

THE Kibbitzer

New Year's
Special

Issue 88



What do Chasidim with a red bekishe sing? 'Jingle Belz.'

You get it? The Belz Chasidic dynasty. 'Jingle Bells' is the song sung on Christmas. Jews don't sing that. They would sing about Belz. 'Jingle Belz.'

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. Is it a Mitzvah to Celebrate New Year's Eve?

Shalom My Dear Pupil. New Year's Eve is not one of the New Years brought in the Torah. Gd didn't command us to get drunk and wear a Santa hat. Thus, it's not a Mitzvah. Even so, New Year's Jewish, which is why we start the day at night. Let us delve into the traditions of Rosh Hashana and New Year's Eve.

•*New Year's:* People go out and drink a lot of alcohol.

Rosh Hashana: We stay in and drink a lot of Manischewitz. There's no Mitzvah of Kiddish on New Year's. Thus, you can drink any kind of alcohol you like. The only issue is that most bars don't stock up on Manischewitz for New Year's.

•*New Year's:* Celebrate with party.

Rosh Hashana: Celebrate with brisket. You can also celebrate Rosh Hashana with Davening. However, it's hard to eat brisket while praying.

•*New Year's:* Watch the apple drop in New York City.

Rosh Hashana: Do I even have to say?!

•*New Year's:* They have sales.

Rosh Hashana: Nothing is on sale. Even apples are marked up.

•*New Year's:* See famous people on TV.

Rosh Hashana: Finally see some famous people showing up to shul.

•*New Year's:* Kiss somebody at midnight. That's the tradition of New Year's Eve.

Rosh Hashana: If you kiss somebody you're going to hell, and you'll feel bad about it.

•*New Year's:* Make New Year's resolutions to not eat. You must say you won't eat chocolate.

Rosh Hashana: Eat as much as you can, because it is spiritual. After eight and a half pounds of brisket on Rosh Hashana, you make a resolution to not eat the next day.

•*Rosh Hashana:* Ask people and Gd for forgiveness, known as Teshuva. You prepare for the holiday by calling family and friends. And everybody watches the guy blowing the shofar.

New Year's: Do as many things wrong you can, so you have what to do on Rosh Hashana. You forget to call family and friends. Drank too much. Everybody watches the guy puking.

•We've learned that there's a tradition to drink on New Year's Eve. If New Year's doesn't fall out on Purim, you shouldn't drink. All this said, you can still do Mitzvahs to start the year. If you're not inebriated, you might end up eating brisket on New Year's. That's a Mitzvah.

SERMON OF REBUKE- VAYIGASH

Shabbat Shalom My Pupils...

S Yehuda is worried about Binyamin getting in trouble. Yakov didn't want him to take Binyamin because he was worried something bad will happen. Kind of like every time the board makes a decision... (*Bereisit 44:29*) 'If you take this one too from me, and tragedy happens to him, you will bring my years down to the grave in misery.' The other sons were not bring Nachis. They brought misery. The same way the latke party didn't bring Simcha to anybody. A tragedy...

Binyamin is goodness. *Rashi teaches* 'When he is near me, I comfort myself regarding his mother and Yosef (who are gone), and if he dies it will be as if the three of them died on

one day'... Yes. Menachem. A lot rides on you. I see the back left of the men's section, I see the board, I see the messed up Upshering hairdo, I see the latkes at the latke party, I see Bernie, and I see the death of our shul... You could've gotten a barber to do the Upshering. Number 2 on the shaver is not a style... Nachis. There is no Nachis in an Upshering. We can't celebrate everything... It's a haircut. Yaakov took pride, but he wasn't annoying about it. You get involved in Anim Zemirot like your child is an athlete. They're leading services... Nobody wants to hear your kid singing... Yes. Even Adon Olam.

No comfort. You've brought me to misery...

This is why people drink on New Year's...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha: Anim Zemirot dads are bad. What's worse is Anim Zemirot moms. They're yelling, coming in so loud from the women's section. I heard one mom throw her hands and yell out, 'Come on Gabai!'

SHUL ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Year's Eve the shul will have Minyin.

Leftover latke party is going to happen on New Year's. We need to find a way to get rid of the latkes. The leftover latkes are due to the horrific latkes served at the shul's Chanukah party. We are going to fry them again, to hopefully hide the original taste of the Lefkowitz family recipe.

Another haircut is taking place this week. You must attend the three year old's party. Upshering. Yes. That's a celebration now too. Got to get them a gift for that haircut as well... Clips also work for Kippahs.

Anim Zemirot dads are asked to stay away from the Bima, or they will be ejected from shul. If you want to be involved in Anim Zemirot, teach your kids at home.

The only two families who paid full tuition for their children's Jewish education have realized they've been scammed. It turns out, they too don't want to pay full tuition now, because they have the money.



Saving up for Shabbis... When you have a lot of kids you buy the store brand. When you have twelve kids, you buy Great Value. Why the brand name is the advertisement for the sale is hard to explain... Walmart is too embarrassed to put their name on it, but we are proud of the huge family.

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