



The Lion's Link

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Volume I • Issue 24

(949) 509-9500 • Founded in loving memory of Naomi Gelman Weiss

TVT Gala
Marconi Automotive Museum **Sat** 2/26
7:00 PM

TVT Hosts BJE Mitzvah Mania
Upper School Campus **Sun** 2/27
9:30 AM

Blood Drive
Red Cross Club (US MPR) **M** 2/28
8:00—4:00

Grade 10: Parent-Teen
Drug Education Seminar (LH) **M** 2/28
6:30 PM

“Fourth Grade Takes the Stage
LS MPR **T** 3/1
8:00 AM

US Acaemic Awards
US MPR **T** 3/1
2:25 PM

MS Boys' Soccer
vs. Orangewood (H) **T** 3/1
3:30 PM

US Snow Days
Off-Campus **W-TH** 3/2-3/3

US Parent-Admin Coffee
Upper School Office **W** 3/2
8:00 AM

Taste of Kindergarten
Lower School Classroom #102 **W** 3/2
9:30 AM

MS Parent-Admin Coffee
Upper School Office **TH** 3/3
8:00 AM

Grade 1: Field Trip
Centennial Farms **TH** 3/3
8:15—11:00

MS Girls' Soccer
at. Edgewood **TH** 3/3
2:30 PM

MS Boys' Soccer
At Edgewood **TH** 3/3
3:30 PM

K-5 Kabbalat Shabbat
LS MPR (Grade 1B to Lead) **F** 3/4
8:00 AM

Grade 4: Field Trip
Cabrillo Marine Acquarium **F** 3/4
9:40 AM

TVT Ambassador
Garage Sale (US MPR) **SUN** 3/6
7:00 — Noon

OC Private Schools Association
Pre-High School Fair (Off Campus) **SUN** 3/6
2-5 PM

K-5 Havdallah
LS MPR (Grade 1 to lead) **M** 3/7
8:00 AM



Senior D'Var Torah

TVT Senior Jesse Marans discusses this week's parsha.

In this week's portion of Va-Yakhel, Moses reaffirms the Divine mission to build the Tabernacle, with the help of *all* of the Israelites (Exodus 35:1). The parsha is very detailed in how this was accomplished. It begins with the rules and regulations of observing the Sabbath (the cathedral in time to parallel the Tabernacle in space), preparations and offerings for making the Tabernacle, and then details of all the construction of the Tabernacle and its contents.

The ultimate meaning of the parsha is in how a society must come together to accomplish great or important things. Each person is to contribute in the best way that he or she can. In some cases that means donating skills, and in others, they give up possessions that are dear to them. Every member of the society had something useful to contribute to the Tabernacle. In this parsha even the women of Israel (often ignored in other religious roles) were included. According to the Midrash, a set of homiletic interpretations, one of the women's contributions was to be their mirrors. To Moses, a mirror symbolizes vanity, and he does not wish to accept them. God explains to Moses that there are benefits from all contributions and Moses relented. All of us have something to contribute; sometimes you just have to look a little deeper to uncover the benefit.

There are many examples in all of our lives where we are challenged to accomplish our dreams. All of us sitting here today are part of an educational community that is crucial to our long-term goals and ultimate success. We are all also part of one community or another that is discriminated against. Being Jewish is the most obvious, but many of us have other ethnic, cultural, or physical attributes that leave us feeling different or isolated, and in some cases, persecuted.

The most personal example of this in my life relates to my sexual orientation. It is unfortunate that we need to be a separate community, but that is still the present reality. Growing up gay, you feel isolated. There is a large community of everyone else, and then there is you, the different one. It is only when you realize that there are others out there and connect with them that you personally feel part of a larger group. It is much easier now than years ago when the group was hidden behind closed doors.

The bigger issue for the gay community is what we have been able to build over the years by joining together. It is not a discrete structure, like the Tabernacle, but a body of rights as individuals that was only possible by a larger community. Just as no single person could have built the Tabernacle, no one individual could have made it possible for me to be speaking about this topic today. Temples are built all over the world, and unfortunately still provoke controversy at times. We should all be looking forward to the time where being Jewish, gay, or any other minority is simply accepted as another shade of normal. I hope this will occur in my lifetime.

Shabbat Shalom.

The 2011-12 Academic Calendar is now online:
<http://www.tarbut.com/Home/Calendar.html>

See you at the gala!



ORANGE COUNTY PRIVATE PRESCHOOL – HIGH SCHOOL FAIR
 MARCH 6, 2011, 2-5 PM

Parents choose private schools for many reasons. Discover yours at the OC Private Schools Fair.

REASON #6:
 See more reasons at our website. Small class sizes = individualized attention. Private schools are not constrained by a one-size-fits-all budgetary approach, and so are able to meet the needs of each individual child.

OC PRIVATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PRIVATE SCHOOL FAIR

Choosing the ideal school for your child can be a daunting task with many factors to take into consideration. Don't miss the chance to meet with representatives from over 50 private schools in Orange County. Ask questions, collect materials and find the school that is right for your child. Educational seminars and free parking for the first 500 registrants will be offered!

OCPSA
 Organized by the Orange County Private Schools Association



Mission San Juan Capistrano Unlocks History for Third Grade

While at the Mission, students took a "Journey to the Past" with Native American, **Ms. Jacque Nunez**. Ms. Nunez involved students in daily activities that took place on the mission grounds and regaled them with stories of the early settlement. Students explored the ruins of the original stone church, learned how the Native Americans made adobe bricks using their feet, and (as an added bonus), walked through the current exhibition of Lewis and Clark Revisited: A Trail in Modern Day.

50 Schools, 1 Location

Sunday, March 6 from 2-5 PM the OC Private Schools Association will host the 1st Annual Private School Fair at the Anaheim Convention Center (800 West Katella Ave, Anaheim, CA)—and TVT will be on hand! If you have friends who want to learn more about private education, please encourage them to come. Admission is free and there is free parking for the first 500 visitors. Questions? Please contact **Mr. Derek Gavshon** (ext. 3004) or visit: www.ocpsa.org

TVT Student Competes at World Championships of Pee-Wee Hockey

TVT 7th Grader, **Matthew Burg**, who started playing ice hockey as a five-year old, recently returned from the "most important minor hockey tournament in the world," held annually in Quebec, Canada. Matthew, and his team the Anaheim Jr. Ducks, were among 2,300 young players from 16 countries. The Jr. Ducks beat five teams, including Slovenia and Germany, before falling to the Carolina Jr. Hurricanes in the semi-finals—which boasted a crowd of 13,000 fans. Matthew plays Right Wing and earned a Championship Ring (inset, above) for his efforts. His other projects? Rebuilding a 1969 Mustang, playing guitar for the MS Garage Band, and golf.

TVT Pursues College Partnerships



TVT is in the process of expanding both the breadth and depth of our relationships with surrounding universities. On the table are potential partnerships that would give TVT students the opportunity to do research with professors and higher priority in course registration. Local universities would be able to bring education and psychology students to TVT for fieldwork, TA work, or professional mentoring. **Dr. Laura Roth**, Upper School Principal and **Ms. Leighann Pennington**, of the Middle School English Department, who are leading this effort on behalf of our school, would welcome your feedback. What would you hope to see in a TVT-University partnership? Please direct all comments to: feedback@tarbut.com.