

# have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting:  
Henderson 4:14  
Las Vegas 4:15  
Reno/ Tahoe 4:26  
San Diego 4:29  
Irvine 4:30  
Los Angeles 4:31  
Scottsdale 5:06

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

Season 4  
Episode 4

## Who's this Mamre Dude?

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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**I**t's all about the support staff.

**A**braham is an epic character. He is known for his pioneering attitude and how he stood up against, well, pretty much everyone else. He is known for recognizing One God at a pretty ridiculously young age. He is known for his almost superhuman acts of kindness and hospitality. He is known for withstanding ten intense and difficult tests. And he is known for spreading the knowledge of God to the people of his generation, launching a major PR campaign without the benefit of Instagram.

**W**ho was Mamre? I dunno? I mean, Mamre was a native of Canaan, and the dude in charge of the area in which Abraham lived. But what did he do that was special? He helped out.

**N**ear the beginning of this week's Torah reading, it is mentioned that Abraham, as he recovered from his circumcision, was living in 'The Plains of Mamre.' Plains, by the way are flat lands (not to be confused with planes which are flat geometric surfaces, or planes

which serve flat soda).

**W**hy does the Torah feel the need to tell us whose property Abraham was staying on? The great commentators explain that Mamre gets some credit for Abraham's great act of circumcision, because Mamre had helped advise Abraham on the precise time or method of the bris (there are many opinions on exactly what the advice was). He was Abraham's 'Bris Buddy.' So he gets mentioned as the host.

**L**et's get something straight here. The Torah doesn't mention people for no reason. If Mamre is mentioned as being Abraham's 'Bris Buddy', that means something special. It means he is immortalized forever in the words of God, to be studied, read and discussed by the Jewish people for all time.



**G**reat people are not great all on their own. I mean, sure, a great person has to take self responsibility for becoming great. Yet, there are usually going to be many people along the way, helping in small ways. People who give a bit of advice or a bit of encouragement. The Torah is letting us know that these small bits of advice and encouragement are really, really significant. They're important enough for the Torah to include someone in its immortal text.

Uncle Sam wants you to help by sponsoring a week of Nageela Shabbos.

So does Aunt Bertha.

to sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos, please contact [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)



invites you to a fun filled weekend sleepover

# IRVINE

## -Shabbaton-

December 13-14

@ Beth Jacob  
+ Circus Trix



When did God create baseball?

In the Big Inning!

wait for it...

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? Email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)



*mazel  
tov!*

to ALL STAR Nageela  
Counselor YITZY  
BERGIDA  
upon his engagement!

*mazel  
tov!*

to MYLES MARKS & fam  
on his bar mitzvah last week!

DEEP THOUGHTS

What would the speed of  
lightning be if it didn't zigzag?



## Jew Junior NCSY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THIS WEEK:

Monday: LV Summerlin Special Schedule:  
4-6 grade is cancelled this week. 7-8  
graders are invited to join NCSY LNL  
from 6:30-7:30 at the Coffee Bean at  
Sahara and Ft. Apache

Monday: Tarzana Jr. LNL - 7pm

Monday: Irvine Skate Night - 5-6:30

Tuesday: Las Vegas Jr. Board Meeting

Thursday: Irvine Jr. LNL 6pm

Thursday: Los Angeles City Jr. LNL  
5-6:30

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, Nov. 18th, Join us at Irvine Inline  
for Skate Night!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE  
Las Vegas Shabbaton Featuring  
Adventuredome! Nov. 22nd- 23rd. See  
YOLO5 Flyer on Back Page

Winter Regional Shabbaton Weekend:  
Jan. 17th-19th (MLK weekend) San  
Francisco! SEE FLYER- Registration has  
opened!



# The Night of Morning

Hi Rabbi,

Why does the day start at night. I mean, why is night the start of the day. I mean, why does today start yesterday. Oh, you know what I mean! Do you? Why does Shabbat start on Friday instead of Saturday? Why don't holidays begin at midnight, or in the morning?

Thanks,

Nita Morning

Dear Nita,

To clarify your question for other readers, 'Jewish Time' works differently than 'Standard Time.' For example, if the first day of Chanukah is on Tuesday, we light the first candle on Monday night. Shabbat is the seventh day of the week, yet we begin it on Friday afternoon. This is very different than the normal calendar. If your birthday is January 19th, it doesn't start on January 18th. Why the unusual calendar setup?

Let me read you a poem I'm working on:

Once upon a midnight dreary,  
I came up with a perfect theory,  
Explaining why the Jewish day,  
Begins with dark and not the morn,

For at creation, darkness, napping,  
Until the light came brightly zapping,  
Zapping daylight into the void  
That did exist in days of yore,

Quoth Hashem, "Vayehi Ohr."

I'm not sure if that helps at all. Here are the Cliff's notes. Starting the day at midnight is completely

random.

It's an arbitrary time, and before we

had clocks, watches, and Siri, it was difficult to determine when midnight was. It's not the start of anything. Sunrise and sunset, now those make sense. Yet, as I mentioned in the poem, the World was originally dark, then God created light. The words in the Torah describing creation mention evening coming before morning, and perhaps that's why. Because when God created the universe, darkness came first.

There are a few possible lessons we can derive from this:

This teaches us a lesson of optimism. Things may start off dark, but they will get brighter as time goes on. If we start with daylight, then things just get darker. Here's another I've seen: The morning is when we go to work. The evening is when we spend time with family. The Torah is prioritizing our family and personal growth



**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](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)*

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



**Adam, should I  
start the day with  
morn or with eve?**

**I like Eve!**

over our profession.

It's not as simple as it seems, though. There are Torah authorities who maintain that the night-then-day model is only for the Jewish people. For everyone else, it's day-then-night. According to these, it would seem that it's the special connection the Jewish people have with the moon that makes night the start of our day. Remember that most of the world's calendars are based on the sun, yet our Jewish calendar is mostly about the moon's position (see Nageela Shabbos season 3, episode 11). It stands to reason that we'd start each day based on the moon as well.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

SCAN ME



**SHABBATON REGISTRATION  
CLOSES ON MONDAY!**

*the Rabbi*

**YOLOS**  
**shabbaton**  
**weekend adventure**

**NOV. 22-23<sup>RD</sup>**

**Las Vegas**

featuring

*The Adventuredome*  
**THEME PARK**



## Photo of the Week

### *Arizona Arrives*

Students at Pardes Hebrew Academy in Scottsdale get ready for sushi during our lunch and learn, one of several exciting Middle School age event going on regularly in the Phoenix area.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Nageela  
family members celebrating  
this week!

Jonah Arazi  
Aviva Hafter  
Moshe Rast

Bernardo Halperin  
Joseph Lerner  
Shoshana Sefia

**HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO  
EVERYONE ELSE!**



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.