



# The Lion's Link

Volume I • Issue 27

## Senior D'Var Torah



**TVT Senior, Debra Linfield, discusses this week's parasha.**

Solomon could not explain it. This purification ritual is recounted before Passover, when everyone has to be in a state of purity in order to give the Paschal offering in the Temple.

Midrash Tanchuma, a collection of homilies originating in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, connects Parah Adumah to the Golden Calf. In the desert, the Israelites, frightened when Moses tarried on the mountain, reverted to the idol worship of Egypt and fashioned the Golden Calf. Just as a cow is deemed a calf from birth to around six months old, the golden calf represents a time when the Israelites acted childishly. The red heifer, in contrast, must be at least three years old. This cow symbolizes a more exalted and mature attitude towards life. The path from calf to heifer is the arc of Passover, the march from slavery to service – from being a child, always shifting responsibility, to being an adult and taking responsibility.

For three years, I was the quarterback of our high school flag-football team in Florida (the sport is more popular there than here). Last year, in the championship game, we were down by five, fourth down, with 20 yards to go and thirty seconds left. I threw the ball to my teammate. She caught the ball, but her flag was pulled just as she entered the end zone. We lost. I immediately began the process, which lasted for days, of replaying this last play. My coach tried to console me, but also informed me that I missed an open receiver in the end zone. I came to believe that the loss was due solely to my oversight.

It may seem that I was absolving my teammates, but I came to realize that I was disrespecting them. As the legendary coach John Wooden observed, "The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team." I learned that this truth holds in both directions. It may seem noble to accept all the responsibility for a defeat, but it is egotistical. Our team is not a one-person team - and we share victories and defeats.

While the red heifer represents responsibility, there are limitations to this responsibility, as seen through the priest, who becomes answerable for the penitent's impurity but in the process becomes impure from the ritual. This becoming impure is the Torah's challenge to each of us today to think through the moral limits of responsibility. If your ego allows the attribution of all good, or even all the bad, to yourself, you have opened the door to doing even good things with unethical means.

As we mature, it is vital that we take responsibility when needed. For example, in college, we cannot tell our professor that we were not able to prepare for class because our friend persuaded us to go to a party the night before. Saying sorry and taking the blame for a situation is hard to do, but it will help us in our studies, careers, and relationships. But you should not accept blame for something just to protect your friend. Everyone needs to absorb the importance of taking responsibility - and you do not want to take that privilege away from another, or from yourself.

Shabbat Shalom.

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Grade 4 &amp; 5: Athletic Assembly</b> <a href="#">LS MPR—Presidential Fitness Awards</a> <i>recognizes students for their levels of physical fitness in five activities</i>	<b>M</b>	<b>3/28</b> <b>8:05 AM</b>
<b>Grade 4 &amp; 5: Havdalah</b> <a href="#">LS MPR</a>	<b>M</b>	<b>3/28</b> <b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Grade 2&amp;3: Athletic Assembly</b> <a href="#">LS MPR—Presidential Fitness Awards</a> <a href="http://www.presidentschallenge.org">http://www.presidentschallenge.org</a>	<b>T</b>	<b>3/29</b> <b>8:05 AM</b>
<b>US Field Trip</b> Chapman University/Elie Weisel	<b>T</b>	<b>3/29</b> <b>8:30 AM</b>
<b>National Honor Society Mtg</b> US Classroom #200	<b>T</b>	<b>3/29</b> <b>2:25 PM</b>
<b>KDG/Grade 1: Athletic Assembly</b> <a href="#">LS MPR—Presidential Fitness Awards</a> <a href="http://www.presidentschallenge.org">http://www.presidentschallenge.org</a>	<b>W</b>	<b>3/30</b> <b>8:05 AM</b>
<b>Grade 3: Field Trip</b> Skirball Center	<b>W</b>	<b>3/30</b> <b>8:15 AM</b>
<b>Grade 5: Field Trip</b> Nixon Library	<b>W</b>	<b>3/30</b> <b>8:15 AM</b>
<b>Schoolwide Norooz Tribe Picnic</b> <b>Celebrating Persian New Year</b> <b>Los Judios Locos Concert!</b> <i>(JCC Cafe will be closed)</i>	<b>W</b>	<b>3/30</b> <b>12:20 PM</b>
<b>Moot Beit Din Delegation:</b> Off-Campus Competition	<b>TH</b>	<b>3/31—4/3</b>
<b>K-5 Kabbalat Shabbat</b> <a href="#">LS MPR (IC to lead)</a>	<b>F</b>	<b>4/1</b> <b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>MS/US Kabbalat Shabbat</b> Lecture Hall/Upper School MPR	<b>F</b>	<b>4/1</b> <b>11:40 AM</b>
<b>K-12 Walk-and-Learn</b> <b>LS Courtyard (TVT Ambassadors)</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>4/8</b> <b>8:00 AM</b>

## Pajama Storytime

Roll out of bed and join us for stories, songs, fingerplays and a fun art activity—all while making wonderful new friends! For children ages 3-5 and their parents. Bring a friend and receive a surprise!

**Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 am**  
**TVT Lower School Library**

RSVP [wleberman@tarbut.com](mailto:wleberman@tarbut.com)



# SPORTS

For the first time in TVT history, the **Varsity Boys' Baseball Team** is ranked in the **Top 10!** Get the full scoop at [http://www.tarbut.com/PDF\\_s/AthleticsSchedules/baseballpoll.pdf](http://www.tarbut.com/PDF_s/AthleticsSchedules/baseballpoll.pdf). **GO LIONS!!!**

**Varsity Girls' Softball** M 3/28  
at Southlands Christian 3:00 PM

**MS Girls' Soccer** T 3/29  
vs. Oakridge (LS Field) 3:00 PM

**Varsity Boys' Tennis** T 3/29  
at Fairmont 3:00 PM

**Varsity Boys' Baseball** T 3/29  
at Eastside 3:15 PM

**MS Boys' Soccer** T 3/29  
vs. Oakridge (LS Field) 4:00 PM

**Varsity Boys' Tennis** W 3/30  
vs. Whitney 3:00 PM

**Varsity Boys' Baseball** W 3/30  
vs. Hope Academy (Windrow) 7:00 PM

**Varsity Girls' Softball** TH 3/31  
at Southlands Christian 1:00 PM

**MS Girls' Soccer** TH 3/31  
vs. Carden Hall (LS Field) 4:00 PM

**MS Boys' Soccer** TH 3/31  
at Santa Ana 3:30 PM



## Handstand Champ

Congratulations to **Ben Madorsky** (Grade 7), winner of the State Gymnastics Championship "Mr. Handstand" Contest. This is Ben's second consecutive win—he held his handstand without moving for an impressive 2 min 15 seconds to defend his title.



## Instrumental Music Program Grows Exponentially

With the addition of two new music classes in the Upper School, TVT's music program is growing! If you have seen a concert at TVT recently, you will notice that students in the program can hardly squeeze onto the stage. **Mr. Kevin Bachelder** takes students from the beginning of their music careers to near professionalism. Recently, at the Gypsy Den in Santa Ana, **Griffith Clawson** (Grade 9), pictured above, "played out" in the Southern California Live Acoustic Competition, competing against other talented musicians in Orange County.



## Youth Art Month

Ten of our lower school students attended an elaborate reception at the Department of Education in honor of Youth Art Month for Orange County. **Olivia Szabo** took home a first place ribbon and **Brooke Dukells**, a second place ribbon. Both of these 5<sup>th</sup> graders will move on to the Southern Area Youth Art Month in Pasadena in April. The other students who participated in the exhibition are: Kindergarten: **Sarah Chernoff** and **Jacob Stone**; Grade 1: **Sami Stone** and **Benjamin Whitney**; Grade 2: **Ian Mac Donald**; Grade 3: **Jean Katz** and **Daniel Voronel**; Grade 4: **Galya Folgelman**.

## College Acceptances 48 & Counting!

*New additions listed in bold.*

Adelphi University  
Arizona State University  
Bentley College  
**Brandeis University**  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
Cal State Chico  
Cal State Dominguez Hills  
Cal State Fullerton  
Chapman University  
College of William and Mary  
Drexel University  
Farleigh Dickinson University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
**George Washington University**  
**Goucher College**  
Hofstra University  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Johns Hopkins University  
Michigan State University  
**New York University**  
Notre Dame de Namur University  
Northeastern University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
San Diego State University  
Southern Methodist University  
Stanford University  
The Ohio State University  
Tulane University  
University of Arizona  
**University of California, Berkeley**  
**University of California, Davis**  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Oregon  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Southern California  
**University of San Diego**  
**University of the Pacific**  
University of Washington Bothell  
**University of Washington Seattle**  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Washington & Lee University

## Good & Welfare

Mazel Tov to **Karin, Absalom, Eve** (Grade 1) and **Ada** (Grade 1) **Hepner** who welcomed a healthy baby boy, **Adin Michael Hepner**, on March 15, 2011.