

Nitzavim 5781  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 5 EPISODE 38

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## Hi and Seek

by Rabbi Dani Locker

The sobbing was coming from the kitchen. Entering the room, Rich looked around to locate the source of the disconsolate sound. Glancing under the table, he saw Evan, a curly-haired 7-year-old weeping.

"What's wrong?" Rich asked

"I'm playing hide and seek with my friends." Evan heaved in a heavy voice.

"And what happened? Was someone mean to you?"

"No. I've been hiding here and nobody found me."

Rich was confused. "That's a good thing. Isn't it? If nobody has found you, that means you're winning the game!"

"You don't understand!" sobbed Evan. "They haven't found me because they

stopped looking!"

The Torah says, "The hidden ones are God's." That means a bunch of different things, but one of the explanations is that it refers to "hidden Jews." I don't mean Jews hiding their identities, or Jews playing hide and seek, but Jews by birth who don't even know they belong to our people. Jews who aren't even in the 'hiding game' because they no longer know to look for anyone

There will be a "Nageela Shana" coming out on Sunday for the holiday, so today, please enjoy a shortened version



Candle lighting

Honolulu 6:27  
Scottsdale 6:31  
Henderson 6:46  
Las Vegas 6:46  
San Diego 6:52  
Irvine 6:55  
Los Angeles 6:58  
Reno 7:08  
Oakland 7:16  
Park City 7:36

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or anything. If you do the math, considering that the majority of Jews today are not raising their children with Jewish identity and connection (take a look at the recent P&W study for more info on that), there will be millions of Jews in 50 or 60 years- technically Jews- who don't even know they're Jewish. There may be millions like that already. Personally, I've met a number of people who only found out accidentally, as adults, that they were Jewish.

"The hidden ones are God's" gives us hope. We might not know who they are. Even they might not know who they are, but God knows. God is attentive to every one of these precious children of His and it is His promise to care for them. We can take comfort in knowing these brothers and sisters aren't forgotten.

Yet it's painful that this is even a topic of con-

versation. That so many Jews can get to the point that their children no longer identify as Jewish is one of the greatest tragedies. Can we help prevent Jews from getting lost? I believe we can. Simply befriending another Jewish family, smiling and saying

"Hi" or wishing a warm "Shabbat

shalom" can make the difference

in their trajectory. Is your family having a Rosh Hashana meal?

Consider inviting a Jewish friend (ask your parents first). Do you go to Hebrew school or a local Jewish

youth group (do I hear Jewnior

NCSY, anyone?), or a Jewish camp (Na-na-na-na-geela)? Bring in another family! As Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur approach, you can keep another Jewish family "in the game."

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"SHABBAT  
SHALOM!"



I got hit in the head  
with a can of soda.

Good thing it was a soft  
drink.

OUCH! GRRRRROAAAN!

Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just  
email it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

## NEWS & UPDATES

Jewnior NCSY programs have gotten underway for the year in Las Vegas, Orange County, LA- City, LA- Valley, San Diego, Oakland and Portland!

**THIS WEEK**, all regular weekly LNL programs are OFF.

Rabbi Locker will be leading Rosh Hashana youth program both days of Rosh Hashana at the Las Vegas Kollel services (held at the Adelson Campus) at 9:45am.

There will also be availability for Nageela JR. NCSY families at a R4 family dinner. Please contact Rabbi Locker for details.

PRE-REGISTRATION for summer 2022 at Camp Nageela West is now open! Visit [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org) to fill out the form!

### BOARD APPLICATIONS!

Do you know an AWESOME 7th or 8th grader? Applications are now open for our REJEWnal middle school board as well as local chapter boards. Please contact us for more info and application link.

Want to stay in the  
loop? Text the word  
**NAGEELAWEST** to  
**22828**

[www.nageelawest.org](http://www.nageelawest.org)

[info@nageelawest.org](mailto:info@nageelawest.org)

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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.