

Cun-tin-yood from page 1

Have you ever struggled with whether or not to do the right thing? Of course you have. You keep going back and forth in your head, knowing what you should do but unable to decide. Finally, you muster the strength, and you decide to do the right thing. You relax, feeling great about yourself, and confident that you're now a better person.

5 minutes later, your Dad walks into your room and says, "I know you're struggling with a decision. I want to help you make the right choice, so I've decided to get you a new laptop as a gift, to help you make your mind." Then he leaves. Sure you're still doing the right thing, **but now what are you thinking about** when you do it? Probably the laptop.

Let's talk about Abraham again. Sure he was going to listen to G-d anyway. That wasn't his challenge. His challenge was doing it for all the right reasons, even after he was offered fame, fortune, and general awesomeness. It's good to have incentives to do the right thing (like winning an iPad Air by coming to a Nageela or Jr. NCSY event, or getting a reward for good report card grades). But we also gotta remember the real reason to do the right thing, and that is simply because it's the right thing to do. **Sometimes the hardest job isn't the job itself, but WHY we do the job.**

Quick Fix

Family matters!

It was an intense war. 5 armies had been defeated by 4 more powerful armies. Lot, the nephew of Avram had been captured. Avram sprang into action!

He was wayyy outnumbered, and he wasn't a young man himself, but you don't leave family behind.

Lot and Avram had a tricky relationship. They had agreed to move away from one another, because there was stress in the home. They weren't BFFs. But they were FBF (Family Be Forever). He had Lot's back. We've got to be kind to everyone (as Avram showed in his life), but there's a special level of kindness and protection we need to show for family, even if we don't get along.

DEEP THOUGHTS

How many light bulbs does it take to change a light bulb?



Why didn't Noach go fishing?

Because he only had two worms!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Jew^{nior}_{NCSY}
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK:

Sunday: JFEST LAs Vegas and Camp Fair at Springs Preserve. FREE ADMISSION

Monday: LV Summerlin 5:45 (4-6 grade) and 7pm (7-8 grade)

Monday: Tarzana Jr. LNL - 7pm

Thursday: Irvine Jr. LNL 6pm

Thursday: Los Angeles City Jr. LNL 6:30

Thursday: Jewish Brain Freeze-Scottsdale

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, Nov. 18th, Join us at CIRCUSTRIX in Irvine!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE Las Vegas Shabbaton Featuring **Adventuredome!** Nov. 22nd- 23rd. See YOLO5 Flyer on Back Page

Winter Regional Shabbaton Weekend: Jan. 17th-19th (MLK weekend) San Francisco! SEE FLYER- Registration has opened!

Join your city's Junior Board: email locker@ncsy.org

Get me some pointy ears

Hi Rabbi,

Are Jews allowed to get surgery to change the way they look? Some of my friends are talking about getting surgical changes, and I was wondering about it.

Thanks!

Barrie A. Trick

Dear Barrie,

Did you know some people have surgery to change an outtie to an innie? For realz.

People have some strange taste in cosmetic surgery. I read about one where people are asking surgeons to make them look more like Snapchat filters. AHHHH! The world is officially ending!

There's even something called ear pointing, where you can get your ear to look like an elf's pointy ear. Like, why? Do people walk around thinking, "If only I looked more like a vulcan, then I'd live long and prosper?"

What does the Torah say about all this? While Snapchat filters are probably not mentioned in biblical literature, Noah and his children were instructed not to kill or even harm anyone. The Talmud derives from the verses that it is forbidden even to harm ourselves. God has given us life, and a body, and one of our responsibilities is to protect and take care of it. Self harming, including cutting or bruising oneself is damaging the gift that God has provided, and is failing in the responsibility to protect it.

There is an exception though, and that is harming a body in order to help it or fix it. About 5 years ago I injured my knee pretty badly. I could have lived with the injury. Instead I had surgery. This type of surgery is perfectly fine, because it serves a medical purpose. The same thing applies to any

surgery that is important for health and

wellness. The more difficult question is cosmetic surgery.

Cosmetic surgery means there is no medical need. There is only an interest in looking better. A very common example of cosmetic surgery would be shortening a really, horribly long Jewish nose. Hmmmm, what if you want a pointy ears to match the pointy nose? I miss Dobby. Where was I?

Most modern day Rabbinic authorities agree that if a person is in pain (even emotional pain), surgery is acceptable. So if your 4 foot long nose is making it hard for you to get a date, get a job, or fit into an airline seat, it's fine to go ahead and shorten it (also, try telling the truth more often, and your nose will stay short). Certainly, if someone has a deformity or birth defect, or has damage from an accident, it would be OK for them to get it fixed.

However, the concept of people just wanting to get things changed and adjusted to be, 'more perfect' or 'better looking' may have halachic problems. And frankly, puts way too much emphasis on looks and image.

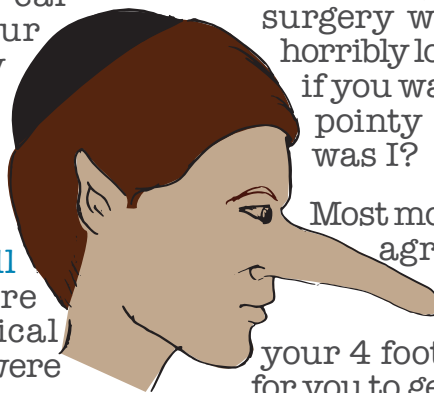
If people spent as much time, money and effort on making their insides beautiful as they do on making their outsides beautiful,



**stump the
rabbi**

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question. Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.



YOLOS

shabbaton

weekend adventure

NOV. 22-23RD

Las Vegas

featuring

The AdventureDome
THEME PARK



SCAN ME



Shabbaton Registration is now open. Just scan the code!

the world would be a kinder, less stressed and happier place.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

mazel tov!

to Nageela Head Counselor
YEHUDA & ROCHEL
LEITER
on the birth of a baby girl!

mazel tov!

to Nageela West &
East veteran BARRY
POLATOFF & fam
on the birth of a baby girl!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Nageela
family members celebrating this
week!

David Aguila
Gavi Stein
Abby Klein

Maytal Cohen
Josh Wexler

HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!



Nageela West breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

WINTER REGIONAL WEEKEND

Jan. 17-19

for 6-8 graders
@ La Quinta Inn
Berkeley, CA

Transportation from Arizona, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Portland, San Diego and Seattle



Amazing Prizes



Incredible Activities



Fantastic Food



Party Bus



San Francisco Night on the Town



ALL NIGHT Sat. Nite party

