

Where Have All Our Holidays Gone?

November, 2008

Maybe some of us are glad that the High Holidays are over. After all, it meant attendance at many services, time away from work or school, and a different mindset than the one that we typically have. And, it takes a certain amount of energy to do all of the forgiveness work before the gates of *Teshuvah* close in our *Neila* service. Maybe it is a relief to think that the gates are closed for almost a year, and now we can get back to our regular lives. And then, right after Yom Kippur – more holidays, *Sukkot*, *Simchat Torah*. We do have a lot of holidays in a short period of time. It is understandable that we might be relieved that they are over, at least for a while.

And, maybe others are wondering, “Where have all our holidays gone?” This too, is understandable. We remember the excitement as we join our choir to sing, “May it be a Good Year” in our *Rosh Hashanah* services. We also might remember the relief and renewal that comes with the final *Shofar* blast, “*Tekiah Gedolah*” to end our Day of Atonement. Maybe we are thinking back to being in our *Sukkah*, to *Z’man Simchateinu*, the season of our joy, as we reconnect with the earth and her gifts during *Sukkot* and *Hoshanah Rabbah*. And most recently, we recall the happiness that permeates our community as we join together to sing and dance and celebrate *Simchat Torah*.

So, where have all our holidays gone? Until the *Chanukah* lights illuminate the shortened winter days, our holidays are over. Or are they? Certainly, High Holidays have passed, as well as *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*. However, our most frequent, and perhaps our most important holiday, is anything but gone. Shabbat offers us the possibility of rest and renewal each and every week.

In the Book of Exodus, we learn, “The Children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath.” We believe the converse is also true – the Sabbath keeps the Children of Israel. Over the next few weeks, I invite you to join us for Shabbat, CRC style. Feel free to come Shabbat evening at 7:30 pm or Shabbat morning at 10:00 am to experience how the sweetness and joy of Shabbat just might “keep” us, nourish us, and renew us. Then, we may discover that, while some of our holidays have come and gone, the best never left. Wishing you *Shabbat Shalom* in advance.

Kol Tuv (all the best)

Rabbi Ed