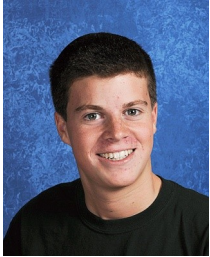




The Lion's Link

Volume I • Volume 17

Senior D'Var Torah



TVT Senior Ivan Straight presents this week's D'Var Torah.

In this week's Parsha, Bo, we learn about the last three plagues that swept through Egypt — not only to save the Israelites but also to prove God's almighty power. After the seventh plague, hail, Pharaoh said to Moses that he would let only the men go. This was not enough for Moses so Moses said he would cast another plague onto Egypt. Moses warned of the plague of locusts. Moses lifted his rod and a strong wind came to Egypt and brought swarm upon swarm of locusts. Nothing green remained living. (Exodus 10: 12-15)

Pharaoh still wouldn't give in, so Moses lifted his arm again and the plague of darkness came. Pharaoh said that he would let all the Israelites go, however they would have to leave their sheep and cattle. Moses again did not take the offer and said he would not stop until his people were freed and allowed to take their livestock. (10:26) Moses seemed to be more insistent than Pharaoh, but Pharaoh still said no. Moses then left the Pharaoh's presence. Later, God told Moses that there would be one more plague. After the deaths of the first-born of Egypt, Pharaoh finally gave up and Moses and his people were able to go. In the end, Pharaoh's stubbornness was an obstacle designed to highlight God's supreme power.

As I wrote notes for this Parsha, wondering how the story of Moses's unrelenting effort to save our people could be related to our lives today, Matisyahu's song, *One Day* came on my Pandora station. I stopped to think about the lyrics in his song. In his song, he speaks of moving on and not letting negativity get to him. This mentality relates to this parsha because much like Moses' encounter with the stubborn Pharaoh, we as Jews, and young adults must also face obstacles. No, we may not be fighting for the freedom of our people but we are all fighting for something - whether it is the chance to get into a great college, get a good grade in school, or even a long-desired privilege - we must never stop fighting for what we believe in.

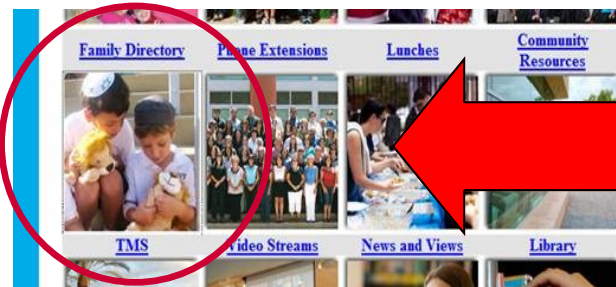
This made me think about what my dad went through in his college years. He was sort of a rebel and his parents wouldn't fully pay for college because of his rebelliousness. He was working hard to pay for college and when his senior year came around his parents told him that he was on his own, financially. He couldn't afford to pay rent and tuition, so instead of stopping his college studies he decided that he would give up living in a house, living in his Volkswagen van instead. He made it work, whether it meant running an extension cord to a friend's apartment so he could have light to study, or giving up having his own bathroom, my dad saw it through and finished college.

If Moses had stopped trying so hard, or my dad had given up when the money ran out, history would have been different. We can learn from Moses, my dad, Matisyahu and their persistence. We all need to remember this. In the same way that God and Moses never gave up on our people, we should never give up on ourselves.

Shabbat Shalom.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

K-5 Havdalah	M	1/10
LS MPR		8:00 AM
LS Parent/Admin Coffee	T	1/11
LS MPR		8:05 AM
Winter Dance Recital	TH	1/13
Lecture Hall		6:30 PM
US Reading Day	F	1/14
Grades 9-12 (No classes)		
Shir Appeal Performs	F	1/14
K-8 Kabbalat Shabbat, LS MPR		8:00 AM
MLK, Jr. Day	M	1/17
No classes		
US Volunteer Gleaning	M	1/17
Weather Permitting		
Re-Enrollments Due	T	2/1



TVT Family Directory is Online!

Enjoy easy access through the Parent Portal





Lower School Meets Asian Art Masters

TVT Lower School students were introduced to masters of the "Asian Brush" as part of this popular PTSO-sponsored program that combines art history and studio art. The important influence of Asia on artists from both East and West is considerable, but it is the Asian masters' brushwork that inspired students in the art studio. After learning about basic strokes used in calligraphy and painting, students used bamboo brushes and a variation on the Sumi-E technique to create their own bamboo compositions.



Magevet, Yale's Jewish A Cappella Group Takes TVT by Storm

As part of their Winter Tour, Magevet, the premier Jewish, Hebrew and Israeli a cappella group of Yale University, delighted TVT with two outstanding performances. Enjoy the music with CDs, available in the Upper School office for \$15.00. See **Vicki Gladstone**, vgladstone@tarbut.com, for more information.

The new Winter Spirit Wear has just arrived! Stop by Dora Akiva's desk in the Lower School office or call ext. 1110 for more information.



Spirit Wear!

SPORTS CORNER

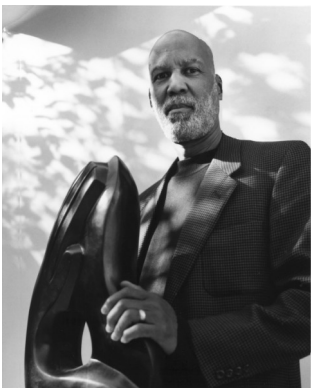
UPPER SCHOOL: Though Varsity Soccer was rained out this week, Varsity Basketball had a strong showing: The girls netted three wins (Connelly 62-18, Southlands Christian 46-28, Liberty Christian 37-33). The boys overcame a loss to Orangewood Academy (44-63) with a victory over Liberty Christian 52-34.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Middle School Basketball teams are *on fire* this season! At press the boys were 6-0 and the girls 4-2. The boys have defeated Tri-way League rivals Calvary Christian, Oakridge, Orangewood, Anaheim Hills, Heritage Oak and Edgewood. Next week's game against Carden Hall will be an important game for both teams.

Terrance Roberts of the Little Rock Nine to speak at TVT

Thursday, January 13, 2011

9:40 AM—Upper School MPR



On January 13th from 9:40-10:40 am Dr. Terrence J. Roberts will join us at TVT. **We invite all members of the community, students, parents and faculty to come hear this remarkable speaker and to devote this time together to both learn about the history of the struggle for civil rights and explore our own commitment to the values of fairness and community.**

Dr. Roberts is one of the "Little Rock Nine," one of the brave African-American students who entered the all-white Little Rock Central High School in 1957 to face daily harassment as they broke the color line. Dr. Roberts was 15 years old. A year later he moved to Los Angeles, graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1959 and received a B.A. in sociology from California State University at Los Angeles in 1967. This was followed by an

MS in social welfare in 1970 from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1970 and a Ph.D. in psychology from Southern Illinois University in 1976.

Today, Dr. Roberts has a private psychology practice and lectures on his experiences. We are honored to welcome him to TVT as part of our participation in the "Facing History and Ourselves Program" with the support of the Jim Joseph Foundation.

Peek-into-Upper School "Piques" Interest

TVT's eighth grade students experienced a lively discussion about the pros and cons of Facebook in Upper School Town Hall, had lunch with upperclassmen who discussed the activities and classes available in grades 9-12, then rotated through three classes – a science lab, a film class and a Q & A with **Mr. Davis** in our college counseling suite. There was also a special opportunity for parents to "peek" into classes. If you missed this event and wish see more of our Upper School, please contact: **Wendy Leberman** (x 1102 or wleberman@tarbut.com).



Varsity Boys' Soccer	T	1/11
at Fairmont Prep		3:00 PM
Varsity Girls' Basketball	T	1/11
versus Fairmont (H)		4:00 PM
Varsity Boys Basketball	T	1/11
versus Fairmont (H)		5:30 PM
MS Girls' Basketball	TH	1/13
versus Carden hall (H)		3:00 PM
Varsity Boys' Soccer	TH	1/13
versus Saddleback Christian (H)		3:00 PM
Varsity Girls' Soccer	TH	1/13
at Connelley		3:00 PM
MS Boys' Basketball	TH	1/13
versus Carden Hall (H)		4:00 PM
Varsity Girls' Basketball	TH	1/13
versus Liberty Christian (H)		4:30 PM
Varsity Boys' Basketball	TH	1/13
versus Saddleback Christian (H)		6:00 PM