



“Making Today That Special Occasion”

April 2022

As this goes to print, we are mindful of two great tragedies.

1) The CPD mourns the loss of one of our own P.O. Andres M. Vasques Lasso, who was murdered in the line of duty, "gone but never forgotten". 2) Our deepest sympathy and condolences to our brother in the Chicago Fire Dept, F.F. Walter Stewart, who tragically lost his wife and three

children in a fire at their home. Thanks to each and every one of you for all your prayers, love, support and friendship to these families, in this most difficult time, please keep them in your prayers. Moments like this bring to mind a famous quote sent to me by one of our members, "When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is the definition of a true friend who cares.".... end of quote.

It is moments as these that should make us stop and reflect, to "Make Every day Special"....

Let me share a short story with you.....

I was at the home of a close friend who had just lost his beloved wife. He was going through her closet, and he handed me a new dress still wrapped as it was, new from the store - a beautiful, exquisite, handmade dress with beautiful trim. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached.

He said "my wife bought this the first time we went on vacation, at least 10 years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion." He took the dress from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the closet shut and turned to me and said, "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion."

"Every day you're alive is a special occasion". I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him and his family attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them on the plane returning home from the East coast, where my friend and his family reside. I thought about all the things that his wife hadn't seen, heard or done; she was so young. I thought

about the things that she had done, without her ever realizing that they were special.

I'm still thinking about his words, and how they should change our lives. Read more and worry less. Take the time to sit on your porch or front lawn and admire the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. Spend more time with our families and friends today and less time worrying about tomorrow and all those things that never happens. Let's try to recognize the 'special occasion', the special moments now and cherish them.

Try not "saving" anything for too long; use your good china and crystal for every special event--- or make a 'special event' such as a goal reached, a child's birthday, or that occasion that makes you just feel good. Wear your nice blazer or dress on your night out, if you feel like it. Don't save your good perfume or cologne for special parties; clerks in hardware stores and tellers in banks have noses that function just as well, as your party-going friends.

"Someday" and "one of these days" should lose their grip on your vocabulary. If it's worth seeing, hearing or doing, and you want to, don't wait, do it now. I'm not sure what my friend's wife would have done had she known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted. I think she would have called family members and a few close friends. She might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles.

I'd like to think she would have gone out for a special dinner, her favorite food. I'm guessing --- I'll never know. It's those little things left undone that should make us ponder and make us think what would we do if we knew that our hours were limited. Make us ponder because we put off seeing good friends whom we were going to get in touch with- "someday". Make us angry and sorry that we didn't tell our spouses, children and loved ones often enough how much we truly love them. Let's try a bit harder not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives and those around us.

If we are too busy today to make a positive difference in the lives of our loved ones, do really think that tomorrow will be any different?? Every morning when we open our eyes, let's tell ourselves today is that "special day".

Every day, every minute, every breath truly is...a gift from G-d, don't forget to enjoy your present.

A little humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling...

Jim is at home one night sleeping in bed, and he hears a knock on the door.

He rolls over and looks at his clock, and it's 3 AM.

"I'm not getting out of bed at this time", he thinks, and rolls over.

Then, a louder knock follows.

"Aren't you going to answer that?" asks his wife.

So, he drags himself out of bed, and goes downstairs.

He opens the door and there is man standing at the door.

It didn't take the homeowner long to realize the man was drunk.

"Hi there," slurs the stranger, "can you give me a push?"

"No, get lost, it's 3 AM. I was in bed," says the man and slams the door.

He goes back up to bed and tells his wife what happened, and she says, "Jim, that wasn't very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from the babysitter and you had to knock on that man's house to get us started again? What would have happened if he'd told us to get lost?"

"But the guy was drunk." says the husband.

"It doesn't matter." says the wife.

"He needs our help, and it would be the religious thing to help him."

So, the husband gets out of bed again, gets dressed, and goes downstairs.

He opens the door, and not being able to see the stranger anywhere he shouts, "Hey, do you still want a push?" and he hears a voice cry out "Yeah please."

So, still being unable to see the stranger, he shouts, "Where are you?"

And the stranger replies: "I'm over here, on your swings."

Remember, find something to laugh about every day, even if you have to look in the mirror.

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G-d bless you and keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a Happy Passover, a Happy Easter, and a Happy Ramadan.

Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on or perhaps have some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call. Amen.

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