

Beshalach 5782  
January 7th 2022

# HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 6 EPISODE 15

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## Sing, Too

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Teacher: OK class, can anyone tell me why we celebrate Pass-over?

Sam: Because we want to eat Matzah pizza.

Teacher: Interesting theory. Anyone else have a different answer?

Rachel: Because we left Egypt.

Teacher: And...

Rachel: There were lots of awesome miracles, and the Jewish people were free, and everyone saw how great God is!

Teacher: Excellent answer. Now, can anyone tell me why we celebrate the 7th day of Passover with its own holiday?

Sam: Because there's leftover matzah, and more sauce and cheese...

Rachel: Because God split the sea.

Teacher: And...

Rachel: Because

the miracles of the sea were even greater than the miracles in Egypt.

Teacher: And...

Rachel: Oh, I got this! The Jews at that time all reached the highest level of prophecy! That's something to celebrate.

Teacher: Those are important parts of it. Yet the great Rabbi Ovadia Seforno gives an additional reason. He says that without this reason, despite all the miracles, and even the prophecy, we would not be celebrating a separate holiday. Any guesses as to what it is?

Sam: I'm sticking with matzah pizza. Maybe with mushrooms?

Reuben: Does it have something to do with singing? I remember hearing something about singing.

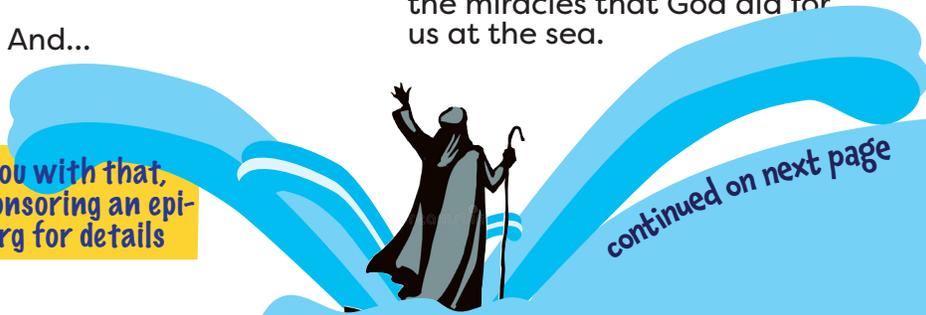
Teacher: Very good! We would not celebrate a new holiday for the miracles that God did for us at the sea.



Candle lighting

- Henderson 4:30
- Las Vegas 4:31
- Reno 4:40
- San Diego 4:46
- Irvine 4:47
- Los Angeles 4:48
- Oakland 4:55
- Park City 5:04
- Scottsdale 5:23
- Honolulu 5:51

Do you want fame and fortune? Can't help you with that, but you can be a part of a great merit by sponsoring an episode of NS. Contact [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org) for details



continued on next page

# THE PICKLE TREE

an exciting hybrid Tu B'Shvat program for middle schoolers.

email [lockerd@ncsy.org](mailto:lockerd@ncsy.org) for details.



Yet we celebrate this new holiday because the Jews sang. The special song they sang, called 'Shiras Hayam' (it's also referred to as Az Yashir) will never make it into the Rock n' Roll hall of fame, will never win a Grammy award or top the list on iTunes. It was a song of deep appreciation of gratitude to God for what he had done. Unlike most of today's music which is all about selfish or silly topics.

Rachel: Wait, so we won't make a holiday for miracles, but we'll make a holiday about a song about miracles? How does that make sense?

Teacher: An excellent question. Do you know the difference between the miracles and the song? God did the miracles. People did the song. In other words, we are celebrating the Jewish people DOING something, instead of just EXPERIENCING something. We're

celebrating a verb, instead of a noun.

It's good when good happens. It's better when we happen.

It is beautiful and worthy of celebration when something good happens to us. But that doesn't compare with how awesome God considers it when we are self motivated to grow on our own and lift ourselves up.

It's good when good happens. It's better when we happen.

continued from page 1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Mordechai Shirir
- Yaron Weiss
- Jacob Sundberg
- Mathan Ben yehuda
- Ariella Bernheim
- Sam Leytes



# PICKLE JEWS GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



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.

**Note:** We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

# Stump the Rabbi



## #193 Who's On First?

**Note:** This is the same question as last week's Stump the Rabbi. Last week's discussion dealt with the first part of the question (older siblings). This week we'll address the topic of 'first borns'.

Dear Related,

Hi Rabbi,

I am the youngest in my family. My older siblings (older and wiser, as they like to remind me) told me they think younger children have to respect and honor older children. I don't see how that makes any sense. What do you think? Also, is there something specifically special about the oldest child in a family?

Thanks  
Ted Relay



I will teach you how to spin straw into gold if you promise to give me your firstborn child. Unless you can guess my very, very unusual name that's totally not on my Facebook profile. Everything about that story makes perfect sense, right? Except, of course, the part where Rumpelstiltskin asks for the first born child. As the youngest in my family, I'm both relieved that I'm off the table and insulted that I don't make the cut. So what is it about first born that seems to be so special?

The truth is, it's not only first born children that seem to merit unique status. Here's a partial list of situations in which the Torah gives special recognition for the first:

**Bikkurim**- When a farmer grows fruits, the very first fruits of the year are brought to the Holy Temple.

**Inheritance**- When someone passes away, their children inherit any money or property. The first born son gets double.

**Pidyon Haben**- The first born son of a non-Kohen or Levi family (with other exceptions as well) 'belongs' to God and the parents have a mitzvah to 'buy him back.'

**First born animals**- The first born of any kosher animal must be given to a Kohen. First born donkeys get traded with a sheep.

There are also a number of other times when we give a portion first, before we can partake (taking challah, giving the first wool shearings, terumah, maaser, etc). A simple way to understand this is that a person's first ANYTHING has special significance. Have you ever been to a restaurant where they have some dollar bills taped to the wall behind the counter? I remember being confused about those as a kid. I mean, people do all kinds of unusual things with their money, but can you possibly find a less practical thing to do with it? It was eventually explained to me that these bills were from the first few sales

**REGISTRATION HAS  
OPENED FOR  
CAMP NAGEELA  
WEST 2022!**

**DATES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR 3  
CAMP SESSION OPTIONS!**

1. UTAH CAMPUS FEATURING SPORTS, NATURE, FRIENDSHIPS & CREATIVE SPECIALTIES,
2. TRAVEL CAMP OPTION, OR
3. FULL NAGEELA HYBRID EXPERIENCE!

1 6 3

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA  
WEST GIRLS SESSION

1 7 7

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA  
WEST BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2022 and see photos from 2021 at [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org)

Come and learn about our fantastic summer camp programs, get questions answered and receive camp discounts!

**DO YOU KNOW A JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOLER ANYWHERE ON THE WEST COAST WHO WANTS TO BE INVOLVED IN JEWISH LEADERSHIP? WE HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES. PLEASE CONTACT US!**

# NAGEELA SUMMER CAMP INFO SESSION



SUNDAY JAN 16 8PM PACIFIC  
ZOOM ID: 580 485 3200  
PASSCODE: NAGEELA



**HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE TO CRACK YOUR KNUCKLES BEFORE THEY TURN INTO GLOWSTICKS?**



What did the sheep think about the Korban Pesach (Passover sacrifice)?

That it was a baaad idea

OUCH! GROAN!  
This one is NOT my fault. I blame Moshe Alcabes!  
Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

[www.nageelawest.org](http://www.nageelawest.org)  
[info@nageelawest.org](mailto:info@nageelawest.org)  
801-613-1539

Want to stay in the loop? Text the word NAGEELAWEST to 22828



## Nageela West Coast

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.

*...continued*

they made in the store. Let me take that back. Even as an adult, I don't really understand it (if you have no use for that money, I'll gladly take it off your hands). Seriously though, when someone puts in a ton of effort to build a store, plan it out, get it set up, and then they finally make their first sale, it is special to them! The same thing is true of a farmer or a parent. There's something really meaningful about the feeling of excitement you get when you have your first success. Gladly offering our 'first' is a really meaningful statement of how much we appreciate God, or how much we want gold spinning abilities.

Yet it's deeper than that. The Torah says that God chose the first born sons (and animals) on the day He destroyed the Egyptian firstborn. What does one have to do with the other? Look at it this way. The purpose of the plagues was to increase the awareness of God's awesomeness, right (at least that's one of the main purposes)? Getting rid of all the Egyptian first born was certainly a way to show God's power, but at the same time sparing all the Jewish firstborn was taking it to the next level. These first borns were therefore a tool of showing God's greatness. Because of this, every time someone looks at an oldest child, they see a Kiddush Hashem- a public recognition of God being amazing. It is for this reason, too, that Judaism gives special recognition, and special mitzvos regarding the first born. Just don't hang them on the wall behind the counter. That's just weird.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

*the Rabbi*