

have a

# Nageela Shabbos

A weekly publication of **Nageela West** Joyfully Jewish Experiences

## He Who Must Not Be Named

by Rabbi Dani Locker

For the past seven weeks, we've been reading stories about our ancestors in the Torah. Don't get me wrong, I love a good story, but I'm not too sure we would interrupt our Shabbat prayer services for a description of the American revolution, or a reading of Lord of the Rings. The fact that these stories are in the Torah, and we read them week, after week; year after year tells me that we can learn something from each one of these stories. Not just from the story, but every detail mentioned in the Torah teaches us something, or else it would have been left out (the Torah leaves out plenty of details when they're not instructive)!

As Jacob and his family prepare for the worst family reunion possible- yes, even worse than when Aunt Mildred pinched your cheeks in front of all your friends- with his murderous brother, Esav, he stops to have a wrestling match. The Torah describes Jacob fighting with a 'man' all night, until morning. When Jacob finally puts on a submission hold and the 'man' is trying to tap out, Jacob asks the man for his name. He answers, "Why then, do you ask for my name?" Who was this guy? Why wouldn't he say his name? Unless it's Voldemort or something and he must not be named. But otherwise,

why the secrecy?

Hold that thought for a minute. The Jewish people value learning, right? We're called, "The People of the Book," and one of the most important (if not the most important) mitzvot is studying Torah.

Why?

Because there's pretty much nothing as dangerous and scary as ignorance. Of course we can't know everything, but we do our best to learn and to understand, and always, always ask questions. One of the sure ways to tell a philosophy is wrong is if it discourages asking. Ben Franklin said, "Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn." In other words, not trying to learn is a disaster!

Now, back to our story. Many sources identify this 'man' as an angel. But not just any angel, the one in charge of Esav's nation, the enemy of the Jewish people. The great Rabbi Chaim Shmulevitz explained that names show somebody's personality and by saying, "Why do you ask for my name," the angel was actually naming himself. His name is "Don't ask my name!" This angel knows that the number one thing he's got to worry about is us knowing and understanding stuff. So he says, "Don't ask. Don't worry. Just do

*shabbos info:*

Parshat Vayishlach

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:10

San Diego 4:28

Los Angeles 4:26

**VERY PUNNY**

**WHAT DOES A JEWISH PIRATE SAY?**

**AHOY VEV!**

**HAVE REALLY CORNY PUN? EMAIL IT TO DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG**

what you feel like doing. Don't worry about the consequences."

Our key to winning this battle is by always 'knowing the name', always understanding why we do things, and if we can't know it all, at least by trying our hardest to understand. Ask questions, challenge (respectfully) the things you're taught. Make sure you know their names and their purposes.

And if you meet a horse, make sure you find out its neighhhhm...

Oh no, I didn't.

And if it's a dyslexic horse, find out it's mane...

Yeah. I did. Have an awesomtastic Shabbat!

*This week's edition of NAGEELA SHABBOS is sponsored by Yossi Klass in honor of Rabbi & Mrs. Gelb*

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## STUMP THE RABBI



Dear Rabbi,  
What's with the cholent? Everyone makes a big deal about this Shabbat dish, but it's just a stew, isn't it? Is there like, a special holy way to bless it? It's not even the same all over, I've had different types. Why?

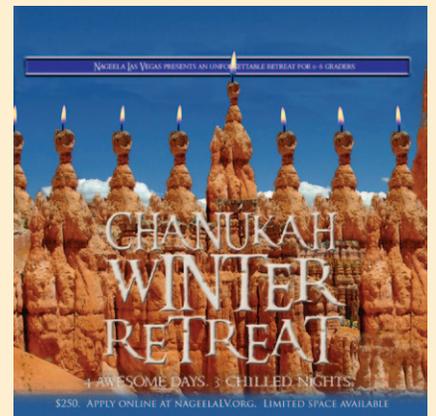
Stuart Michael Eaton

Dear Stu M. Eat...  
Picture me clutching at my head in pain. Cholent, just a stew? What will become of this world? Oy vey!  
Am I over exaggerating? Maybe by a few miles, but cholent is probably my favorite food. Let me help you understand this amazingly special dish. A long time ago, there was a group of Jews who believed in the Written Torah (thats a good thing) but didn't agree with the way the Oral Torah (the Talmud) explained things the Torah says. They took every word of the Written Torah very literally, and this caused a lot of problems and confusion, because the Torah is meant to be studied together with the explanations of the Oral Torah.  
One thing the Torah says is to have no fires burning on Shabbat. The Oral Torah tells us that means not to light a fire on Shabbat, but if you've already got one, you can keep it lit, and even keep your food warm. These people would sit in the dark all Shabbat (because they thought keeping a lamp lit

would be wrong) and eat cold food (because their microwave was broken). To show everyone that this is wrong, many Jews started, on purpose, having hot food on Shabbat day (having been left on the fire from before Shabbat). Although most cholents have some combination of meat, potatoes and beans, the ingredients aren't [gulp] really important. The important part is that we're eating a hot dish left on the fire (or croc pot, or overheated car) from before SHabbat. In this way, we're showing the world that the Oral Torah, the Talmud is the way to go! There's no special blessing on cholent, just the typical food blessings.  
Cholent, cholent, cholent...

Have - a- Nageela Shabbat

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question. Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)  
Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed



## nageela week snapshot (dec 18-23)

| SUN   | MON  | WED  | THU                           |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|
| WINTER BREAK<br><br>NO HEBREW SCHOOL LAS VEGAS OR BEVERLY HILLS | Chai Roller instead of NageeLatte at the LINQ Las Vegas<br><br>5:00-6:00 | Torah Buddies-Beverly Hills OFF FOR WINTER BREAK | Nageela ChanuCraft<br><br>6pm |

Nageela West provides social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast.  
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