

vayakhel/ Shekalim 5782
February 25th 2022



a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



In a Pickle

by Rabbi Dani Locker

“Yes. Just sign on the dotted line and you will be the official mascot of the Pleasantville Pickles!”

This was a pretty exciting moment for Pascal who had always wanted to dress up as a pickle and entertain people at sports events. Yet every time he had tried, security had escorted him out. Several NFL stadiums and a few hockey arenas had descriptions of a disruptive pickle who would scream things like, “Drink brine!” and “You’re just half sour” and “Let’s get salty!” Finally, after years of searching, Pascal actually had a job as a pickle mascot! True it was for a small- town, independent lacrosse league with an average attendance of 12 fans (except on free pickle day- then the stands were packed), but he was living his dream.

Pascal signed on the dotted line. “When does the first paycheck come in? I’ve had my eye on a nice jar of stackers.”

the Pickles are a small team, and being our mascot is... an honor... but... it’s a volunteer position. There’s no salary.

Pascal’s jaw dropped, which means the chunk of pickle fell out onto the carpet (he picked it up and ate it anyway... ya can’t waste a good pickle). “But I need a job. The advertisement said that I’d get paid.”

“About that... because you’re our mascot whom we greatly value, we can get you a job at the pickle emporium. Actually, there aren’t any job openings there, but we will make it work for the pickle man! As long as you retain the job as mascot for the team, you can get paid working the pickle shop.”

Pascal spent the next few months as the team’s mascot, and also as a pickle taster and salesman at the Pickle Emporium, the town’s most prestigious pickle store (yes, there was more than one). One day, he stepped into the team manager’s office and

“Well, actually,

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- Henderson 5:13
- Las Vegas 5:14
- Reno 5:29
- San Diego 5:24
- Irvine 5:26
- Los Angeles 5:28
- Oakland 5:40
- Park City 5:54
- Scottsdale 6:03
- Honolulu 6:16

Exactly how much is an oodle? I dunno, but sponsoring an episode of NS will earn you oodles and oodles of blessings! Contact dlocker@nageelawest.org for details

announced, "I'm resigning my position as mascot! As much as I love being the mascot, I love making money more. I want to work at the pickle emporium full time and make more money!"

"Oh, I'm sorry Pascal." Said the manager. Your Pickle Emporium job only exists because you're the mascot. If you give up the mascot position, you lose the privilege of the other job as well.

In our Torah portion, Vayakhel, the Torah tells us to work for six days and rest on the seventh. I get the Torah telling us to rest on Shabbos, but what is the purpose of telling us to work during the week?

Some commentaries explain that the Torah is connecting the two. Many people have chosen to do the first part of the statement, "Do work," but ignore the "Rest on Shabbos"

The blessing of Shabbos is the source of all success

part. They are like Pascal who just wants the paying job- after all, avoiding work on Shabbos doesn't seem to be good for our bank accounts either. Yet the Torah's reminder is that they are connected. Shabbos is the source of all of our success. The things we gain from the other six days are in the merit of Shabbos, which is one of the foundations of the world. The only reason we get success (or a job at the pickle emporium) is because of the fundamental job of honoring God's day (or dressing up as a large pickled cucumber with a baseball jersey). The more honor we give to Shabbat, the more blessing it will bring to our week, and we need never worry (even though it's sometimes hard to see) that stopping work on Shabbos will land us in a pickle.

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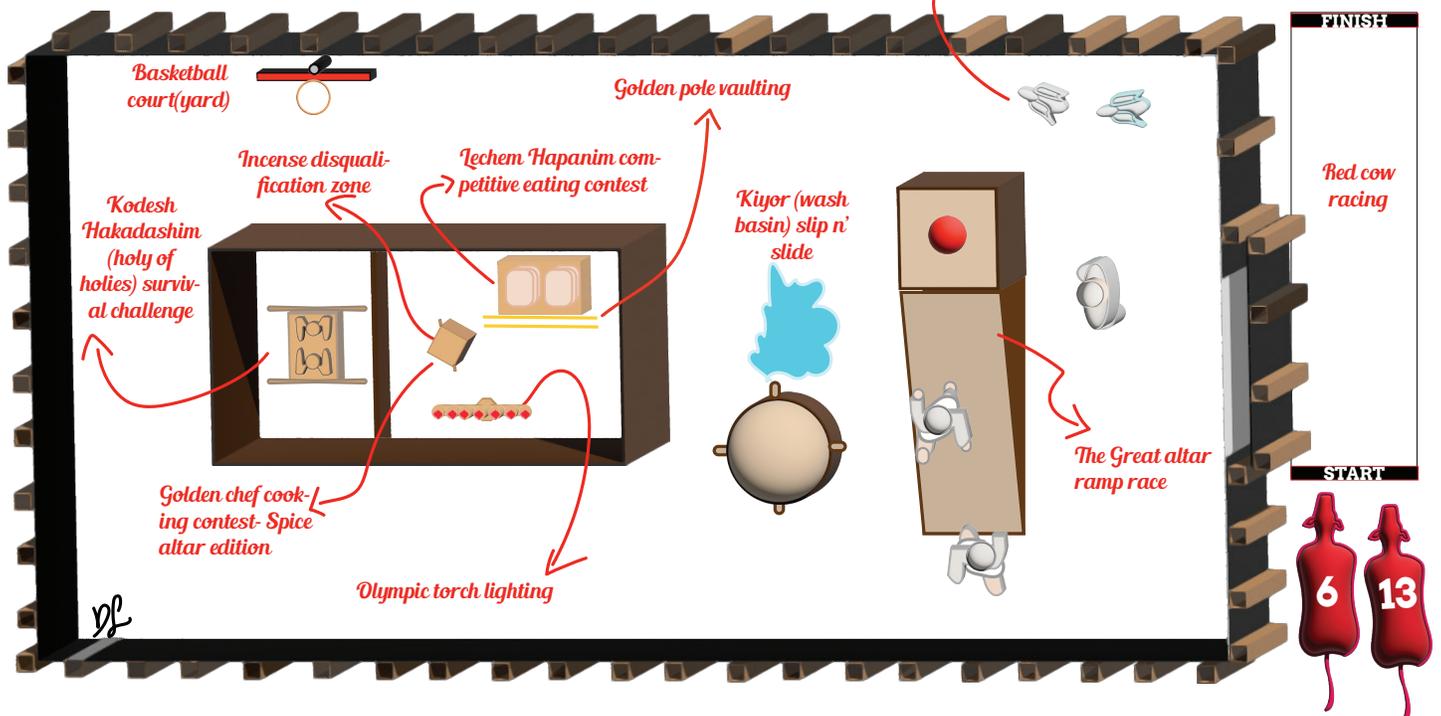
deep thoughts **PUTTING ZOMBIES ON TREADMILLS WOULD PROVIDE A WONDERFUL SOURCE OF GREEN, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY.**

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP
by Dani Locker, 2022

Important note: The purpose of this week's comic is to contrast the olympics, which are physical, superficial and sometimes degrading with the beautiful temple service which was spiritually uplifting, intensely growth oriented and brought people to greater connection with Hashem, and self awareness. Please do not misconstrue this as being disrespectful to the mishkan- it's exactly the opposite. Showing how absurd any of these contests would be in the mishkan highlights just how much of a difference there is. This was, in many ways what the war of Chanukah was fought over.

MISHKOLYMPICS



Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to 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.



#37 Prayer Book

Hey Rabbi,
I read your previous answers about prayer [editor's note: to see this referenced answer, visit the Nageela Shabbos archives at nageelawest.org]. I understand how our prayers have developed into their current form, but I still don't understand why we have a prayer book at all. I mean, seriously, shouldn't prayers come from the heart? Why would I want to read bunch of words. I mean a whole lot of words, that I may or may not understand, when I can just talk directly to God in my own words? Can't I?

Thanks,
Eli Bookman

This is reprint of the Stump the Rabbi from Season 2, Episode 8. We think it's really important.

Dear eBook

Yup yup yup! I'll say it again. Yes, affirmative, definitely, certainly, absolutely, 100%. Prayer is about connecting God. It's about talking to him from your heart and accomplishing three main goals:

Praising God, which means saying he rocks and talking about the great things he does.

Thanking God, which includes recognizing all the awesome things he does for us every day has done and will do in the future and saying thank you.

Asking for stuff. We all have needs and God wants us to express those needs to him. As a part of the prayer service we ask him for the things that we need now or might need in the future like health, money, pickles, happiness, Moshiach, more pickles, brains, salvation Israel and of course pickles.

As long as you're accomplishing these three things and you

understand what you're saying you've prayed. Oh, there's one more thing. You've got to know that you're talking to God. If you just reciting these things as some kind of story or poem and you don't realize you're communicating with God, then it's not prayer. That means you can stand for six hours on Yom Kippur, read e-v-e-r-y s-i-n-g-l-e- l-o-n-g w-o-r-d a-n-d p-a-r-a-g-r-a-p-h and if you haven't thought about God, you haven't prayed at all.

So back to your question. Why all the printed blessings? Why the long long services in the synagogue where we read, read, read? Why don't we all just come pray for the things that we want, praise God go home to our cholent and Shabbat naps?

You've probably never been to court. That's good, I'm proud of you. Keep it up. When a person has a serious trial and needs to defend himself, there are two options he could use.

Option 1: Speak to the jury from his heart. Plead with them and explain his situation.

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 2 1 1 3 5

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

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

Option 2: Hire a lawyer who understands law. The lawyer may be able to argue for you better than you can because he understands how these things work. He knows what kinds of arguments, stories, questions and statements will help you win. Yet the lawyer can not argue with as much emotion as you can.

Which brings us to the third option.

Hey, you didn't say there was a third option!

Sorry, my bad.

Here's the third option. Having a lawyer prepare your arguments for you. This way the words you are saying are well constructed, and the arguments are the most likely to work. Then, use the lawyer's statement yourself, so you can speak to the jury emphatically and emotionally. From the heart.

The best way to pray is using option 3. The Men of the Great Assembly [a really smart group of ancient Rabbis] put together the text of our prayers because they are experts! They know exactly what is a good thing to say and what isn't. They understand the best words to use, and how to organize the prayers in the way that will get us the best results. But they should be said with understanding and heartfelt emotion. It's important to learn to understand the prayers, so you can speak them with meaning and feeling. Get yourself a prayerbook with an English translation, and study it, it will completely change your prayers (I recommend the Artscroll Siddur. Good translation, and interesting notes. But any English prayer book should help).

One more point. Even if you're using the prayer book and you understand every word, I recommend adding your own requests, in English at the end. Anything that was not specifically mentioned in your prayers can be included. Your sick cousin, an important soccer game, or your Dad's job; whatever it is, you can take the opportunity to pray from the heart, in your own words.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

MAZEL TOV!

to Tova (Davidowitz) and Shmuel Meth upon their marriage this past week!

MAZEL TOV!

to Nageela West hall of famer Tehila David upon her engagement to Nosson Estrin

MAZEL TOV!

to Eli Baly who recently celebrated his Bar Mitzvah

MAZEL TOV!

to Eli Lugasi who recently celebrated his Bar Mitzvah

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Alex Mizrachi
Alex Davidson
Eli Baly
Eenbal Bromley
Jasper Thomas
Asher Leventhal
Eli Lugasi
Oreya Gazala
Shlomo Zachai



I just found out I'm colorblind.

The news came from out of the green.

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.

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