



VERY PUNNY

How can you tell if someone is faking to sleep?

You see them lying down.

Ouch.

Have a better pun? Send it in to dlocker@nageelawest.org

SEASON 2
EPISODE 1
SEPT 2, 2017

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 6:35
Las Vegas 6:50
San Diego 6:54
Los Angeles 7:00

have a

Nageela Shabbos

DOUBLE EDITION

Parshas
Ki Setzeh

5777

A Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Fuhgeddaboutit

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Riddle: When is a mitzvah only a mitzvah if you're not trying to do a mitzvah?

Think about it... give up?

There is a mitzvah mentioned in this week's Torah reading that is completely different than every other mitzvah in the Torah. It's called *shich'cha* (try saying that ten times fast) which means "forgotten bundle." A farmer gathering all the grain in his harvest bundles all the stalks of wheat and then brings them inside to his silo. If he forgets a bundle outside, he's got to leave it there for the poor to collect. This helps poor people, which is definitely a good thing, but it's done in an unusual way. If he leaves it on purpose, he has not done the mitzvah. It can only be done accidentally. Weird,

Right?

The talmud tells a story of a righteous man who once forgot a bundle in his field. He was super happy, and instructed his son to bring offerings in the Holy Temple in honor of the occasion. "Why are you so pumped about this mitzvah over all the others?" the son asked. His father explained that all other mitzvahs are done on purpose. This mitzvah can only be done by accident.

We try to be perfect. OK, maybe we don't actually try for absolute perfection, because it's impossible, but we make perfection our direction, and hope we get as close as possible. Sometimes if we're pushing toward perfection, striving for excellence,

we can get down and frustrated when we fall short. If our mission is to attain perfection, our errors really hurt. It's easy to feel like things are just not going our way, and we'll never achieve our goals.

One of the messages of *shich'cha* is, "chill out. Everybody messes up. God can create something beautiful out of our messups. In fact, sometimes, the only way to do a particular mitzvah is by messing up.

Of course our goal is still not to mess up, but this righteous man was happy, and we should too, when something great comes out of our mistakes. It helps us realize that God doesn't want us to be perfect. Sometime we just have to fuhgeddaboutit.



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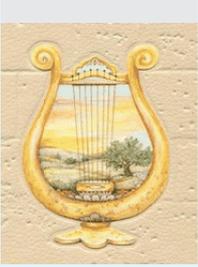
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Did Jew Know<

The Biblical book known as Tehillim, or in English, Psalms (which is spelled like pskateboard) has 150 chapters. But they're not chapters in a single book, or even by one author! They're actually a collection of poems, written by many different people.



The Talmud lists at least ten different authors responsible for composing the poems in Tehillim, going as far back as Adam, the first man!

The book was put together by King David, and he wrote most of 'em, so we usually talk about King David as the author. Editor or publisher might be more accurate terms.

Nageela News

Welcome back! This is the **first episode** of NAGEELA SHABBOS this season., and we're excited about the new design and new features. We've just completed our 8th summer at Camp Nageela West, and the incredible experience always inspires us to get excited for the year!

In Camp Nageela West 2017, campers came from Arizona, California, Vancouver, Nevada, Utah, Florida and even Minnesota. Our campers thrived in the beautiful surroundings of Big Bear Lake, and if you wander through their neighborhoods, you can still hear camp songs being hummed. Stay tuned for some highlight and promo videos!

A tremendous focus of the next few weeks will be getting the year's schedule finalized. We plan on having Shabbaton dates, events, and camp 2018 information really soon.



NageeLatte Begins -

04

Las Vegas
Canyon Pointe Coffee Bean,
6:45pm

4th-8th graders are invited to join the awesomeness with free drinks, a game and some great Jewish discussion!

Nageela Hebrew School Begins-

10

Las Vegas

Learning meets fun as students learn to read Hebrew, about the holidays and Torah portion, and prepare for their bnei mitzvah.



Humans of Nageela

Do you have a middle name?
Jacob

Have you ever lived anywhere other than Las Vegas?
Yes. I was born in Hollywood. I moved here when I was 2.

What do you want to be when you get older?
I want to be an orthopedic surgeon

What's your favorite thing about being Jewish?
Having the blessings of my Bar Mitzvah

And your least favorite part?
The hard work learning Hebrew.

Happy Birthday!

Karin Malka
Shai Malka
Rome Eden

Mazal Tov to Nageela Las Vegas council member Cory Trincilla who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah with us last week! Cory, you did an outstanding job reading the Torah and putting on tefillin, and we look forward to continuing to grow together!

Mitzvah Minute

a short weekly column introducing one of Judaism's 613 commandments

Mezuzah

Source:

And you shall write them on the doorposts of your houses and your gates (Book of Devarim- chapter 6, verse 9).

Details:

- This mitzvah is to put paragraphs of the Torah on your doorposts. The scrolls of a mezuzah must be handwritten on parchment, and contain two paragraphs from the Torah, SHEMA, and VEHAYA (which is the second paragraph of shema).
- This mitzvah isn't just for our front doors, but for every door to a room that is lived in (not closets or bathrooms).

- It's a wonderful custom to put the mezuzah scroll in a beautiful case, but it is not the main part of the mitzvah, and a case with no scroll, is not a mezuzah at all.
- It is a good idea to have your mezuzah professionally checked every 3-4 years (please contact us if you'd like help getting that done).
- Jewish cities that have gates should place a mezuzah on the gates. Las Vegas is not one of those cities. Jerusalem is, and there are

mezuzahs on the gates of the city (see photo).



Mezuzah at the Jaffa gate to Jerusalem

Lessons:

- By placing a mezuzah outside our home in a very obvious place, we are advertising to all who pass that we are connected with God.
- Every time we enter and exit our home, it reminds us to think of God.
- According to Jewish tradition, the mezuzah represents God's protection of us, standing guard outside our doors.



13

NageeLatte Begins -

Los Angeles
Beverly Dr. Coffee Bean,
3:45pm

4th-8th graders are invited to join the awesomeness with free drinks, a game and some great Jewish discussion!

13

NageeLatte Begins -

San Diego
Location TBA
7:30pm

4th-8th graders are invited to join the awesomeness with free drinks, a game and some great Jewish discussion!

Staying in Touch

Here are a bunch of ways you can stay connected with Nageela West Coast!

SELFIE TORAH:

Each Friday, we upload a short (usually about 2 minutes) video Torah message appropriate for kids, teens and adults! You can find it on YouTube or at tinyurl.com/selfietorah. Make sure to subscribe!

NEW WEEKLY STUMPTHERABBI LIVE!

Tuesday nights at 8:30PM will be a live show on Instagram. We'll start at 8:30PM and run for 15 minutes. There will be live Stump The Rabbi (comment or DM your questions), news and special guests! The live event will take place on Rabbi Locker's Instagram account, @lockerroom.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE:

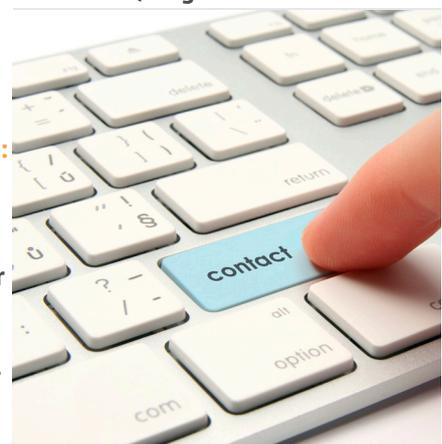
We regularly post photos, event flyers, videos and more on our Facebook page, facebook.com/NageelaWestCoast and our YouTube channel, youtube.com/user/nageelawest.

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WHAT'S APP:

Join Rabbi Locker's weekly Shabbat Shalom What's App list by what'sapping "ADD ME" to 801-613-1539



Stump The Rabbi



The BFT- Big Fancy Temple

Hey Rabbi,
My family goes to a temple that's pretty big and fancy. I never understood why. I mean, God doesn't care if we pray in a fancy building, does He? I think He probably only cares about what's inside of us. So why do we make prayerhouses so beautiful?

Thanks,
Cynthia Agog

Dear Cyn Agog,
I feel ya. It sometimes seems a little odd when temples are extremely beautiful, while our prayers are so focused on spirituality. I used to think to myself, "If we only prayed in big empty buildings without carpeting, marble or plush seating, there would be so much money left for other important things like helping the poor and buying myself more pickles." The truth is, this is not a new idea. If you want to really ask your question, picture yourself in Jerusalem, 2,100 years ago. The Beit Hamikdash- the Holy Temple was magnificent! The Talmud says, "If you haven't

seen the newly renovated temple, you aint seen nothin!" Or it says something kind of like that. It had gold and marble... some serious bling. The special uniform worn by the chief Kohen (lightly translated as high priest) has gold and precious gems! Does God need that? Does God care about that? Nope, and nope. So why? Why does a culture that puts way more emphasis on what's INSIDE than what's OUTSIDE, care so much about the external beauty of our synagogues?

I remember my first time praying at a sunrise prayer service (vatikin) at the Kotel, the holy Western Wall in Jerusalem. There were hundreds, maybe thousands people there, and it was noisy, crowded and disorganized. Dozens of separate groups had clustered in their own small areas, and there was a loud consistent buzz. I didn't realize that all the groups were timing themselves to reach the silent prayer at exactly sunrise. At exactly 6:21am, in an instant, all the noise, all the confusion just stopped. It was completely, perfectly silent except for a

few chirps of solitary birds. I remember being so awe inspired, feeling so connected to God and to His holy place, that my prayers that morning were incredible! God did not need the silence, or the dramatic change in volume. I needed it. As an emotional human being, I'm affected by the things I see. Let's face it, Cyn... your thoughts while praying in a barn, or while praying in an impressive temple are not going to be the same. Did you know that it's important to wear appropriate clothes to pray as well? Many Jews wear a special hat, belt, or jacket for their prayers. So yes, we can pray anywhere, and what really matters is what's inside. In order to get the inside right, it helps for the outside to be inspiring.

Have - a- Nageela Shabbat,

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

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have a

Nageela Shabbos