Dear Rabbi,

Recently I cleaned out the garage, and I found lumber that was once used to build our Sukkah. I no longer use this wood for creating such a 'Sacred Space.' May I burn these boards in our fireplace?

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Sources:
- Tractate Megillah 26b
- Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 21:1
- Mishna Berurah ibid. 6, 8 & 9 and 638:24
- Aruch Hashulchan 638:12, Bekurei Yaakov 638:18

Yiddle Riddle

Last week we asked: Triplets and their cousin are born within a 2 hour period, yet the brit milah for each of the four takes place on four consecutive days. They are all healthy — i.e., no jaundice or other health problems. How can this be?

Answer:

1. One baby is born before sunset. His brit is 8 days later, which happens to be the day before Yom Tov.
2. His brother is born after dark — halachically a new day. His brit is a full day later, the day of Yom Tov itself. A brit performed on the 8th day supersedes Yom Tov.
3. The third triplet was born between the other two. He was born in the halachic 'gray area' after sunset but before dark. It is unclear if this is considered night or day. He can't have his brit the day before Yom Tov because that might be the 7th day, which is too early. He can't have his brit on Yom Tov, because that might be the 9th day, and only a brit done on the 8th day supersedes Yom Tov. Therefore, his brit is the day after Yom Tov.
4. So much for the triplets who, by the way, were born in Israel. Their cousin in Johannesburg, South Africa was born at the same time as the baby in paragraph #3. His brit, however, is postponed yet another day, due to the extra day of Yom Tov observed outside of Israel! (Johannesburg is in the same time zone as Israel.)

Thanks to Shlomo Steinhart for the riddle idea.

Answer: the International Date Line.