

Good Shabbos Everyone. The Torah obligates a Jewish woman who was ever married to cover her hair when she is in public or amongst a large number of people. (Mishnah Berurah, 74:11, cited by Modesty - An Adornment for Life, Rabbi Pesach Falk, p.228) According to some opinions, a woman should cover her head at all times, even in the confines of her own home. The obligation for a woman to cover her hair is derived from the verse in this week's parsha, "*The Kohen shall uncover the hair of the sotah.*" (Ibid., citing Bamidbar 5:18), which implies that the woman's hair should be covered.

A woman's head covering is the source of great holiness for the woman and all those who are around her. As the Sages tell us, "The head is king over all the limbs." (Ibid., citing Shabbos 61a) Thus, metaphorically speaking, a kosher head covering cause holiness to permeate her entire being.

The following amazing true story illustrates the power of tznius, dressing modestly, specifically the mitzvah for a married woman to cover her hair. Jonathan Aminoff (his real name) is a Yid who lives in Great Neck, New York. Jonathan has volunteered with Hatzalah (Unit # Q100), the Jewish volunteer paramedic/first-responder service, in the New York area for more than 20 years now.

About two years ago on the 15th of Av (July 26) 2010, Jonathan and his family were vacationing in Miami, Florida. One afternoon, Jonathan and his wife Charlene were enjoying some of the tourist attractions which the area has to offer. Jonathan and his wife had left their 2 year old daughter Avigail ("Gali") by the condominium pool with the family's maid, who had joined them on the vacation to help take care of the children.

At about three in the afternoon, Jonathan told his wife that he wanted to go back to the condo to attend to some business matters. On their way back to their room, Jonathan and his wife walked past the pool. When they came to the pool saw an older man standing in the pool holding a small child. When the older man turned around, Jonathan saw that he was holding the limp body of their two-year-old daughter Gali.

A 20 year Hatzalah veteran, Jonathan sprang into action and began working on resuscitating his own daughter. Jonathan's wife looked on with sheer terror as her husband worked desperately, trying to save the life their precious two-year-old

In a moment of desperation, Jonathan's wife Charlene called out to G-d, making a "neder" a vow, that if the young girl would survive, then she would cover her hair, as is required by Jewish law. After an agonizing 3 min. and 10 seconds, during which Jonathan worked on his daughter, Boruch Hashem, the girl spit up water and began breathing on her own.

The girl was quickly rushed to the hospital and later transferred to Miami Children's Hospital, where the doctors advised that she stay for 24 hours to make sure that everything was in working order. Understandably, many of the girl's "numbers" (such as oxygen and blood count) were "off," and the doctors wanted to be certain that the girl did not need further medical attention.

After the initial 24 hours, the Chief Doctor Dr. Keith Meyer (his real name) advised the parents that amazingly, the girl had not suffered any damage whatsoever. However, the doctor advised the couple to keep the girl hospitalized for an additional 24 hours, just to make sure. Charlene, Jonathan's wife asked the doctor why he recommended another 24 hours if their daughter was okay. The doctor then said that in all his years of practice, he had never seen such an amazing recovery in a drowning case, and it was hard for him to believe that the young girl was truly okay. He said that he watched over and over the security-camera tape from the pool area which showed Gali drowning and he couldn't believe how she was under the water for so long and still survived with no injuries.

Jonathan's wife asked Dr. Meyer if he was Jewish and if so, did he believe in miracles? The doctor answered both questions in the affirmative. Although he was totally "secular," and he was a skeptical "scientific-minded" doctor by nature, he said that after seeing this case with Gali, he began to believe in miracles!

Later, the initial rescuer of the girl, a non-Jew by the name of Richard Marianski, related to Jonathan how it was a "coincidence" that he was in the pool at all at that time. Mr. Marianski said that he only comes to the condo 2 months out of the year. Furthermore, Mr. Marianski had pulled a tendon and had therefore needed to exit the pool by the shallow end where Gali had fallen in. That is how he came to see Gali on the bottom of the pool.

The security camera later revealed how Gali had fallen into the pool. The maid and Gali had laid down to take a nap by the pool and Gali woke up, unbeknownst to the maid. Gali saw her bucket floating in the water and when reaching for it, the little girl fell into the pool and sank right to the bottom. Miraculously, Mr. Marianski exited the pool in the shallow end soon after Gali fell in and he took the child out of the pool the moment Gali's father Jonathan, the 20 year hatzalah member happened to be walking by the pool. As for Jonathan, he "spoke" to Hashem while doing CPR on his daughter. He told Hashem that he had given 20 years to Hatzalah and now he was ready to "cash in" his "IOU" and that if Hashem allowed him to save his daughter, he would give 20 more years to Hatzalah. Interestingly enough, this was the first time he had ever performed CPR on a child.

Six months after the drowning, Jonathan and his wife took their daughter to an ENT doctor to remove the girl's tonsils because of bad sleep apnea. Jonathan asked the ENT doctor if he was aware of the girl's past medical history. Jonathan then filled in the doctor of all the details of Gali's fall into the pool, and her miraculous survival. The doctor took a look at the girl's tonsils and said that the tonsils were in such bad shape, that the girl's breathing was very shallow, which helped her stay underwater for such a long time without breathing! Had Jonathan and Charlene done the tonsil surgery on Gali earlier, as other doctors had urged them, Gali may not have survived the drowning.

Jonathan's wife kept her word and immediately began to cover her hair after Gali recovered. She went one step further and began marketing wigs and encouraged other women to cover their hair properly. She even donates wigs to ladies who cannot afford them. You can see a picture of Jonathan and Gali soon after the drowning here at the website for the company Charlene started to market her wigs: www.galiscouturewigs.com. **Good Shabbos Everyone.**