

THE Kibbitzer

Issue 39



What do you give a dog who's good at math? A chesh-bone.

You get it? Cheshbon is an invoice, used to mean math. Really smart dogs say Matimatikah. Plagues and animals...

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. I got a letter from the shul that says 'Save the Date.'

They said there are honorees. I hope they don't ask me for money. I'm in debt right now. What does it mean?

What happens on the date?

My Dear Pupil. There is going to be a fundraiser dinner, to raise money for the shul. I don't want you to be in shock. They use your friends to get you to come to dinner for eight hundred dollars, and how you can get out it.

•*Save the Date* Never save the date. Stay away from anything that says 'Save the Date.' That means something expensive is coming up. Pretend you didn't see it and plan a trip for the 'Date.' Use it for something cheaper than the fundraiser. A family trip to the Netherlands is a good way to save money. The best advice I can give is to never look at your mail. You will save a lot of money on donations and bills that way. If you're lucky, you can also get out of a Bar Mitzvah.

•*Honorees* Just in case you didn't save the date, they bring on the the people being honored. You can't go on a trip when people are being honored. You must honor them. They're honorees.

The honorees are people that have friends. They don't trust that you like the shul enough. So, they honor the Friedbergs. What are the Friedbergs honored for? Knowing people.

•*How to Not Get Pulled In* Over the years, I've made it a point to have friends that nobody likes. I was going broke on friends who were affable. I noticed a disturbing pattern; the shul was honoring these people. These friendly people are great, until the big blow of the \$2,000 you'll be spending on their honorees dinner. If you can find unlovable friends who are also poor, you have struck gold. If you see somebody sticking their hands in the herring and taking all the meat out of the choolante pot, for themselves, befriend them.

•*The Committee* Watch out for these people. These people tell you about the dinner. They tell you about honorees. They told you 'save the date.' You told them you didn't get the letter. They know you're lying. If you don't go, you're offending them.

Make sure to support your shul, pay your dues and dedicate to your community in honor of your friends. Note: Don't join the committee. They'll still make you pay for the dinner.

SERMON OF REBUKE- BO

Shabbat Shalom My Shulgoers,
To sum up the plagues a bissel. The Egyptians are a bit perturbed. Nobody likes frogs jumping everywhere... I know Michael likes frogs. He collects them. If they were jumping all over the house. It's an irritant... Try eating Cornflakes with frogs jumping around... I feel like the back left of the shul is an irritant. A plague...

In last week's parsha, we see that Moses gives over H's message. 'If you refuse to let the Jews go, and you keep holding onto them... the hand of H' will come to your livestock'... Yes. That's the message... I know we have farmers here. What is my retirement package looking like? That's the question... People like snow. Hail is different... The hail with fire. You like that? You want fireballs landing on your house? Little comets shooting fire with frogs jumping all over your bed? Then listen to H'... Simcha. You had a fit when your car got a ding from the ice storm last year...

I don't know why H' doesn't kill the firstborns first. Sometimes, I get the feeling like the older people are the ones causing problems... H' is building up the drama.

Yes. I am giving the story over again, this year. It's my duty. (10:1-2) *H' brings the plagues as signs, 'in order that you will tell your children and children's children...'* Not just grandkids.

But it's also grandkids grandkids. You should be telling everybody. Like the joke you've told us all about the rabbi and the imam, Hymie... You repeat it all the time... Exactly. Because you forget that you told us. There's a reason half the year at our Beis Kenesses Anshei Emes uSefilah Sunday School spends half the

year on 'Let My People Go.' It's not just a song, Rachel... It's our duty, Bernie!!! Pesach... Yes. This speech is a Seder... It takes time to teach songs. We show *The Ten Commandments* and *Prince of Egypt*... Beautiful songs in that film. Play them all the time.

Now. Let us learn the lessons of Paroh. It's like running another Seder here... Got to deal with all these questions... All questions...

Paroh is a hoarder. Paroh has always been known to be hoarders. With the hoarding of all the food before the famine. That is how the Jews ended up in Egypt... The hoarding in this community... We have fifteen hundred Siddurs piled up in the lobby. All ripped... I'm saying to bury them. Let them go. Show respect... It's a Siddur obstacle course.

Tripping over Siddurs is not respect. I'm not saying to throw out the new siddurs... Keep some of the old ones. Look to the right side of the congregation. Old is beautiful.

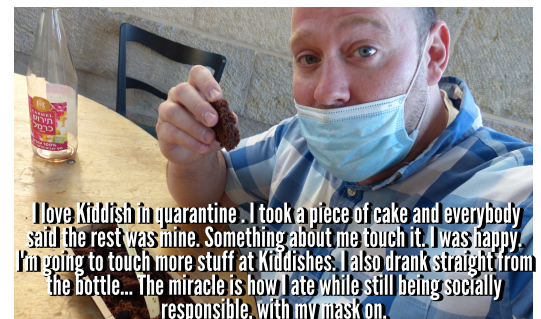
Why can't Paroh let go? (*Shemot 10:1*) '*For I have hardened his heart...*' He made the decision to keep it bad for the Jews, like the board. Now. His heart is hardened.

I see Michel's seat and it makes me happy. He deserved for it to be retired. It unhardens my heart. I see good... Paroh couldn't see good. Kind of like Bernie. I can't see any good in Bernie.

We have to hoard the good... Keep it with us. But it doesn't have to take up half the shul. It's an obstacle course.

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:

The speech felt like a second seder. It was long. People said the rabbi saying 'hail with fire. You want that?' was religious coercion. It got a cross the message to do Mitzvot. And the way he honored Michel, now everybody thinks their parents weren't Tzadiks. Finally. The rabbi brought 'Hoarders' to the shul for the Siddurs. They ended up going to the houses of the members. The amount of stuff they've stolen from the shul. The old ark cover was in the Mitzkowitz house. The havdalah candle we've been looking for, at the Cohens. The handkerchief for holding the parchment. Saul is blowing his nose in it.



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