

IN MEMORY OF DAVID ROTTENSTREICH A”H

This year’s Benjamin and Rose Berger *Torah To Go* is sponsored in loving memory of David Rottenstreich, Dovid Chaim a”h ben Tzvi Akiva a”h, whose 10th yahrtzeit will be commemorated on the 13th of Nissan.

David grew up in Hillcrest, NY, and attended YCQ, MTA, Yeshivat Shaalvim, Camp Morasha and Yeshiva University. He was a loving son, brother, and friend to all who knew him. While a student at Yeshiva University, he tragically passed away at the age of 20. Incredibly, his struggles during his illness, to which he eventually succumbed, galvanized so many to learn Torah and perform acts of chesed on his behalf, and then in his memory.

Ten years later, David (also known as “Rotty”) is still sorely missed, and his sterling personality and tremendous middot continue to impact all those who knew him and knew of him. David’s smile lit up a room. His lively and exuberant personality was infectious. Most inspiring was David’s strong commitment to talmud Torah, tefillah and shemirat hamitzvot. I, personally, will be forever inspired by the weekly Friday morning phone calls I received from David during his year in Israel, made specifically to

share an insight and dvar Torah on the parsha.

We see a true testament to David’s passion and commitment to talmud Torah from the numerous projects that have been produced in his memory. Annual yahrtzeit shiurim inspire all who attend. A sefer Torah was dedicated by his family and friends to perpetuate his memory. *Tzemach Dovid*, a sefer written and composed by David’s friends and rebbeim, conceptualize David’s knack for transmitting a “vort” for every parsha and chag.

The second half of *Tzemach Dovid* is a compilation of David’s own notes and ideas, which were first unveiled after his passing. In commemorating the Seder night, David wrote about the differences between the daily mitzvah of *zechirat yetziyat Mitzrayim* and the special mitzvah at the Seder of *sippur yetziyat Mitzrayim*:

Our obligation on every other night of the year is to remember the physical redemption from slavery to freedom, but on Pesach night we are obligated to remember the spiritual redemption. The whole night is about realizing and thanking Hashem for making us Ovdei Hashem and giving us the ability to do Mitzvot.



While this idea may be unique to the Seder night, David lived every day of his life by this lesson. He took pride in his ability to serve Hashem daily, taking full advantage of so many spiritual opportunities with a sense of simcha and fulfillment.

It is only appropriate that David’s yahrtzeit be commemorated through a Torah publication whose inspiring words will be shared by so many, and which reflects David’s passion. May the words of Torah published here serve as a merit for David’s neshama, and continue to serve as a comfort for his wonderful family.