



# The Lion's Link

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Dear TVT Family,

An iconic symbol of American culture is the frontier cowboy, be it James Fennimore Cooper's Leatherstocking, or Daniel Boone, or Davy Crockett, riding off alone. At Passover, in comparison, we focus on the pilgrim coming to the Temple in Jerusalem to join the community. There, the pilgrim recounts a formula, repeated at the Seder, that "my father was an Aramean about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and he sojourned there, and the Egyptians did evil to us and abused us and set us to hard labor ... and God heard our voice ... and brought us out from Egypt." (Deuteronomy 26:5-8). For Kris Kristofferson, in *Me and Bobby McGee*, "freedom is just another word for nothing

left to lose." For us as Jews, freedom is the opportunity to take care of others who are at risk of being lost on society's margins: "You shall not cheat a sojourner and you shall not oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. No widow nor orphan shall you abuse." (Exodus 22:2-21). This holiday is not about "let my people go" without more; rather, it's "let my people go to serve me" (Exodus 9:1).

Here at TVT, we don't wait until the springtime to emphasize this aspect of freedom. We educate and raise our young men and women to participate fully as citizens in our democratic social and political spheres, without relegating our faith and values merely to the quiet quarters of individual conscience. From creating modern Torah commentaries in new media, to making pottery cups for Elijah, to bake sales and crafts for Japan's earthquake victims, we celebrate being truly free as we prepare for the Passover holiday. For nothing says that John Wayne couldn't ride his horse right up to the Temple gates.

On behalf of our faculty and trustees, Deana and I wish you and yours a Shabbat Shalom and a *chag kasher v'sameach*, a happy and healthy Passover.

*Seth Lenfield*

## Senior D'Var Torah

We are entering *Pesach*, a time when we dig down into our ancient roots and recite the story of our people. I am sure many of you are thinking the same thing as I am: how on earth am I going to survive without bread for 8 straight days? Believe me, you do not know how good a piece of pizza looks when you are stuck in Kennedy Airport during Passover after your flight was delayed for four hours and all you have to eat is your tiny bag of matzah. More seriously, why do I even have to have the traditional 2 *seders* and not consume any *chametz* (leavened products)? For a while, I struggled with the concept and asked myself why I should participate. But when I take the time to ponder how this holiday applies to modern life, I am surprised by the strong connection I have to the story of *Pesach*.



TVT Senior, Alex Sable, discusses this week's holiday.

God commands the Jewish people to leave Egypt and go to the land of Israel. At first, the Jews did not want to leave Egypt (see Exodus 13:17-18 and related commentaries). Egypt was their home, the only place they knew. Almost six years ago, my family and I were uprooted from our peaceful lives in New York and moved to this foreign place in California known as Irvine. Just as the Jewish people were reluctant to leave Egypt, I was reluctant to leave New York. Why would I want to leave? All of my friends and family were in New York. All I knew about California was what I had seen on TV. I envisioned California like an episode of *Rocket Power*, where everyone was either a skater or a surfer. Despite how much I loved *Rocket Power*, I was not looking forward to the move. My dad promised me that we were going to have a better life in Irvine, but I didn't believe him. It took all of my strength to board the plane and embark on my new life in California. Just as the Jewish people, I was afraid of change.

The move ended up being the best thing that ever happened to me. If you were to go back in time and tell the 12-year-old me that the move would not only work out, but would be amazing, he would have probably punched you in the face. Without the move, I know I would not be the man I am today. My move to California enabled me to be a part of the wonderful Senior Class of 2011, but more importantly, make friendships that I will cherish for the rest of my life. So seniors, my message to you is not to fight but rather to embrace change - because as my story and the story of the Jewish people shows, change can be wonderful. Shabbat Shalom and Chag Sameach!

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Campus Reopens</b>	<b>TH</b>	<b>4/28</b>
<b>Classes Resume</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>5/2</b>
<b>US Beit T'Shuvah</b> In classrooms	<b>M</b>	<b>5/2</b>
<b>AP Exam Week Begins</b> Lecture Hall	<b>M-F</b>	<b>5/2—5/6</b>
<b>AP Review Session</b> US Classroom \$208	<b>M</b>	<b>5/2</b> <b>6:15 PM</b>
<b>K-5 Havdallah</b> <u>LS MPR (Grade 5 Leads)</u>	<b>M</b>	<b>5/2</b> <b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>Grade 3: Field Trip</b> Knotts Berry Farm	<b>T</b>	<b>4/11</b> <b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Yom HaShoah Assembly</b> Grade 5/US: US MPR	<b>T</b>	<b>5/3</b> <b>9:40 AM</b>
<b>Grade 8: Parent Info Meeting</b> Lecture Hall	<b>T</b>	<b>5/3</b> <b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>US Parent-Admin Coffee</b> <u>US Conference Room</u>	<b>W</b>	<b>5/4</b> <b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>Grade 5: Field Trip</b> Knotts Berry Farm	<b>W</b>	<b>5/4</b> <b>8:45 AM</b>
<b>Grade 4 Sea World Meeting</b> Lower School MPR	<b>W</b>	<b>5/4</b> <b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>MS Parent-Admin Coffee</b> <u>US Conference Room</u>	<b>TH</b>	<b>5/5</b> <b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>K-5 Kabbalat Shabbat</b> <u>LS MPR (KC/KD to lead)</u>	<b>F</b>	<b>5/6</b> <b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>SAT Exam</b> <u>Upper School MPR</u>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>5/8</b> <b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>TVT Film Festival</b> Upper School Field	<b>TH</b>	<b>5/19</b> <b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>TVT Hosts JCC Israel Expo</b> Lower School Campus	<b>Sun</b>	<b>5/22</b>
<b>Senior Graduation</b>	<b>TH</b>	<b>5/26</b>

## Happy Passover!

TVT students prepared for Passover with a number of activities, including the Kindergarten Matzah Bakery (Grade KD featured, left).





## SPORTS CORNER

Among other highlights, **Varsity Boys' Baseball** defeated Eastside Christian 20-3 after losing two previous games to that division rival. **Varsity Boys' Golf** earned a victory against LaVerne Lutheran before falling to Saddleback Valley Christian.

**Varsity Girls' Softball** T 5/3  
vs. Southlands (LS Field) 3:00 PM

**Varsity Boys' Tennis** T 5/3  
at St. Michael's 3:15 PM

**Varsity Girls' Softball** W 5/4  
at Southlands 3:00 PM

**Varsity Boys' Baseball** TH 5/5  
at St. Michaels 3:15 PM



## TVT Wins Big

@ 2011 OC Fair Youth Expo

TVT received over 120 awards at the Youth Expo, including 8 Division Winners:

Clay Animation (Grade 4)

by **Koby Beard & Gage Greenberg**

Dot Whale Quilt (Grade 5)

by **Mrs. Linda Oaks' Class**

Clay Animation (Grade 4):

by **Shira Silver, Joely Ruben & Briana Sukert**

Garden Game Boards (Grade 5):

by **Daisy Gollis, Jessica Barbarosh & Victoria Elfend**

The TVT Times Newspaper (Grades 3-5)

under **Mrs. Sandra Cabouat**

Farm Animals (Grade 1)

by **Mrs. Michelle Lazerson's Class**

No Smoking Mural (Grade 3)

by **Mrs. Oaks' 3rd Grade Class**

Save the Ocean PSA (Grade 5)

by **Alyx Cicerella**

**See All 120 Awards Online:**

[www.tarbut.com/NewsViews/Welcome.html](http://www.tarbut.com/NewsViews/Welcome.html)

Lower School teacher, **Mrs. Cabouat**, remarked that "They called TVT's name so many times for various prizes that it kept those of us present in a state of constant applause!!"



## Electric House Project Shines

**Mr. Mike Seftel's** exuberant 5th Grade science class hosted TVT's annual Electric House Night. Students worked in design teams to wire and light a four-room (or more) structure. The results are dazzling! **Tova Zalomek** and **Elliot Berdy** (Grade 5) are pictured above.



## TVT's Equestrian Champion

If you've been to the Upper School Lobby lately, then you've seen an impressive new trophy glinting on the shelf—the Orange County Interscholastic Equestrian League 2011 Championship Trophy, which **Emily Sukert** (Grade 7) earned on behalf of TVT!



The Middle and Upper School students created and enjoyed a *seder* outside in the spring air. Before leaving on their Catalina Island trip, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders participated in their own model seder which highlighted the prophetic emphasis on repairing the world. *Today rabah* (thanks) to our PTSO who flawlessly pulled off three, beautiful Lower School seders in addition to those of the Middle and Upper School, ensuring our students, faculty and families enjoyed a memorable tradition together.

## College Acceptances 53 & Counting!

*New additions listed in bold.*

Adelphi University  
Arizona State University  
**Bates College**  
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  
**Fordham University**  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
George Washington University  
Goucher College  
Hofstra University  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Johns Hopkins University  
**Lehigh University**  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
Notre Dame de Namur University  
Northeastern University  
**Reed College**  
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 Virginia**  
University of Washington Bothell  
University of Washington Seattle  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Washington & Lee University