

Rosh Hashana | September 10th,
5779 | 2018

have a Nageela Shanah

Candle Lighting:
Phoenix 6:24
Las Vegas 6:39
San Diego 6:44
Los Angeles 6:50
Tarzana 6:51
Lake Tahoe 6:59

BRAND NEW
FORMAT

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

Season 3
Episode 1

Stay away, God!

by Rabbi Dani Locker

So I read this article about a year ago where this guy tried to sue God in court, demanding the court issue a restraining order.

I'm completely serious.

This happened in an Israeli court (that somehow makes it more believable, doesn't it?), and the plaintiff claimed that God had "exhibited a seriously negative attitude toward him over a period of three years." The judge hinted to the man's need for professional help, and the case was thrown out of court.

Thing is, he's right.

Don't get me wrong, the guy may be nuts. Certainly, expecting G-d to show up at an Israeli court house is, um, yeah... But he's still right, he just forgot half the story.

To illustrate, the article mentions that God didn't show up to the trial. It even, ironically, provides

a photo of an empty courtroom, captioned, "Illustration of God either present or not in a magistrate's courtroom." (see photo insert)

Amazing how all the molecules in that courtroom just seem to hold themselves together without G-d present. Remarkable how the judge, plaintiff and everyone else in the room breathed oxygen rich air, allowing their miraculous bodies to circulate life through their bodies; their brains able to articulate thoughts, form them into syllables and pronounce with larynx, tongue and lips their arguments, all in the absence of a creator.

See, crazy as this man might be, he's absolutely correct in guessing that everything that has happened in the past three years (as well as the rest of his life) was



Illustration of God either present or not in a magistrate's courtroom, January 18, 2016. (Nati Shohat/FLASH90)



Do you think you have it
rough?

You'll never have as many
problems as a math book

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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perpetrated by God himself.

He has every right to request a restraining order. He forgot one detail. If G-d stays away, he may avoid the “seriously negative attitude,” but he’ll also avoid the benefits of interaction with G-d, like his immune system, his digestive system... Even the solar system.

Why is it that people blame tragedy on God, but not their everyday life, happiness and success?

I have a certain element of gratitude to this unfortunate fellow and to the author of the tongue-in-cheek article. This incident has caused me to stop and think a bit. Next time I have a headache, I’ll attempt to focus on the gratitude that I have nerves and dendrites to carry the sensation. And when gas prices skyrocket, or a pipe bursts in my house, or someone gets ill, I hope - and it might not be easy- that I’ll remember that the life provided me that allows these scenarios to even be relevant is a fantastic gift, one I’ve done nothing to earn. So thank you, oh disgruntled customer of the-divine-service-of-everything-at-no-cost-to-you, you’ve unwittingly helped make something positive out of... Well, something positive.



Photo of the Week

Camp Nageela West boys stop for a quick rest on the way up Cathedral Rock in Sedona, AZ. 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!

Sun, Sept. 16- Nageela Hebrew School LV is on.

Wed, Sept. 26- Sukkot Festival @ Tivoli Village

Sat., Sept. 28- HUT DOG, Havdallah & hot dogs in the Sukkah

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Los Angeles Shabbaton

 **dates**

You Tube

Subscribe to the “Rabbi Locker” YouTube channel for weekly Selfie Torah videos, educational, entertaining and informational videos. tinyurl.com/selfietorah

Subscribe to the Camp Nageela West YouTube channel for up to date Nageela content. www.youtube.com/nageelawest

Question of the Week

Adapted with permission from Question of the Week by Rabbi David Zaback. Dedicated in memory of the author.

There are 54 Torah portions, and one or two of them are read each week, not including holidays, which get their own reading. For example, this past week we read Parshat Nitzavim. Next Shabbat we’ll read Parshat Vayelech. During some years we read Nitzavim and Vayelech together.

When is it possible for a parsha NOT to be read during a year?

answer on next page



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

Noam Goldman

Noam Eden

Paz Simchon

Matt Sheynis

Berit Ben-Shimon

Yosef Arnell

Shmuel Jacobs



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

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed

Thou art what thou eat

Hi Rabbi,

Rosh Hashana is coming, cool! Apples and honey are one of my favorite holiday traditions. I was explaining Rosh Hashana to a friend of mine who isn't Jewish, and I told him that we eat apples and honey so we should have a sweet year. He was like, "How does eating apples give you a sweet year?" And I was like, I don't know. It just does. I think.

How does it work? Is it actually true? Is there a magic to apples and honey, like sweet year vitamins? I'd love to be able to explain it to my friend (and to understand it myself). Can you help?

Thanks,

Pam A. Granat

continued on back page

HEY, DON'T PEEK! THINK FIRST!

Though every parsha is read every year, sometimes Vayelech can skip a CALENDAR year. In 5777, Nitzavim and Vayelech were read together, the week before Rosh Hashana. This coming week (which is already 5779), Vayelech will be read alone. That means Parshat Vayelech was not read at all in the year 5778!

Answer of the Week

PICKLE JEWS GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP



continued from page 3

Dear Pam,

Apples and honey. It's one of the dearest Jewish customs. Perhaps right after menorah and afikoman. And I don't think it's just because it tastes great. It's because everyone wants a little more sweetness in their lives, and this simple, UNDERSTANDABLE custom helps people feel in control. The truth is, there's no magic spell (see picture below).

How does it work? We use real life examples to help us focus on what we want, so we can strategize our prayers and reconnect with the divine source of our blessings. In other words, eating sweet foods helps us pray to God for a sweet year. It's not the actual eating that makes the year good. It also helps us feel positive and confident- another thing that helps us succeed.

This is way different than most Jewish customs, because you can make up your own, original

symbols that help you think positively, to use at you Rosh Hashana dinner.

The most common include Hebrew, Yiddish and Aramaic puns (you can find them in a prayerbook).

Here are a few that I've come up with, and we're going to use tonight:

1. Berries or berry juice (cranberry or Acai are great)

To have a 'berry good' year

2. Peas (either canned peas, or our favorite, whole sugar snaps)

To have peace in the world

3. Seltzer

To have success in business (sell) and healthy, strong bodies (cell, and the Hebrew word tzur, meaning rock)

4. Elder berries

To live long, and merit to learn from wise elders

5. Sweet potatoes

Self explanatory, I think

6. Persimmon

To have a year 'above par' and to have a 'simmon Tov, or Siman Bracha,' sign of blessing

7. Herring (I can almost hear the retching sounds coming from most of the readers... but, hey, I like herring, OK?) so we should be 'herring' good news soon!

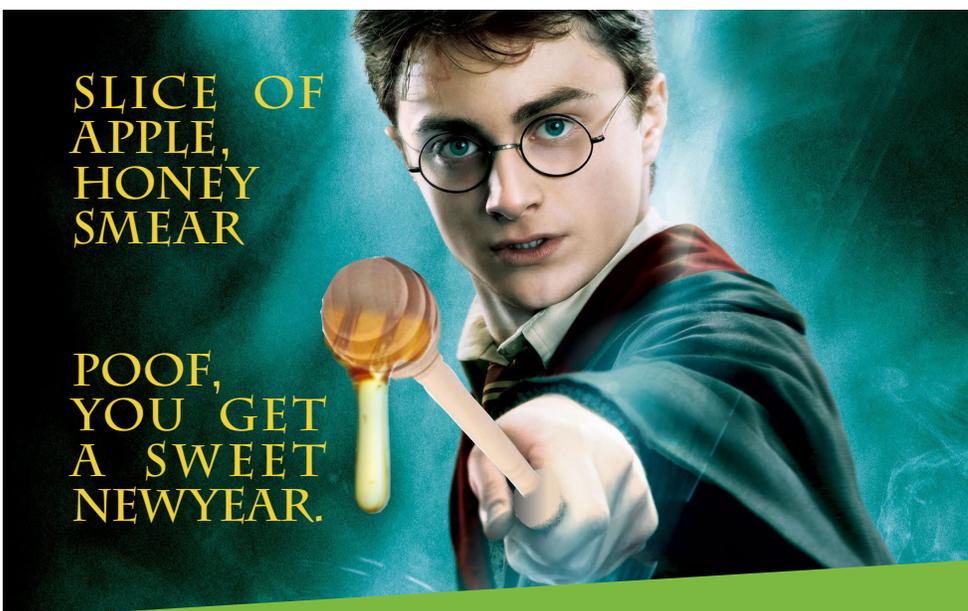
8. My favorite- Mtn. Dew

Our ancestor Jacob was blessed with the 'dew of the heavens', and we wish to share in this blessing.

In reality, our success and failures are up to much more than the foods we eat on Rosh Hashana. When you pick up these food items and recite these prayers, let them help you reflect on the blessings we want in life, and more importantly, WHY we want them, and HOW to best attain them.

Have-A Nageela Year,

the Rabbi



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.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

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