

Bamidbar + Shavuot 5781  
May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 5

EPISODE 29

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## Patented Protection

by Rabbi Dani Locker

I wasn't sure what to do. I had just bought a brand new, beautiful felt fedora hat. I was excited to wear it, and so I brushed it carefully, placed it on my head at a very slight tilt, and prepared to step out the door. Then I heard it. The steady drum-beat of rain pounding away on the cobbled path in front of my house. It was coming down hard. If you know anything about hats, you'll know that rain and felt hats don't mix well. One good downpour would likely land this hat in my kids' dress-up bin. What to do. What. To. Do.

I instinctively reached for my large, sturdy umbrella. I opened it inside the house (HA!) and prepared to brave the weather. But wait! This was no good. With an umbrella up top, nobody would see

my spiffy headgear. If I used the umbrella, the hat would be obscured. If I didn't, it would be soaked. Hmm. I came up with a perfect solution.

I mounted my hat on top of the umbrella and stepped outside!

Does that sound as ridiculous to you as it does to me?

If you read this Torah portion carefully (yeah, I know you haven't- don't worry) you might notice something similar. The Torah tells us how the special temple furniture was packed up (remember, the temple we used while our ancestors were traveling through the des-



Candle lighting

Honolulu	6:44
Scottsdale	7:02
Henderson	7:20
Las Vegas	7:21
San Diego	7:22
Irvine	7:26
Los Angeles	7:29
Reno	7:47
Oakland	7:53
Park City	8:17

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continued on next page

ert was portable) and transported. Most of the pieces (the menorah, for example) was covered by a blue wool sheet (beautiful and respectable but not very effective for keeping out rain and dust) and then with a tachash skin (we're not 100% sure what a tachash was, possibly a rainbow unicorn, but either way its skin was used) above the wool as a protective covering. There was one exception,

though.

The Aron (no, not Aron the brother of Moses) was basically a trunk made of wood and gold, and it held the holiest artifacts on Earth; the two tablets (and probably some other important items such as a Torah scroll, a jar of

*continued from page 1*

Manna, and the broken shards of the first tablets). When the Aron, which is also called The Ark (no, not THAT ark) was packed up, it was first covered by the tachash-skin patent pending weather seal (hey, we should make umbrellas outta that stuff... heyyy) and then blue wool went on top of the tachash. That's odd. If the tachash was meant to be the weather protector, why would it be UNDER the blue wool?

All of the temple furniture was holy and special. There's no denying that. The way God wants us to interact with the world and spirituality is by acting in a natural way. We go to work to earn a living, we take medicine to relieve illness, and we drink pickle juice to... ummm... just 'cause. That's why we kept the tachash protection at the top for ALMOST all of the items. The Aron holds the Torah, representing the Torah. Torah is different. Understanding Torah and studying Torah is not based on the natural laws. It's not based on brain cells, or any other normal measurement of intelligence. It's purely a spiritual, God-given process. The blue wool looks like the sky and represents God and heaven. When it comes to Torah- when it comes to the ark- we place heaven above the natural protection.

Sometimes it's just worth wearing the hat on top of the umbrella.

# PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP



# tree stump



*an expanded topical discussion*

**The Torah contains 613 official commandments along with countless moral lessons. Ever wonder why God presented us with *JUST TEN OF THEM* on the tablets? Are they more important than all the others?**

**There are many explanations. Here I'll attempt to show how each of the *BIG TEN* helps us develop a core character trait. Enjoy, and please email me your comments or questions.**

## **6. DON'T MURDER**

**Trait: Value for human life.**

Murder is, of course, the most obvious disregard for human life. This teaches us not to take life and death lightly.

## **7. DON'T COMMIT ADULTERY**

**Trait: Commitment.**

Marriage is the ultimate commitment that you can't duck out of. Being faithful to that marriage represents sticking to your commitments through thick and thin.

## **8. DON'T STEAL**

**Trait: Respect for Boundaries.**

Enjoy what's yours, but stay away from anything that's not yours. Respect people's privacy, their stuff, their feelings and their dignity.

## **9. DON'T BE A FALSE WITNESS**

**Trait: Honesty.**

Don't lie, especially when it will negatively affect someone else.

## **10. DON'T WANT SOMEONE ELSE'S STUFF**

**Trait: Self-Awareness.**

The commandment not to desire other people's stuff is all about thinking inward instead of outward. Focusing on what we do have, what we should have instead of what someone else has.

## **1. BELIEF IN GOD**

**Trait: Clarity.**

Notice I didn't use the word faith. The commandment here is to have completely clear knowledge and understanding of God's existence and role in the universe. It also helps us look at life in a logical, critical way.

## **2. REJECTION OF OTHER GODS**

**Trait: Confidence and consistency.**

People who believe in God but choose also to honor other gods are 'hedging their bets'. Be sure of what you believe in and don't look for alternatives, deviations or side hustles in spiritual matters.

## **3. GOD'S NAME IN VAIN**

**Trait: Sanctity.**

Sanctity means understanding that some things (or people or beings) are worthy of awe, and shouldn't be treated or spoken about like just anyone or anything else.

## **4. SHABBAT**

**Trait: Perspective.**

Shabbat is about stepping back from the hectic rat-race that is life, pressing pause on our normal activities so we can think about life and the world.

## **5. HONOR YOUR PARENTS**

**Trait: Gratitude.**

Honoring your parents is all about recognizing and appreciating great kindness someone has done for you. Becoming a grateful person aids in relationships, trust and intellectual honesty.

# WHAT A WEEK

THIS PAST WEEK, WE HAD OVER 200 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AT IN PERSON EVENTS...

MONDAY- Las Vegas (Jewnior LNL)

TUESDAY- ARIZONA

WEDNESDAY- Park City CHEESECAKE

WEDNESDAY- LA City Flower making

WEDNESDAY- Portland Paint event

THURSDAY- LA Valley scavenger hunt

THURSDAY- LA City (7-8 grade)

THURSDAY- Denver DEFY



SWISS CHEESE HAS HOLES. MORE SWISS CHEESE HAS MORE HOLES. MORE HOLES EQUALS LESS CHEESE. SO IN CONCLUSION, MORE CHEESE EQUALS LESS CHEESE.

# GRAVADY ALL NIGHTER 8TH GRADERS ONLY



ISRAELI MUSIC

FALAFEL EATING CONTEST

KRAY MAGA WORKSHOP

Saturday Night  
May 22nd,  
11:30pm



REGULAR PRICE: \$50

IF YOU BRING A NEW FRIEND, OR  
IF IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME: \$25



to former Nageela West head counselor Sari Babad upon her engagement!

to Nageela West veteran (one of the originals) Shmuel (Sammy) Lefkowitz upon his engagement!

to Portland Jewnior NCSY Director Devorah Kraut on giving birth to twins!

# CAMP NAGEELA WEST

## summer info session

Wednesday night, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
8:00-8:45pm pacific

on zoom

317-427-7225

ask burning questions

get guaranteed discounts

raffles

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.



## #171 Montho-theism

Hi Rabbi,

I noticed something, and I'd like to see if I'm right. The Jewish months all have names, like... well, I don't remember, really. I remember Nissan because it's a car company. I noticed that the Torah doesn't use those name, I don't think. So where did these names come from? What do they mean? If they're not in the Torah, what makes them Jewish?

Thanks,

Monique Thalya

Dear MonThly,

That is very perceptive of you. In fact you are correct that in the five books of Moses, and in most of the other biblical books, the months are simply numbered, and not named. The first time our now 'Hebrew month names' appear in biblical literature is in the Book of Esther (AKA the Purim Megilla). So where did they come from?

When our people first emerged from Egypt as a nation, there was a certain pride in counting the months from the exodus. As you mentioned, Passover is in the month of Nissan. That month was referred to as 'The First Month' because it was our first month as a free people. Iyar was our second month, and so on. For nearly a thousand years this numerical

nomenclature (which is a

pointlessly long and snobbish word for 'name') was used because, well, Moses, the plagues, the macaroons... leaving Egypt was the best thing that happened to us. There was also a spiritual element, that every time someone would say, "Hey, it's the eighth month, woohoo!" they were actually making a reference to the exodus, which is a daily mitzvah (see Ramban to Exodus 12:1).

In a similar vein, if you call the days of the week by their numbers (that never changed) instead of their English names (today is the third day of the week) you're actually making a Shabbat reference. That's a mitzvah too!

The Midrash tells us that when the Jews returned to Israel just after the Purim story- after decades under Babylonian and Persian control, we brought new month names with us. They were actually Babylonian names which mean different things. Some may actually have been names of pagan gods. Oh.

Let's compare and contrast the two trips to



REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR  
CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2021 IN  
JEWTAH

3 WEEKS, SPORTS, HORSEMANSHIP, NATURE,  
FRIENDSHIPS, CREATIVE SPECIALTIES, WATER  
SPORTS, JEWISH PRIDE AND EXCITEMENT!

0

4

0

0

6

5

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST  
GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST  
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2021 and see photos from 2020 at [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org)

# Stump the Rabbi

continued

Israel out of exile.

Out of Egypt- led by Moses and Joshua.

Out of Persia- sanctioned by the Persian King.

Out of Egypt- Became a nation and received the Torah

Out of Persia- There doesn't seem to be any national turning point

Out of Egypt- Built the first temple, which was full of miracles

Out of Persia- The second temple was lacking five miraculous elements

Out of Egypt- There was lots of prophecy.

Out of Persia- Prophecy basically didn't exist during the second temple era.

Looking at this contrast, WHY would we use the Persian month names instead of the names which remind us of the incredible Egyptian exodus?

There was something that the Jews

brought back from Persia that they didn't have before. At the time of the Purim miracle, there was a massive acceptance of the Torah with love, while the original acceptance of the Torah was more tied to awe of God. This love created such a heightened sense of connection to God (evidenced by the fact that idolatry and other big-time sins were apparently not as present during the second temple era) that our sages wanted to keep a piece of that. So whenever you think of the month as Ellul or Kislev, or any of the others, remember that we're giving a nod to the great Torah renaissance that began in Persia.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

*the Rabbi*

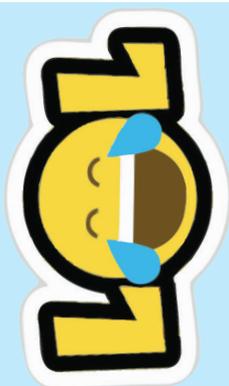


Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Ashley Sellen  
Gabby Rivera  
Gabriel Hafter  
Maxim Quint  
Tuvia Reback

Rina Greenberg  
Shimshon Levin  
Rivka Wyne  
Ari Polonsky  
Eliyahu Minkowich

## Some cheeeeesey jokes for Shavuot



Swiss cheese can never be part of a low fat diet... because it's made from hole milk!

A cheese factory in France was destroyed by a tornado... all that's left is da brie!

What's a pirate's favorite cheese?  
Ched arrrr

Someone attacked me by throwing dough, cheese and tomato sauce at me. I said, "You wanna pizza me?"

Why does all cheese look sensible?  
Because everyone else on the plate is crackers!

OUCH! GRRRRROAAAN!

Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

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



[www.nageelawest.org](http://www.nageelawest.org)

[info@nageelawest.org](mailto:info@nageelawest.org)

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**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.