

Vayeishev/ Chanukah 5781
December 11th, 2020



a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Reaching new (Faren)heights

by Rabbi Dani Locker

You've Probably heard all about the Chanukah story. The wimpy, undertrained and undersupplied Macabbe Resistance force manages to destroy the Death Star and save the galaxy. Or something like that. I might be missing a detail or two. In my house, that's where my involvement would end. We saved the day, now let's party! Fortunately, they were responsible enough to find the brooms, mops and power tools, and set out to fix the damage done to the Holy

to light the grand golden menorah of seven branches. Y'all know the rest of the story. One day's supply of oil was found, and it lasted for 8 whole days. I've always pictured this part as all the Jews gathered into a stadium, watching the menorah on the giant scoreboard wall. Each day it continued to burn, more news outlets streamed live footage of the incredible. Menorakah (it was later rebranded to Chanukiah by the corporate office). But that is not



Henderson	4:08
Las Vegas	4:08
Reno/ Tahoe	4:17
San Diego	4:25
Irvine	4:25
Los Angeles	4:26
Oakland	4:32
Park City	4:40
Scottsdale	5:02

Each time we face a challenge in life, the degree of our success changes us

Temple.

In a sad plot twist, as they were set for the grand reopening, they discovered that they didn't have enough oil

even close to what happened.

The truth is that almost nobody saw the menorah burning!

Wait... what?

The Beit
Hamik-

Did you know you can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos for a birthday, anniversary, or just because you like Jews? Contact dlocker@nageelawest.org for details

continued on next page

dash- or Holy Temple in Jerusalem was a large complex with many different areas. The Menorah was located in an enclosed building that nobody but the Kohanim- the priestly family could enter. In part, this represents the idea that we're much more concerned with the inner- flame than the outer. Lemme explain what I mean. A person's actions have two types of results. They affect the type of person we become, and they also have an impact on others. Both of these results are important, and neither can be ignored. Each time we face a challenge in life, the degree of our success changes us. Also, every time we achieve anything (or if we fail to achieve something, but don't tell anyone), the world is changed a bit; especially for those around us.

Which is the priority for us to focus on? Remember the exciting miracle of the Menorah? It was a private flame. An inner- spark. An intrinsic conflagration. An omphalic flare.

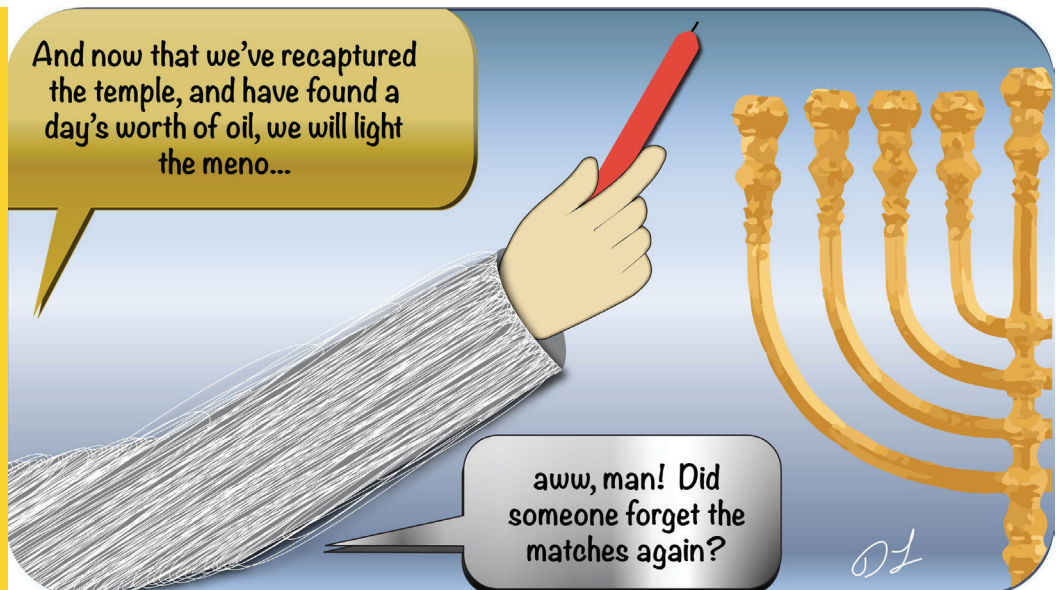
Yes, we celebrate it by showing our fires to the world, lighting the Menorah in our houses' windows, or in our ZOOM windows.

Yet at heart, it's about our own heart. Our primary goal and obligation is to heat ourselves up, to burn as brightly as we can as human beings and as Jews.

continued from page 1



**HOW DOES THE
GUY WHO DRIVES
THE SNOWPLOW GET
TO WORK IN THE
MORNINGS?**



Etai Bitton
Aryeh Kachani
Tal Hirsh
Alec Milton
Shlomo Berk
Naomy Bernheim
Sarah Bernheim
Brian Berko
Sydney Warnick



Mazel Tov to Sasha and Julian Weiss who celebrated their B'nei Mitzvah last week!

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.

Stump the Rabbi



#150 Transposed Teachings

Hi Rabbi,

If Christianity came from Judaism, does that make every Christian a Jew, technically?

Thanks,
Giana Souse

Dear G. Souse,

You're a musician, so picture this. In the 1840s, Adolphe Sax wanted to perfect woodwind instruments. As a clarinet player, he thought he could make a similar instrument that was easier to use, had a richer sound, and had consistent

fingering. So he created the saxophone. All saxophones are therefore clarinets, right?

No, I didn't think so. Right now, every musician is nodding his or her head, and people who aren't musicians are like, "huh?"

Let's examine two important reasons why Christians aren't automatically Jews:

In order to be a Jew you have to

either be born into it, or have a formal conversion. The earliest Christians were born Jews, so they remained Jews, as far as we're concerned. But that all changed a really, really long time ago. Once the Roman empire became Christian, most people practicing that religion were not from Jewish blood. Sure, someone born a Christian can convert to Judaism, but there is a detailed process for that to happen, and it is certainly not automatic.

The actual Christian religion is drastically different from Judaism. Sure, it started as a form of Judaism, and on the surface there are still some similarities, but at the core of these two faiths, they are as different as fire and teddy bears. For a more complete discussion of the differences, visit our archives and read Nageela Shabbos Season 4, episodes 31 and 32. Here's a brief reference list of serious differences



REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR
CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2021 IN
JEWTAH

3 WEEKS, SPORTS, HORSEMANSHIP, NATURE,
FRIENDSHIPS, CREATIVE SPECIALTIES, WATER
SPORTS, JEWISH PRIDE AND EXCITEMENTS!

1

9

3

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

2

1

9

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2021 and see photos from 2020 at nageelawest.org

Stump the Rabbi; continued

between Christianity and Judaism:

We celebrate our Sabbath on Saturday, they use Sunday.

We believe the original 5 books of the Torah are divine and eternal. Meaning we still keep the rules of what the Christians call the 'Old Testament.' This includes Kosher, Shabbat, circumcision, the holidays, tefillin, etc."

We don't pray to people, or pretend they have any divine power. Many of the largest Christian groups believe in their leader as

godly, and most pray to him.

A fundamental concept in Christianity is that the Messiah has already come. We reject that thought, because clearly we DON'T live in an age of peace and perfection.

All Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah and also a prophet. He can't be the Messiah because he's not patrilineally descended from King David. The Torah explicitly disqualifies any prophecy that argues with its basic rules, as Christianity does.

The list goes on, but back to our discussion.

Christianity definitely has its roots in Judaism, but it's a completely different religion now. Therefore, someone born to two Christian parents would definitely NOT be automatically a Jew. As I mentioned, though we don't seek or encourage conversions, that door is open as long as it's done properly.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



Jew-niors
MENORAH CONTEST

YOUR CREATIVITY IS ALL THAT MATTERS

PRIZES UP TO \$100

Make a menorah out of LITERALLY anything, as long as it's a *kosher menorah. Upload a photo to tinyurl.com/menorahcont

Finalists will compete on our Jew-niors Chanukah ZOOM event, Dec. 16

Winners will be chosen in 3 categories:
1. Creativity
2. Beauty
3. Theme

RULES:
1. This is a children's contest. Most of the work must be done by the kids.
2. *Menorah must be able to be lit with an actual candle oil (not electric). All branches must be same height, and a parallel line; not staggered.
3. Deadline for submissions is Dec. 15th

Jew-niors NSU



so

The Macabees couldn't find a way to light the menorah they one of their captive soldiers. He told them:

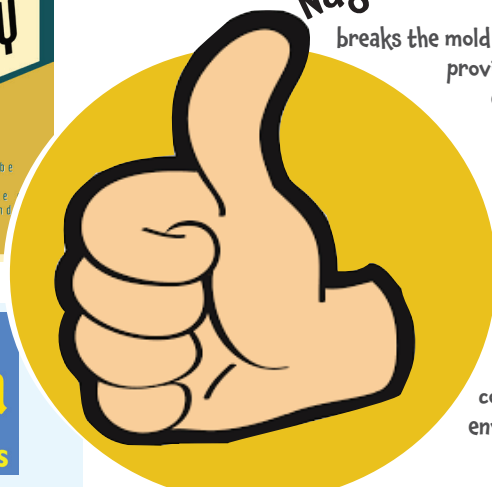
It's oil greek to me!

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so!
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.



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