

have a Nageela Shabbos

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Candle Lighting:
Henderson 5:15
Las Vegas 5:16
San Diego 5:26
Reno/ Tahoe 5:32
Irvine 5:28
Los Angeles 5:30
Scottsdale 6:05

Season 4
Episode 14

Bigger on the Inside

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Here's a riddle for you:

What takes up more space; a box or what's inside it?
If you've ever learned geometry, you know, of course, that a box has to be bigger than whatever is inside of it. If something fits inside, it must be smaller. Makes sense, right? Unless it's a TARDIS. Then it can be bigger on the inside. There's also one more exception.

The ark.

Hey, what does Noah have to do with this?

NO, NO, not Noah's ark!

This week's Torah portion speaks about most of the 'furniture' that was built for the Mishkan, the portable, travel sized Holy Temple that our ancestors used in the desert. The holiest of these items was the Holy Ark (Aron Hakodesh in Hebrew). It was similar to the arks we have in our synagogues, which hold and protect our Torah scrolls. The original holy ark housed and protected the two tablets (two and change, actually, but that's a story for another time), and possibly an original, handwritten-by-Moses-Torah-scroll as well.

The ark was around 5 feet long, and took up no space.

It was close to 3 feet wide, and took up no space.

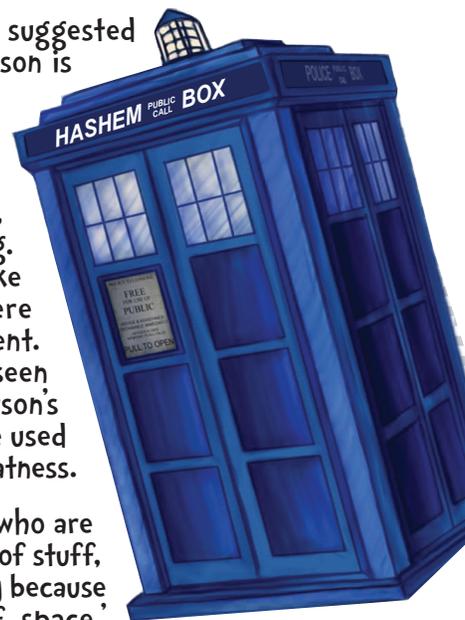
The Talmud (Bava Basra) goes to great lengths to figure out how all the ark's contents fit inside. The Torah scroll, the jar of Manna, the spare USB charger. Was there room for them inside or were they

stored externally? Opinions differ in the Talmud, all showing that the CONTENTS of the ark clearly took up space. But once the ark was full it DID NOT take up space (according to the Talmud in Yoma). Why? What lesson is the Torah teaching us, having the contents take up space but not the container?

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein suggested that perhaps the lesson is simple.

It's important to be full of Torah. But if you are full of Torah, don't think you're big. Don't make yourself take up space. Inside, there should be lots of content. But it shouldn't been seen from the outside. A person's knowledge should not be used as a tool to show off greatness.

We've all met people who are smart and know lots of stuff, but rub us the wrong way because they 'take up a lot of space.' They need everyone to know just how full of knowledge they are. Don't let that happen to you. Fill yourself up on learning. Absorb Torah and excellent Jewish values. Become a scholar. Then, kinda keep it to yourself. Be like the ark.



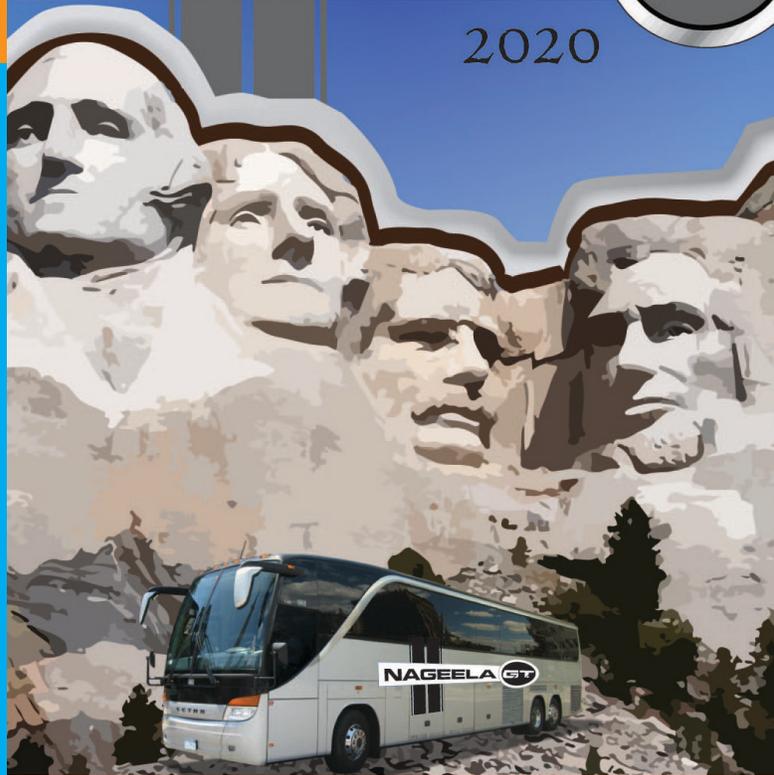
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NAGEELA



2020



DEEP THOUGHTS

What do the cops say when they arrest a mime?

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DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST GIRLS
SESSION

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SESSION

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to family members celebrating this week!

Eenbal Bromley
Jasper Goldlang
Asher Leventhal
Eli Lugasi
Oreya Gazala
Bella Lyttle

Steven Kostick
Akiva Gross
Nuni Piriyeva
Panina Rast
Dovid Locker

JEWNIOR SPRING REGIONAL

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
MAY 22-25

6th-8th graders
Mesquite, NV



I went to a tiny beach.

It was filled with microwaves!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

TWO JEWS, THREE OPINIONS

Hi Rabbi,

What happens if Rabbis can't agree on something (which I'm sure happens all the time). How do you know who to follow? Do you try to figure out who is the smarter Rabbi? Do they have an arm wrestle?

Thanks,

Wanda Gree



**stump the
rabbi**

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question. Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Dear Wanda,

Arm wrestle? Are you kidding? That would be completely unfair, since some Rabbis are lefties. No. We play rock- paper- scissors. Three takes it.

The truth is there's a clear set of rules for what happens when Rabbis don't agree. No it doesn't involve a cage match. It is not even determined by which Rabbi is smarter or more knowledgeable. The tool we use to figure out who to follow is 'majority rules.' Whichever opinion has the most authorities backing it generally wins the day. We get this from a sentence in the Torah that says, "Acharei Rabbim Lehatos- Tilt in the direction of the majority."

Wayyy back, we had a central Jewish Supreme Court called the Sanhedrin. Any serious question of Jewish law was brought to them. They would take a vote, and whatever they decided was the absolute law. Finito. However, that did not last forever. Because of people who liked to mess with the Jews (specifically the Romans, among others), we stopped being able to convene a Supreme Court, and Jewish law started getting decided by smaller groups of Rabbis. During one particular period of time, nearly 2,000 years ago, two major courts of Jewish law were Beis Hillel and Beis Shammai (literally, the house- or school- of Hillel and the house of Shammai). Hillel and Shammai were great leaders who, although very different, did not have many disagreements. Their students, however, had many disagreements, which was



a problem. We needed to know what to do!

The students of Shammai were generally

considered to be sharper and smarter. However, because Hillel's school consisted of more scholars, it was decided to follow their opinions. To this day, we follow Beis Hillel in their disagreements with Beis Shammai.

When I was in elementary school, my class tried this. We tried to convince our Rabbi that because we were the majority, and he was just one person, he had a Torah obligation to listen to us. For some reason he didn't agree. I don't remember if that story actually happened, or if I'm imagining it, but the point remains the same. Following the majority

opinion doesn't mean that 25 5th graders opinions win out over a knowledgeable adult. It doesn't mean that even a large group of slightly knowledgeable adults win out over serious Torah scholars. But when peers are in disagreement, meaning that those in the discussion are roughly on the same level, then the majority wins.

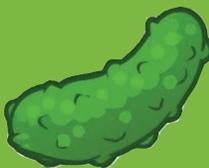
Next week we'll deal with an important followup question, of understanding why we as Jews don't seem to follow the majority of the world.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

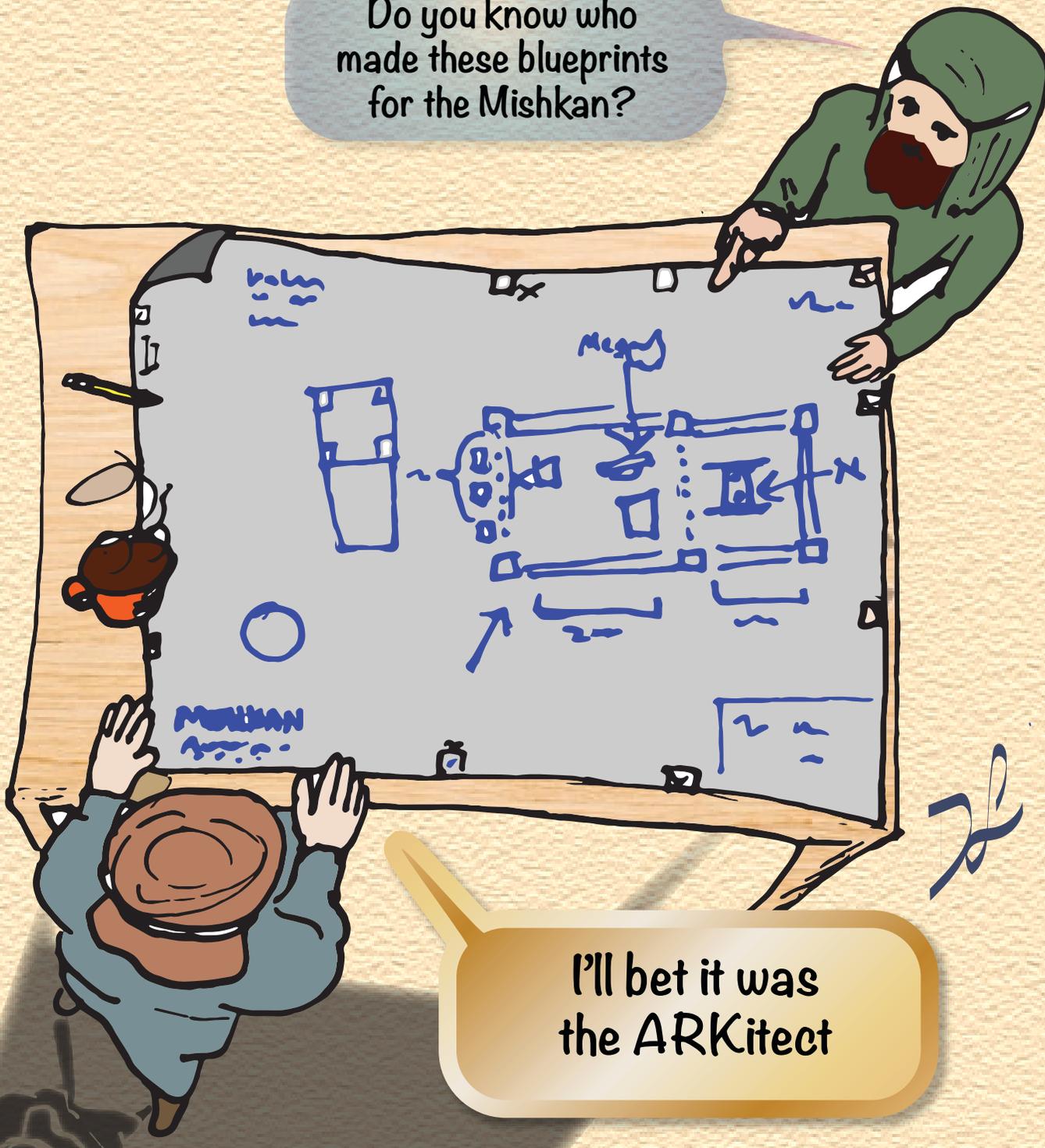
the Rabbi

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP



Do you know who
made these blueprints
for the Mishkan?



I'll bet it was
the ARKitect



Nageela West breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

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