

class at the Providence Hebrew Day School. I was fascinated by that and the other texts cited next to other class pictures. It was partly that they came from a written tradition which I had a vague sense had something to do with me... words I might be able to understand someday, once I mastered the Hebrew alphabet lessons in our readers. As it was, I grasped the proverb's essence. Young as we were, we were already being taught the enduring rituals and values of Judaism. And somewhere in there was the hope, shared among the grown-ups who loved us that everything we were being exposed to would have staying power.

All these years later I can say that it did, and that this proverb which drew me in as a child now resonates deeply as an adult raising a child! At the same time, there's a new and bitter-sweet truth. These words are an aspiration, and a fervent one, but they are not a formula. We can fill our children's upbringing with our dearest hopes, we can teach them what we have come to know about living. And we do. In the end though,

Here are some of the responses he got: "This is too real." "I'm slowly eating all my mustard, peanut butter and hot sauce..." "Pesach?? Doesn't it occur next month?!"

I'm sure not many of you are worried about getting through your siracha before Passover. Me neither. To be fair, this friend of mine is a Conservative rabbi from Philadelphia, so his congregation is decidedly different from ours. But still, I've been thinking a lot about his post for a few days now. And not just because I, too, find myself muttering something like, "Seriously? Already?!!" when I see the matza and macaroons out on display at Safeway. His post has also turned my mind towards one of the most interesting parts of Pesach for me, and that is the way that different people observe this holiday of ours.

How many of you know someone who doesn't keep kosher during the year, but goes crazy with their Pesach preparations? What is it about this holiday that brings out the inner bubbe in so many of us? I have such clear memories of searching the