

can make as big a statement as all the Christmas paraphernalia in the weeks to come.

On Friday, December 10th, shortly after our modest celebrations have ended, I will be reflecting on our trip to Rome. I will also reflect on Nostra Aetate, the Catholic revision of its attitudes towards Jews and Judaism, that goes back only to 1965, but has effected great changes in Jewish-Christian relations.

Meanwhile, enjoy the delicacy of Chanukah unencumbered by religious icons and celebrate its power for freedom rather than domination.

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I found out this morning that a beloved congregant of ours died this weekend. Several times each year, the rabbi and I receive such news, and we prepare ourselves for the exquisitely beautiful experience of witnessing the grief of a family in mourning. Often we are in mourning as well. But this morning was the first time that I burst into tears upon hearing the news of the passing of a member of our congregation.

I called a dear friend and colleague of mine to help me think through what I was feeling. And she had the most interesting response to my tears. She said, "What you are feeling is so hard, but I'm happy to hear in your voice and in your grief the love you have for your congregation. It's beautiful that you have come to a place of such love for your community that you are feeling this loss so profoundly."