



The Lion's Link

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TVT Senior, Amy Broukim, discusses this week's parasha.

Senior D'Var Torah

This week's Torah portion, Tazria, discusses the different types of skin that turn out to be "tzara'at," which we usually translate, likely incorrectly, as leprosy. The rabbis were less interested in microbiology than the moral lessons to be learned by ascribing this disease to gossip; this connection arises because, first, the consonants in the Hebrew for leprosy align with those in "motzi ra," or sending forth the bad (language), and second, Miriam was stricken with snow-white scales when she spoke ill of her brother Moses (Numbers 12:1-10).

The *Cohanim* (priests) were instructed to look at skin that had a rash, swelling, or discoloration. If this type of affliction on the skin continued for seven days, the *Cohanim* would pronounce the person unclean and diagnose him with leprosy. For a person with this affliction, "his clothes shall be rent, his head shall be left bare ... and he shall call out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' his dwelling shall be outside the camp (Leviticus 13: 45-46).

Why were people who have a sickness banished "outside the camp"? The sin of gossip ruptured relationships and therefore the gossipers were separated from the rest of the community to make them an example. Rashi comments that "[s]ince by his slanderous tongue, he separated man from his wife, and a man from his fellow Jew, so he too will be separated."

Today, though we do not believe that the punishment for *lashan hara* takes the form of leprosy, the gossip is still separated from the person he victimized. This is in keeping with the Torah's teaching that "on the seventh day the priest shall examine [the leper] again: if the affliction has faded and has not spread on the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean" (13:6). As Rashi explains, "he becomes pure only if the eruption dims." So, after being separated, the gossip was reunited with the group over time. This is similar to when we are forgiven for our sins and we are welcomed back to the community.

I once spoke badly of a friend behind her back. When she found out, I felt remorseful - it would have been much better if I had confronted my friend about the issue. She forgave me for my actions and we became friends again. Our renewed friendship made me feel more included. I learned that by shunning my friend or behaving cliquishly, I was injuring myself as much (or more) than I injured her.

For the two months that we have left in high school, it is important that we show respect for our friends. Seniors, I hope that our friendships last through college and beyond. I cherish all the memories we have made since 1st grade: the science trips in elementary school, the fun classes in middle school, and the Poland and Israel trip last summer. The friendships I made in high school are strong and healthy, like the clean skin in this Torah portion, and I always want to stay within this community—even as the years and miles increase..

Shabbat Shalom.

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Calendar Highlights

K-5 Book Fair LS Library	M-F	4/4-4/8
K-5 Grade: Havdalah LS MPR	M	4/4 8:00 AM
US Beit T'Shuvah In classrooms	M	4/4
Grades 4B & 4C (Half of Class) Field Trip: Ocean Institute	M	4/4 8:30 AM
MS: Parent Conferences Upper School MPR	T	4/5 All day
Senior Graduation Tryouts Speech:: US Conference Room	T	4/5 12 & 2:25
US Parent-Admin Coffee US Library	W	4/6 8:00 AM
K-5 Vision Screening Lower School MPR	W	4/6 8-Noon
MS: Parent-Admin Coffee Upper School Conference Room	TH	4/7 8:00 AM
Grade 5 & 6: Field Trips Knotts Berry Farm/Sciencee	TH	4/7 8:00 AM
Parent Meeting: Grade 5 LS MPR: Astro Camp Information	TH	4/7 6:30 PM
K-12 Walk-and-Learn LS Courtyard (TVT Ambassadors)	F	4/8 8:00 AM
ACT Exam US MPR	Sun	4/10 8:00 AM
Ikebana Class (Flower Arranging) Upper School MPR	W	4/13 3:30 PM
TVT Hosts the JCC Israel Expo Lower School Campus	Sun	5/22

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





Sports

Varsity Boys' Baseball, pictured below, continues its winning streak with a 15-1 victory over Eastside. **Varsity Boys' Tennis** also won (6-5) over Whitney. **Varsity Girls' Softball** ultimately fell to top-ranked Liberty Christian, after rousing the fans by leading for most of the game.



Congratulations to both the **Middle School Girls' and Boys' Soccer** teams, who have qualified for the Tri-County League Playoffs! The girls will play here at 3:00 PM on Monday. The boys will play at Anaheim Hills at 4:00 PM on Monday.



The **MS Cross Country** team and one intrepid parent participated in the 5K "Coaster Run" at Knotts Berry Farm. GO LIONS!!!

MS Girls' Soccer Tri-Way League Playoffs (H)	M	4/4 3:00 PM
MS Boys' Soccer Playoffs at Anaheim Hills	M	4/4 4:00 PM
Varsity Girls' Softball at Oakgrove	M	4/4 3:00 PM
Varsity Boys' Tennis at Fairmont	T	4/5 3:00 PM
Varsity Boys' Baseball vs. Oakridge	T	4/5 3:15 PM
Varsity Girls' Softball at Capo Valley Christian	W	4/6 2:30PM
MS Soccer (Co-Ed) at Heritage Christian	W	4/6 3:30 PM
Varsity Boys' Baseball vs. Eastside (Windrow Park)	TH	4/7 7:00 PM



Visit TVT's **News & Views** page (<http://www.tarbut.com/NewsViews/Welcome.html>) to see the latest: Professional images from the "Spotlight on Champions," TVT's Purim Celebration, the K-12 Tribe Picnic celebrating Norooz, and more!



For the 5th consecutive year, TVT parent, **Mr. Mike Natelson**, in conjunction with US Economics Teacher **Mrs. Susan Miller**, taught TVT's Seniors credit card and money survival basics. The time value of money, the effect of compound interest, credit card fine print, and perspectives on how money works are among the topics that were covered.



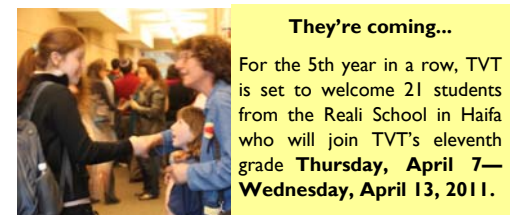
Mrs. Nelik's class recently performed Looking for the Tree of Life מחפשים את עץ החיים. The play celebrates the significance of the life lessons in the Torah about how to behave.



Over 100 K-5 students received top honors in the President's Fitness Challenge! Students received Presidential, National, or Participation Certificates, with information on the back to help students and families continue their fitness regimen throughout the remainder of the school year, into the summer, and beyond.



Students from TVT's 6th and 8th grades once again joined their Kindergarten friends for an inspiring project, this time to make a quilt to send to Japan under the tutelage of TVT Parent, **Mrs. Colleen Crystal**. The older students helped the younger ones as they painted sections and sewed them together—then went the extra mile to sell "Kibo" bracelets to cover the cost of shipping.



For the 5th year in a row, TVT is set to welcome 21 students from the Reali School in Haifa who will join TVT's eleventh grade **Thursday, April 7—Wednesday, April 13, 2011.**

Good & Welfare

Mazel Tov to **Mika Goldberg** (Grade 7), **Etan Hassan** (Grade 7) and their families on each becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah!