rabbi's Column – March 23, 2020

One of the many things that was cancelled as a result of last week's telephonic Board Meeting was Torah Thursday. To help tide us over, I hope to go over a verse per week in these notes, using the same three commentators that we use on Torah Thursday. For Rashi and Sforno I will make use of the translation in The Commentator's Bible by Michael Carasik. The verses themselves, and the notes by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz will be translated by me.

Genesis 37:18

They saw him from afar and during the time before he approached them they designed, concerning him, to kill him.

Rashi (11th century France) they designed they filled themselves with trickery

Sforno (15th century Italy) has nothing to say about the verse

Steinsaltz (21st century Israel) they saw him from afar by himself, and generally speaking in a place with nobody else; and during the time before he approached them they designed, concerning him, to kill him. Their hatred against him was so deep and pointed that before they met him on his own away from their father's house they had already raised the question of how to get rid of him.

While we did not hold Religious School yesterday, the students had been working on some decorations for Passover. Those decorations have now been put up, and will remain visible from the Agnes and Lester Weinstein Social Hall until this fall (by which time I hope we will be back to normal behaviors).

Some of the younger members of the community have volunteered to get things for people who are at risk, (and so should be minimizing contact with others to a very great extreme).

Be careful, be kind, be considerate. May the next week be a comparatively uneventful one.