



The Lion's Link

Volume | Issue 8



TVT Senior Ryan Kasoff presents his D'var Torah.



TARBUT V'TORAH
Community Day School
Founded in loving memory of Naomi Gelman Weiss

Senior D'var Torah

Editor's Note: From time to time, publication deadlines compel us to publish a Senior D'var Torah a week later. Hence, this week we proudly publish Ryan Kasoff's commentary on Hayyei Sarah.

This week's parasha is named Hayyei Sarah, which means the life of Sarah, but ironically enough, the parasha begins with the death of Sarah. After her death, Abraham tries to find a burial place for Sarah, but he is too modest to take the Cave of Machpelah for free (and he wants to establish title) so he pays full price. Soon after this, Abraham sends his servant back to Abraham's homeland in order to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham's servant soon meets Rebekah when she gives his camels water and he brings Rebekah back home to marry Isaac. Isaac is extremely happy and once they marry, his grief over his mother slowly fades. Abraham then has many sons with another wife. He afterwards dies as Isaac and Ishmael bury him at the cave of Machpelah, where Sarah was buried.

The main question that arises from the parasha is "Why would a parasha be named the life of Sarah when it begins with her death?" Rabbi Raphael Wizman explains that

although Sarah dies, her life and legacy continue on with Isaac. So, Sarah lives on through the life of Isaac as his success of continuing on the Jewish nation is also her success. But then isn't Isaac also Abraham's legacy, and since Abraham dies in the parasha, shouldn't his name be mentioned in the title? This can be explained with a previous quote from the Torah as God tells Abraham that he should listen to Sarah (Genesis 21:12). According to the Midrash, Sarah's prophetic powers were greater than those of Abraham. So Sarah was a greater prophet than Abraham, but why did Isaac still mean so much to her and why was he "the continuance" of her life? Well, Sarah's greatest accomplishment was Isaac and it was a miracle in the first place that he was born, so much so that Sarah practically lived through Isaac. Rashi tells us that her death was due to the binding of Isaac as she was so stricken with grief by what had happened. All of this speculation into the parasha leads to the ultimate messages that endings lead to beginnings and that continuing a legacy is more important than simply remembering it.

We have just celebrated the beginning of the tribes, a new tradition at Tarbut V' Torah, one that will create a lasting legacy for our students. We are starting this great new program at the school and as we are literally showing the success of Abraham and Sarah's legacies, we must not forget those who came before us. This is where we need to do some work. It is our job to continue the legacies of those who came before us. We need to live the way that our ancestors would have wanted us to live, but must not forget what they had to give up in order for us to live. By working hard in school and striving to achieve our goals, we are continuing the legacies of those who came before us and we are also forging our own legacies for future generations to continue.

I will soon be finishing my high school career and leaving for college, but I hope that I will not just be forgotten among this school. I want to leave a lasting legacy so that people can remember me, but mostly try to work hard and achieve greater things than I have achieved. I am the leader of the tribe of Joseph and although this is my last year at TVT, I hope that all of my tribe members will continue our tribe's legacy and will strive for greatness in both competitions and in our values. It is important to continue legacies because we are honoring those who have come before us, but we must not rely on only what our ancestors have established because we are all independent people. I will no longer be at Tarbut V'Torah next year, but I know that I have continued the legacies of my ancestors and past TVT students and at the same time I also hope that my tribe's legacy of respect, honor, and success will be continued by current and future students at this school.

Calendar Highlights

Global Day of Jewish Learning	Su	11/7
Upper School Diaper Drive		11/8—11/10
Grade K-5 Havdalah Lower School MPR	M	11/8 8:00 AM
K-5 PTSO Arts Masters Lower School MPR	T	11/9 -
Middle School Athletics Basketball Tryouts	T	11/9 - 3:00 PM
College Tuition Planning Parent Workshop, Room 200	T	11/9 - 7:00 PM
Veterans' Day Assemblies K-5 and 6-12	W	11/10 - Various
College Counseling Senior Pajama Party	W	11/10 7:00 PM
Veterans Day No School / Faculty In-Service	TH	11/11
No School TVT Office Closed	F	11/12





TVT in Baltimore

TVT joined over 1,000 attendees from 250 schools and 40 central agencies in Baltimore at the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education Assembly. Head of School Rabbi Seth Linfield, Chief Operating Officer Derek Gavshon, Director of Admissions Wendy Leberman, and Director of Communications Linsey Carbone chose from 100 sessions, labs, keynote presentations, and events focused on core areas such as admissions and marketing.



TVT Heads to Playoffs

TVT won the JV Cross Country League Title! **Arielle Gladstone** returned from an injury to win all-league honors along with **Savannah Levin** and **Ronnie Hecht** for Varsity Girls' Cross Country. Meanwhile, the Boys placed **Dan Friedman** on the all-league team! Varsity Girls' Tennis took on Connolly and Saddleback Valley Christian. Varsity Girls' Volleyball overcame a loss to Fairmont Prep with victories over Capo Valley Christian and Southlands Christian, entering the playoffs with a season record of 12 wins and 6 losses.



3rd Grade Drama!

Mrs. Siegel's students brought Hebrew to life by performing a play. The students learned vocabulary and grammar and performed a story in which boxes (played by students) argue which one is the most important box for the classroom. The students enjoyed this activity so much that they keep looking for audiences to come see their performance!



This week will feature a recruiting visit from the **University of California at Santa Barbara**, as well as **Pajama Party** for Seniors writing college essays, and a **Tuition Planning** workshop for parents (Tuesday, November 9th, 7:00 PM).



From the Desk of Tracie Cagen, TVT Guidance Counselor

I am delighted to be the Elementary Professional School Counselor at Tarbut V'Torah Lower School, where we educate the whole child. The Lower School Counseling Program is designed to complement the role of administrators, teachers, and parents in cultivating responsible, resilient, and successful lifelong learners. We take the positive approach of judging everyone favorably as described in the Mishnah (Pirkei Avot 1:6) and learn to look for the good, in ourselves and in each other. For example, in First Grade, I recently read the story, "Have You Filled A Bucket Today?" outlining that everyone carries an invisible bucket with them at all times (our self-esteem). The actions and words of others can fill or empty our buckets. You fill someone's bucket when you do or say something nice to another person. If you make someone upset or feel bad by making fun of them or hurting feelings, you are dipping into their bucket. As your counselor, it is my pleasure use such opportunities to teach our students essential life skills such as cooperation, conflict resolution, good decision making, study skills, respect for others, and building self-esteem. I will be available as a resource to staff and parents, providing support and expertise in the academic, behavioral, and social growth of your child—we want to be bucket fillers at TVT!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (949) 509 – 9500 x 1150.

Online Parenting Resources

<http://www.bucketfillers101.com/>

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/index.html>

<http://www.educationnation.com>

<http://www.kidscanpress.com/US/The-Tale-of-Sir-Dragon-P3049.aspx>

Good & Welfare

Support the Faerbers as we join them in their courageous battle. Information is online: <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/614106>.