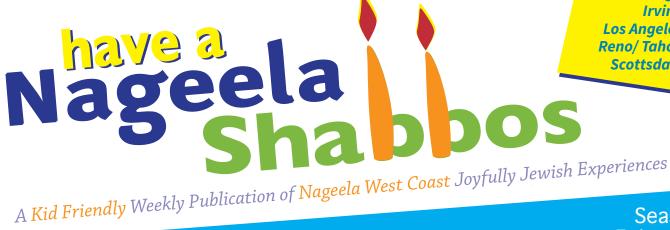
Parshas Tetzaveh/ Zachor 5780

March 6th, 2020

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Season 4 Episode 15

## The Dress Code

by Rabbi Dani Locker

n May 10th, 1995, Michael Jordan got slammed with Oa fine of \$25,000 for wearing his own number 23.

Why? Why would the NBA punish Jordan, arguably the greatest basketball player of all time? And why would Jordan do it? Why would he wear something that he knew would cost him?

Here's the story. Michael Jordan played for the Chicago Bulls from 1984 to 1993, winning 3 championships. He then suddenly decided to retire, and hang up his iconic number 23, in order to try playing professional baseball. That didn't go so well.

In 1995 Jordan came back to basketball, but because his number 23 was officially retired he was not allowed to wear it. He instead chose #45 (which may or may not have been a reference to the 45th president of the US). He played much of that season and part of the playoffs as 45. But people were commenting, "He's not #23 anymore."

n May 10th, during an NBA semifinal game against Othe Orlando Magic, Jordan surprised the crowd (and his team) when he took off his warmup jacket wearing



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his old #23! The NBA slammed Jordan with a \$25,000 fine for violation of their uniform policy, but Jordan and the Bulls went on to win three more championships (to be fair, they didn't win in '95, but then won three in a row). This wasn't the first time MJ had been fined for dress code violations. When his first new shoes, the Air Jordan 1 came out, Michael was fined 5K for every game he wore them. What's the big deal, and why did he do it?

This week's Torah portion talks about the special uniform I that Aharon the Kohen Gadol (sometimes translated as High Priest) wore while performing his duties in the Temple. He was the captain of the Kohen team and had a very special dress code.

A haron did not have signature sneakers, but he did wear a chest plate with 12 precious stones attached. One of the unusual rules is that the Choshen- the chest plate- could not move. It had to stay near his heart.

ne lesson we can learn (and maybe MJ was saying Othe same thing) is that your heart has got to stay consistent. As we go through life, we sometimes make changes to the things we do. We grow, and we adjust according to circumstances. Yet our goals, our direction and our feelings must not waver. No matter what twists and turns life gives us, let's make sure our hearts are always pointed in the same way. Toward God, and toward awesometasticness

> h, and the Hebrew abbreviation Ofor Kohen Gadol- Chaf Gimmel,

> > ג"⊃ = 23!



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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to family members celebrating this week!

Sofia Leos Aviv Kohen Tal Kohen Jacob Lev Jacob Zalk Judah Hafter Roni Facher



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What do cannibals eat on Purim?

Humantaschen!

**OUCH! GROAN!** 

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