

# HAVE A NAGEELA SHABBOS

KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE  
A PROJECT OF NAGEELA WEST COAST,  
JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

.....  
SEASON 10, EPISODE 26  
.....

NASSO  
5786

## WHAT'S UP

### MORE TRICKS UP OUR SLEEVES

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The school year has wrapped for many of our readers, and will be ending shortly for the rest. We're so sorry. We know how much you value learning new things, living responsibly and becoming model citizens. Unfortunately you're on your own until August...

Or are you? Nageela Shabbos will be here with you, wherever you are... MAKE SURE YOU ARE SUBSCRIBED to get the emails all summer to get jokes, Dvar Torah, and special online challenges.

Camp starts super soon, and we couldn't be more excited! We can't reveal the theme, some of the amazing new activities, trip ideas, games and programs we're introducing this year, but it is A LOT. Still time to sign up at [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org)

NEXT WEEK is when we raise the money we need to operate Nageela West each year. Please consider making a generous contribution and sharing with friends!

Though most of our JR NCSY chapters have ended the year, we still have a few tricks up our sleeves. This Sunday, kids from Las Vegas and both of our Los Angeles chapters are meeting up for a fun-filled day at Six Flags Magic Mountain! And next Saturday night, our grand finale in Las Vegas, an epic, 8 hour, ALL NIGHT party at Ninja Kidz Adventure park! We can't wait to share pics with you!

**JUNE 9-10, HELP US RAISE \$150,000**

*You can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one.  
Help us reach more Jewish kids with interesting Torah content!*

## Torat Scene-A-Eye

*This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha.  
This week's is about Parshas Nasso*

### CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCES?

TWELVE LEADERS BROUGHT OFFERINGS



*Disclaimer: These images are AI generated, and are not meant to actually represent any people or events from the Torah.*



### Deep Thoughts

.....

*Do people with allergies have  
the most blessing in their  
lives?*



### JOIN US!

.....

*We have programs for  
Middle School kids from all  
over the West Coast. Please  
contact us for details!*



### LEADERSHIP

.....

*Information: A leadership  
cohort of committed,  
responsible 7-8 graders who  
want to help Jewish kids their  
age. Please contact us!*



### LOLZ

.....

*Someone tried giving  
me low quality coffee,  
but I wasn't fooled.*

*Bean there, done that.*

# DVAR TORAH

## REFLEXIVE REFLECTION

A man looks down into a pool of water, reflecting his face. A beautiful face, framed by curls. Does this story sound familiar? If you're thinking of the Greek myth of Narcissus, you're wrong.

The Talmud tells the story of Shimon Hatzadik, who observed a man bringing a Nazir offering. Quick background in case you're not familiar, the Torah takes oaths and promises extremely seriously, and there's a particular kind of oath where a person vows to abstain from wine (or grapes), to maintain spiritual purity (which mostly means to stay away from dead people) and to not cut their hair. If for some reason they end up becoming impure (like if they are on their way to the post office when they happen to fall down a manhole. After slogging through the sewage for hours, they are met by a talking meatloaf who gives them three wishes. They are so surprised, they can't make up their mind. The meatloaf gets impatient and sends them through an interdimensional portal to a land of zombies, where they can't avoid getting touched by one of them, rendering them spiritually impure), there's a process involving an offering in the Holy Temple, and, wait for it... shaving off all their hair. Shimon Hatzadik happened to be a kohen, working in the Holy Temple, and that's where he met this dude.

Back to our story. This man arrives to bring his offering and Shimon the Righteous notices that he is exceptionally handsome. He has beautiful long curls



and nice looking eyes. The Rabbi's reaction is one of shock,

"Why are you doing this bro... I mean, like why are you dropping that awesome hair?"

The man replies by telling a story. While shepherding back in his hometown, he caught a glimpse of his reflection. He noticed his extreme beauty, and he was concerned that this would be a spiritual downfall. Perhaps he thought his ego would lead him to mistreat others, or maybe he was afraid it would lead to poor moral decisions. Maybe he simply thought he would become unhappy with his simple pastoral life. In a twist that's quite the opposite of the Narcissus story, this man decided that he must get rid of his hair, which at least was something he could control (he did not have access to tinted contact lenses).

Shimon the Righteous, was so moved that he gave this man a blessing, "May there be many more like you."

I've got a little question. If he was concerned that his hair would lead him down a negative path, he could just cut his hair, or get a poorly done fade. Why would he have to go through the painful, embarrassing, time-consuming, annoying process of becoming a nazir? Just



Instagram: @nageelawest  
X: @nageelawest



info@nageelawest.org  
www.nageelawest.org



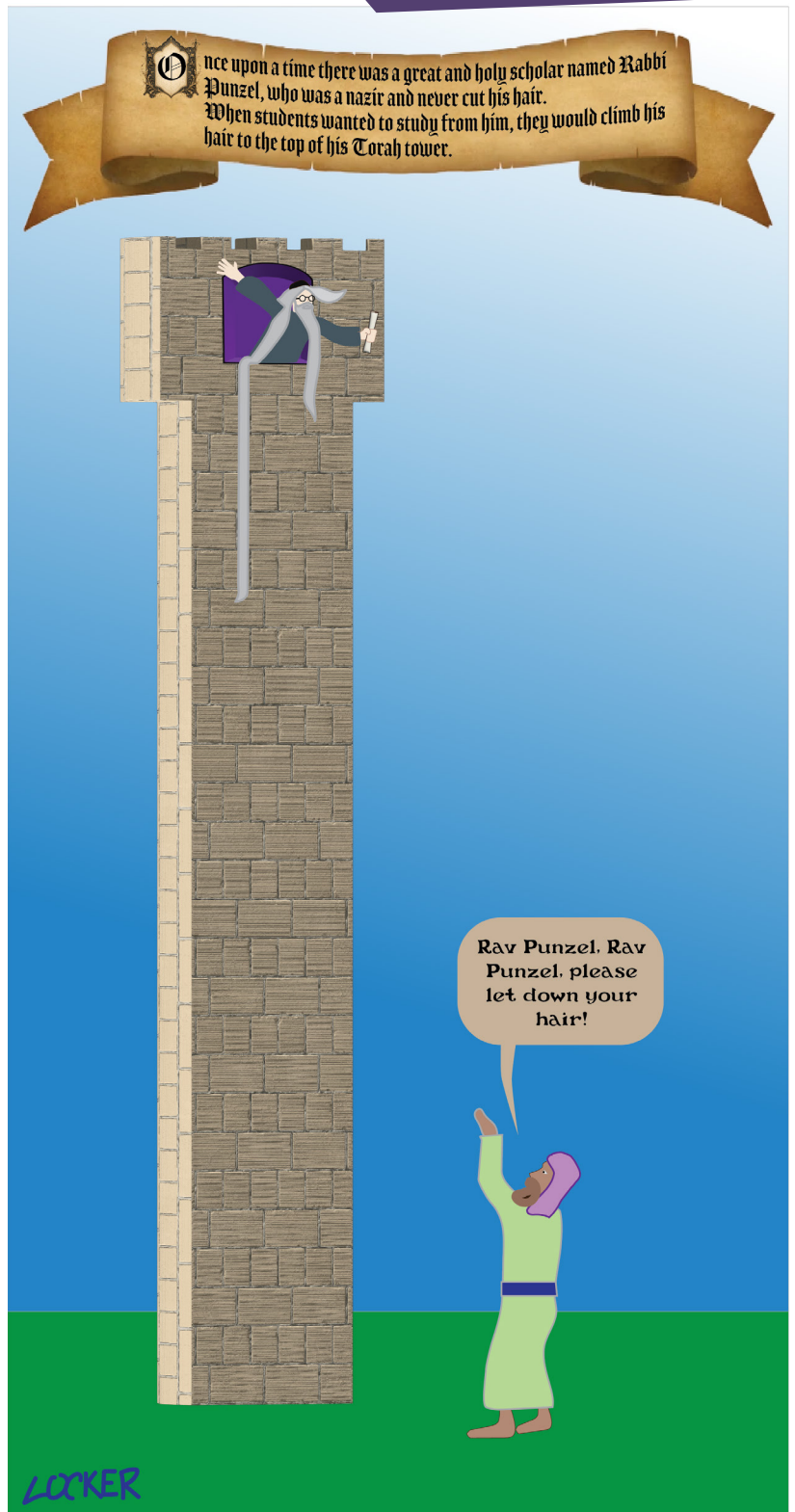
801-613-1539

grab a trimmer or a lawnmower and take care of business. Here you have a guy struggling with his ego who feels that instead of simply removing the obstacle, he needs to go through a process. I think it may be about long term plans. Cuz guess what hair does? It grows back (for most of us, anyway). If he cuts his hair now, what happens in a year from now, in 5 or 10 years? Now he has the self control and motivation to do something about his challenge. There's a chance that next time he won't be so strong. That's what his strategy can't just be to remove the obstacle; it's also got to be going to the gym to get stronger (in this case I definitely don't mean literally going to the gym, because if gets ripped, on top of his already good looks, that will NOT help). The Nazir process is difficult, which is part of what makes it powerful. It's a training course in self control. It's the montage of the (insert your preference) athlete/ martial artist/ chef working really hard to be up for the challenge. The purpose of the Nazir (at least in his case) isn't really to avoid wine. That's a side effect. The purpose is to train himself to be disciplined and to care a bit less about the physical world. Many aspects of Judaism have this benefit as well. They build us up into disciplined, thinking, strong people. So you can put down those garden shears, and hit the spiritual gym.



Find over 200 interesting an educational videos at the Rabbi Locker YouTube Channel.  
[youtube.com/@rabbi-locker](https://youtube.com/@rabbi-locker)

# PICKLE JEWS



# PARSHAL PARSHA

*a brief summary of the weekly  
Torah porshon*

- Do you have holy curtains and coverings that need transportation? Call the Gershonites! The tribe of Levi is divided into three families. We discuss 2 of them here (Kehos was mentioned in the previous Parsha)
- The children of Gershon were in charge of the cloth coverings and curtains of the mishkan
- The children of Merari took care of the boards and physical mishkan structure
- When our nation traveled in the desert, we kept the camp pure. Anyone who had spiritual impurity had to exit the camps.
- Medicine has the reputation of tasting horrible. The very worst tasting medicine was the juice fed to a sotah, someone who is suspected of certain inappropriate activities. Words of Torah are written on a scroll and then the ink is scraped into water. Yummy. Oh, I forgot to mention the dirt from the floor that's also added to the water. Nutritious! She drinks it, and if she's guilty, well, it gets pretty ugly.
- Are you hard of hairing? A nazir is. A person may voluntarily take a vow of Nazirism, which means they can not have any wine or grape products, may not cut their hair, or contact a dead body.
- Some insurances require a co-pay. Jews have a co-hein instead. The children of Aaron are instructed in the proper way to bless the Jewish people. It's a three sentence formula still used

today as the blessing of the Kohanim, and it's also used by parents to bless their children.

- As the donations for the mishkan's building project were completed, the tribal leaders (or princes) wanted to bring a special gift for its inauguration. They each brought an identical, generous gift which included animals and precious utensils. The Torah spends a huge amount of space repeating these gifts twelve times to show the great value God placed on these offerings.
- When Moses entered the Mishkan to commune with God, the divine voice seemed to emanate from between the angelic figures (the keruvim) upon the ark.

## NASSO

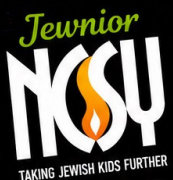
PLENTIFUL PRINCELY PRESENTS

## Did Jew Know?

.....

Did Jew know why Kohanim take off their shoes when they bless the congregation?

It's because there's a worry that if their shoes get untied they might bend down to tie them and people might suspect they are unfit to serve as Kohanim. Solution is no shoes at all!



# NINJA KIDZ

# YEAR END BASH!

ONE NIGHT. EPIC MEMORIES. ALL FUN.



**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 6**  
11:00PM



**ALL NIGHT LONG!**

**SUNDAY**  
**JUNE 7**  
7:00AM



**NINJA CHALLENGES**  
*Test your skills!*



**AWARDS CEREMONY**  
*Celebrate YOU and your crew!*



**PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS**  
*Awesome prizes all night long!*



**FOOD & SNACKS**  
*Fuel up for the fun!*



**GAMES & GOOD VIBES**  
*Music, games & more!*

**FOR 4TH-8TH GRADERS**



**NINJA KIDZ LAS VEGAS**  
2640 S DECATUR BLVD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89102

**RSVP REQUIRED USING THE QR CODE OR THE LINK.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, REACH OUT TO **RABBI LOCKER** AT 917-613-1037 OR [LOCKERD@NCSY.ORG](mailto:LOCKERD@NCSY.ORG)

ALL THIS  
FOR JUST  
**\$30!**

# STUMP THE RABBI

StumptheRabbi 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)

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.



## SING ME A SONG, HALLEL MAN

A BRAND NEW STUMP THE RABBI, MADE IN THE USA. #290

Hi Rabbi,

We recite Hallel on occasions when miracles have happened and the Jewish people have been saved. Can I say Hallel for a miracle that happened to me personally, or to my family?

Thanks,  
Halle Lieberman



Dear HalleL,

Go, God go! Hooray! Woohoo! I just thought I should lead with that. Big fan. Some background for our readers, Hallel is a special prayer said on some Jewish holidays, focusing on musical praise of God. It's built around the psalms of King David, and there's a blessing we recite on the mitzvah of singing Hallel. That's actually pretty cool if you think about it... we thank God, and then we thank God for allowing us to thank Him.

I love your direction here, which is the assumption that appreciation of God's miraculous intervention should lead one to want to sing Hallel. I say 'sing' Hallel advisedly, because it seems clear to me that Hallel is an element of musical jubilation. Hallel must be an expression of joy, and is specifically built to be sung. Maimonides refers to Hallel as 'shira,' song. Psalms itself talks about the weird Hallel as being associated with instruments and song.

But anyway, Hallel is only sung on specific holidays, and there are discussions in the Talmud and the early commentators about what the requirements of Hallel are. One angle is that Hallel may only be sung for miracles that occurred in the Land of Israel (which is one of the reasons Purim doesn't contain Hallel). Other angles include Hallel only being used for miracles that affected the entire nation, or only when read in a congregation.

Over history, there have been many 'Local Purims,' celebrations for when a specific community had a miracle. Prominent among them is Purim Saragossa (look it up, it's a really cool story) and Purim Frankfurt. Some relatives of mine celebrate a holiday in commemoration of our ancestor, Rabbi Yom Tov Lippman Heller's personal salvation. In some of these celebrations Hallel is recited, but almost never with the blessing. Some authorities permit modern day miracles to mandate Hallel (if the miracle is fully-national and in Israel), and still others permit Hallel for personal miracles or for a particular city, so long as the blessing is not recited (in which case all you're doing is reciting chapters of Tehillim). Yet the majority of authorities agree that for a personal miracle, the many ways of thanking God do not include Hallel. Stump the Rabbi isn't meant to give Halachic rulings, so ask your local Rabbi, but this should give you a good background.

So what should you do to thank God for an amazing thing that has happened



24

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



46

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

# STUMP THE RABBI

CONTINUED...

to you or your family? We covered this thoroughly in Season 3, Episode 26, but here's a shortened version:

The blessing of Gomel- If your life was in danger and you escaped, the blessing of Gomel should be recited during a Torah reading service.

Shehechianu or Hatov V'hameitiv- If

something awesome happens to you or your family, it's appropriate to recite one of those blessings.

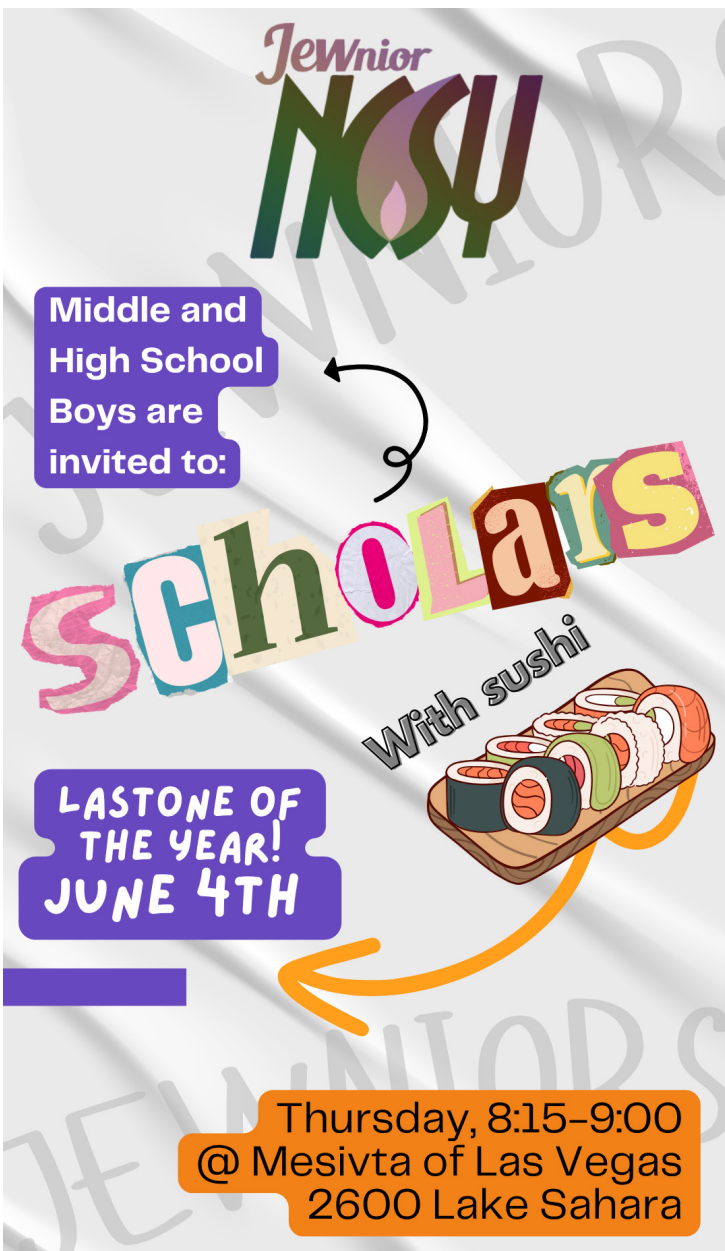
Thanksgiving meal- I don't mean turkey and yams. A seudas hoda'ah, a Thank You God meal is a great way to invite others in to appreciate God together. Some people will sponsor a Kiddush in their synagogue for the same purpose.

Giving charity is always a good way to say *Ty Hashem*.

Saying "Thank you God!" It might be obvious but sometimes we forget to verbally express our gratitude.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

**The Rabbi**



**Jewnior NSU**

Middle and High School Boys are invited to:

**Scholars**

With sushi

LAST ONE OF THE YEAR!  
JUNE 4TH

Thursday, 8:15-9:00  
@ Mesivta of Las Vegas  
2600 Lake Sahara

Please RSVP to Rabbi Locker at 917-613-1037

## Prayer Prompt:

*PRAYER IS A BIG PART OF JUDAISM, BUT LET'S BE HONEST. MOST KIDS (AND EVEN ONE OR TWO ADULTS) DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING. LET'S EXPERIMENT WITH THIS. WE HOPE TO WRITE A SMALL BLURB ABOUT ONE OF THE PARTS OF OUR PRAYER SERVICES EACH WEEK. MAYBE WE'LL START UNDERSTANDING SOME OF THEM!*

### FIFTEEN MEDITATIONS- PART 7

ONE OF THE FIRST BLESSINGS IN OUR DAILY SERVICE IS:

**MATIR ASSURIM-FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT**

*MATIR ASSURIM- HE WHO FREES THE CAPTIVES*

*HAVING LIMBS DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN USE THEM. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE PERFECTLY HEALTHY ARMS AND LEGS, BUT CAN'T USE THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE PRISONERS OF THEIR OWN MINDS.*

*THE BLESSING LITERALLY MEANS GOD FREES THE CAPTIVES, AND WE CAN THINK ABOUT THE JEWISH HOSTAGES WHO THANKFULLY HAVE BEEN RELEASED, AND THANK GOD FOR THIS KINDNESS.*

FOLLOW "I ONLY MAKE UP TRUE STORIES"  
PODCAST, AVAILABLE ON ALL MAJOR PLATFORMS.



**WE WOULD LIKE TO  
WISH A VERY, VERY  
HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO  
APPROXIMATELY 99.73%  
OF THE WORLD!**

**LAS VEGAS**

**JEWNIOR NCSY  
CALENDAR  
2025-2026**

**Sep 02** **Skating Kickoff**  
City National Arena **COMPLETE**

**Oct 11** **HUT DOG**  
Campout under the stars & s'mores **COMPLETE**

**Oct 19** **Summer Jump Session**  
Learn about all our amazing summer opportunities **COMPLETE**

**Nov 7-9** **ADVENTURE SHABBATON**  
Alamo, NV **COMPLETE**

**Dec 11-14** **SKI Weekend**  
Utah **COMPLETE**

**Feb 13-16** **Jewnior Regional**  
California  
Extended Shabbat experience with Jewniors from six states **COMPLETE**

**April 17-19** **AZ District Shabbaton**  
Tucson **COMPLETE**

**May 24** **Summer Sendoff**  
End the year with a bang!

**May 31** **SIX FLAGS**  
Join with LA chapter for an unforgettable day!

**Fun Days, the first Sunday or Monday of the month:**  
Monday Nov 3- Laser Tag ✓  
Monday Dec 1- Bowling ✓  
Monday Jan 5- Flip Out ✓  
Sunday Feb 1- Ski Day ✓  
Sunday March 1- Glow Party ✓  
Monday April 13- Roller Skating ✓  
Monday May 4- Sports Day ✓  
Monday June 1- Ice Cream Party ✓

**Weekly Programs:**  
Sunday 10am Hebrew School  
Monday 5pm Tween Night (grades 4-6)  
Monday 6pm Teen Night (grades 7-8)  
Thursday 8:15pm Scholars Study (boys)

**Look out for...**  
Giving Days- Fundraising Drive March 8-9  
Our Board run Instagram account @lv.jewniors  
Sticker Drop Days  
ZOOM classes  
Monthly Challenges and other info at westcoastncsy.org/jewniors

**Director Info -  
Rabbi Dani Locker  
917-613-1037 lockerd@ncsy.org**

**Jewnior NCSY WEST COAST**



**CAMP  
NAGEELA WEST  
SUMMER 2026**

**GIRLS  
MAIN SESSION  
JUNE 23- JULY 15**

**GIRLS  
ADVENTURE WEEK  
JUNE 16- JUNE 23**

**BOYS  
MAIN SESSION  
JULY 15- AUG 6**

**BOYS  
ADVENTURE WEEK  
JULY 8- JULY 15**

**Join us at Wooster Lake, IL!**  
In partnership with Camp Nageela Midwest

A summer of exciting activities, personal growth, exploration, Jewish pride and lifelong friendships

- ✓ 180 acres campus
- ✓ Great Lake & Pool
- ✓ Ropes & Ninja Course
- ✓ Sports & Games
- ✓ Top Staff
- ✓ Club Choices

**CONTACT US**  
INFO@NAGEELAWEST.ORG  
801-613-1539



## Happy Birthdays!

Ilan Cohen  
Oren Stern  
Yehonatan Eitan  
Salomon Tibi

Tal Facher  
Micah Schneider  
Elia Shlasinger  
Tiffani Minkowsky



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish Experiences.



Instagram: @nageelawest  
X: @nageelawest



info@nageelawest.org  
www.nageelawest.org



801-613-1539

# SOMETHING **BIG** IS COMING.

**JUNE 9-10, 2026**

  
**36**  
HOURS.

**\$150,000**

  
**ONE**  
INCREDIBLE  
MISSION.

For two days, our community will come together to help ensure that more Jewish children can experience the magic, growth, friendships, and memories that only Camp Nageela West can provide.

**THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN.**



Exciting details, challenges, matches, prizes, and opportunities to make a difference will be announced soon!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUNE 9-10, 2026**  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



Together, we can create life-changing summers and a brighter future.

**Camp Nageela**  
*West*

**MORE CAMPERS. MORE MEMORIES. MORE IMPACT.**