

THE Kibbitzer

Issue 109



The little girl was eating potato kugel with a plate on her lap. It was Kiddish.

You get it? Kiddish. Kid and dish together makes Kiddish. The dish was on a kid. Next time we will talk about chicken fingers. That's also a kid dish.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. I have been leading the congregation a lot recently. The Baal Tefillah. The problem is I have no idea when to start the repetition of the Amidah?

Shalom My Dear Pupil. You ask well. Knowing when to start the repetition of the Silent Prayer out loud is a subtle skill that takes years of study of human expression. Here's some of the many signs you'll get from the Gabai, to let you know when to start.

- The Head Nod* The most common signal to start, you're looking for the upward nod. Downward movement is a guy trying to figure out why the custodian hasn't vacuumed the rug. The first time I got the head nod, I thought the Gabai was saying 'Hi.' I stepped away from the Amid and asked about his kids.

- A Blink* That's it. A blink. You should know to start. A blink head nod, plus additional head shake, if you don't start the Amidah, they're questioning if you're part of the covenant. Any movement other than three steps back means you start the repetition.

- A Hand* It's a subtle stop sign. That means don't go. The hand comes down a little, that means go. To be honest, the stop and start signs looked very similar. I could swear they were the same exact movement. As a rookie, I thought the hand coming down a little meant to repeat the Amidah very slowly. That got everybody mad.

- The Tefillin Touch and Shoulder Brush* If your shul is very into community softball, this will probably be the Gabai's tell for you to start.

- The Table Bang* That is a mistake or somebody is really angry. If I was you, I would skip the repetition, grab my Tefillin bag, and run out of shul. I have done that many of times when I was not aware it was Rosh Chodesh.

There are more signs like a loud breath out, a side arm push and other movements of anger. Any nasty look of resentment means to start. Remember, subtlety.

If there is a rabbi, wait. How long? A very long time.

SERMONS OF REBUKE: BEHALOTCHA

Shabbat Shalom My Pupils...

(Bamidbar 8:15-16) '...the Levites shall come to serve in the Tent of Meeting. You shall cleanse them and lift them as a waving'... They got haircuts. They didn't show up to get waved with unkempt Lag Bomer hair flying all over the Mishkan...

The waving was fun. Why am I being asked about waving?... The Kohens back then were stronger. Our shul doesn't even have a Kohen who can do Hagba... *'For they are wholly given over to Me from among the children of Israel...'* Commitment. They did things right. They didn't show up a minute before Kaddish... Everybody has a Tafkid.

Except Mark and Fran. They do very little. Haven't even helped with a donation to the food cupboard... You can't tell me you like what you cook... Everybody has a task. The Bachors messed up... You guys mess up Kaddish... The shul has a Tafkid to not be a jungle gym. It's the Beis Knesses Beis Emes uSefilah Playhouse Funhouse... There's a beanbag chair where the Chazin used to sit... Not starting Kohen wave rides... Seeing kids in front for Anim Zemirot with candy is like watching the animals at a zoo...

We have Tafkids. Tasks. Treat the shul with respect, and learn how to say Kaddish...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:

The death focus of last week didn't draw the families. The shul is now into the kids. The board is planning to put in a Bouncy Bima with streamers and constant candy throwing.

SHUL ANNOUNCEMENTS

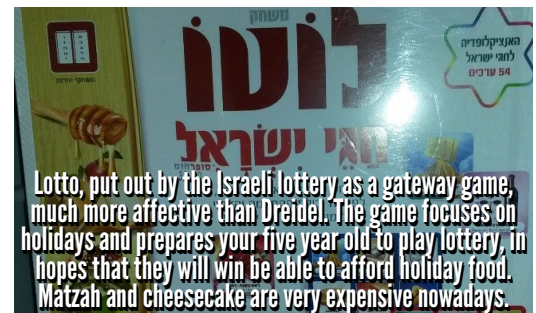
For Next Lag Bomer: There are too many messed up haircuts in our shul since Lag Bomer. No more doing it yourself, even with clippers. Since the bonfires, clothes are still messed up and the shul smells bad. No more marshmallows at bonfires without sticks of at least three feet.

We are working on the youth of our shul. They are the focus. This is why we have removed the pictures of the congregation and rabbis. You can now see our hallway decked out in pictures of Transformers. We are thinking of getting a Bouncy Bima. There will be a clown at Kiddish.

Kaddish timing classes will take place on Wednesdays. So that we can honor the deceased in unison. The timing is off. Bill thinks he's harmonizing. Simmy is still learning to read. He's also three seconds off.

The congregants are Amening eight times to each section.

As it is the NBA finals, the Minyin will not be waiting for the rabbi to finish the Shema. If we wait, we will miss the first half of the game.



Lotto, put out by the Israeli lottery as a gateway game, much more affective than Dreidel. The game focuses on holidays and prepares your five year old to play lottery, in hopes that they will win be able to afford holiday food. Matzah and cheesecake are very expensive nowadays.

Dedicate the Weekly Kibbitzer IN Honor, Memory or Refuah of Your Loved One, and share Laughs in their Merit. To Sponsor - CONTACT kibbitzermag@gmail.com