

# DATA of Plano

Parshas Vayeira | 18 Cheshvan 5779 | October 27, 2018

## Sermon

with Rabbi Zakon



## The Secret of Laughter

Friday

**Mincha/ Candle lighting: 6:23**

Shabbos Day

**Shacharis: 9:00**

**Latest time for shema: 10:25**

**Learners' Service: 10:45**

**Kiddush following services:**

**11:45**

**Mincha: 6:00**

**Shabbos ends: 7:27**

## Learners' Service



## Testing

**From the Desk of Rabbi Yoni Sonnenblick, LMSW**

## Your Child, Your Judge



We have recently finished up the days of Awe. This time stands out in the Jewish calendar as both a time of reflection as well as a time of judgement. A sigh of relief is let out when these days are finally over. We can finally sit back and relax. For now, our judgement has finished.

Not so fast.

As parents, the days of awe may be coming to a close but there is another judgement taking place which is

a little more subtle, but nevertheless taking place. And this one doesn't end so fast.

Researchers from Purdue and Pennsylvania State University have recently concluded a study in which they found that up to 49% of adults have significant tension with their parents.

The researchers speculate:

"Middle-aged children may be less invested in the parent-child tie than young adult children because

they're more likely to have formed their own families and experience multiple role demands," Birditt said. And as parents age and come to want or need more from their relationship with adult children, adult children may pull away, creating greater relationship tensions.

Yes, there is a judgement taking place every day and every hour. Your child is formulating their decision on whether or not to involve their parents in their future life. How close will they live? How often will they call? Will you be involved in their major life decisions or ignored?

Although growing up in a family with parents who are married and get along great is an extremely positive experience for a child, this may be one area where the children of divorced parents have an advantage. Parents who are divorced are well aware of the reality that if you don't step up as an engaged, caring and loving parent that you stand to lose your status as an involved parent. There is another parent who is very happy to capitalize on your faulty parenting. There is a natural (hopefully in a healthy way) competition between the 2 parents to gain the attention and love of their child. Married parents can often become complacent with the lack of competition and forget about this important reality- that sometime in the not so distant future your child will have a lot more freedom than they currently do and that part of that freedom will involve a decision concerning how much



they let you into their life.

This should get us to think about a few points:

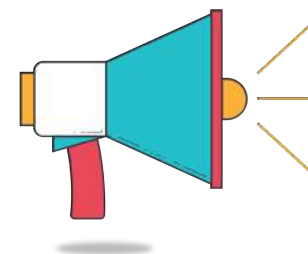
1. The solution is NOT to "butter-up" our kids by giving them all of their hearts desires. This superficial mode of connection is not the kind that creates the emotional connection necessary for a guarantee of a future deep relationship. More to say on that topic.

2. The awareness that this uneven power dynamic does not last forever can really help some make very different decisions in how they treat their children. We try to use death as a motivator to live life to the fullest. So too we should use the possibility of losing this relationship some time in the near future as a motivator to make the most of this relationship while we still do share one roof.

My kids recently told my wife and I that they want us to buy the few houses on both sides of our house for them to live in when they each get married. My initial gush of excitement gave way to a little more of a restrained and stoic thought. What are the chances that they'll be saying that by the time they are ready to leave our house? And what can I do **now** to ensure that they feel the same way in another 10 years?

## Be a Part of the Action

As part of our expansion project, DATA of Plano will be running a one-day campaign in early November during which all donations will be quadrupled by matching donors. We are looking for community members who want to partner with us during this campaign by calling their friends and family to make them aware of this opportunity for having a special part in our growth.



**If you are available to volunteer , please be in touch with one of the rabbis.**



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.**

Beginning November 1st.  
For more information, or to register, contact Rabbi Zakon  
at [nzakon@dataofplano.org](mailto:nzakon@dataofplano.org)

