

If There's a G-d, How Can There Be a Sandy?



This is a question that's ripping at our hearts and tugging at our minds, especially, for the millions of people whose lives have been deeply affected by this all too powerful hurricane called Sandy. And yet as always, we can find insight, direction, and timely wisdom in the weekly Torah Portion.

This week's Parsha is called Vayeira, and is translated as "He appeared." It is referring to G-d's appearance or revelation to Abraham. So ironically, this week's Torah portion which is called "He revealed", expresses illumination and enlightenment, and yet everyone on the Eastern seaborne has witnessed one of the greatest concealments in quite some time.

We can reconcile this apparent contradiction through prefacing a powerful story told by Simon Wiesenthal, Holocaust survivor and famed Nazi hunter. Shortly after the liberation of the concentration camps, Rabbi Eliezer Silver, from the Cincinnati, was sent on a mission to offer aid and comfort to the survivors. In Mauthausen, Rabbi Silver also organized a special service, and he invited Wiesenthal to join the other survivors in prayer. Wiesenthal adamantly refused, and explained why.

"In the camp," Wiesenthal said to Rabbi Silver, "there was one religious man who somehow managed to smuggle in a siddur (prayer book). At first, I greatly admired the man for his courage-that he would risk his life in defiance of his cruel oppressors. He represented the indomitable Jewish spirit that these Nazi beasts couldn't crush. But the next day I realized, to my horror that this man was 'renting out' this siddur to people in exchange for food. Emaciated inmates were giving him half of their ration of bread for a few minutes with the prayer book. This man, who was very thin, died because his digestive system was over-burdened by his new business venture." He continued: "If this is how religious Jews behave, I'm not going to have anything to do with a prayer book."

As Wiesenthal turned to walk away, Rabbi Silver touched him on the shoulder and gently said in Yiddish, "Why do you look at the Jew who used his siddur to take food out of starving people's mouths? Why don't you look at the precious Jews who gave up their last morsel of bread in order to be able to use a siddur? That's faith. That's the true power of suffering Jews and their unbroken convictions." Rabbi Silver then embraced him. "I went to the services the next day," said Wiesenthal.

Just like Mr Wiesenthal experienced a personal transformation with a change of perspective, so too, we can look at our current events and see tremendous light and hope that has come to the surface after a tragedy named Sandy.

In no way am I trying to minimize the horrific suffering of so many. However, since the beginning of this ordeal, we have witnessed a tremendous outpouring of benevolence, dedication and literal self-sacrifice from across the globe. A Hurricane of Human Spirit has exploded, illustrating how we Americans are a nation of benevolent people. Similar to the outburst of kindness on Sept 11th, and by other calamities, we have seen the true "revelation" of the true essence of the human spirit, which is simply GOOD.

The Republican Governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie, who has been vehemently opposed to the current President, stated as he walked side by side with President Obama, that in these moments we must put aside politics, and remember what's truly important.

So on one hand, we can look around and see a G-dless world which is dark, lonely and void of the Divine presence, or we can look out and see the exact opposite. Yes, we have gone through grueling challenges and painful tests, but we have witnessed once again, that what lies underneath the superficiality of life, and of the soul, is pure Goodness, Compassion and G-DLINESS.

Of course, we can never trivialize the pain and suffering that people go through, whether in a time of Hurricane or on any day. Nevertheless, if we work to open our eyes, and probe beyond the surface we can see the revelation of goodness that lies within. And we should strive to make that the center of our lives, even after Sandy's crippling presence is long gone.

Philosophy is nice but action is so much more celebrated within Judaism. At the beginning of this Torah portion, Abraham interrupts his conversation with G-d to help three traveling strangers in need of hospitality and shade from the scorching sun. To have a dialogue with G-d is surely Divine, but Abraham drops the call to help people in real need.

Grappling with how can an All Merciful G-d be just is good, but what is even more G-dly and sacred is to answer the needs of those who survived Sandy. I personally know the people running

<u>www.shluchimfloodrelief.com</u> and whoever can kindly make a gift will be showing that

Sandy can never wash away the G-dliness we all have within us.

Rabbi Areyah Kaltmann



The Friendship Circle yoga class got together Thursday night to thank Cheryl and wish her well in the race.

Why is our Friendship Circle volunteer running TO New York this weekend?

In spite of Hurricane Sandy, dedicated Friendship Circle volunteer coordinator, Cheryl Sher, is doing her best to make it to New York to run for Friendship Circle.

Cheryl has been working tirelessly for months to raise over \$3600 to support this great program and increase its visibility, and has surpassed the Marathon's fundraising requirement. (She's also been training really hard!)

We would like to offer her our thanks and support for her dedication and efforts.

If you would like to watch the race,

- here's the viewing times/channels for the marathon:
 - ESPN2 and <u>www.watchESPN.com</u> Sun. from 9am 12:30pm

 - ESPN3 Sunday 7am 2pm
 National Highlight Show ABC 4-6 pm

Track Cheryl's progress (TrackMyRunners) You can track runners on the day of the race via text

(this requires pre-registration and a small fee) or via web page (no registration or charge).

Check your email for any future updates about her progress and how to watch her online.





Volunteers needed - LifeTown has started! If you can give as little as two hours a week, you can make a lasting

difference in the life of a child with disabilities. Volunteers play the roles of merchants in our venues, helping children learn life skills.

If would like to volunteer, call or *email* Cheryl Sher at 774-3403 to schedule.

For more info about the LifeTown program, visit www.lifetowncolumbus.org.

Kiddush Corner

We need YOU for our New Chabad KIDDUSH TEAM! Individuals, husband-wife/couples needed! Sign up to shop, have fun, prep, bake! Esther Kaltmann will train you & provide menu/recipes! Be part of our warm community! We are using SignUp Genius to help keep everyone organized - click the link below for sign up!



A big thanks to last week's helpers - Helen Katzman (prep help) and Kim Ableman (shopper)



<u>www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F094EA9AF2DA02-chabad/5867020</u>

It's not too late to try this special class! Not sure? Try your first class for free - call the office to sign up.



The KABBALAH of You

Who are you? What do you truly care about? What do you really want? (Is it different from what you need?) A remarkable new course about YOU from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute.

JUST HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOURSELF?

Every worthwhile endeavor in life can be enhanced and exponentially deepened when you are in touch with your innermost self. The inspiration and wisdom of The Kabbalah of You will help you encounter your deepest core and forge your own path to fulfillment. Rich with humor, insight, compassion and absolute honesty, this course is a map to help you handle anything life throws your way.

Sign up today for a remarkable experience!

OPTION 1 - Six Mondays, 7:15 - 9:00 p.m.

Starting October 29 Location: The Columbus Jewish Foundation 1175 College Ave. (southern entrance) Columbus, OH 43209

OPTION 2 - Six Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Starting October 31 Location: The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center

6220 East Dublin-Granville Rd. New Albany, OH 43054



Register at myjli.com Fee: \$109 (textbook included) JLI For more information call 614-939-0765

Missed the first class? You can still sign up - please call or email Esther!



The Jewish Learning Institute presents a new JLI Teens program: Life on the Line: You Make the Call! How much is your life worth?

Debate real-life news stories such as rescuing strangers, euthanasia and attempted suicide. Discover a new way of navigating through life's moral challenges.

Open to all teens

WHEN: Sundays 4:30-5:30 PM A 6-week course starting October 28; Course fee: \$60, textbooks and snacks included WHERE: The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center INFO: <u>esther@friendscolumbus.com</u> 614.563.2261 REGISTER TODAY AT: http://tinyurl.com/jliteens-lifeontheline

Schedule of Services

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center offers a full schedule of Shabbat and holiday services. Come and be inspired for the rest of the week! For more information, please call us at 614-939-0765.

18 Cheshvan, 5773 Saturday, November 3, 2012 Parsha Va'yeirah

Morning Services: 9:30 a.m



Women's Torah Study 10:00 a.m



NEW! CKids - ages 5-12: 10:45 a.m.



Tot Shabbot for 4 and under: 11:00 a.m.



KIDDUSH 12:00 pm

19 Cheshvan, 5773 Sunday, November 4, 2012

Shachrit: 9:45 a.m.

Candle Lighting Times



Shabbat Friday, Nov. 2 Light Candles at 6:09 pm

Shabbat Ends Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7:08 pm

Shabbat Friday, Nov. 9 Light Candles at 5:02 pm

Shabbat Ends Saturday, Nov. 10 at 6:01 pm

Shabbat Friday, Nov. 16 Light Candles at 4:56 pm

Shabbat Ends Saturday, Nov. 17 at 5:56 pm

Shabbat Friday, November 23 Light Candles at 4:51 pm

Shabbat Ends Saturday, Nov. 24 at 5:52 pm





Women's Torah

Don't miss this week's women's Torah study Saturday, November 3 at 10:00 AM; coffee, cake and great discussion.



Be a part of the Chabad family! Sign up for new or renewed membership online at ChabadColumbus.com. You may also call our office at 614-939-0765 or email rabbi@chabadcolumbus.com

We've made it even easier this year - look for the signup station in the hallway, complete with iPad - so you can sign up with paper or paperless!



Chabad Hebrew School

For more information: <u>www.chabadhs.org</u> Call 614-939-0765 or 614-578-9318 or email <u>hebrewschool@chabadhs.org</u>



Tasty Torah

Tasty Torah is a monthy women's Rosh Chodesh luncheon hosted by Shelly Dembe at her home in Bexley. It features a Chassidus class and a gourmet lunch by Shelly. No charge, all are welcome. To get on the email list please email Shelly@ahealthierbalance.com



Weekly Torah study! Please join us for "A Journey into the Soul of Torah", a weekly Torah study The class will continue on Thursdays

at 7:30 pm at The Lori Schottenstein Chadbad Center. Open to all and free of charge.

Kiddush Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Looking for a meaningful way to recognize a special day? Consider sponsoring a Kiddush. For more information, please contact the Chabad office at 614-939-0765

Brought to you by:

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center 6220 East Dublin-Granville Road New Albany, OH 43054 614-939-0765 www.chabadcolumbus.com

Look for Chabad Columbus - please "friend" us!

Forward email

SafeUnsubscribe

This email was sent to enowels@centipedegraphics.com by <u>areyahkaltmann@sbcglobal.net</u> | <u>Update Profile/Email Address</u> | Instant removal with <u>SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy</u>.



The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center | 6220 East Dublin-Granville Road | New Albany | OH | 43054