

THE Kibbitzer

Shemini Atzeret
and Simchat
Torah Special

Issue 77



They asked him questions about holiday traditions, because he had Simcha.

You get it? They mistook Simcha for Smicha. People like asking happy people questions. Simchat Torah is coming up. You're supposed to be happy on holidays. That was the impetus for this pun. Felt it important to explain.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear Rabbi. I am always scared to jump into Jewish dances. I feel like I have no idea what's going on. With Simchat Torah coming, please advise me as to Jewish dancing?

Shalom My Dear Pupil. Focus on the circle. Jews dance in circle form, by walking. Hand placement can be complicated. As long as you walk, you should be fine. Here are some circle methods that can help with the hands.

•*Two Handed Shoulder Hold* A classic. You can never go wrong following the person in front of you. You place your arms on their shoulders and follow. Wherever they go, you go. This dance is also very useful for those who do not have good balance.

•*The Hand in Hand* Intimate circle where hands are held. Front person should always have their hand on top. Don't make the leader supinate their hand. This is not a power game. Don't ruin the enjoyment and make the ring of brotherhood and sisterhood a circle of contorted hands. Hand placement is the key to any Simcha. Happiness depends on how you hold hands.

•*One Hand Shoulder Hold* Where you put one hand on the shoulder. This

shows the versatility of the shoulder dance genre. You can go from two to one hand. This dance allows for more flexibility, as the free hand can be raised. Possibilities are endless with the shoulder holds.. No matter what you do, you should always end up in a circle.

•*The Run Fast* This variation is harder to hold. You run fast in a circle. You don't need to be talented for this, but you do need to be in shape. Be ready for your arm to be pulled out of socket by guy in front. For those depending on guy in front for balance, this is dangerous.

•*The Leg Lift* Popularized in the mid-90s, this is where you lift your leg every couple steps. Kind of like the kick, many people have gotten injured doing this. So, stick to the 'Two Handed Shoulder Hold' and walking. Any dance where you're holding hands can cause injury. With arms on shoulders, kicking ability is hampered and that's good. Safety comes first, and movement is dangerous. Any dance that involves movement should be avoided. Holding techniques take time. Be persistent. Trust in yourself. For now, work on becoming the best Jewish dancer you can be this Simchat Torah, and practice walking.

SERMON OF REBUKE- VZOT HABRACHA

Shabbat Shalom My Happy Congregants... The two of you... (*Devarim 33:4*) *We were told at Sinai, 'The Torah that Moshe commanded is the heritage of the Kehillah of Israel.'* That's our heritage... The Torah. For crying out loud. How clear can it be? Moshe tells us 'The Torah' and you still don't get it's the Torah. What do we have to do to get you guys to do Mitzvahs?! Throwing candies at kids isn't a heritage... It's Simchat Torah. Not a Bar Mitzvah... I never said it's the other shul's heritage. They're also a messed up Kehillah... Your aim was off. You hit Max and Sim... Why are you whipping candies at eighty-five-year olds? They were Bar Mitzvahed seventy years ago. You even hit the Torah... Work on your

aim. Dancing on Simchat Torah is a heritage... There's a reason we don't do hip-hop in shul... Halloween decorations in the Sukkah are not a Bracha... Even if you got a deal, Halloween decorations aren't our heritage of Israel. Scary plastic didn't happen when the nation was at Sinai. We don't celebrate Halloween... I know we give out candy on Simchat Torah. But... Decorating the Sukkah with gourds should also be Asur... The kids were scared of the Sukkah. It has RIP in it. It was a haunted Sukkah... You whipped the candies. It was a haunted house where you got injured Decent dancing this year. For crying out loud... Make it a heritage. For crying out loud.

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:

The rabbi has been crying out loud a lot the past few weeks. Once the heritage was brought up the congregants started arguing about their inheritance... The rabbi gave the VZot HaBracha sermon on Shabbat, as he noted, 'You people drink too much on Simchat Torah.' After the dance lessons, the rabbi realized the shul is not coordinated.

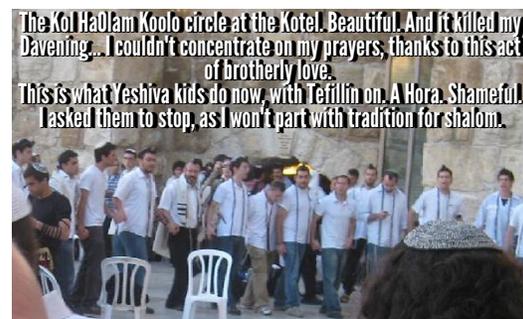
SHUL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We apologize for the messed Sukkah decorations in the shul. Too many members of the sisterhood got involved in the feeling of the Holiday Season, and they ended up decorating with pumpkins and RIP signs.

Simchat Torah Dancing lessons will take place in the hallway. Also known as Simcha dancing. The Rebbetzin will show you how to do the kick and the grapevine. For the men's dancing, the rabbi will teach the men how to walk in a circle correctly.

No whipping candies at kids this Simchat Torah. We had too many injuries last Simchat Torah. Due to bad aim there was a lot of random bystanders hit by the candy. You may aim at kids that will have Bar Mitzvahs soon, to prepare them.

Also, no tossing candies into the middle of nowhere. Kids become very violent when chasing candy. With that in mind, from now on, we do not allow for contact football in the shul hallway without pads.



The Kol HaDlam Koolo circle at the Kotel. Beautiful. And it killed my Davening... I couldn't concentrate on my prayers, thanks to this act of brotherly love. This is what Yeshiva kids do now, with Tefillin on. A Hora. Shameful. I asked them to stop, as I won't part with tradition for shalom.

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