



The Lion's Link

Thanksgiving Edition • Thanksgiving Edition • Thanksgiving Edition • Thanksgiving Edition



Dear TVT Family,
 Thanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once a year; to the honest man, it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow."
 [Edward Sandford Martin (1856-1939)]
 In traditional classification, gratitude is *hakarat hatov*, which translates as "recognizing the good." We recognize how blessed we are by the people we love and the American freedoms we enjoy. May we be inspired to magnify those blessings by our response to the Divine call of "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). We have the privilege—and the obligation—to partner with God in creating a more perfect world.

On behalf of our trustees, faculty and staff, happy and healthy Thanksgiving and Shabbat Shalom,

Seth Linfield

Rabbi Seth Linfield
 Head of School

Senior D'var Torah

Judah had three sons. He was set to marry off the eldest, Er, to a wonderful lady named Tamar, but Er was wicked so God killed him (Genesis 38:7). By Jewish law, when a husband passes away childless, the widow must marry the next youngest brother. We call that "levirate marriage." Now, Tamar was set to marry Onan, but Onan knew their babies would not be counted as his own, so he let his seed "go to waste," and God killed him too (38:10). At this point, one brother remained, but Shelah was too young to marry, so Judah told Tamar that when he was old enough, they would marry. Many years later, after Judah's wife died, Tamar found that Shelah was way past the appropriate age for marriage, so she plotted her revenge on Judah.

Tamar decided to disguise herself as a prostitute along a road Judah often traveled. She seduced Judah, who left a pledge in advance of payment. Three months later, Tamar discovered she was pregnant. When the townspeople seized her for her misdoings, Tamar made it clear she was pregnant by the owner of the staff and cloak in her hands. Judah admitted that these were his own and proclaimed "She is more in the right than me" (38: 21). Judah took responsibility for his actions immediately, despite the embarrassing consequences.

I draw a comparison between my favorite Biblical character, Judah, and



TVT Senior Max Bidna presents this week's D'var Torah.



TARBUT V'TORAH
 Community Day School

Founded in loving memory of Naomi Gelman Weiss

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Grade 4 & 5 Havdalah Lower School MPR M 11/29 9:30 AM

Tribe Event K-12 Activity T 11/30 9:40 AM

Peek-into-Middle School Parent Meeting (LH) T 11/30 6:30 PM

US Parent-Admin Coffee US Conference Room W 12/1 8:00 AM

Adopt-a-Family Week K-12 Activity 12/1—12/8

Grade 3 Candle-making & Olive Press W 12/1 8:00 AM

MS Parent-Admin Coffee US Conference Room TH 12/2 8:00 AM

Middle/Upper School Dance Recital TH 12/3 11:40 AM

Kabbalat Shabbat Lower School MPR F 12/3 8:00 AM

Middle/Upper School Hanukkah Celebration F 12/3 11:40 AM

Lower School Special Someone Day F 12/3 12:30 PM

SAT Exam Upper School MPR Sun 12/5 8:00 AM

SPORTS CENTER

Varsity Boys' Basketball versus Acaciawood (H) M 11/29 4:30 PM

Varsity Boys' Soccer vs Litehouse Christian (H) T 11/30 3:00 PM

Varsity Girls Basketball versus Santa Monica (H) T 11/30 6:00 PM



**Imagination Machine
Brings Stories to Life**

First through fourth grade students had the opportunity to watch their own words spring onto the stage. Professional actors performed plays written by our students in complete productions with music, props and costumes! The selected authors also received a Certificate of Writing Achievement at the end of the show.



TVT's Newest Eagle Scout

Congratulations to sophomore Joey Earl, who recently became an Eagle Scout. Joey has been a proud TVT Lion since kindergarten, and is a participant on the Cross Country Team. Mazel Tov!



Tefillah Cereal Boxes

The 7th Grade is exploring the dimension of prayer through cereal boxes! Students chose a prayer from *Shacharit*, the morning prayers, then used a traditional method of text study called *PaRDes*, which stands for *Pshat* (literal or surface meaning), *Remez* (clues about deeper meanings), *Drash* (explanation) and *Sod* ("secret" or profound meaning). The class finished by filling different sides of the cereal box according to the prayer's "Pardes."



**Community Happenings
Now posted online:**

<http://www.tarbut.com/Home/Calendar.html>

Parent and Student events for Peek-into-Middle School are scheduled for Tuesday, November 30. Open to grades 3-5!

(continued from page 1)... my favorite athlete. A year ago at this time, it was revealed that Eldrick "Tiger" Woods had relations with countless women while married. As did Judah, Tiger took responsibility for his actions, stating: "I am deeply sorry for my irresponsible and selfish behavior I engaged in... What I did is not acceptable, and I am the only person to blame."

Judah and Tiger were in similar situations. Both committed wrong acts involving prostitution, but both handled the situation correctly in the end. Both took responsibility for their actions.

We can learn from this parsha as well as from Tiger's story that if you make a promise, be true to yourself and to others

and keep it (and in any event don't leave anything at your mistress's house). But the most important lesson we can take from this week's parsha is to take responsibility for our actions. When Judah said "she is more in the right than me," he acknowledged that he made a mistake.

Taking responsibility for our own wrongdoings makes us better people. Whether it's for failing a test, talking in class, lashon hara (misuse of speech), or not following through on your promise, we all should take responsibility for our actions just as Judah did

As teenagers, we often do blame teachers, friends, parents, or anyone we can find for actions that were ultimately our own responsibility. Taking responsibility for our own wrongdoings makes us better people. Whether it's for failing a test, talking in class, *lashon hara* (misuse of speech), or not following through on your promise, we all should take

responsibility for our actions just as Judah did.

Happy Thanksgiving and Shabbat Shalom.