



Dear Friends,

Last night's thrilling OSU comeback against Alabama, a shocking win over the number one team in the land after trailing 21-6 late in the second quarter, might seem "Biblical" in our euphoria over winning a trip to the national championship game. But really? Biblical?

Okay, the facts that Ohio State was a distinct underdog, that the team barely squeaked into the national championship playoffs through a stunning 59-0 thrashing of Wisconsin, and, most dramatic, that OSU was starting a relatively unknown, third-string quarterback with one game under his belt, Cardale Jones, did make a victory seem improbable. But still, Biblical?

Ask a rabbi, however—or at least this rabbi—and the response is yes, Biblical. In fact, the Torah is full of stories of ordinary people—people of whom little is expected—who are suddenly thrust into a crucial situation and who act heroically. The best-known tale may be that of David's triumph over Goliath, but in the synagogue on many Saturday mornings throughout the year we read examples of people who unknowingly had greatness within them.

I need look no further than this week's Torah portion for such a story. This week we read that Jacob, the esteemed patriarch and father of the 12 Tribes of Israel, had died. The gathering for his burial is massive and star-studded in terms of Biblical heroes. Among the mourners are his son Joseph, the prime minister of Egypt and the individual who saved the Egyptian people—and, in fact, the entire world—from years of famine. Judah, whose strength and courage were legendary. Shimon and Levi, who together took down an entire city.

But someone else is present: Esau, Jacob's twin brother and nemesis since birth. Although Jacob had paid Esau for the last family burial plot in the Cave of Machpalah, Esau says there is no proof of purchase, and the burial is stalled. All these powerful men of the Bible are gathered, and none of them intercedes to permit the burial to go forward. None, that is, except Chusim. So who was Chusim?

A grandson of Jacob and the only child of Dan, Chusim was a strong young man with a disability. He was deaf and did not speak clearly. In many ways he had been marginalized. But amid the chaos and paralysis that had overtaken his family, Chusim became the one with the clarity and pure sense of purpose to demand, "My grandfather should lie over there in disgrace?" And he set about ensuring that Jacob would be buried where he belonged, alongside other hallowed ancestors of his people.

Commentaries on the Talmud ask, why Chusim? And in our delirium over our unexpected Sugar Bowl victory, we might ask—if you will pardon the analogy—why Cardale Jones, a player who sat invisibly on the bench until a few weeks ago? Why a third-string quarterback to lead a storied football power to one of the most celebrated triumphs in its history? Is there any similarity?

The commentaries imply yes when they explain that Chusim, whose deafness distilled the emotional disarray that had overtaken his family, pierced through the clutter. His grasp of the situation was not affected by all the distractions hampering others. He focused on the need for action and he took it.

In fact, such commentaries often explain to us that Bible heroes do not suddenly become heroic. Like David, who slew Goliath, they always had this capacity to triumph and to lead, and the situation we read about in the Bible is merely the moment when their greatness is revealed.

Maybe Cardale Jones, with limited experience and limited time to pay attention to all the hype surrounding the game, actually had an advantage: a clear-sighted understanding of his mission: Learn the plays and focus on your role so you can help your team win the game. Maybe many of his teammates "kept it simple" as well. *We're not expected to win and advance to the championship game. Let me just try to focus on the fundamentals, listen to the coaches, and do my best.*

The Torah teaches us that greatness can be revealed from those who appear stuck on the sidelines, and that sometimes a disadvantage turns out to be an advantage. And on occasion we get these same lessons from a football game.

Only good news,

Areyah



The Art of Parenting

As parents, we worry about the well-being of our kids; about their future, and about our role in shaping it. In *The Art of Parenting*, we scale the challenges that face us as parents and explore timeless insights from Jewish wisdom to instill values, foster independence, and ensure the long-term success and emotional well-being of our children.

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center,
6220 East Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany, OH 43054
614-939-0765
chabadcolumbus@sbcglobal.net

- JOIN NOW**
6 Tuesdays beginning Jan 20th - Feb 24th
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
\$110.00
Lunch Provided - Child Care Available for \$7 per session
- JOIN NOW**
6 Wednesdays beginning Jan 21st - Feb 25th
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
\$110.00
Refreshments Provided

Winter Cooking Camp

4 days of cooking, crafts, stories and songs



Mitzvah Soup

This week features **Grandma Birdie's Roasted Garlic and Onion soup**

**Mitzvah Soup...
Good for the Body and Soul
Available at the
Chabad Center Jan. 7.**

All fresh and all delicious, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the Columbus LifeTown program. Please contact Justin at 614-939-0765 to order. Limited quantities.

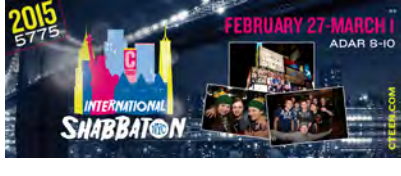
Just \$10!

SAVE THE DATE - TEEN SKI TRIP JANUARY 25

We are having a ski trip for 8th grade and up, meeting with teens from Dayton and Cincinnati at the Perfect North ski resort.

We will meet at Chabad 9 am and return 7 pm. \$50 cost includes transportation, lunch, ski lessons, lift ticket and snow tubing.

Call Esther 563-2261 or Levi to RSVP 578-9318



About The Shabbaton

CTeen is a social club where teens learn about themselves and their heritage through giving to others and participating in interactive, hands-on activities. With over 125 chapters, in 14 countries, CTeen is the fastest growing network for Jewish teens.

The International CTeen Shabbaton is an annual reunion of Jewish teens from across the continent. For the past six years, hundreds of teens have forged new friendships while experiencing a meaningful Shabbat and enjoying the thrills of the Big Apple.

This year's Shabbaton will G-d willing take place in New York on February 27th- March 1st.

Manhattan shopping, visiting tourists' hot spots and Brooklyn's Jewish attractions are some of this year's Shabbaton features.


Building on the incredible success of the past Shabbatons, this year's fresh program and revised itinerary promise to be unmatched.

Dare to be surprised. Prepare for the unimaginable.

The CTeen International Shabbaton is open to all Jewish teens in the community regardless of affiliation.



esther@friendscolumbus.com 614.563.2261



SOULMATES
Soulmates – Jewish Secrets to Meaningful Relationships

Monday, November 24

Behind Closed Doors – Judaism's View of Intimacy

Is G-d comfortable in the bedroom? Is sexual intimacy holy? Profane? Mundane? Holy, but only as a means to procreation? What does Judaism have to say about sexuality and how to enhance the intimacy between husband and wife? This lesson taps into Judaism's vast reservoir of wisdom, both practical and kabbalistic, on a topic your Hebrew school teacher likely never broached.

Course synopsis by chapters [here](#).

Upcoming classes:

Wednesday, January 21 - "Beloved Friends"

Thursday, February 19 - "Respecting Your Other Half"

Thursday, March 19 - "Happy Ever After?"

Monday, April 20 - "Sacred Space"

Tuesday, May 19 - "Becoming a Better Half"

Classes are from 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Light brunch will be served.

Cost: \$105 registration for entire year includes textbook; or \$20 per individual class.

Chabad of Columbus
6220 East Dublin Granville Rd.
New Albany, OH 43054-9381

For info or to register:
esther@friendscolumbus.com
614.563.2261




BE AMBITIOUS.

"I DON'T ALWAYS RUN, BUT WHEN I DO"

Be a part of something special!


If you never thought you could run a marathon, you're probably **WRONG**. With Team Friendship's awesome resources and support, you CAN walk or run 13.1 miles and BE legendary for children with special needs!

[Click for more info.](#)



LIFE TOWN
LIVING FOR LIFE

LifeTown provides life skills training for children with disabilities. We rely on volunteers to make our unique program work. To volunteer, sign up at [Signup Genius](#) or email volunteer coordinator [Nancy Eisenman](#) for more information.

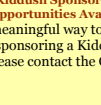


Weekly Torah study

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.

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.



זמני הדלקת הנרות

Candle Lighting Times for
New Albany, OH (Based on Zip Code 43121):

Shabbat Candle Lighting:
Friday, Jan 2 4:59 pm
Shabbat Ends:
Shabbat, Jan 3 6:03 pm

Torah Portion: **Vayechi**

Schedule of Services

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center offers a full schedule of Shabbat services.

Come and be inspired for the rest of the week! For more information, please call us at 614-939-0765.

12 Tevet 5775
Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015

Morning Services: 9:30 a.m.

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

Torah and Tea* - 10:00 a.m.
**This class is now Dedicated in Memory of Rashi Minkowitz, co"m, a community leader, mother and Shilucha*

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

KIDDUSH - 12:00 pm

13 Tevet, 5775
Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015

Shachrit: 9:45 a.m.

Subscribe to this newsletter



לוח חודשות

Upcoming Events

Hebrew School - regular class
Jan. 4, 2015 - 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Hebrew School hours: 9:30-9:45 parents are invited on a weekly basis to join Rabbi Kaltmann for coffee.

Classes are from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm (unless indicated otherwise)

First Taste classes (ages 3-5) are from 11 am -12 pm
[More Info >](#)

Hebrew School - regular class
Jan. 11, 2015 - 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Hebrew School hours: 9:30-9:45 parents are invited on a weekly basis to join Rabbi Kaltmann for coffee.

Classes are from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm (unless indicated otherwise)

First Taste classes (ages 3-5) are from 11 am -12 pm
[More Info >](#)

Hebrew School - regular class
Jan. 18, 2015 - 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Hebrew School hours: 9:30-9:45 parents are invited on a weekly basis to join Rabbi Kaltmann for coffee.

Classes are from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm (unless indicated otherwise)

First Taste classes (ages 3-5) are from 11 am -12 pm
[More Info >](#)

JLI-Art of Parenting
Jan. 20, 2015 - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

The Art of Parenting

As parents, we worry about the well-being of our kids; about their future, and about our role in shaping it. In *The Art of Parenting*, we scale the challenges that face us as parents and explore timeless insights from Jewish wisdom to instill values, foster independence, and ensure the long-term success and emotional well-being of our children.

[More Info >](#)

Rosh Chodesh - Soulmates
Jan. 21, 2015 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

SOULMATES
JEWISH SECRETS TO MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Thursday, October 23 - "Two Halves, One Whole"
Monday, November 24 - "Behind Closed Doors"
Wednesday, January 21 - "Beloved Friends"
Thursday, February 19 - "Respecting Your Other Half"
Thursday, March 19 - "Happy Ever After?"
Monday, April 20 - "Sacred Space"
Tuesday, May 19 - "Becoming a Better Half"

Light brunch. Cost \$15 per class.

For info or to register:
esther@friendscolumbus.com | 614.563.2261
[More Info >](#)

JLI-Art of Parenting
Jan. 21, 2015 - 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

The Art of Parenting

As parents, we worry about the well-being of our kids; about their future, and about our role in shaping it. In *The Art of Parenting*, we scale the challenges that face us as parents and explore timeless insights from Jewish wisdom to instill values, foster independence, and ensure the long-term success and emotional well-being of our children.

[More Info >](#)

JLI Teens
Jan. 25, 2015 - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
AN 18 WEEK COURSE FOR TEENS

Starting Jan. 25 - Hollywood Idol

[More Info >](#)

JLI-Art of Parenting
Jan. 27, 2015 - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

The Art of Parenting

As parents, we worry about the well-being of our kids; about their future, and about our role in shaping it. In *The Art of Parenting*, we scale the challenges that face us as parents and explore timeless insights from Jewish wisdom to instill values, foster independence, and ensure the long-term success and emotional well-being of our children.

[More Info >](#)

JLI-Art of Parenting
Jan. 28, 2015 - 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

The Art of Parenting

As parents, we worry about the well-being of our kids; about their future, and about our role in shaping it. In *The Art of Parenting*, we scale the challenges that face us as parents and explore timeless insights from Jewish wisdom to instill values, foster independence, and ensure the long-term success and emotional well-being of our children.

[More Info >](#)

[View all upcoming events](#)

פרשת השבוע

Parshat Vayechi

Jacob lives the final 17 years of his life in Egypt. Before his passing, he asks Joseph to take an oath that he will bury him in the Holy Land. He blesses Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, elevating them to the status of his own sons as progenitors of tribes within the nation of Israel.

The patriarch desires to reveal the end of days to his children, but is prevented from doing so.

Jacob blesses his sons, assigning to each his role as a tribe. Judah will produce leaders, legislators and kings; priests will come from Levi, scholars from Issachar, seafarers from Zebulun, schoolteachers from Simeon, soldiers from Gad, judges from Dan, olive-growers from Asher, and so on. Reuben is rebuked for "confusing his father's marriage bed"; Simeon and Levi, for the massacre of Shechem and the plot against Joseph. Naphtali is granted the swiftness of a deer, Benjamin the ferociousness of a wolf, and Joseph is blessed with beauty and fertility.

A large funeral procession consisting of Jacob's descendants, Pharaoh's ministers, the leading citizens of Egypt and the Egyptian cavalry accompanies Jacob on his final journey to the Holy Land, where he is buried in the Machpelah Cave in Hebron.

Joseph, too, dies in Egypt, at the age of 110. He, too, instructs that his bones be taken out of Egypt and buried in the Holy Land, but this would come to pass only with the Israelites' exodus from Egypt many years later. Before his passing, Joseph conveys to the Children of Israel the testament from which they will draw their hope and faith in the difficult years to come: "G-d will surely remember you, and bring you up out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Chabad Hebrew School

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

מגזין שבועי

This Week @ www.ChabadColumbus.com

parshah
Is Anyone Too Good to Die?
Jews don't glorify death, even though we believe that there is glory after death. Instead, Jews celebrate life. So, long after someone dies, we continue to celebrate his or her life. Even the Torah's description of death can be viewed as a description of life. Especially the death of Jacob.

first person
Larry Never Went to Synagogue and He's Still My Hero
I couldn't understand why he never came to shul and why he didn't send his children to a Jewish school. He was such a nice and sweet Jew. Why did he choose to be so uninformed? This must be addressed, said my righteous indignation. I waited for an opportunity to "give him a piece of my mind."

multimedia
The Marching Orders the Rebbe Gave Us
"The Rebbe didn't leave a legacy, he left marching orders"

essay
An Essay on Tzimtzum
In a single cryptic sentence, Schneur Zalman of Liadi posited the limits of divine knowledge to an unprecedentedly esoteric height and paradoxically declared that the loftiest peak is openly accessible to all.