



July 23rd, 2020 ~ 2 Menachem Av 5780

Dear Members,

Greetings and Blessings,

As we look out from the safety of our own homes to the world around us, we may see only uncertainty, fear of the great unknown and feelings of isolation. While this is the world's story right now, it is not the entire story. There are inspiring stories around us of people helping people, Torah study and inspiration happening every day. As the Torah teaches us – a little light dispels a lot of darkness!

We are enclosing, photos of examples of the bright light that Chabad of Plano persisted in shining forth during these long months of quarantine. From Passover packages, to socially distant visits, from Zoom classes to La'g B'omer celebration, from Hebrew School learning to Preschool Graduation, Chabad brought light, hope and will continue to do so with the belief that we will get through this together.

As further testament to our persevering spirit, instead of cancelling our annual Evening of Entertainment it will be celebrated as a "Live Steam" event. You can read more about this in the flyer enclosed.

As our thoughts turn to the New Year and the High Holidays, we know that although so much will be different, the prayers and the shofar blowing will be unchanged. How we will do it will become clearer as time passes.

We would like for you to be aware of the many precautions that Chabad has and is taking to protect the health of our families. You can read more about this and our High Holiday plan on our COVID page of information enclosed.

We would like to share with you the following story and its timely message.

Elisha the prophet was once visited by a poor widow who begged the prophet for help; she had no money to buy food and the creditors were threatening to take away her two sons to pay off her debts. Elisha gave her a jug of olive oil and directed her to take all the empty clay vessels she could find. The oil miraculously poured forth and filled all the vessels she had until there was not one left empty. She was able to live off of the proceeds from this oil for the rest of her days.

The commentators tell us that we each, in our lifetime, may feel like our vessels are empty- our heart and soul seem to be void of inspiration, love and enthusiasm. What is one to do? Keep the vessels close and whole because there will be a time once again when the "oil" will flow within ourselves. And when it does, we will be ready with vessels to contain these positive emotions.

During these times of quarantine, Chabad of Plano, a strong beautiful vessel which is usually filled with the sounds of childrens laughter, Torah study, Kiddushim and prayers, is now largely empty. But we hold hope that once again, very soon, the oil will flow and we will return together to celebrate within its walls the beauty and light of our community. We need you and your continued membership to help keep this vessel of Chabad of Plano, whole and complete.

We thank each and every one of you for your continued support as a member of Chabad of Plano, and we wait for the day when we will be able to welcome you and your family back in person to celebrate in good health, spiritually and physically. Amen!

Rabbi and Rivkie Block
Rabbi and Esther Horowitz
Chabad of Plano / Collin County

Membership Committee:

Carla Beren, Bernie Feiwus, Karen Glanger, Alex Lederman,
Sharona Ohayon and Stan Rothstein

P.S. Please know, all of the enclosed membership renewal forms can be completed online at www.chabadplano.org/membership.