

DVAR TORAH

PART OF YOUR COMPLETE BREAKFAST

How much light does a candle make?

If you know anything about flashlights, they're measured in candle power, so you would be able to do that math. Some smart readers are thinking, "We can't measure candles in candle power (very astute)." If you ask AI, it'll probably tell you that typical wax candle produces about 12-13 lumens. What if I told you that is the wrong answer.

A wax candle makes no light. Not unless it's lit. Before you groan, mumble something about my terrible jokes and start walking away, I'm not actually joking. I'm making a point. A candle represents potential light. But a tiny tealight, a massive torch or even a bonfire are equally dark until a fire is lit.

"The commandments are a candle, and the Torah is light." That's from Proverbs (6:23) (which is better than amateur verbs in my opinion). That means, the commandments are huge potential for brightness, but they actually produce zero lumens without the fire part, which is Torah study. The Torah portions around this time of year are filled with commandments, some of which seem very technical. Precisely how to weave the curtains for the Tabernacle, the procedure for scooping up incense with the fingers, and how many handbreadths tall each board had to be, are covered (pun intended). Even the more practical commandments we read recently, many having to do with honesty in business, morality and relationships, might help build a functionally positive society, but they don't bring God's light into the world on their own. Hypothetically, we could create a society that looks perfect. People are living justly and morally, Shabbos is being kept and Kosher food eaten, yet that entire society could be missing the key component, the animating, energizing, vivifying, purpose giving Torah. Keep in mind, too, that having a fire without the candle means it won't last



long or be able to give nearly as much light, so just studying Torah without that translating into Mitzvah observance isn't the way to go either.

A balanced approach, one where we take the commandments seriously, not just because they're fun (which they could be), meaningful (which they are) and feel good (which they do), but as a combined part of a system of Torah and Mitzvos.

When I was a kid, I saw a lot of cereal commercials. Of course they would show kids enjoying the delicious, sugar and food coloring filled cereal. Then at the very end, they would say, "As a part of your complete breakfast." They would then show a bowl of cereal surrounded by half a dozen bowls and plates of various sizes with sliced fruit, orange juice, milk, waffles, buttered toast, and a whole roast duck. Somehow that translated into kids pouring Fruit Loops directly down their throats and washing it down with Hawaiian Punch. So, let's take all of the Torah's incredible commandments as part of your complete breakfast, along with a healthy serving of Torah study.

**LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT.
THERE'S A PURIM TREAT CALLED A
HAMANTASCH.
THE PLURAL IS HAMANTASCHEN.
YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE HAMANTASCHEN. NOT
JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE YUMMY.
IT'S GRAMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
END RANT.**



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PICKLE JEWS



Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

- We have many uniforms and costumes. All are different. Here are a few things you might notice.
 - On the left side:
 - The 7 branch menorah
 - Olive branch (for olive oil)
 - Stone walls of the Holy Temple
 - Faded silhouette of Moses, representing the idea that Moses isn't mentioned in this Parsha
 - The special garments of the High Priest (Breastplate, theforehead plate, tunic, sash, turban ephod and robe. That's 7 out of 8.
- On the other side, we of course see the subject carrying a basket of Moshloach Manos.
- In the background you can see gallows.
- Supposedly, the number 127 is etched into the buildings and some confetti is shaped like hamantaschen, but I think AI is lying about that.



ANSWER ON PAGE 6

Question of the Week

.....

How many people's names are mentioned in the Torah, and also in the Megillah (Book of Esther)?

**Mazel
Tov!**

Mazel Tov to Nageela legend Shmuli Stern upon his engement to Sara Kitainik

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PARSHAL PARSHA

a brief summary of the weekly Torah parshon

PARSHAS TETZAVEH

WHAT ARE CANNONICALS?

- The light of the Menorah is supposed to stay lit all day long, leaving a huge carbon footprint.
- Aaron and his sons are selected to be the Kohanim- the main service operators of the Mishkan (and subsequently the Holy Temple). They had special uniforms.
- Aaron and his successors as head Kohen wore an 'Efod- Apron' made of specially woven material, attached with gemstones listing the tribes of the Jewish people on each shoulder (6 on each).
- This apron is attached to the CHoshen, a chest garment containing twelve stones, again with the names of the Jewish people.
- There's a robe with bells and little cloth balls at the bottom, which makes noise whenever the Kohen Gadol would walk around and prevent him from sneaking

up on the other Kohanim or succeeding at any game of hide and seek.

- The 'Tziz' is a golden plate worn on the head of the Kohen Gadol.
- All Kohanim wore linen long shirts, pants, belts and turbans.
- Aaron is anointed by pouring oil on his head. Making a good conditioner absolutely necessary.
- The Torah describes the procedure for the 7 day inauguration for the Mishkan.
- There's another Altar- the golden 'Mizbayach' which had a daily burning of incense, which was intense, but only happened in past tense, so let's not sit on the fence, but repent.



A vibrant poster for a 'VIRTUAL COSTUME CONTEST'. It features four anime-style characters in various costumes: a king, a queen, a knight, and a jester. Text includes 'MORE THAN \$150 IN PRIZES!', 'JEWNIORS NCSU', and 'VIRTUAL COSTUME CONTEST'. At the bottom, it says 'EVERY CONTESTANT GETS ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR PRIZES... SPECIAL WINNERS FOR MOST UNUSUAL MOST CREATIVE AND BEST THEME... UPLOAD YOUR PICTURE at westcoast.ncsy.org/jewniors or the QR CODE, or POST ON INSTAGRAM, AND TAG @JEWNIOR_NCSY... Deadline: March 4th. Contact lockerd@ncsy.org for questions'. A QR code is also present.

THIS SUNDAY IN LAS VEGAS!



THIS WEEK, EVERYWHERE!



A poster for a 'GLOW PARTY'. It features a group of people at a party with neon lights and a DJ. Text includes 'YOU'RE INVITED TO AN EPIC GLOW PARTY', 'SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST 4:30-6:30PM', 'DJ Epic Vibes NEON VIBES costume contest @ ZJA 10050 Banbury Cross', and 'Jewniors NCSU'. At the bottom, it says 'RSVPs are entered in a raffle. Bring a new friend to be entered in an additional raffle. Rabbi Dani Locker 917.613.1037'.

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

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

FAST BUT NOT SAD

A BRAND NEW STUMP THE RABBI EPISODE #286

Hi Rabbi,

Purim is a super happy day, right? Fasting is something we do on sad days. So why do we have a fast day right before Purim. Leading INTO Purim! What's it for?

Thanks,
Esther Rapid

.....

Dear Esther,

I'll try to answer this one quickly. Or if not quickly, at least fast. The fast right before Purim is called the fast of Esther. That's because it represents the fasting of...nope. Not Esther. That is an opinion, and we'll deal with that later, but it doesn't seem to be the main reason, for the simple reason that Esther didn't fast the day before Purim. Her fast took place eleven months earlier, during Passover.

The traditional sources explain that the 13th of Adar, the day now known as the fast of Esther, was actually a battle day. It was a day of wars fought by Jews all across the Kingdom, defeating our enemies. Amazingly, Talmudic sources insist that if Jews were fighting a battle, they were clearly fasting. Now I don't know about you, but I can't fight a war without a good hearty breakfast (or with Fruity Pebbles as part of your complete breakfast) and a little shot of pickle juice. Yet the Jews at that time, particularly after the incredible events of the Purim story, felt that their path to success did not lie



in their stamina, strength or lightsaber

skills. They realized their fate was in the hands of God, so fasting, showing a complete dedication to the spiritual world rather than to physicality, made perfect sense. This is the primary reason for the fast.

As I mentioned, there are those who also link this to Esther's three day fast (really, everyone's three day fast, spearheaded by Esther) eleven months earlier. We nevertheless make the fast when we do because frankly, having a Purim themed fast on Passover would be weird. The seder would be a lot shorter, but also a lot less yummy.

Most fasts are indeed sad, commemorating tragedies in our history. Esther's fast is not like that. There was no tragedy here! It was a war that we won, survived and partied! The fast recalls a seriousness, perhaps, an intense prayer and hopefulness. For this reason, it's not so weird to connect it to Purim. In all Purim's joy, it's easy to ignore God. Now for the rest of time, we have a day of fasting attached to it, to remember that it was actually our sincere prayer and improving ourselves, reuniting the Jewish people, that saved us.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



115

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



136

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

Answer of the Week

QUESTION ON PAGE 3

There are four in total, but they're tricky because some names of people double as names of locations. 1. Kush (in the Torah is a person, in Esther is a place). 2. Madai (in the Torah is a person, in Esther is a nationality). 3. Yair (son of Menashe, and father of Mordechai- not the same person). 4. Yehuda (Judah).



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



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- ✓ Club Choices

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LAS VEGAS

JEWNIOR NCSY

CALENDAR

2025-2026

Sep 02 Skating Kickoff
City National Arena



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



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



Nov 7-9 ADVENTURE SHABBATON
Alamo, NV



Dec 11-14 SKI Weekend
Utah



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



April 17-19 AZ District Shabbaton
Tucson



May 24 Summer Sendoff
End the year with a bang!



Director Info -
Rabbi Dani Locker

FUNLY FIRSTLY
Fun Days, the first Sunday or Monday of the month:
Monday Nov 3- Laser Tag
Monday Dec 1- Bowling
Monday Jan 5- Flipn 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.

WEST COAST



Happy Birthdays!

Sam Hodara
Alexander Mizrachi
Eli Baly
Alex Davidson
Eenbal Bromley
Jasper Goldlang
Asher Leventhal

Oreya Gazala
Eliyahu Lugasi
Shlomo Zachai
Shylee Shabtai
Dovid Locker
Steven Kostick
Bella Lyttle



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



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