



Can We Ever Open Our Eyes After Newtown?

Last Friday, as the surviving children at Sandy Hook Elementary School were escorted to safety they were instructed to shut their eyes.

Are survivors supposed to ever open their eyes to a world that brutally robbed them of their once pure childhood? Are we ever supposed to come to terms with any suffering that we have endured? If we refuse to acknowledge our misfortune, does that chase evil away? Was it more important for the children to keep their eyes closed, or is the focus to keep on marching out of their bloodied school?

There are no words that can possibly express the grief and tragedy of the Newtown massacre. Last Friday early morning 20 children left their homes to go to their loving school but ended up being murdered. How could such a reality ever exist in a G-d's benevolent universe?

Many years ago in Brooklyn, the Jewish community was shocked by the tragic death of Rabbi Lazer Mangel, who was killed in a car accident. He left behind a young wife and unborn child. His father, Rabbi Nissan Mangel, is a Holocaust survivor who survived seven concentration camps.

On the final day of mourning, Rabbi Mangel shared with everyone present a poignant story of Lazer's youth, when the family was granted audience with the Lubavitcher Rebbe. The Rebbe asked young Lazer, then four, to say the Shema Yisroel (a prayer that expresses the essence of Judaism that G-d is One), and the boy eagerly agreed.

But he did not close his eyes.

The Rebbe, suddenly very serious, turned to Rabbi Mangel and suggested, "Whenever your son recites the Shema, he should close his eyes and cover them with his hand."

Now many years later Rabbi Mangel finally understood the Rebbe's sudden change in mood, and his sage advice. The Rebbe, he said, had prophetically instructed Rabbi Mangel on coping with his son's death decades later.

The Shema Yisroel should always be said with eyes closed.

When the surviving children at Sandy Hook Elementary School were instructed to close their eyes as they were lead out of their school that command had a deeper significance. Their innocence had been crushed; their child-friendly existence had been violated. We don't know why they had to undergo this ordeal but their recourse is to continue on, marching toward a happier more pleasant existence. Their eyes should be shut from any painful flashbacks by clinging on to a brighter future.

To honor the souls ripped away by this tragedy, we need to continue their lives by saying the Shema daily and to internalize its potent meaning.

In this week's Torah portion, when Jacob is reunited with his lost son Joseph after a heart wrenching 22 year absence, his response is to recite the Shema. These words gave Jacob hope when he was mourning the demise of his most precious child. There was no looking back just his burning zeal to go on. To leap, plunge and charge forward out of the quagmire of gloom and depression. Jacob knew that he had to live life to its fullest, with his eyes closed to the pain that gripped his heart.

Dear Friends, we have no answers. We can never begin to understand this massacre. No evil can stop us from crying out to our father in Heaven for comfort. We believe in the words of Isaiah that the day will finally come when death is obliterated and G-d will permanently wipe away the tears from every face. We will only then be able to truly open our eyes.

With much love and friendship,

Areyah Kaltmann

You will soon experience a delightful night of friendship & camaraderie.

Join us for the second annual

CHINESE DINNER

A KOSHER CHINESE DINNER!

Monday, December 24, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
at The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center

Cost: For members, \$12.00 adults / \$8.00 children
For non members, \$18.00 adults / \$12.00 children

ENJOY
A full menu of Chinese style dishes & delicacies
A warm, friendly & relaxing ambiance
Live folk music by Marc Edelstein
A video presentation & entertainment

To make reservations, please call (614) 939-0765 or email us at chabadcolumbus@sbcglobal.net

Women's Torah

Don't miss this week's women's Torah study on Saturday, December 22 at 10:00 AM; coffee, cake and great discussion.

Be sure to ask Esther about her trip to Israel!

For Ladies Only

We had a great turnout of women from all over Columbus on Tuesday Dec. 4 for a lovely lunch and great discussion on emotional mastery according to Kabbalah. Be sure to mark your calendars for January 15. The topic will be food and dieting.

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 cooks - **Anna Rimkunas** and **Cassy Taylor**.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20Fo94EA9AF2DA02-chabad/5867020

<h4>Schedule of Services</h4> <p>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.</p> <p>9 Tevet, 5773 Saturday, December 22, 2012 Parsha Va'yigash</p> <p>Morning Services: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>CKids - ages 5-12: 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Women's Torah Study: 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Tot Shabbat for 4 and under: 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>KIDDUSH 12:00 pm</p> <p>Kiddush this week is sponsored by David and Irina Bilenko in honor of their grandmother, Anna Dykhne, of blessed memory.</p>	<h4>Candle Lighting Times</h4> <p>Shabbat Friday, Dec. 21 Light Candles at 4:51 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Ends Saturday, Dec. 22 at 5:55 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Friday, Dec. 28 Light Candles at 4:55 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Ends Saturday, Dec. 29 at 5:59 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Friday, Jan. 4 Light Candles at 5:01 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Ends Saturday, Jan. 5 at 6:04 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Friday, Jan. 4 Light Candles at 5:07 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Ends Saturday, Jan. 5 at 6:11 pm</p>
<p>10 Tevet, 5773 Sunday, December 23, 2012</p> <p>Shachrit: 9:45 a.m.</p>	

Volunteers needed to make LifeTown a success!

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.

It's About TIME

A new course from the Rosh Chodesh Society

Test-drive the wisdom of the ages in this balance of practical and insightful spiritual self-help, focused on making your life happier, more fulfilled, and more effective. In each session, learn to master one aspect of your personal life related to the kabbalistic energies of the month. Learn. Grow. Be inspired. Be empowered. Take action. Implement change.

Rosh Chodesh society is a women's society that meets once per month

Monthly on Tuesdays - Next meeting Jan. 15th, Topic is Food and Dieting
12:00 pm
Study session led by Esther Kaltmann
Catered lunch
Cost \$15 (please pay at the door)

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center, 6220 East Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany, OH 43054
Email esther.kaltmann@sbcglobal.net 614-563-2261

TOPICS & DATES

January 15: Food and Dieting; **February 12:** Pursuing Happiness
March 12: Communication; **April 9:** Faith and Knowledge; **May 7:** Lasting Change

For detailed course descriptions:
<http://www.roshchodeshsociety.com/inside.php?content=current-course>

NOTE: Classes resume Jan. 27

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
Course fee: \$60, textbooks and snacks included. **Remaining dates: Jan 27, Feb. 17 & 24.**
WHERE: The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center
INFO: esther@friendscolumbus.com 614.563.2261
REGISTER TODAY AT: <http://tinyurl.com/jliteens-lifeontheline>

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center

Be a part of our family

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: www.chabadhs.org
Call 614-939-0765 or 614-578-9318 or email hebrewschool@chabadhs.org

<p>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 Chabad Center. Open to all and free of charge.</p>	<p>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</p>
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Brought to you by:

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

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