



The Lion's Link

Volume I • Volume 18

Senior D'Var Torah



TVT Senior Jena Vogel presents this week's D'Var Torah.

In the parasha of Be-Shellach, God continues to provide the Jewish people many miracles and opportunities to take advantage of, to provide a better life and a platform to serve others. When the Jews were stuck in Egypt with Pharaoh, "I have marked well the plight of my people in Egypt and have heeded their outcry because of their taskmasters; yes, I am mindful of their sufferings." [Exodus 3:7]. God then directs Moses to lead the Jewish people out of Egypt. In Be-Shellach, Moses miraculously parts the Sea of Reeds, leaving a pathway to pass through safely [14:15-31]. This miraculous event saved the Jews from the reign of Pharaoh and allowed them to start a different life. From then on, however, the Jewish people complained to Moses, time after time, about not having

enough food or water, claiming that they would have been better off in Egypt because they would not be struggling day after day as in the desert [16:1-3].

I would like to define a miracle not as nature disrupted, but rather as an unexpected opportunity. God gave the generation of the desert so many miracles, and yet they kept finding reasons to denounce their situation. This group could not take their new opportunities and make full use of them; ultimately only Joshua and Caleb would cross into the Promised Land. But to judge people from within their own perspectives, these former slaves were so used to living a life of being degraded and having their freedom infringed upon that it was hard for them to take advantage of their new opportunities, because they didn't know if these possibilities would be taken away the next day or week.

There is a true story with many parallels to this parasha that can help us learn from how the Jews reacted when they were granted a miracle. In 1957, President Eisenhower ordered the desegregation of public schools. This was a monumental event. Finally, African-American students would be equal with white students. On September 2, 1957, nine black students were to begin their first day of school under the new desegregation laws at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. The students were tormented by angry mobs and protestors – including the governor of Arkansas. The threat of violence that they faced by attending Central High amongst white students was so significant that President Eisenhower ordered the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army to Little Rock to accompany the nine students at school to ensure their safety. These kids were treated like they were beneath the other students. They were physically and verbally abused and, if they retaliated in any way, they were the ones who would get into trouble. Despite the difficulties they faced by attending Central High, the nine students – now known as the Little Rock Nine – were afforded a miracle. They could have complained or backed away from their new opportunities, but they didn't. Their determination and perseverance has made an everlasting impact on our country and inspires anyone being treated unfairly. Dr. Terrence Roberts, of the Little Rock Nine, spoke directly to us this past Thursday and continued that chain of inspiration.

Enduring what our ancestors in Egypt and the Little Rock Nine endured is unimaginable. And if we do not learn from them, then their struggles were for nothing. When you are given a chance that you never thought you would get, you must persevere through whatever difficulties may arise, to make the best of that opportunity. Learn from the Jews in the desert: rather than fear change, embrace it. Nothing worthwhile comes easy. The Jews in Egypt and nine African American students from Arkansas prove that continuing truth.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

US Finals Grades 9-12 (No classes)	T-F 1/18—1/21
MS Grease Preview Lecture Hall	T 1/18 2:25 PM
K-12 PTSO Meeting LS Classroom #601	W 1/19 8:10 AM
ArtsTeach "Earth Tales" LS MPR	W 1/19 8:00 AM
TVT Hosts CSP Speaker Prof. Stephen Berk - LS MPR	W 1/19 7:00 PM
K-5 Tu B'Shevat Assembly & Tree Planting, LS MPR	TH 1/20 10:30 AM
MS Tu B'Shevat Trip UCI Arboretum	TH 1/20
K-5 Kabbalat Shabbat 3C Leads, LS MPR	F 1/21 8:00 AM

[LS Extracurricular Activities \(Session 2\):](#)

February 7— June 2





Renowned Artist Visits TVT

Renowned sculptor, Ms. Miriam Baker, visited the fifth grade art classes where students have been working with the human figure in two dimensions, to help students master the art of sculpting the human form in clay.



Second Annual Karaoke Night

Get those voices warmed up! Our TVT Ambassadors are holding a night of family fun with friends to fundraise for their service trip to Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Come see students, faculty and parents sing their hearts out on **Sunday, January 23**. Doors open at **5:30 PM** to sign up to sing. Performances start at 6 pm. Pizza, snacks, and soda will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$5, or \$4 with a canned food donation. Grab some friends, put a song in your heart, and help repair the world! Don't miss special performances by **Mr. James Lincoln** and **Mr. Craig Michalski!**

TVT GO LIONS!		TVT	
TARBUT V'TORAH Community Day School		TARBUT V'TORAH Community Day School	
Varsity Boys' Basketball	T	1/18	
versus Eastside Christian (H)		2:00 PM	
MS Girls' Basketball	T	1/18	
versus Mission Hills (H)		3:00 PM	
MS Boys' Basketball	T	1/18	
versus Mission Hills (H)		4:00 PM	
Varsity Boys' Soccer	TH	1/20	
at St. Michaels		3:00 PM	
MS Boys' Basketball	TH	1/20	
versus Heritage Christian (H)		4:00 PM	
Varsity Girls' Basketball	TH	1/20	
at Capo Valley Christian		5:30 PM	

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DAILY PILOT

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Business/Real Estate Education Politics

Civil rights leader stops in Irvine By Sarah Peters
 Member of 'Little Rock Nine' tells them that conflict is inevitable, but that combat is avoidable *January 14, 2011 2:13 p.m.*

IRVINE — Civil rights history came alive this week when a member of the "Little Rock Nine" spoke at a private Jewish school about a touchstone in American history.

Terrence Roberts addressed Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School students Thursday about segregation and adhering to codes of nonviolence. He was a featured guest speaker during the Facing History and Ourselves Jewish Education Program, which is sponsored by a grant from the Jim Joseph Foundation.

"In any group of human beings conflict is inevitable, but combat is avoidable," Roberts said. While Roberts described time as "neutral" — with life's drama continuously unfolding — it is up to the individual to choose when and where to make a stand against injustice. His moment came at age 13, when he made the mistake of sitting at an all-white lunch counter, he said.

"It was like someone had frozen time," Roberts said of the instantaneous mass reaction of the restaurant's patrons that he had broken "society's code." Roberts left the restaurant physically unscathed, but the emotional encounter launched him on the path that would lead him to become one of the nine children selected to breach segregation at Little Rock's Central High School in 1957.

"Sometimes, in retrospect, it's hard for me to figure out how we survived the year even with the guards," Roberts said of the daily harassment and violence he and the other members of the "Nine" were subjected to by Central High students, parents and faculty. Robert's first-person narrative painted a flesh and bone picture of segregation for the students — exactly what school officials were hoping to achieve as part of Facing History and Ourselves, a nationwide program. The goal is to encourage students to "look at history and connect with it personally and with empathy," said teacher **Damian Zoppo**, the program liaison, "and to encourage students to take a stand when injustice is there and not be bystanders." Another important element of the program is to study the psychology of the perpetrators and of the victims so that their behavior can be understood and impart lessons, Upper School Principal **Laura Roth** said. "The No. 1 goal is kindness and acceptance, whether that means accepting someone who is a little bit or a whole lot different from you," Roth said. "I want to send a message to teenagers that difference is actually a whole lot more interesting."