



DATA of Plano

Parshas Toldos | 2 Kislev 5779 | November 10, 2018

Sermon

with Rabbi Zakon

11

Who Knows Eleven?

Friday

Mincha/Candle lighting: 5:10

Shabbos Day

Shacharis: 9:00

Latest time for shema: 9:31

Learners' Service: 10:45

Kiddush following services:

11:45

Mincha: 4:45

Shabbos ends: 6:14

Learners' Service



Overcoming Hatred

From the Desk of Rabbi Zakon

Won't You Be My Neighbor?



Returning from an exhilarating Men's Israel trip, the deep soul searching question that we must ask ourselves is: Was Mr. Rogers a brilliant and loving educator who empowered generations of children's to greatness, or was he the world's greatest enabler of narcissism and entitlement?

Let me give you some background to this seemingly random question. My trip to Israel was full of very different experiences. The first week was spent being a city leader on a trip of nearly two hundred

men. This was quite the international trip. Men were from all over the USA, Canada, Mexico, Chile and even Turkey! There were translators for the speeches and lots of spirited Latino songs being sung. Grown men had the opportunity of finally receiving a Bar Mitzva or a Hebrew name. There were those who put on Tefillin for the first time, did a technology-free Shabbos or proudly wore Tzitzis in the streets. The group of men from Turkey wore their Talleisim in the street on their way to Shabbos lunch despite Yerushalayim having an Eruv and

there not being a need to wear them. The reason they wore them was, as Charlie Harary said so eloquently “Because they could!” In their home country they would be scared to announce their religious beliefs so openly. It was a week of new beginnings as well as a week of giving color and meaning to a “Tradition” style Judaism. Needless to say it was a very emotional week!

The second half of my trip had a very different dynamic to it. I was privileged to spend time with the shining stars of Plano. We are blessed to have eight young men and women from Plano spending time studying or serving in Israel right now! We have four young women learning in seminaries, one in the IDF, and three young men in yeshiva! They are all flourishing! It was an absolute pleasure to have dinner at Halo Teiman with Shachar Peleg, Erin and Rachel Evans and Liat Levkovich.

An exhilarating experience on this trip was a merging of the first week and second week of the trip. One of the men from the trip stayed on for a few days with me. David is very interested in studying Chassidic Torah. An area of Chassidus that he is fascinated by is the deep mystical ideas of Rav Nachman of Breslov. He was looking for someone to introduce him to this school of thought. In a moment of inspiration, I realized that our own Bentzion Jecker is studying in Israel and has become quite proficient in the Torah of Breslov. I asked him if he would be willing to travel to Yerushalayim to teach us Torah of Rav Nachman. He graciously agreed, and we met on a Tuesday morning at the main Breslov Shul in Meah Shearim. Bentzion dazzled us with brilliant Torah for nearly three hours! One of the themes he taught us is that even the greatest sinner has good qualities, and do not take yourself to task for sinning but instead,



find the most helpful way to react to your own sins. See yourself and others in a continual positive light and this will bring out the greatness there is in each of us. In a certain heartwarming way, this was very reminiscent of a famous quote from Mr. Rogers. He was known to say “Knowing that we can be loved exactly as we are gives us all the best opportunity for growing into the healthiest of people.” While Torah believes that there are areas in our lives we must work on and take responsibility, at our core there is always someone well worthy of this love!

The thoughts of Rav Nachman of Breslov have been central to the lives of so many Chassidic and non Chassidic Jews. Breslov Torah is now mainstream in the Jewish world and is critical to the perspective we need to have on our selves. I dare say what Mr. Rogers has inculcated hundreds of thousands of children with over many decades via television, Rav Nachman has brought to the Neshomos of untold amounts of Jews via his Torah and ideology!

In a beautiful documentary about the life of Mr. Rogers titled “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” we are told that some accused Mr. Rogers of being an enabler and teaching children of narcissism with his teaching about our own self value, I believe nothing is farther than the truth. His message, that you are worthy of love the way you are, is what can give us the confidence to make improvements and changes in life.

Thank you to our esteemed friend and student Reb Bentzion and to Mr. Rogers for opening our eyes to this profound concept!

STAY TUNED...

As the expansion project progresses, we will be holding a one-day fundraising campaign this Wednesday, November 14. This \$150,000 campaign has been made possible by a team of donors who have agreed to quadruple every dollar donated during this time period. Please stay tuned for more information. It is very important that as many community members as possible get involved through donating, sharing, and helping to get the word out to your friends and community. This campaign is crucial to the success of our expansion.



KOL HANE'ARIM

Saturday night learning for boys with raffles, fun and monthly refreshments.

Begins next week, November 17th, one hour after Shabbos ends.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Plumbing begins for the new restrooms in the shul building.



The youth center gets paint and prepped for flooring.





JOIN THE INAUGURAL MEN'S

Partners in Torah

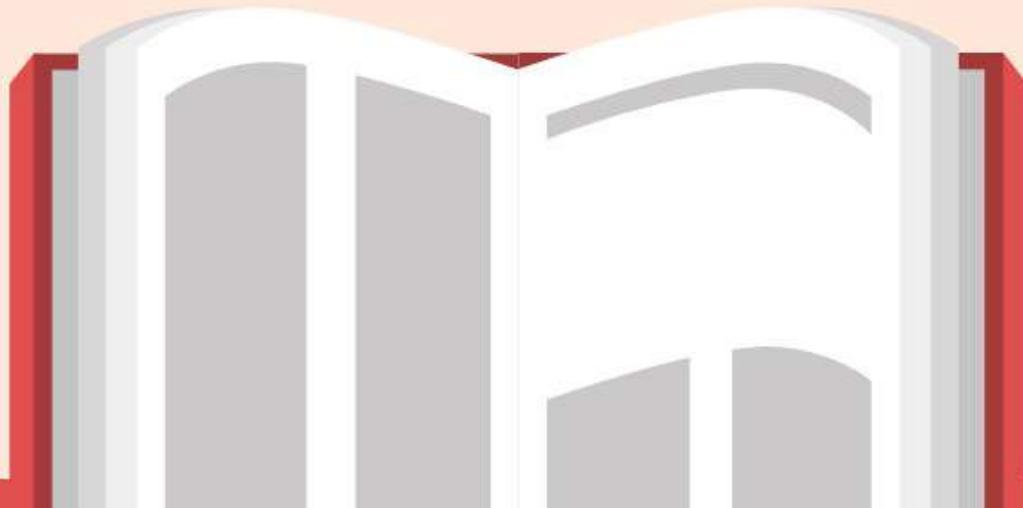
Get matched. Discover your passion.

**LIVELY STUDY SESSIONS WITH YOUR
PARTNER BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 28.**

Meet new people and gain a deeper understanding of the
basics of Torah study and it's lessons for modern life.

Register at info@dataofplano.org

www.dataofplano.org





WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE OUR ALL-NEW

MEN'S NIGHT KOLLEL

Learn with the "chaburah" or learn your own topic.

Commit to nine evenings a month, and earn a \$750 vacation voucher for you and your wife.

For more information, or to register, contact Rabbi Zakon at nzakon@dataofplano.org



KOL HANE'ARIM

Saturday night Torah study for boys with prizes, fun and monthly refreshments.



Monthly refreshments

Learning for a half hour, followed by a weekly raffle for exciting prizes.

Participate 13 out of 17 weeks throughout the winter, and receive tickets to a sports game for every boy and a parent!

Weekly, one hour after Shabbos ends. Begins next week, November 17th.

