

## Rabbi's Column

### Never Again!

We have heard that a lot over the past number of decades. Much like the word Torah itself, the meaning of Never Again! seems somewhat flexible. Just a reminder - Torah can mean the first five books of the TaNaKH that are written on the scrolls at the synagogue; Torah can mean any particular teaching; Torah can also be any bit of learning whatsoever.

For a while, Never Again! seemed to mean that we would work very hard to make sure that a Jewish genocidal effort would not happen easily. Jews would learn to defend themselves, and we would have a country that could act on our behalf wherever we lived when required to do so. As the survival prospects of Israel and Jews in general went from precarious to fairly stable, we could lift up our eyes and see that the things being done to us are being done to others. It is no longer enough to say Never Again shall Jews be the subject of genocide; to be a child of Abraham one must actually declare that Never Again shall we stand idly by while anyone is targeted for destruction simply because of who they are.

There are many groups worldwide who have been targeted because of who they are. In many cases, despite all the light we tried to shine upon the subject, there was little that could be practically done. Other individuals have always chosen to die as martyrs rather than leave their hometown. Some still do.

One group that has been targeted is the Yazidi. I have just recently been given to understand that Canada is currently allowing sponsorships of refugees and congregations are looking for partners in that. While my preference is to be able to help somebody through the kindnesses I perform personally, in order to follow the commandment of "Choose Life!" I think it is perfectly fine to help Canada save them. As I find out more, I will add more information in this space and others. To paraphrase Hillel, "When I forget my own needs, nobody will step in and remember them for me. When I forget other people's needs, I have stopped being a member of the Human Race. Why wait to work on fixing things?"

Remember - Purim is approaching. I am still willing to sing parodies for my hamantashen that evening, so bring on your requests!