

The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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ANCIENT TALMUD FOUND IN JERUSALEM DIG; GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO "HALF SHABBOS" TEXTING

Tractate Textin Approves iPad, Kindle, and Nook (But Not Kindle Fire) for Shabbat Reading; Kohen's Ephod Was Prototype For Today's iPad

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

FAIRLAWN, March 7 – The Orthodox Jewish world was shaken today by the announcement that a Talmud volume discovered last month in the City of David archaeological dig in Jerusalem seems to provide justification for the use of cell phones to send text messages on Shabbat.

The practice, used by Orthodox teens and popularly known as "keeping half-Shabbos" was widely reported in Jewish newspapers last summer.

The Talmud scrolls, titled Tractate *Textin*, describe in intricate detail the way that God communicated with the *Kohen Gadol* (High Priest) in the Temple.

The high priest wore a breastplate on a special garment called an ephod. The breastplate contained twelve colored stones. Linguists now are suggesting that *ephod*, *iPod*, and *iPad* are essentially the same word, allowing for the evolution of language over the millennia. The twelve stones, called *Urim v'Tumim*, may be the first iPad and iPhone apps on a device about the same size as the iPad.

When the people of Israel inquired of God concerning an important issue, the high priest asked God the question. God answered through the twelve stones. For example, when they wanted to know whether they should go out to war, the high priest asked God and God answered through the breastplate by making the stones glow in a sequence. This is the earliest known form of texting, and there are no specific prohibitions in the Torah nor halachic opinions in Talmud *Textin* that bar such communication on the Sabbath.



A careful reading of Tractate *Textin* suggests that the *Urim* and *Tumim* were also used by the priests for activities that were not spelled out in the Torah. For example, there is a reference to *Tziporim Koasot*, or Angry Birds, presumably birds that were supposed to be sacrificed on the altar but were replaced by pigs when the Greek-Syrian army desecrated the Temple during the Hashmonean period.



Other excerpts from *Textin* reveal that while the *Kohen* wasn't looking, some Levites borrowed the *Urim* and *Tumim* to play *ephod* games and amuse themselves with other apps.

Permitted use of the Kindle and Nook was derived by scholars of *Gematria*, the study of numeric word equivalents. When spelled in Hebrew letters, Kindle has a numeric value of 194 and Nook has a value of 156, which are the same numeric values as the Hebrew words *tzedek* and *Ohel Moed*. If the Kindle represents *tzedek*, or righteousness, its use should be permitted at all times.

With the values of Nook and *Ohel Moed* (the tabernacle where the Ark of the Covenant rested and from where God spoke to Moses) being equivalent, the Nook gains a special holiness that merits its use on Shabbat.

Even though e-readers such as the Kindle, Nook, and iPad may be used on Shabbat, the latest model of the Kindle, the Kindle Fire, is specifically forbidden in the Torah (Exodus 35:3) which says "You shall not **Kindle Fire** throughout all your habitations upon the Sabbath day."

It's Movie Awards Time! The Kronikle Presents:



**THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS
FOR THE 2011
SILVER GRAGGER MOVIE AWARDS**

Complete coverage on page 2

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Golden Globes and the Oscars were a good warm-up act. Now, the Kronikle presents its own Silver Gragger Awards for the outstanding film achievements of 2011.



MIDNIGHT IN PARIS: An American tourist finds himself in front of a French synagogue at midnight when a young Rashi appears with casks of wine from Provence that he is selling for the Purim feast.

THE HELP: A nanny working for a Haredi family quits her job when her boss gets pregnant with her 17th and 18th babies.

THE DESCENDANTS: After 969 years, Methuselah looks back on his life and tries to remember the names of all his grandchildren.

EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE: The gripping story of an unaffiliated Jew trying to reconcile his newly discovered heritage with his first experience at an Orthodox kiddush.

MONEYBALL: A young mom creates panic and hysteria at her Passover seder after announcing that her three-carat engagement ring accidentally fell into one of the matzah balls that she was cooking.

DRIVE: With neighbors getting increasingly suspicious, a closeted nonreligious Jew must park further and further away from his Orthodox synagogue each Shabbat morning.

COWBOYS AND ALIENS: When a group of eight Jewish men get lost in Montana, they do everything in their power to find enough Jewish cowboys to help complete a Maariv minyan.

HORRIBLE BOSSES: The story of a woman whose supervisors don't believe a word of it when she asks for time off to celebrate the last days of Passover.

ACT OF VALOR: Pushed to the brink by new halachic stringencies over which Ziploc bags are kosher for Passover, an Eshet Chayil goes rogue, blowtorching the entire house instead of just the kitchen.

I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT: Ruchie Horowitz, a Boro Park mother of ten contends with thirty incoming seder guests, each with different dietary needs.

THE ARTIST: A black-and-white silent film depicting a beautiful and delicate conflict as a baker of unleavened bread meets the seder leader who has attained international fame breaking the middle matzah in two precisely equal pieces.

THE GREY: The previously cinematically untold tale of Rabbi Elazar Ben Azaryah's overnight transformation from young Talmudic prodigy to wizened wise man.

TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY: Mrs. Goldberg's got four children with four different careers. They're all very good at what they do. But was it too much to ask that one of them - just ONE of them - go to medical school?

MAN ON A LEDGE: Moses is the leader of the Jewish people, but he hides a shameful secret: his paralyzing fear of heights.

**NEW IPHONE APPS RUSHED TO
MARKET TO MEET DEMAND
FOR USE ON SHABBAT**

The newly approved use of cell phones and e-readers on Shabbat (see story on page 1) has created a surge of development of new applications for these devices. Here is a sampling of some of the best new Shabbat apps.



Kiddush Buddy: Uses GPS to find all kiddushes in nearby shuls and reports which are hot, which are cold and how far they are from the cell phone owner.



Kid Finder: Works with implanted chip to locate your child and sound alarm if he/she leaves the synagogue building.



Service Length Predictor: Gives real-time estimate of when the service will end. Takes into account traffic delays such as unusually long lulav lines on Sukkot.



Snooze Alert: Recognizes snoring and slumping of cell phone owner during sermon and produces a gentle vibration to wake him from his slumber.



Conversation Connector: Identifies current conversations in shul (sports, finance, loshon hara) and directs user to seats corresponding to topics of interest.



Pledge Counter: For use by shul gabbai to enter pledges made by congregants when they are called to the Torah during services.



Sermon Timer: User presses Start when sermon begins. iPhone vibrates gently when end of sermon is detected by using voice recognition and silence algorithms.



Page Finder: Continuously samples ten seconds of Chazzan's singing and displays current page in siddur. Versions available for ArtScroll, Koren, and Shilo siddurim.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO: While on her junior year abroad in Israel, Aliza changes her name to Lisbeth and gets inked, causing her parents to say, "A tattoo wasn't enough? It had to be of a fictional, non-kosher animal? Oy."

IN THE LAND OF BLOOD AND HONEY: Israel's Ministry of Tourism makes a dreadful advertising misstep.

THE TREE OF LIFE: In this prequel to the famous story of Adam and Eve, we follow the early years of the lesser-known tree in the garden as it grows from seed to adulthood and tells the true story of Man's first sin.