

INTERVIEW WITH CHANI LAZAR (in Russia)PRIVATE

INT: Just put it in there. Did you get it? Ok, so tell me from your perspective what being a Husid is, to you.

CL: Do you want something more like...

INT: From your personal perspective...

CL:(20:00:19) From, well being a Husid to me..do you mean a Husid or a Lubavitcher, just..

INT: A Husid.

CL: Ok. Um (20:00:28) The Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism, one of the attitudes that he brought down to us, brought down as far as the teaching of Husidus is is that a Jew must serve the creator with happiness..and joy: " Hashem is simchat". Of course this is - there are many different groups of Hasidism now um as far as Chabad Lubavitch Hasidus the way we take this attitude to understand, its not only serving our creator with happiness, meaning tree timesw a day we have to sing and dance just to keep that joy in ourselves, keep that good mood up by singing and dancing here and there. The way Chabad Hasidus explains it is we bring it down more to everyday life, every single mitzvah that we do we have to bring this happiness and this joy into, that's really in a long..that's rea;;y what Hasidus teaches us about, that we have to do everything with happiness and be happy with what we're doing.

INT: Now how do you do that?

CL:(20:01:37) The way I keep myself happy, um let's take for example what I'm doing right now. I'm here with my husband in Russia far away from home, away from my family on shlichus the Rebbe sent us here to do different outreach programs with the different Jewish people here. Now, of course, when I first let my friends know, my family know that was coming here, everyone was kind of shocked: "Are you really going to go that far away from home?, Russia's such a strange place to live, but with my education of Hasidus, knowing that we what do has to be with happiness. And of course from Chabad Hasidus, that everything that we do has to be done with happiness, the truth is I really wassn't so scared about my job, because it was the rebbe who's the one who told us that we have to go here..who, he gave us the blessing that what we do here will be good work. He made us feel proud, its a proud - we felt proud to be able to do such a thing. Ya know, and the history, my history, my grandparents are from Russia and just some - a small story about hiw the Rebbe cared about my grandfather and showed him how..oh I'll start again.

INT: You can change your angle, make sure your...

CL:(20:03:12)Um..My grandfather came from Russia, he was here of course in the hard times, I certainly can't compare my life living here to when he was here - things have changed at least a hundred times if not more um just a short story of how to explain the love of the Rebbe came to him and how he was able to continue living here when he - until he left and do everything that he did

here with happiness and then continue on living and coming - moving to Israel and moving to America and he still had that joy in him and he still had that happiness even, even after all the hard times he went through, um at one point he was with his friends learning in yeshiva and it came to a yom tif time, a holiday time when he and his friend wanted to go to the city where the Rebbe was living at that time, he was not learning in the same city as the Rebbe was at the time and..it was not easy to get a train ticket or travel or whatever it was and he and his friends, I'm, I'm not sure how many boys there was, maybe about four or five or six, they..jumped on a train that was moving towards the city that he was going to, and at one point they had to all separate and they jumped off or jumped on (laughs) or I'm not sure how they were moving around, but they, they did separate themselves and when they reached the Rebbe each one came at a different time and the Rebbe was very serious the whole time and he - until the last, he, he the boys about how, ya know, what's going on, ya know, is everybody ok?, how's everybody getting there? Until finally my grandfather who was the last one that had not reached the Rebbe yet - he sent a message through (child screaming in the background) somebody to the Rebbe that he is ok and he will be there in a short time and at that point the Rebbe felt much more relaxed and we see there how the Rebbe cared for his Hasidim, he knew that there was somebody still on the way and he wasn't relaxed until he knew that last person was with him and the same way now.

(20:05:15)The Rebbe to us, he cares for us, he cares for what we're doing and just bringing that to what I'm doing here now, I knew that if the Rebbe's going to send me to Russia he cares about us, he cares about my family, he cares about my life and if he feels that this is what our shluchus should be that this is what we should do is come here to Russia, where it, it isn't living, it isn't like living in America where I grew up, but I know that the Rebbe cares for us and that if this is where I'm going to be, this is where I'll do my work and this is where I'll be happy.

INT: Ok, cut, I think we have a visitor, um what, as a Hasidic woman as opposed to a Hasidic man, what do, did we get there? I lost my train of thought a little bit. Tell me a little bit about your family and how a Hasidic woman brings up her children and...

CL: My own family? My children family?

INT: Yeah.

CL: Um..

INT: You can go from the general to the specific.

CL: I'm just (laughs) trying to think of...Well again,(20:06:29) a Hasidic woman - her whole life is based on this idea of Hasidus um I guess living on shlichus you have to really keep that happiness in mind that we're here and even though..sometimes it might be hard, but we really have to remember that we're here and that we're doing good things and we have to be happy and feel good about what we're doing. Um bringing up a family of course..(crying in background) I guess, at certain times you can think of it as something hard and a burden to do, but (laughs)...I'm not really sure what kind, like how you're...

INT: Well tell me, tell me about ya know what specifically, specific examples of a how a Hasidic

child is brought up as opposed to some other child

CL: Ok..what we try to instill in our children is also that we, we look to the Rebbe for our advice, we uh...

INT: The question, maybe isn't, ok what values do you try...

CL:(20:07:48) The values that my husband and I try to instill in our children..of course are the same values that we both grew up with. Both my husband and I come from very similar families where we both our parents were on shlichus, are on shlichus and all our sisters and brothers married and off to shlichus also. I hope that my children too will grow up feeling the pride of being on shlichus, the pride of doing good work for other people and they too hopefully when they grow up they'll feel proud to go out on shlichus. And they won't feel it as a burden, something they must do rather something that they go and do and are happy about it and feel very fulfilled about it, I hope that they see in us, that what we do even though at certain times life may be hard, its not easy living far away from home, far away from friends, far away from luxuries that we're used to having, but if they see in us that we're happy with what we're doing, which we really are, and that we f-f-feel fullfilled with what we are doing, I hope that this is the kind of attitude that they'll grow up with and they too will want to continue on because they'll see that this is a happy way of life..not that helping others is something hard to do and it interferes with your life, rather becomes part of your life.

INT: Now some people would say that the role of the woman in a Hasidic home is subservient to the man and and that..you're not able to go out and the same things that the husband can and trhat other people can, paraphrase what I just said and..

CL: Right. Um(20:09:25)when I was growing up I heard, ya know, I would always hear lpeople talking about the the way a woman has to be equal to man and has to go out and work and ya know women's lib. and all these things you hear so much about, how woman has to have the same job as a man and equal rights and I never really understood that because where I grew up it was really never like that. And we say that the wisdom of the home is based on the woman, the woman is the foundation of her home. Now foundation is a very strong thing and you can't put down a woman if you're saying that the foundation is on her home. She has to be strong, she has to be equal, now that doesn't mean she has to go out and do her husband's job, she has to be happy with her job, she's the foundation of her home, she's the pillar that holds her home. Um, for example a woman, let's say, in general out in the world (laughs), let's say, a man might have the job where he may be the lawyer or the doctor, or a business man, and he might have, he has his job from 9 to 5 where he goes out and he does his work and he brings the money in. The woman, let's say, she may have a easier job or less ours, um, let's say he brings in more of the money and she, she has to cook or she does the shopping or whatever it is. Now, in Jewish circles, in Hasidic circles, in many homes the woman, the man, he goes out and he has the main part of the job where as she is looked at as more as the housewife, she has to take care of her children, cook, shop, change the diapers, get thew kids up, put them to sleep.

INT: Sorry, we just..ok, as you were saying

CL: Now

INT:....

CL:(20:11:29) In the outside world people may look at us as, ya know, what do we have in our lives, all we do is cook three times a day, send kids off to school, welcome them coming home, help them with their homework, change the diapers of the babies that are left at home. Personally I think that its a very joyful job, if you're going to have your children you might as well enjoy them. Um, and of course, if, if you're the one that's at home with them they're going to get their education from you, they have to see how their mother works at home, they have to see how she's proud of what she's doing, if she runs around her house like a mad wife (laughs), then they'll see that their house is out of control, if she's going to keep control, take care of her children and make it a happy way of life then the children will feel, feel good about themselves, feel about them-feel good about their home and it will be a strong home that she'll feel happy with what we're-with what, with what she's doing and how she gives it over to her children. Now what's interesting is in chabad Hasidus, in well not Hasidus (laughs), in the chabad way of living, being that chabad is so into outreach programs...a family can go live far away, have no friends when they first get there, no school, no community really and the woman really becomes her, her husband's partner in his job. It doesn't mean that she's the one who goes out meet the president of the new shul that they're going to become a part of or it doesn't mean she goes out, ya know to me-meet all the people in the community that he wants to start making connections with so they'll feel welcome.

(20:13:03)But she's definately a very big part of the job and works very much behind the scenes and once they do become settled in their house, in their new community it is not something that she must do but most often she also plays a big role in their outreach program where she also goes out and teaches in shoools or she runs prgrams for the different women in the community, and interstingly enoughh her job is equally as hard as his - equally as important and sometimes,(laughs) I think, even harder.

INT: ...change your angle...is there laws of modesty and whatever and if you could just tell us like...I wouldn't know that you're wearing a wig and why that's done, so if you could just talk about those different rules.

CL: ok

INT: And if there's a Hasidic bent on it.

CL: Ok...Um(20:14:03)in our home the way we are living here in Moscow on our outreach program..it is not something, anything that I do is not something that I must do or must..not do or whatever, its purely the way we chose to run our home. For example, um my husband may be more in the office from ya know from 8 in the morning to 8 in the evening or whatever the hours may be that day, he's the one who runs around the city mak-meeting all the different people, he's runs the programs more often outside of the home. I'm more often home, more often with my children, yet I cannot say that all I do is take care of my children, change the diapers, feed the kids, kiss them, love them, I, I do work very much in my home, I have people here very often, we have parties here for ladies, we I give classes to ladies, our Shabbos table is always full of guests, which take 2 days of preparation, at least because living here you can't always run out to the supermarkets

and get what you need, and ready made food, you really have to work at it to put out a nice shabbos and yet I, I don't feel comfortable only being in the home and I do go out to the school which we are running here and I do terach in the school for a couple of hours a day and of course ifd there's a program that I have to run out to do out of the house, we have, we have programs that we do for ladies that I organize that aren't only done in the home. Ya know we could have 300 ladies somewhere where I'm in charge of and...

INT: What I'm asking, sorry, what I'm really getting at is tell me what the different roles are, like in terms of when you do prayers that you husband only does them and I don't hear you singing, could you explain that to me, in context...

CL: Uh, um,(20:15:57) as far as the Jewish law goes, there are certain commandments which God gave to us that have to be done in a cetain time limit, um let's say Hannukah for example, we light the menorah and it has to be done at a certain time of day. Now, a woman, being that the Torah looks at the woman's role of life as more being at home with her children and taking care of her home, the it is more important for her to make sure that her children are ok and that her hpouse is running the right way and she is not, responsible for these mitzvots that have to be done at a certain time of the day, because her mitzvah is all day long, 24 hours with the children, with her home and this is her main mitzvah, and therefore she doesn't have to do these mitzvahs that have to be done at a certain time of day. For example, lighting the Hannukah menorah has to be done at a certain time of the evening, late afternoon to evening hours, now she does not have to light the menorah becuae this mitzvah that have this time limit on it and if her children need her time and attention then she doesn't not have to be there, she well, (laughs) she has to be with her children and not lighting the menorah, therefore when the family gathers to light the menorah it is more the husband's job to say the blessing and of course we have to be, we are around there to, to answer "amen" and to take part in it, but the actual mitzvah of saying the blessing is not mine, its not for the woman to do, and when my husband does it he does the mitzvah for me as well.

INT: Now what about laws of purity and stuff like that I don't know that much about it, if ytuoy could just explain it to somebody who doesn't know, that these are specifically women's things, like,,anything like the sheitl, uh mikvah, if you could give a brief...

CL: Well that's like a little (laughs) hard in brief..

INT: You do teach the women these kinds of things, right?

CL: Right, but I..I mean its possible I can just...

INT: In two sentences, you mean, um ok

CL:(20:18:17) When the woman lights the shabbos candles its a very special time for her because its written that when, when a woman lights her candles she has a special time that, that she can request from God anything she would like, the heavens open up to her and she has her own moment with God when she makes the blessing, she can ask for her children to be healthy, for her husband to be healthy, for her family, any wishes that come to her mind, that is her time, her private time when she lights the candles its her's and that is a special...

INT: What would, what would you like for your children and what are your hopes for your children?

CL: What I always hope for my children is that they...

INT: Ok

CL:(20:18:59) Ok, what I always hope for my children is that they take the same role of life like my husband, myself and both of our families did, that they should look to the Rebbe for advice and they should also want to help other Jewish people, go on outreach programs and help the world be a better place.

INT: I guess I asked you that already(?)

INT: um, uh, move on to that...

CL:(20:19:34) I don't think that Hasidim feel themselves as more chosen to God, but I personally do feel myself more lucky than someone else perhaps who may not be a Husid and the reason for that is that we have a rebbe, we have someone that we always look to and look up to and everything in our life is based on what the Rebbe tells us to do, we don't take any major or minor decision on our own without asking the Rebbe. Whether it be minor with children, whether it be a job, whether it be moving from city to city and we know that the Rebbe cares for us, we know that the Rebbe loves us, we know, of course, the wisdom of the Rebbe..and of course I feel lucky having someone that I know cares about us and that I know will only tell us to do what is right and I'm not speaking of just any person, the Rebbe - you can't think of the Rebbe just as any person, the Rebbe's the prophet of our generation and I am very lucky to be a part of the Chabad Hasidus-Hasidim who look to the Rebbe for their advice.

INT: Tell me a little bit about Pittsburg and whether um, what your childhood was like, ya know and did you ever think, enough of this I want to just be something else?

CL:(20:20:48)I grew up in Pittsburg where my family's also shlichum there um I always felt that I was looked at there because people knew who, who my family is and the role that we play in the city where I grew up in Pittsburg um. (crying in the background) I actually never felt for a moment that I would ever do anything else besides doing the same thing as my family did which is go-being on shlichus, moving out somewhere and actually (laughs) my mother once asked me when I was about 18 or 19 years old, just a short while before I met my husband, she just out of nowhere just asked me how far do I think I would ever go on shlichus and it uh, if I would go far away, if I would want to stay close to home and the truth is in my heart I always felt I wanted to stay close to home and when she asked me the question I realized the time was coming closer to get married and of course I just never thought of anything else. It was sort of step 1,2 and 3: you got married, you got engaged, got married and you went out on shlichus. When she asked me the question I realized, ya know, I might end up near home and I might really end up very far away..(laughs) and that's what happened.

INT: So you literally never thought: hey maybe I want to become a...or something.

CL: Not even for a minute.

INT: ok, ok, cut oh..about people in the community and working in it, having people over the other night...

CL:(20:30:14) Um, one of the things that I do here is work, of course, with the ladies and with girls, um I try to get friendly with ladies. The way I do this is I ask around what they would like to know, what they would like to learn about and we have a lesson once a week and they come to my house and we sit around, I give my lesson and then we speak just get friendly, get to know each other and through my lessons other ladies got to know each other who didn't know each before. And sometimes I feel that by my husband and I coming here we sort of pulled the community more closer together, we built a community by making more programs for people to come to and I think that the ladies who come to my share(?), maybe 3 or 4 knew each other before hand and the others met at my shares, met at my class and now they are good friends and they invite each other over to their other-to their homes and I think that's important to have. um what we speak about, ya know, they..for them its very interesting to see a lady coming from America to live in Russia, for them their live-their lives are so difficult here they can't believe I put myself through this to come here and live here where they're having such a hard time.

(20:31:27)But we try to do, we give them as much as we can spiritually and physically. Ya know, whether it be a lesson and I just teach them something about an upcoming holiday or just an important...just any topic that they have chosen that week or a series of two or three weeks we do that and then of course if there's a lady who needs something, um ya know whether it be clothing I try to help her out with that, whether it be a lady who has a new baby. Here in Russia its very difficult to..take care of a new ba-baby, whether it be medically even buying clothing, diapers its almost impossible and I always try to give the lady a nice little gift bag to make her feel happy that she went through this, that she did this, that she had a baby, um. It could be a lady..who's a young girl who's just getting married, I like to try to help her getting a gown from somewhere, getting her a few gifts together to make her also feel happy that she's going through something and changing her life. Um another thing I try to do um..a Jewish woman...has certain modesty laws that she has to go to, go through..that doesn't make too much sense..

INT:...

CL: (laughs) sorry.

INT: ok, ready

CL:(20:32:50) There are certain laws that a Jewish women has to do and one of them, after marriage, a woman must cover her hair...here it is very hard, in Russia, to get wigs that look nice, that the ladies feel happy wearing and whenever I go back to America I always try to bring back a bag full of wigs and I hand them out to the ladies and that's one of..best things that they like to recieve. They feel pretty, they feel happy and they know what they're doing is right.

INT:..Do you have anything to do with arranging marriages?

CL:(20:33:27) Officially I can't tell you that I'm a matchmaker here, but being that we have a group of girls and our yeshiva we have a group of boys we do try to set people up and..get them happily married and hopefully they'll come work for us (laughs) and do the same thing we're doing here.

INT: Can you tell us a little something about meeting Berel and how that whole process of getting married yourself?

CL: Alright.

INT: When you met and when you had your kids...

CL: Ok (laughs),(20:34:05) the way my husband and I met was through a shadchrun, a matchmaker, um,,we were set up together..and we met a few times and we spoke about our lives, we spoke about where we - the way we were both brought up, the way we both wanted our lives to continue, we spoke about our pasts, we spoke about how our future would want to be and based upon that we decided whether we were made for each other. For us it was important if we came from the same background and that means that we have the same foundation, sort of, of our life. If we wanted the same future of course then we'd be able to work together and we of course both wanted to do shichus work - outreach programs, um and (laughs) that is what we did. I actually knew that my husband was interested in Soviet Jewry and we did speak about that and actually (laughs) the first time that I came home and told my mother that he really loves Russians and he even might go back to live there, I thought that she would just be shocked and say maybe ya know (laughs) maybe we should reconsider it. And the way my mother answered me I really realized, ya know, that's it, that's what you have to do, and she said to me: "Well, if that's what he want to do then that's what he'll do". And I realized that if this is who I wanted to marry and that's what he was going to do, move out to Russia, so far away, and do Shlichus work then that that's what I'm going to do (laughs). It's not, well if he wants to go to Russia then this isn't for me.

INT: Did you meet other people?

CL: No.

INT: He was the first person that you met?

CL: Yeah.

INT: Could you say that in a complete sentence?

CL: Well (laughs), um..(20:35:58)I guess I'm was lucky that my husband was the first poerson that I met and it worked.(laughs)

INT: Tell us a little about your kids, each one individually. So and so is this old and is like this, ya know, just something about each one.

CL: Um, we do -(20:36:19) We have 4 children, we just came back from America with our new baby. Um my oldest - my children are 31/2, 21/2, 11/2 and baby (laughs). They all love each other very much, they play with each other very well. The two older ones are two girls, the two younger ones are two boys. It works out great, they each have their friends already, the two girls play like best friends. Here in Russia people look at me like I'm crazy because for them to just have one child is like to have the whole world, ya know, at first they look at me, ya know, like wow you're really nuts (laughs). And then when they see the way my kids play together, and the way they really love each other, and the way there's so much happiness in our house, they realize, ya know...

INT: Tell me their names, how old they are, ya know..

CL:(20:37:04) Our oldest daughter is named Chiamushka, she's 31/2. The second is Bluma, she's 21/2. And then we have Cheskel, he's 11/2. And we have our baby Menachem Mendel, he's 5 weeks. (laughs)

INT: Now do...again another question - Do Hasidim believe in birth control and if they don't, why not?

CL:(20:37:30) We want to have as many children as we can, we believe on (uncomfortable laughter) building up the Jewish community, building up - there should be as many as God will let us have (laughs), and we have as many children as God will give us and we only hope that they'll be healthy.

INT: ok...tell us...

CL: Tell me when...(20:38:05)One of the things that Chabad Hasidus specifically teaches us is that a Jew has to serve the creator with joy and like we mentioned before, this joy isn't only the singing and dancing to keep your spirits up..and you have to have a party three times a week to make sure you're always in a good mood its more bringing it down to each thing that you do and just an example that I always keep in my mind when times get hard: You have to imagine someone carrying a heavy load, a big heavy box, filled with whether it be bricks for construction, or heavy papers for paperwork, or whatever it is, and he has a block to walk with it, and he's carrying this box and its heavy and its hard for him, he keeps counting his steps and he keeps looking where his destination is and how much longer it will take him to get there, he's sweating more and more and more, he's getting more and more tired. And all he keeps thinking about is how heavy the box is and how much longer it will take him to get to where he has to go...and its a hard load for him to carry, but suppose you have anohter man walking on the other side of the block, carrying a box, the same size, the same weight, a heavy load, but his box is filled with diamonds and he has to get to the same destination of the person across the street from him, but he doesn't feel the sweat as much, he's not counting his steps. He know he's carrying something worth while, he knows he's carrying those diamonds, those precious jewels and he wants to hold on to them as long as he could, he doesn't care if he has to walk even two more blocks instead of one block and that's how we have to think of our job.

(20:39:46)This is that Chabad Hasidus teaches us that each mitzvah that we do is diamonds, its

jewels, even though we don't - we may not feel it when we're doing it, but we have to know that what we're doing is happiness, its jewels, its diamonds, and we can't count our steps when we're done with this mitzvah, we have to take each mitzvah and enjoy it and be ready to take it even one block further. And that's what helps us get through our job here, because we know that what we're doing, its not a heavy load, its not heavy paper, its not heavy bricks, its really just diamonds and jewels that we're carrying along with us.

INT: That's a nice...you got that one from your mother

CL: (laughs)hmm...what I prepare for Shabbos...

INT: What foods, ya know, what you make, what's traditional.

CL: Well, (20:40:30)what's always a trick here in Russia is to try to keep the Shabbos as traditional as it is at home and in..in any home in America, or Israel or any where around the world besides Russia, of course, um..IO try to have the challah and the wine on the table, tr-the tradtional gefilte fish and the side dishes which you really don't have to have, but it really just makes the meal all the more festive and the traditional chicken soup and the chicken and the kugel and of course any side dishes, which is not a must but it just makes you feel like you're giving your guests a happy time. Um,..when we, when we first came to Russia we were invited to a few people's homes for Shabbos, should I keep going?.

And I was, it was very interesting for us because I realize.

INT: Yeah, please do.

CL: I forgot what I was saying

INT: about your husband you were saying...

CL: Ok. Um

INT: Some people's...

CL: Right.(20:41:31) I'm actually really proud of the work that my husband is doing. Even though it me may be that he leaves early in the morning and back late at night. But something that I always think about, is ya know, there are other women whose husbands are very big businessmen and they're out sometimes more than my husband might be, and realize that the difference between my husband who is doing outreach programs and someone else's husband who may be out in business, the difference is...a businessman is out for his money, he's ya know, everyday he's he goes to his business and what is his goal, he want to make a certain amount and if he makes that amount that day that means he has a great day, and well the next maybe he can make a little more, and this something very, I mean its its for him, its for his family, its his money and its that's what he has to get, that's his whole business...There's`nothing wrong with that, a person needs money, a person has to live with the money, but the way, the reason our life is different is because I know that when my husband is out for the day, its not something that he's bringing home for ourselves. I know he's out there because he's out there helping other people and the truth is when you help someone else, you

really feel better yourself, even though it might be hard and it might be hard at the time, but on a large scale, you really know that because you helped someone else you're going to feel better and that's what God really wants from us, he put us here to help other people and just like a circle if we do what God wants then he'll do what we want and what does God want us to do he wants us to help other people. Helping other people helps ourselves, helps God help us (laughs).

INT: Tell me a little bit you father, what does he do?

CL: My father's no longer with us (uncomfortable laughter), he passed away, I mean I don't really...

INT: I'm sorry...

CL: That's ok...

INT: Was he the one that the Rebbe sent - didn't the Rebbe sent?

CL: Um,(20:43:29) my father was a, he was a shochut, a slaughterer? Uh, Kosher meat, right, Um my, in Pittsburg the Rebbe sent my grandfather um, this was the previous rebbe, he sent my grandfather there and my parents came to live there. My mother's the principal of the school where my grandfather opened it up, and now my brother lives there also, my brother is a shochut now. He's doing my father's job and my sister-in-law's actually helping my mother in the school, it wa-very family, (laughs)

INT: Tell me where your sisters and brothers are.

CL:(20:44:03) My brothers and sisiters are spread out all over doing the same work that I'm doing. I have ya, know, a brother in Israel, a brother in Connecticut, a brother in Pittsburg, a sister in New York, a sister in New Jersey, sister in Pittsburg and we're all really doing the same thing, ya know all different corners of the world, but all really in the same work, all in the same job, whether it be wroking in a school working with children, outreach programs, helping others, working in the community.

INT: What do you say to a Jewish person whose quite happy with secular..who says: "Don't bother me, don't stop me in the street, don't tell me..."

CL:(20:44:46) Um, (sound not synced, camera at 2x speed)we don't really try to push anyone into doing something..even though we know that that's the right thing to do, um ya know, when we approach someone in the street if its their diff - there are diifferent outreach programs that we have. One common thing is for people in Manhattan, perhaps they've seen the big Mitvah Trucks - tyhe big Mitzvah Mobiles with the men walking around and actually approaching someone and saying: "excuse me sir are you Jewish?" And, ya know, first someone could be taken aback and ya know like: "what's it your business if I'm Jewish or not?" But, we mean it as something well, we want all the Jews to do what's right for them and a Jew may not know it, but this is called the "Pindela Yid", every Jew has a piece in his heart that when he does what's right he really feels it and when he does what isn't righht it may be very deep in him and he may (voice saying: camera speed problem on the last take there) not even ever feel it but there's always one time in a Jew's life when he feels: "hey

am I really doing what God"

INT: OK

CL:(20:45:54) We try not to really push or force anything on somebody because sometimes when you come with too much force it sort of makes the person move 5 steps backwards instead of 1 step forward, but the truth is that every Jewish person has a piece in him: the "Pindela Yid" there's a peice in each Jewish person's heart "neshema" a piece of God that..tells him that he's doing right, that he's doing wrong, now..a person may not feel this all day long or ever or some people may feel it more or some people may feel it less, but a Jew, whether he's doing the right thing or the wrong thing, he really deep down he always knows that he has a God and that he has to do what God tells him and when we work with people there's some people, ya know it clicks right then and they realize that: "hey, ya know I really feel like that, I really never felt fulfilled in my life, but once I started talking to you and once I started meeting you and coming to your house and seeing your Shabbos and following your husband to shul, I realized that that's what missing in my life and ever since I met you I feel so much better and that's that "Pindela Yid" that's growing in him and and and sort of blossoming in him and there are other people that it takes a whiletill that sparks light on him. Ya know you just keep trying and tryinmg until it lights...

INT: Tell me..no....because this is people's criticism..if I don't ask it, they'll...

CL: Go ahead, I'm used to this.

INT: Why, why, don't you ever feel like: "hey I wish I was out there dancing or I wish", ya know, "I want to share in this" or "why can't I share in this". You can put it in...

CL:(20:47:56) Well you know we're really not ghetto people and I think when you look at my - when you look at us, when you look at my family you see that we're really not the kind of people that you imagine from the ghettos and that you see from the olden days. We have a life, we have our enjoyment, um for example, ya know...let's say Simchat Torah when when its a time in in the shul, in the synagogue that people dance and and the men, ya know, they just have the greatest time, and they dance and dance and they sing for an from an outsider what they see ya know, they see in the men's section the men are all dancing and happy and what are the women doing? They're all just standing there and they're getting their peek of how the men are dancing, um the truth is, growing up like that that's what you're used to and just by watching them you sort of get this excitement, but its not God forbid to say that we're never allowed to dance. The point is, we don't dance, we don't mix dancing with the men, um our time isn't necessarily to dance in the synagogue becasue that's one of the..as far as modesty goes a woman does not dance in the synagogue in front of the sacred Torah, in front of the Bible, um but she has her own times. I mean we get together, we have our bands, we have our separate dancing we dance, we have fun, ya know

INT: I guess...

CL:(20:49:12) At weddings, and just, I mean I was just home in Pittsburg and we had, there was an evening where the ladies got together with a band and they danced (laughs), I mean..

INT: Another...

CL: As far as different Hasidim looking together - looking different, um ok...(20:49:36)As far as different Hasidim looking different, I think this really stras back from, ya know, the actual town where the Hasidus - hasidic group started from, there was a certain garb that the Hasidim wore. The Lubavitch Hasidim, they don't traditionally have this garb of the long black coat and the round hats or whatever, besides on the Shabbos, or ya know some people, just to...(20:50:03)What's different in a Jewish person's life and to the secular world um, a Jew doesn't really own his own life in a sense, he has to seve God all day long, um now let's say for the men, they have to, they put on their talis and they put on their tefilin and they go to shul and its more noticeable, ya know, all through the day that they are serving God. Ya know, whther its a businessman who makes sure to go to the minyan in the morning, then ya know that well he served God today.

(20:50:33)The woman, she may not, it may not be as noticeable to her, but we all through the day, we also have what we do that we remember that we are Jewish people and we serve God. The first thing of course when we wake up in the morning there's what "venicalidyim"(sp?) there's a certain ritual the way we have to wash our hands, there are different blessings that we have to say all through the day that we have to say before we put anything in our mouths, each piece of food that we out in our mouths we say a certain blessing on. There are certain prayers that we say throughout the day and of course just on a larger scale, ya know, all day long what we teach our children, we ya know, we teach them how to be a Jewish person, now its not that we preach to them all day lomg, but just, ya know, the books that we have in the house, our, what we call "Kosher books", just meaning that they are nice stories or even Jewish stories, um ya know, of course its the kosher kitchen that we're always working in. Its, its just the laws, ya know all day, just all throughout the day we are working according to the Jewish laws, whether it, it may not be as noticeable and sometime we don't even notice it until an outsider comes into the house and says ya know: "What does this mean?"(picture rolls out at 20:51:45) And then you realize this is because we're Jewish and we do it this way, and you don't realize that your life is really different than someone from the outside.

