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Dear Editor,

Dear Editor,

Now that Congressman George Santos is former Congressman George Santos, Governor Kathy Hochul has announced a special election for NY-3 on February 13, 2024. As of this writing, it is unclear who the candidates will be. All indications point to Democrats giving the nod to former Nassau County Executive, also the former occupant of this congressional seat, Tom Suozzi.

There are several Republicans in the running as well. If I were a resident of the 3rd District, my choice would be Great Neck Legislator Mazi Melesa Pilip. While Tom Suozzi is a staunch supporter of Israel and the Jewish community, no quarrel there, in fact I laud and appreciate his strong support. Unfortunately, recent history has shown Democrats voting in lockstep with their party on most issues. That does not portend well for our community or Jews in general. I was not a fan of George Santos the individual, but his voting record was spot on.

Under the current political climate in my humble opinion, a Jew voting for a Democrat is a willing participant in their own demise. Open your eyes and ears lift up your head from the hole you have it stuck in. Observe what is happening all around you. At elite universities, CUNY, NYU, Cooper Union and a myriad of other places of "education." On the streets and bridges of Brooklyn and Manhattan. The threat to your family's safety and security is not coming from the far right, despite what Joe Biden would have you believe. Some of you may be reluctant to admit it even to yourself, but you know where it's coming from.

February 13, 2024 is an important day. If you are a resident of the 3rd Congressional District, make a decision as if

your life depended on it. It just might.

Thomas Lax,
Woodmere, NY

Dear Editor,

It's interesting that we learn the idea that at a height of more than twenty amot the Chanukah candles can't be lit from the idea that Reuven couldn't see that there were snakes in the pit that Yosef was thrown, as it was more than twenty amot below (Shabbos 22a). Firstly, this implies an idea of darkness, of not seeing, when Yosef's whole aura was light. Also, Shabbos represents the notion of great light and spirituality, yet this is learned from the Talmud in Shabbos. Lastly, Chanukah is all about light. Why would the Torah use an incident of darkness to be affiliated with a holiday of light?

Mitzrayim was the darkest of places spiritually, and the Greeks darkened the Jews as well. Yosef could never have risen so high but for the fact that he was in a society of extreme darkness. The Chashmonaim also couldn't bring light to the world but for being exposed to a heretical society that denied G-d's existence. Darkness allows the greatest of light to shine.

Rabbi Yaakov Harrari notes that Chanukah is relevant to these days as well, as every generation, and all the four exiles, had a society that created a reality of unholiness. One can only grow by knowing the unholiness and choosing the extreme opposite path. In the middah of chessed, instead of desire for promiscuity, put your desire into mitzvos and the love of G-d. In the middah of gevurah, instead of using strength to place your will on others, place it over conquering the yetzer hara, and in the middah of tiferet, use splendor to make truthful decisions and not deceitful ones.

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Readers Poll

Would you rather have
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71%
\$5,000 a week

29%
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Reaching the greatest heights requires a battle with unholiness. Only unholiness can bring a reality of what direction and to what degree a pursuit must be applied. Every person with their strength must also purify it by seeing where societal unholiness lies and then cling to opposite realities.

Steven Genack

Dear Editor,

I can relate to the woman who wrote into the Dating Dialogue column this week. I experienced this same situation many years ago – when I was going on “shidduch” dates but would be asked out by guys who met me at work functions.

It's very flattering to be asked out by someone when you just meet them. It means you are putting on a good impression and they are impressed by what they see. In my experience, none of the guys who asked me out were insulted when I told them that I generally go through a shadchan before going on a date with someone. Some of them actually ended up going through a shadchan and going on a date with me through them. I appreciated that they understood that that was what made me feel comfortable.

On a side note, this woman should make sure she is not using a shadchan or

her parents as a “crutch” when it comes to dating. At 26 years old, she should be able to make big decisions. If she's hiding behind a shadchan or using her parents to act as a go-between in every aspect of her life, she should understand that perhaps she's a bit too old to be doing that. With age should come maturity. She needs to make sure that she is mature enough to navigate this parsha – with the help of supportive family but not because she doesn't want to face big decisions head-on.

Hatzlacha!

Tamara Lustig

Dear Editor,

I am appalled that the most “prestigious” university in our nation are led by people who, in the face of evil, will not admit to the depravity they are witnessing. Of course, their answers are only indicative of what society has become. Everything nowadays needs to be put into “context,” it seems.

I only hope that the sane people of the world will finally wake up and see how their “woke” agenda has created a society that condones and supports evil to proliferate.

Is this how the next generation is being brought up? Oy vey!

Sincerely,

H. Goodman

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