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Bad Driving and Dangerous Behavior

I am responding to two letters that critiqued my letter published here on May 10th, in which I complained about a *frum* man who acted wrongly and dangerously while driving when there was a fire drill occurring at Edward R Murrow High School recently.

To Yoni Garber who questioned details of my letter: I guess you did not read my letter carefully, when I did state that the students and staff filed *outside* and there were members of the school staff who were directing traffic. One detail I did not include initially is that members of the staff held up STOP signs and used hand signals to direct the flow of traffic; legally this is their right. The fire drill took place not just inside the school but obviously, outside as well. STOP means STOP.

To CG, who takes me to task because I send my children to public school and "flaunt" my "Conservative Jewish views": my husband and I have our many reasons for sending our children to public school, and they really are

not your business. Do I "flaunt" my views? I express my views; "flaunt" has a much different connotation, a somewhat negative one at that.

I think both these writers miss a very important point or two about my letters: as the Granger radio advertisement goes, "Safety, safety, safety." Safe driving is a *must* and too many people do not drive safely. And social behavior is something that should be carefully presented. The man I wrote about (whom my daughter and her peers witnessed in action) carried on in an undignified fashion at this fire drill, and nearly hit an assistant principal who was directing traffic at the fire drill. And this man, who was identifiably *frum*, took video of minors and made idle threats to call this into the police.

As someone who was hit by a car when I was six months pregnant, whose brother was hit by a car when he was in elementary school, whose late father was friendly with a man whose wife was killed when she was hit by a car, and whose car was hit and totaled a week prior to my birthday in 2016 (the driver of the other car blew through a red light and crashed into mine), I am

very, very concerned about bad driving and dangerous behavior. I think everyone should be concerned about this, and I hope and pray that people of all faiths and creeds will drive safely.

Take my messages to heart.
Midwood Mom

The Volcano of Torah

Luckily for us, Shavuot is every day. The Zohar proclaims that the Torah is given anew every day. This conforms with the Mishna in Pirkei Avot that says, "A daily voice from Har Sinai proclaims, Wow to the disgrace of Torah."

My late relative, Rav Avrohom Genechovsky *zt"l* provided me with an insight that sheds light on nature and in turn the Volcano in Hawaii that has been erupting.

He said the outside of the earth is mainly covered in water, the center of earth is energized by fire and the inner core is rock-solid. Based on this he said that our behavior should be modeled after the makeup of the world. On the outside we should be malleable and flexible with our neighbors like water, our center should be guided by fire, namely the Torah,

and our inner core should be rock-solid in our beliefs like the inner core of earth.

The Volcano might make for exciting news, but it also exhibits the pouring out of fire from the center of earth that symbolizes what our center should be filled with on a daily basis, the fire of Torah.

Steven Genack

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Email letters to
editor@thefjj.com

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