

Parshas Nasso
5779

June 14th,
2019

have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting:
Scottsdale 7:20
Henderson 7:40
San Diego 7:39
Las Vegas 7:41
Los Angeles 7:48
Tarzana 7:49
Reno/ Tahoe 8:09

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

Season 3
Episode 36

HisToeRy
by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Ready for a baseball question? Of course you are. What body parts are most important to being a great pitcher?

You might have answered arms or shoulders, to throw the ball hard. If your knowledge of baseball is more complex, you might have mentioned fingers, because how a pitcher grips the ball is extremely important. You probbbbbbly weren't gonna say his toe. Am I right?

This week's Torah portion...

Hey, weren't we taking about toes?

Fine. This week's TOE-RAH portion speaks about the children of Gershon, from the family of Levi. Basically, Levi's family (or tribe) were the ones responsible for the temple service, sacrifices, and spiritual life. Levi's three sons each were given a responsibility for their respective families to take care of while in the desert.

Gershon, the eldest, was tasked with transporting all the curtains, draperies and tapestries (tapestries sound like a delicious dessert with way too many calories).

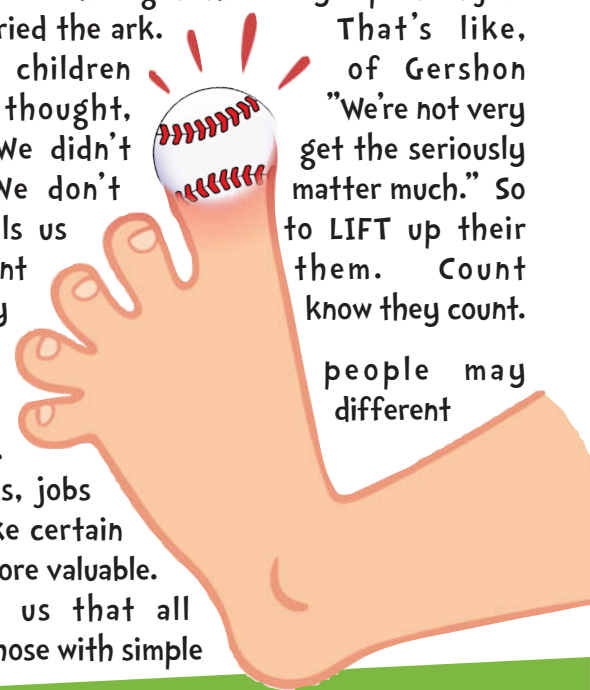
Kehas and his children were given the very special job of carrying the Holy Ark and all

the other 'furniture' like the Menorah and the altars.

Merari's family was responsible for the 'bones' of the Mishkan. They carried the beams, pillars and sockets that made up the walls and support structure of the holy tent.

Among the very first words of the portion are "Lift up the heads of the children of Gershon, ALSO THEM..." Kehas got the really important job. His family carried the ark. That's like, whoah. The children of Gershon might have thought, "We're not very important. We didn't get the seriously important job. We don't matter much." So the Torah tells us to LIFT up their heads, and count them. Count know they count.

Different people may have different roles in life. Some positions, jobs or talents make certain people seem more valuable. God teaches us that all people, even those with simple



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responsibilities are equally valuable. As we are about to find out, the same thing is true in our bodies.

Pedro Martinez may be one of the best pitchers in the history of Major League Baseball. Throwing a 97 mile an hour fastball, he had some of the most epic seasons in baseball history and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015.

Yet histoery was not kind to him. Autocorrect keeps trying to fix the word histoery. I'm shutting off autocrrect now becuase eye neede too spel histoery wright. Waht I meen, of cuorse is thatt his TOE is waht runed his carreer. OK, imma turrrn autocorrect back onn. Are you all still with me? Pedro was throwing extremeley well, poised for an absolutely historic carreer when he broke his toe. Ouch. Not a lot of fun, but toes heal right?

[ya know, I was tempted to write 'toes heel' but I held myself back]

Pedro's toe healed just fine, but he was never the same pitcher again. In the next two seasons, his pitching was meh (that's a technical term), and he ended his career on a disappointing note.

But it's just a toe!!! on of the greatest arms in the history of arms. An amazing grip and control of the strike zone. Why should one eensy weensy toe make a difference?

Because it's not **JUST** a toe. A toe is a part of an entire body. The toe bone is connected to the nose bone. I think. Maybe. Point is, though the triceps might be the most 'imporant' part of a pitcher's motion, if any small part is left out, it can and will throw everything off.

Every person is extremely valuable. Every person means something. Every person counts, and deserves to be counted. Every person makes an impact on history... errr... histoery.



Photo of the Week

Ending with a Bang

Rabbi Smith rocking yesterday's Tarzana NageeLatte. Final one of the season all over the West coast. Next week, CAMP!



After all the voting, here is the (nearly) finished product, front & back. Let us know what you think!

OM:G!

11 | 34

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2019 and see photos from GT2018 at nageelawest.org

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BE A LEADER!

We are accepting applications from rising 7th and 8th graders from ALL WEST COAST CITIES to take part in a regional leadership council that will meet several times over the coming year, helping plan events, developing leadership skills and having a blast.

Please contact locker@ncsy.org to apply.

Quick Fix

By

Rabbi Dov Ber Smith

Hello there! In this Parsha we speak about giving charity. The verse says that the gift that is given belongs to the giver. Question is: you just gave away \$10! How is it still yours?? One of the commentators explains: We think that what we have is OURS and what we give away is GONE FOREVER. In reality, by charity it is COMPLETELY the opposite. When you give money to a poor person, you acquire for yourself a great reward. Maybe you won't see it. Maybe you won't feel your pocket getting filled with stuff. Stuff we own during our lives does not help us when we're gone. But up in heaven, God is keeping track. There, you will receive all your tickets/money/reward for the charity and kind deeds that you did down here on old planet earth. BUT if you DON'T give, then the \$ won't be yours 'cause that money is not transferable. It stays down here. It can't go to heaven.

That's why when you give charity: it's YOURS!! Start with something small. Give a small donation of \$100,000 to Nageela West!! Just kidding... But really, give even .25 cents to any good cause, and it will last you forever!! Its huge!! Shabbat Shalom!

SAVE THESE DATES!

**2 mega- weekend events
in 2020
for 6th-8th graders**

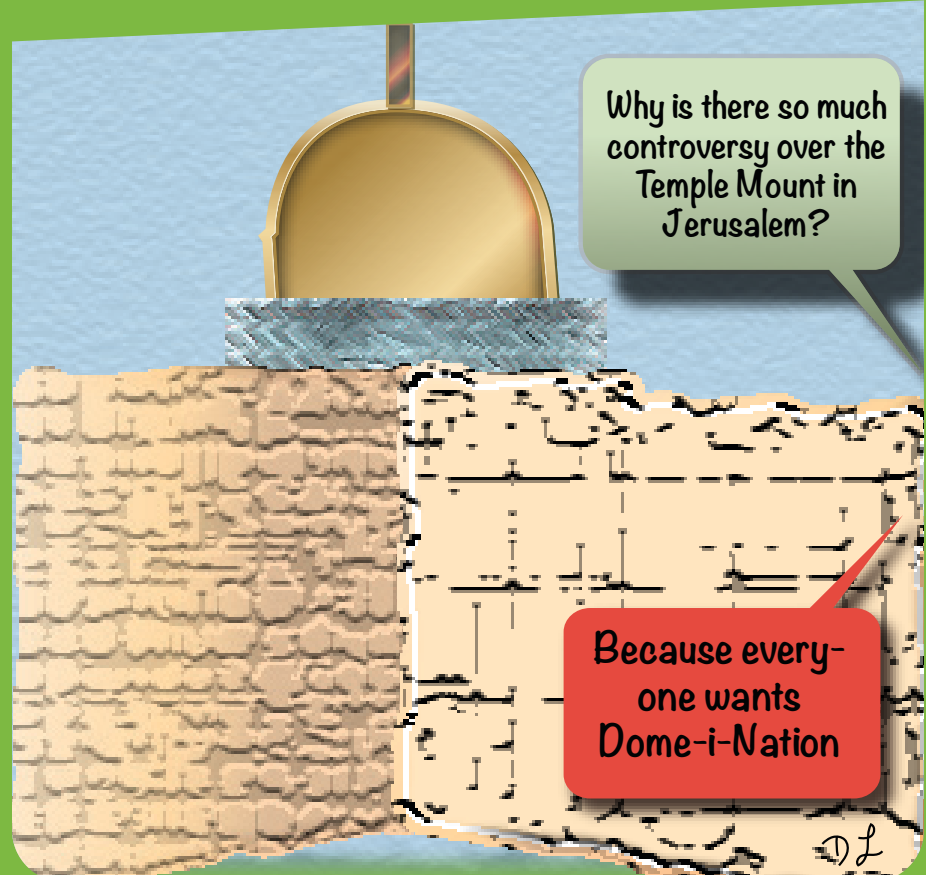
WINTER REGIONAL WEEKEND
JAN. 17-20 (MLK)
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SPRING REGIONAL WEEKEND
MAY 22-25 (MEMORIAL)
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP



Story Corner

with Rabbi Smith

Listen to a true story about Alan who was working on a major business deal for a long time. He wanted it very badly, but it looked like it was falling through. He had recently started studying with a Rabbi, who he turned to for advice. "Maybe it's G-d getting you to improve. How's your Shabbat observance?" The man admitted that he didn't keep Shabbat at all. Together they agreed that Alan would take the first step and stop using his phone on Shabbat.

The following week, the people with whom he was negotiating called back and said they were still interested.

However, he would be competing with four major companies for the deal.

Alan told the Rabbi, "I am nowhere near the size of my competitors. I can't offer what they can. What should I do?"

"Don't worry," the Rabbi replied. "You have God." They decided that Alan would begin keeping Shabbat completely, and go to the Synagogue for prayers as well.. It was so difficult for him not to touch any of his electronic devices! But he combated his urges, and succeeded.

Not too long after he began his Shabbat observance, he was awarded the business deal against all odds, even though his offer wasn't as good as his competitors. Alan's main prize is that he is keeping Shabbat now. The deal was the means to his gain!

May we all understand that it is G-d that provides everything. You follow His way, He will be with you in everything you do. Even if it goes against logic and normalcy, God can do anything. Alan's realization that his business was in God's hands caused his success.



Which Roman god wore a kippah?

Jewpiter!

OUCH! GROAN!

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



**stump the
rabbi**

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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. 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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Awesometastic birthday wishes to our friends celebrating their birthdays:

Zvi Sudranski

Tim Wheeler

Ahnyela Williams

Ranit Stockman

**HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!**