

THE Kibbitzer

Chanukah
Special

Issue 131



Gifts from the heart cost a lot in the month of Kislev.

You get it? Puns are better bilingual and when not a joke. This is about understanding money comes from the heart and Chanukah gifts are from the heart and expensive. Kis means pocket and Lev, heart. The month is why we buy gifts.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. I am trying to figure out what Chanukah gifts to get people. I want them to be happy. Not mad. What should I not get?

Shalom My Dear Pupil. I got many bad gifts last year. And people are still telling me it's the thought that counts. If you ever find yourself saying 'It's the thought that counts,' that is a bad gift. That being said, here are some of the bad gifts I got.

- Pasta Pusher* Has anybody ever made pasta not from a bag?! Exactly.
- Gift Certificate* I still haven't used the gift certificates you got me for my Bar Mitzvah. Next time, give me currency with a stamp on it that says 'Expired.' That is what is going to happen to the gift card. Either that, or a piece of paper that says, 'You will lose this.' And how much thought did you put into the gift certificate when you were online to check out at the Christmas Tree Shops.
- Fitted Shirt & Tight Pants* Someone thought this might help me meet a woman. Fitted shirts look good when they fit. The shirt didn't fit. Neither did the skinny pants. The size 38 pants were smaller than the size 38s pants. They should've marked them 34s, like they were, and sold them to me as four sizes too small. I am hoping they pay for my Weight Watchers membership this year, so I can fit into the pants. Stuff to not buy teenagers, because it makes them annoying: Skinny Pants, UGGs, anything tiny with a screen on it.
- A Paisley Shirt* This was not a gift. This was hand-me-downs. This was something my dad didn't want. Paisley has been out of style since the 1970s. T
- Challah Cover* Even people getting married don't appreciate Challah covers. They don't need more than four of them. If you're purchasing a wedding gift, check out the registry. I have never seen a registry with Challah covers. Many people think buying something for somebody that they'd never think about buying for themselves is the way to go. There's a reason I don't pick up pasta pushers.

SERMONS OF REBUKE: VAYESHEV

Shabbat Shalom My People...
VaYeshev... He wasn't just sitting there. Yaakov wasn't lazy like the president of our board... Did you settle Israel? No. Exactly. Yaakov settled in the land of his fathers... Far Rockaway is a good area too.

(Bereishit 37:14) Yosef is told by his father to check on his brother's 'shalom.' He went for peace. Like the way I came to the shul. The way I was hired as rabbi. At the time, I didn't know there would be a Gabai and a president.

(37:17) The man Yosef sees in Shechem tells him his brothers went to Dotan. The Midrash teaches that Dotan comes from

the word 'Dat' which means law... I know it means religion in modern Hebrew... There are laws, Bernie. Our religion isn't about driving to shul on Shabbis... Law, meaning 'they are seeking legal advice to put you to death'... How many religious people have died? A lot, Bernie. You can't have Shalom and judgement together. You can't have a kind rabbi who loves the people and a shul board... A Gala? What is the gala? Latkes do not make a gala. And a Chinese auction??? Why not call it a raffle... It's offensive to Chinese people. Shalom with Asians...
Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Sermon:
The Gala event had a bouncy house. That is what constitutes class in our shul. We had a Chinese auction to offend Asians. The shul apologized for the Secret Shlomo. From now on, they will not trust congregants with gift giving.

SHUL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chanukah Gala program will include a Chinese Auction. It will also include latkes and a Dreidel gambling circle.

Parent Child Learning this week will include a psychologist, a social worker and a representative from child services.

We have noticed a lot of parents who are not impressed with their children's Gemara skills. We remind you that the children are only in elementary school. They still have not learned Rashi script.

Please don't make Shlomo look bad again. Our children are dependent on a decent Secret Shlomo this year. To quote the kids at youth group last Shabbat: 'We are not expecting anything decent from our parents.

Their gifts are pathetic. We are praying that Secret Shlomo loves us more than our parents and buys us decent gifts.

Rosh Chodesh is Wednesday. Please show up to shul. We understand it's a long Davening. Please don't pretend like you're sick again.



That's what soldiers look like when they're going to war in comfortable undershirt Tzitzit. Smiling and happy. Unity. You don't even feel the gun.

The Kibbitzer this week is dedicated to all of our holy brothers and sister who have been affected by the terror.
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