

"Never say Never"

August 2013



A marathon was coming up and one of our brothers called and asked "Rabbi, should I run the marathon"? So I asked "What is your hesitation"? He answered "I don't think I can make it to the end, I'm out of shape". I told him go for it anyway, because that is what life about, running the race ,giving it your best, not all of us make it to the end. So our guy ran the marathon and made it 14 miles (Ron I'm proud of you!). I was thinking to myself, how many people can run 14 miles, even those that are in shape. It reminded me of a response that I saw in an advice column as a teenager, that has stuck with me since. This woman wrote in to the columnist the following question, "I am 56 years old, I always had a dream of becoming a doctor. Now that the kids are out of the house I would like to go to medical school. It would take me eight years to get my degree in medicine. Should I go for it, or is being 64 years old, too old to become a doctor?" And the response was "And how old will you be in eight years if you don't go to medical school?" What a great response. I share the above with you because of what has happened in the sports world with the Hawks, that should spill over to our private lives.

I don't follow sports much, but with all the excitement about the Stanley cup, I followed the games a bit. So in the semi finals the Hawks are down 3-1. Now, all the past statistics kick in, past history , the sports people of authority with the crystal ball and all news papers saying "never did a team come back from a 3-1 deficit" to win the Championships. My response to the naysayers was "never say never", and sure enough they came back. Then in the Sixth game of the Championships, the Hawks are down again 3-2, one minute left to the game. Nobody in their wildest dreams thought they stand a chance, then BAM, 2 goals in 17 seconds and they win the Championship. I don't think it ever happened in history, that 2 goals were scored in 17 seconds.

The moral of the story, this IS life "NEVER SAY NEVER". We all have our trials and tribulations as we trek through this journey called life. Some challenges more difficult than others and our job is to ask the Lord for strength and do our best in running the marathon, because quitting is not an option. Ask the following people how they made it to the top, and they will all answer the same, prayer, faith, lots of perseverance and leaving the word "never" out of your vocabulary.....

Henry Ford failed and went broke five times before he finally succeeded.

Beethoven handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing his own compositions instead of improving his technique. His teacher called him hopeless as a composer.

Colonel Sanders had the construction of a new road put him out of business in 1967. He went to over 1,000 places trying to sell his chicken recipe before he found a buyer interested in his 11 herbs and spices. Seven years later, at the age of 75, Colonel Sanders sold his fried chicken company for a finger-lickin' \$15 million!

Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor for lack of ideas. Disney also went bankrupt several times before he built Disneyland.

Albert Einstein did not speak until he was four years old and didn't read until he was seven. His teacher described him as "mentally slow, unsociable and adrift forever in his foolish dreams." He was expelled and refused admittance to Zurich Polytechnic School. The University of Bern turned down his Ph.D. dissertation as being irrelevant and fanciful.

Louis Pasteur was only a mediocre pupil in undergraduate studies and ranked 15 out of 22 in chemistry.

When NFL running back Herschel Walker was in junior high school, he wanted to play football, but the coach told him he was too small. He advised young Herschel to go out for track instead. Never one to give up, he ignored the coach's advice and began an intensive training program to build himself up. Only a few years later, Herschel Walker won the Heisman trophy.

When General Douglas MacArthur applied for admission to West Point, he was turned down, not once but twice. But he tried a third time, was accepted and marched into the history books.

Babe Ruth, considered by sports historians to be the greatest athlete of all time and famous for setting the home run record, also holds the record for strikeouts.

Eighteen publishers turned down Richard Bach's Jonathan Livingston Seagull, before Macmillan finally published it in 1970. By 1975 it had sold more than seven million copies in the U.S. alone.

Margaret Mitchell's classic Gone with the Wind was turned down by more than twenty-five publishers.

Richard Hooker worked for seven years on his humorous war novel, M*A*S*H, only to have it rejected by 21 publishers before Morrow decided to publish it. It became a runaway bestseller, spawning a blockbusting movie and highly successful television series.

In 1954, Jimmy Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry, fired Elvis Presley after one performance. He told Presley, "You ain't goin' nowhere... son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck." Elvis Presley went on to become the most popular singer in America.

Dr. Seuss' first children's book, And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street, was rejected by twenty-seven publishers. The twenty-eighth publisher, Vanguard press, sold six million copies of the book.

Never give up believing in yourself!!! and when things start looking bleak, or impossible, remember we all thought the same and yet we won.... 2 goals in 17 secs....WOW!!!!

And most important, never pass up an opportunity to share a laugh and a hug with someone who can use a lift in their spirits, you'll both feel better.

On Behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G-d bless you and keep you safe, today and always.
Amen! , Remember if we can be of assistance or if you have some good humor to share, don't
hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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