



תשע"ה

Jews murdered in prayer, but there is hope.

The Jewish nation stands together in mourning yet again. Those holy brothers, who returned their souls to their Maker while in the midst of prayer, will join the long list of innocent martyrs throughout the ages whose lives were cruelly taken from them for no other reason than that they are Jews.

But there was another type of martyr in this attack, an Israeli policeman by the name of Zidan Saf. He heroically entered the synagogue after hearing that terrorists were on a killing rampage inside, and though he was a traffic officer, ill-equipped for such a mission, he saved hundreds of lives. But Zidan himself was shot and died of his wounds, leaving behind a wife and seven month old daughter.

Zidan is a hero of Israel. But Zidan was not Jewish. He was an Arab. Although ethnically he was closer to the terrorists than their Jewish victims, ideologically he couldn't be further away from them.

Zidan was a member of the Druze community, a monotheistic religious group that emerged from Islam but differs from Islam in many ways. One is that the Druze preach loyalty to their host country, wherever they live. In Israel, they serve in the army and many Druze, like Zidan, have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The Druze revere Jethro, Moses' father in law, as their major prophet. Curiously, Jewish tradition teaches that after Jethro converted to Judaism, he did not accompany the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land, but returned to his own people to teach them Torah. There is no record in Jewish writings of how successful he was in spreading the message of Moses, but perhaps the Druze are the fruits of his efforts. To this day, they uphold the seven laws of Noah, the Torah's moral code for all humanity.

Zidan's story makes it clear that the battle in Israel is not about race, it is not about land, it is about ideology. There is one ideology that all over the world refuses to live peacefully with others. That is radical Islam.

The Talmudic tradition records a chilling prophecy about the end of time, when the children of Yishmael - the Arabs - will afflict horrible pain on the children of Israel. But the very name Yishmael means "G-d will hear." G-d will hear the cry of the victims and respond, and that's when Moshiach will come.

We need to pray for the victims, cut short in the middle of their prayers. Pray for their bereaved families, that G-d should hear their cries. Pray that our leaders have the strength and clarity to fight this battle to its end. And pray that Moshiach should come now.

Zidan was laid to rest, surrounded by his Druze brethren and hundreds of black-hatted Jews who came to pay respect to a righteous gentile. In the midst of this tragedy, we must hold on to this display of unity among people of different religions, serving G-d side by side with mutual respect. A small light can dispel a lot of darkness. Goodness will win.

Good Shabbos,
Aryeh



This event will acknowledge the fathers of: Scott Sher, Marty Katszin, Helen Katszin

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To RSVP call or text Ben Schottenstein at 614.257.7571 or email at bschottenstein@chabadcolumbus.org



Advertisement for 'A Woman's Right to Economic Security: A Call to Action' forum. Includes details about the event on Sunday, December 7th at Columbus JCC, 1125 College Avenue, 10:30am - 1pm. A light brunch will be offered at this event. RSVP before December 1 by sending your \$6 check to Hadassah, 2700 E. Main St., #106, Columbus OH 43229.

Advertisement for 'Don't miss this important community-wide forum highlighting Hadassah's commitment to creating awareness of the issues surrounding A Woman's Right to Economic Security.' Lists sponsors and contact information.

Advertisement for 'ROSH CHODESH Jewish Secrets to Meaningful Relationships' on Monday, November 24. Includes details about the event and contact information.

Advertisement for 'Be a part of something special!' featuring a marathon event for children with special needs.

Advertisement for 'LifeTown' providing life skills training for children with disabilities.

Advertisement for 'Kiddush Sponsorship Opportunities Available'.

Advertisement for 'Chabad Hebrew School'.

'This Week @ www.ChabadColumbus.com' featuring articles on Parshat Rivers of the Soul, Jewish news, your questions, and an interview with Mr. Handwriting Guy.

Advertisement for 'Candle Lighting Times for New Albany, OH (Based on Zip Code 43054)'. Includes times for Friday, Nov 21 and Shabbat, Nov 22.

'Schedule of Services' for the Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center, including Shabbat services, Cheshvan 5775, and Shabbat for 4 and under.

'Upcoming Events' including Rosh Chodesh - Soulmates, JLI class-How Happiness Thinks, Hebrew School, and Teen brunch w the Buckeyes.



'Parashat Toldot' article discussing Isaac and Rebecca's prayers, Esau's emergence, and Jacob's return to the land.

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