

Yom Kippur  
5779

September 18th,  
2018

Candle Lighting:  
Phoenix 6:12  
Las Vegas 6:25  
San Diego 6:32  
Los Angeles 6:37  
Tarzana 6:38  
Lake Tahoe 6:45

# have a Nageela Shanah

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

Season 3  
Episode 2

## Just Visiting by Rabbi Dani Locker

Visiting day in camp was always confusing for me. The entire summer we lived comfortably and pretty much made a huge mess. Then the night before the parents would come, we'd do this huge cleanup, sometimes staying up all night to get it done perfectly. We'd make the camp look perfect, and this bothered me (not the cleaning part, though I don't love cleaning).

Why don't we show our parents the way our camp always looks? Let them step over soda cans and crumpled paper plates, and see soap splattered on the bathroom mirror?

Don't we want them to get an honest picture?

The camp director would give a speech each year, telling us, "Whatever condition your parents see the camp in today, they'll assume it's usually a little

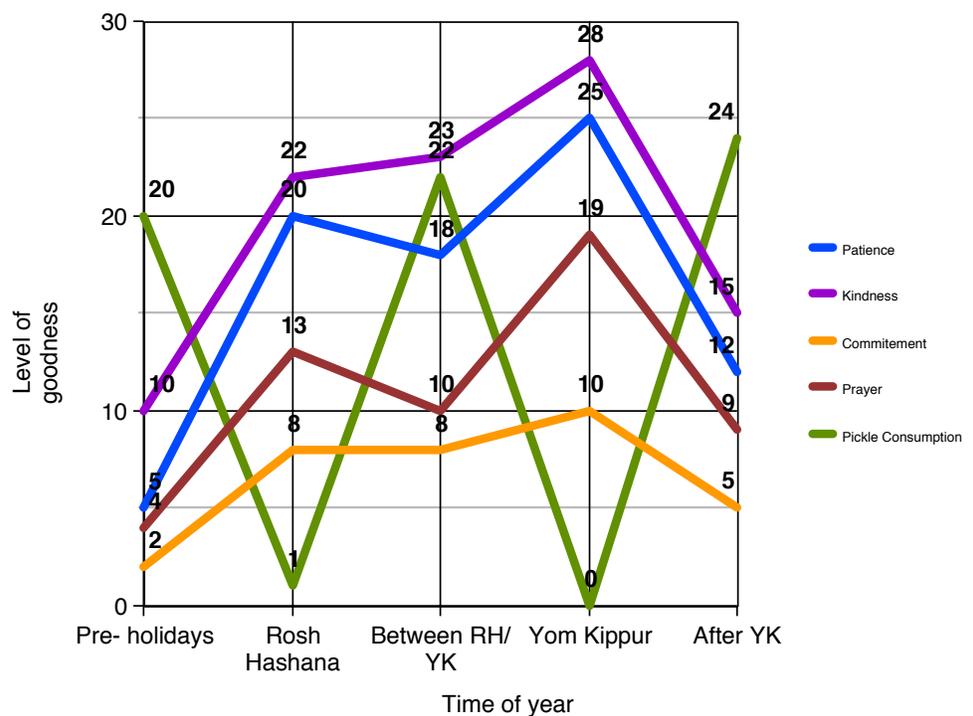
worse. So if we leave it the way it usually is, they'll assume it's usually a complete disaster."

That's what Yom Kippur is about. I am NOT about to spend the rest of my life as perfect as I try to be on Yom Kippur. Certainly not the fasting and praying all day thing. Yet we try to be the very best we can be on Yom Kippur so that when we go down a bit after

the holiday, we'll only go down a little bit and still be in pretty good shape.

It's kind of like this graph. Pushing ourselves to awesomeness during this time of year, and especially on Yom Kippur will really help us improve for the whole year. Because, perhaps unlike visiting day, it's where we really want to be.

Overall personal goodness chart



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The King of Egypt went to a Rams football game, and at the halftime show, they were blowing Rams horns.

The guy in the seat next to him leans over and asks, "How are you enjoying the show, Phar?"

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



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## Photo of the Week

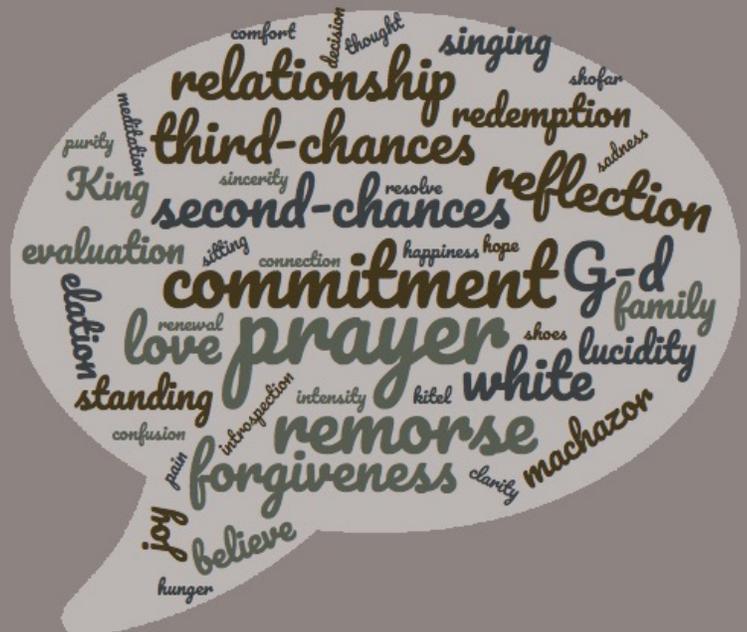
*We told them to hug the mountain...* At the Yavapai trail of the Grand Canyon. One of the stops on CNW's Road Trip 2018.

Due to the holidays, NageeLatte is postponed for the duration of September, but look for these upcoming events!

- Wed, Sept. 26- Sukkot Festival @ Tivoli Village
- Sat., Sept. 29- HUT DOG
- October 27th- Las Vegas Shabbaton
- THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
- Los Angeles Shabbaton



## SOME YOM KIPPUR WORDS



SAVE THE DATE  
OCTOBER 27TH  
SHABBATON  
THE FIRST  
MORE DETAILS TO COME!



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

Sari Lewis

Gavi Arnell

Rabbi Avi Cutler

Benyamin Sherizen

Sara Bocarsky

Seth Goldklang



**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*

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## Return, Rinse, Repeat

Hey Rabbi,

Where did Yom Kippur come from? I know it's supposed to be a day of forgiveness, but is there a historic basis for the holiday? I think most holidays do. I can't think of anything in Jewish history that happened at this particular time of year.

Thanks,

Dave A. Tonement

Dear Dave,

I really like your question. So many people know about Yom Kippur and observe Yom Kippur, yet have no clue how it came about! As you mentioned, every Jewish holiday has a historical source. We celebrate Passover on the anniversary of the day we left Egyptian slavery. Rosh Hashana, of course, commemorates our earliest beginnings- the first people on Earth. On Purim, we're thrilled that we escape the wicked Haman (which was knot good noose for him). Even Yom Kippur remembers a specific time in our history when God forgave us. Here's how the story goes:

It had not been long since we had escaped our Egyptian tormentors (not to be confused with tour mentors, who help guide you on vacation), watching them drown very wetly. Our great leader Moses had hiked up a mountain

at Sinai National Park, and had been up there a really long time. After about 40 days of missing our leader, some of the people got restless, and decided to throw some gold into a fire and make a golden calf (the baby cow kind, not the lower leg). Why exactly they did this is a discussion for a different day. You see, making a golden cow- and even worse, worshipping it- is a big, big, big, big no-no. God was so upset with us that He was ready do a hard reset, and make a new Jewish nation. We'd messed up real bad. In order to save us, Moses went back up the mountain, and spent another 40 days praying and begging God to forgive us. By the end of that time, God had agreed to spare us, and our nation would go on. Phew.

When he'd come down from the mountain the first time, Moses had chucked down the holy tablets in anger

*continued on back page*

and they'd been smashed to itty bitty pieces (he did not have an Otter Box). Now we needed a set of replacement tablets. God was willing to honor the warranty, but UPS did not yet service the Sinai desert, so Moses had to pick up the new tablets at the factory (he even got to help make the replacement pair). He went up to heaven one final time, for forty days again, and came down with the new model tablets.

Yom Kippur commemorates God's forgiveness of us. Moses prayed for our forgiveness, and God granted it, so for all time, the day of Yom Kippur is a day preloaded for potential for fresh starts.

But that's not all. Remember, Moses climbed the mountain three times; pay attention now:

1. To receive the tablets the first time
2. To pray for forgiveness for the golden calf
3. To receive the second set of tablets

Which one of those three trips coincides with Yom Kippur? You'd think #2, right? That's what I thought. The whole forgiveness thing. Yet if you read the historical sources, it was the THIRD and final heavenly round trip that ended on the tenth day of Tishrei (the date of Yom Kippur, BTW). Why the third trip, and not the second?

Ya gotta understand what Yom Kippur's about. Many people think of it like it's a game with points. I did something wrong, so I got a bad-boy point. Now I pray on Yom Kippur and I get the point removed. Truth is, that's not the whole story. We have a relationship with God; He loves us. Sometimes we do things that hurt our 'friendship'. Our goal on Yom Kippur is to fix that friendship, and get back to the same connection we've had. That can be a bit harder at times than simply erasing a 'bad-boy point'. When Moses came down from his second trip, we were forgiven for the golden calf in the sense that God had erased the negative point, and He was no longer going to destroy us. Yet our relationship was badly damaged. It was only during the third trip, when God replaced his most valuable gift to us, showing that He still loved us and wanted the connection- that's true forgiveness. That's why it is the third Sinai ascension that we remember each year by trying to repair our own relationships with God and people on Yom Kippur. It's about redemption, it's about reconnection.

Have-A Nageela Year,

*the Rabbi*



**Musical  
Havdalla  
in the  
Sukkah &  
Hot dogs  
with  
Hopping,  
popping,  
toppings**

**Saturday, September 29th - 8:30-10pm**  
3-8 graders at the locker's sukkah - 9421 Grenville Ave.  
dlocker@nageelawest.org



*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.*

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