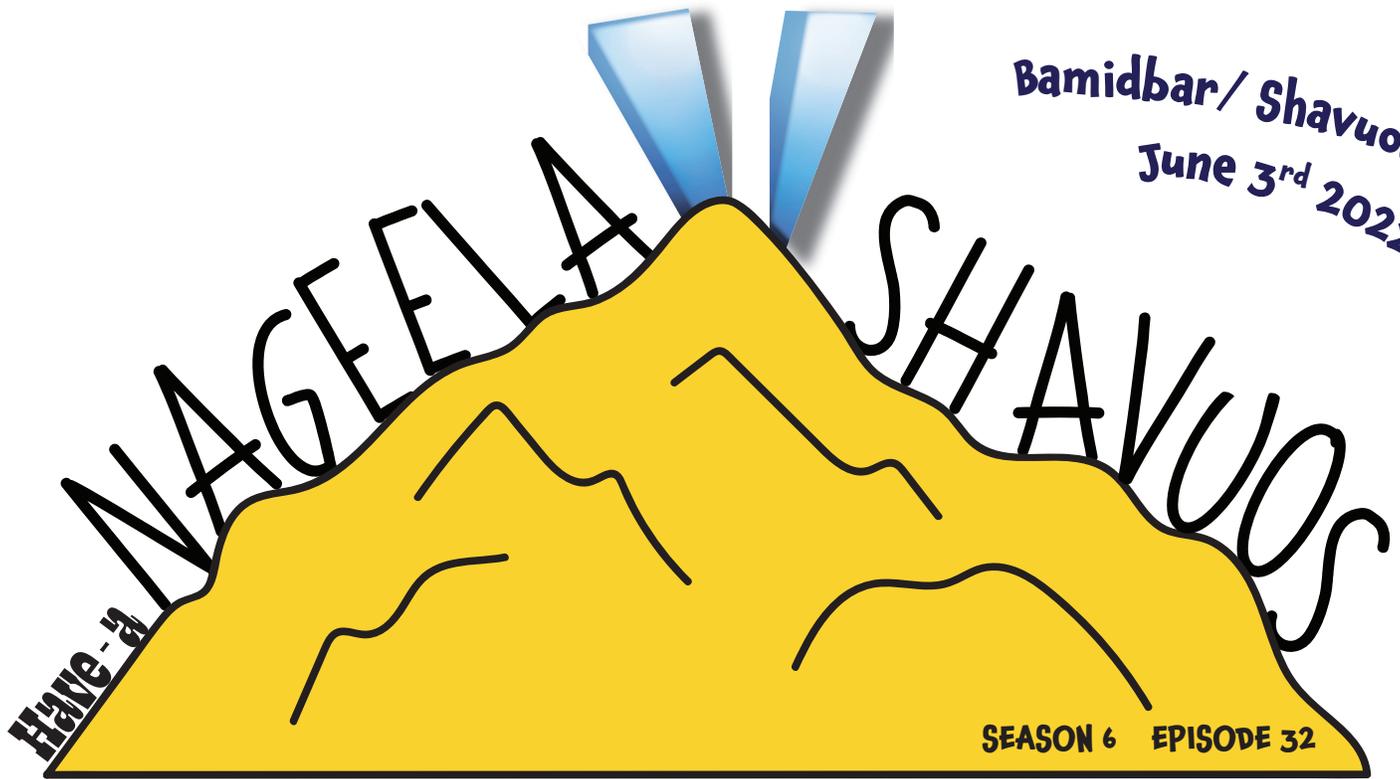


Bamidbar / Shavuot
June 3rd 2022



a kid friendly publication of Nageela West coast joyfully Jewish experiences



My Name is the Count

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Moses must have hated John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt. It was hard enough work to count the entire Jewish nation, tens of thousands of families. The Torah tells us that he counted, "By the numbers of their names" which means they didn't just count coins. They mentioned each person's name and counted them individually. That's a lot of name reading. It would take weeks to say all those names.

Jewish people of the time to stay Jewish. In fact, many Jews became rather similar in their actions to their Egyptian hosts. The Midrash recounts that when God was ready to smite the Egyptians (I LOVE the word smite. It has so much personal-ity), the angels complained that there was no difference between the Egyptians and the Jews!

What kept the Jewish people in the game? We are told that even though our ancestors may not have all lived up to

their full potential while in Egypt, they retained their Jewish identity tenaciously and this merit is why they deserved to

be saved. One of the ways they did this is by using their Jewish names, rather than adopting Egyptian names. Keeping it real for a minute, I don't think this was just a case of

Why was it necessary to count each name, and even if there's some good reason (like making sure the data all got entered properly in the database), why does the Torah specifically mention that they counted them by name?

One approach is that their names represented something good they had done. Through the generations of really ugly, unhappy, lugubrious slavery in Egypt, it was a challenge for the



Candle lighting

- Honolulu 6:52
- Scottsdale 7:15
- Henderson 7:34
- San Diego 7:34
- Las Vegas 7:35
- Irvine 7:39
- Los Angeles 7:43
- Reno 8:04
- Oakland 8:08
- Park City 8:34

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continued on next page

you-did-a-nice-mitzvah-so-God-is-rewarding-you-with-non-destruction. I think this is practical. Had the Jewish people merged more with Egyptian society, they would never have been freed, because there would have been no Jewish people to free. All people eventually assimilate and are absorbed into their host nation, unless there's a powerful identity push. Either way, their nomenclature was their salvation.

Therefore, when it came to counting the Jews who had survived, measuring the triumph, it was appropriate to count by name, because after all, the names are what caused that triumph. By the way, speaking of

Had our ancestors assimilated, there would have been no Jews to free!

names...what do you call the guy who's always at your front door?

Mat.

What do you call the guy who's really in hot water?

Stew.

What about the guy who lets the water cool down?

Luke.

continued from page 1

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!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Deserts are pretty dry, right?

Did the Jewish people require boats while traveling through the deserts, and if yes, why?

NO CHEATING!

Please do try to think of the answer before flipping to the answer on page 4.

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022

Vayomer Hashem el Moshe





What time is it?

A Shavuos Thought

What time is it when you need to go to the dentist?

Tooth hurty. Yes. I know. Unoriginal.

What time was it when God gave us the Torah on Mount Sinai?

Yeah. More original. You don't even have a good answer, do you? Well, neither do I. How's that for an original joke? So fresh I haven't even thought of a punchline yet!

Let's try some: 6:13?

Not terrible.

Maybe 7:11.

12:01 (12 tribes o' one nation)?

10:07 (תן סינין) - give in Sivan)

So I don't know exactly what time the Torah was given. You wanna guess what else I don't know? What date the Torah was given! Sure I know we celebrate Shavuos on the 6th day of Sivan (and outside of Israel on the 7th day of Sivan as well), but there's a debate in the Talmud whether the actual day was on the 5th, 6th or 7th. According to many opinions it was on the 7th, yet we celebrate Shavuos on the 6th. Weird, right? What makes it weirder is the fact that the Torah gives no date for the holiday. The

only timing given is that we know that Shavuos has to be the 50th day from the Omer offering (which was brought on the second day of Pass-over). It's a long story, but based on the unusual way the Jewish calendar works, that wasn't always guaranteed to be on the same day in Sivan.

Why? Why would the Torah not share the date with us? I just had a problem today syncing our family calendar. Is that it? Did God have trouble logging into the cloud? Doubtful. I mean Sinai was in the cloud at the time...



Kli Yakar explains that it's intentional. Torah is for every day. Sure, we choose one day (or two) to formally celebrate Shavuos, but that can be multiple days because that's the nature of our relationship with Torah. It should not be limited to a particular day, time or even location. It's the constant in Jewish history and it's something that we keep with us always.

But what time?

4:18 (for life)?

Let me know when you find the right answer!

DID JEW KNOW?

The holiday of Shavuos has 5 names:

1. *Shavuos* (Festival of weeks)
2. *Zman Matan Torasseinu* (Time of the giving of the Torah)
3. *Chag Habikurim* (Festival of the first fruit)
4. *Chag Hakatzir* (The harvest festival)
5. *Atzeres* (Gathering)

REGISTRATION HAS CLOSED FOR CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2022!

DATES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR 3 CAMP SESSION OPTIONS!

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2. TRAVEL CAMP OPTION, OR
3. FULL NAGEELA HYBRID EXPERIENCE!

2

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION

3

3

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

7

Find out about our summer 2022 and see photos from 2021 at nageelawest.org

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

The question is on page 2. Hey, be patient. Try to figure it out without looking right away. Heyy, yeah, you!

Yes, deserts are very dry. Yet, the Jews traveling had a miraculous water source called the well of Miriam. According to one Midrashic source, the well was so bountiful that it actually formed rivers between the tribes! camps and people needed boats to traverse them!



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- Tal Facher
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- Edon Freiner
- Yoni Ghalili
- Brandon Zucker
- Corben Slater
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- Liel Azouz
- Akiva Taubenblatt



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deep thoughts
IF YOU RIP A HOLE IN A NET, THERE ARE ACTUALLY FEWER HOLES THAN BEFORE



Which keyboard shortcut would Moses be most likely to use?

CTRL C

OUCH! GROAN!
 Why do bad jokes happen to good people? Find a better joke. Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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.