



# The Lion's Link

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Volume I • Issue 26

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

**SAT Exam**  
US Classrooms

Sun 3/13  
8:00 AM

**Color It Orange Reception**  
Laguna College of Art & Design

Sun 3/13  
10—3

Network Maintenance  
TVT Website Off-line

10/14  
M 3:30—  
5:30

**Grade 4: Field Trip (1/2 class)**  
Whale Watching

T 3/15  
8:30 AM

**Taste of Kindergarten**  
Lower School Classroom #102

T 3/15  
9:30 AM

**MS Special Program**  
Street Beat (Lecture Hall)

T 3/15  
2:25 PM

**K-12 PTSO Meeting**  
Upper School Library

W 3/16  
8:10 AM

**College Visit:**  
Drexel University (CC Suite)

W 3/16  
10:30 AM

**Junior College Counseling**  
Lecture Hall

TH 3/17  
2:25 PM

**K-5 Kabbalat Shabbat**  
LS MPR (Purim Activities)

F 3/18  
8:00 AM

**Middle School Dance**  
Upper School MPR

TH 3/24  
6:30 PM

**Faculty In-Service Day**  
No Classes

F 3/25

**Schoolwide Picnic Across Tribes**  
**Celebrating Persian New Year**  
(Blueberry Hill will be closed)

W 3/30  
12:20 PM



## Senior D'Var Torah

**TVT Senior, Jeremy Cosel, discusses this week's parasha.**

Last week, we finished the popular Book of Shemot, or Exodus. Now we enter the lesser-known Va-Yikra, Leviticus, starting with the portion of the same name. We pick up right where we left off, with the Tabernacle completed and Moses before God. Throughout the entire portion, our leader receives instructions on how the people should present various offerings to this new sanctuary, depending on the socioeconomic status of the worshipper and the intentions behind the action, ranging from peaceful to guilt-filled offerings. I now focus on a specific situation of interest to me: the Sin, or more precisely, Purification Offering.

The "קרבן חטאת," the *korban chata'at*, deals with all the situations where the person(s) at fault sinned, regardless of intention. While there are different animals and procedures even within this category, there is a noteworthy similarity between a priest or *kohen* sinning and the entire congregation, or subcategories of the congregation, doing so. In all cases, the priest makes expiation (Leviticus 4: 5, 20, 26, 31, 35). On my initial read, I was quite confused as to why the priests were the ones atoning for both actions for which they were at fault, but also performing the same "apology" themselves, for the sake of their people - it seemed like an 'lose-lose' situation. I had to look deeper, particularly at two commentaries of interest.

The Torah states, "If it is the anointed priest who has incurred guilt, [...] that blame falls upon the people (4:3)." A commentator, the Gaon of Lissa, explains, "When a leader sins, this becomes the excuse for everyone else's wrongdoings." That's weird: the commentator is saying that the faults of the leaders victimize their congregation. The Torah then indirectly explains this idea of the leaders' covering the peoples' wrongdoings in 4:13: "If the entire community of Israel errs and the matter escapes the notice of the congregation [...] the elders of the community shall lean their hands upon the bull's head." Apparently, the leaders are to blame for making a misjudgment, even by accident—they've buried themselves in their own grave for giving wrong information, before the people even use it to sin! Another commentary, this time a modern one by Adam Lieberman, explains why it truly isn't the fault of the people for committing a sin; the environment created by the leaders is as influential as this parasha wants you to believe. Those in a leadership role have a greater responsibility to uphold integrity than their followers, because their position elevates them to "role models."

I started to see the meaning behind what I initially assumed to be a "scapegoating" of guilt from the people onto their leaders. According to these

commentators, it is indeed the fault of the leader for sinning because by their imprimatur of authority, they have made something unethical seem completely acceptable. This message is easily applicable to many groups of people throughout the world, whether it is our government, the celebrities we read about daily or even our own parents and teachers we see so frequently. These people are our role models: we follow their actions every day, watch the news, Internet, magazines and social media in an attempt to stay in sync with pop culture. Now it seems appropriate, or cool, to engage in despicable affairs, as long as a celebrity or two has been caught doing it.

Something even more significant to note is how we (yes we) can have an impact on our siblings and even our nation's youth, whether or not we are exerting a conscious effort. Calling something "retarded," getting caught out past curfew, and especially having possession of illegal substances is more than just a faux-pas or crime, it is selfish, impacting your family's health, worrying your parents AND scaring your own brothers and sisters. Yes, I know that's a buzz-kill. But if you really think about it, each of us is a leader to someone. Going beyond family, are you a camp counselor? A student tutor? Do you ever go out in public with friends? There are always kids, watching the behaviors we unconsciously offer, most likely in an attempt to impress people we think are above us. As this cycle moves forward, if we can all make a change, even gradually, we can reverse these behaviors.

The point behind all of this, behind what Chapter 4 of Leviticus states and the beliefs I've raised, is that in a leadership role you need to realize you are not any better than your "inferiors." Rather you are responsible for the fact that they will be following in your footsteps. By addressing this concept today, I hope we can all think about our own experiences and our power to influence someone else's decision, so that as we move forward we can work on ourselves to inevitably work on our student population, in particular, and our nation's youth in general, thus strengthening the connection between our generations for the better.

Shabbat Shalom!



**“Recycle, People”**

The Middle School art installation “Recycle, People,” which is currently on display across campus, reflects the Seventh Grade’s interpretation of Tikkun Olam -particularly as it relates to recyclable material. Using *objets trouvés* (found objects) from home, each student created a near life-size mannequin, embodying a unique message about our ability to make a difference in the world. Each assemblage is positioned in an unexpected place around TVT to jolt the viewer out of their ordinary routine, provoking thought. As TVT student-artists, Vivien Herscovitz and Tyler Berman, explain, “we want to show that anyone can make a difference by being involved.”

The installation remains on display through April 15, 2011.



**Purim Plans**

Today is the last day to order Mishloach Manot from the PTSO. Visit the TVT Parent Page for more information:

[www.tarbut.com/HOME/parents.asp](http://www.tarbut.com/HOME/parents.asp)

The Lower School Leadership Council invites K-5 students to dress up in the spirit of Purim:

**Monday: Mismatched Day**

**Tuesday: Crazy Hair Day**

**Wednesday: Silly Sock Day**

**Thursday: Fast of Esther**

**Friday: Purim Costumes**

Middle and Upper School students will culminate their celebrations during Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, March 18, 2011.

**TVT INFO NIGHT - SEAL BEACH**

MARCH 16TH AT 6:30 AT THE HOME OF JACK AND FELICE SHOHEET (NOAH & SARINA)



Our school is growing and adding classes

Hi, I am a student at TVT, a Jewish Community K-12 school in Irvine. The school is great and I'd like to invite you to see it. I also a son from the AJCC in Temple Beth David. It's really easy. And most of the time it takes about 25 minutes. The school has a lot of great classes. And I'm so glad you that there's a financial

**Seal Beach Parlor Meeting**

The Shohet Family, Jack, Felice, Noah and Sarina, are hosting a North County parlor meeting for prospective parents. This is a wonderful opportunity for interested friends to hear about our amazing school.

**Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 6:30 PM**  
If you know a family that might be interested, please contact:

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

**T T LIONS SPORTS CORNER**

**Varsity Boys' Baseball** began the season with a 11-1 victory over Boys' Republic and a 16-0 win over Weaver. **Varsity Girls' Softball** fell to Calvary Baptist 14-10 in their season opener. The **Middle School Girls' Soccer Team** is now 2 and 1 on the season after a 3-1 win against top-ranked Anaheim Hills.

**GO LIONS!!!**

<b>Varsity Boys' Golf</b> at SBVC	<b>M</b>	<b>3/14</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
<b>MS Co-Ed Soccer</b> vs. Carden Academy (LS Field)	<b>M</b>	<b>3/14</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
<b>Varsity Boys' Golf</b> at San Joaquin CC	<b>T</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>2:10 PM</b>
<b>Varsity Baseball</b> vs. La Sierra	<b>T</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
<b>MS Girls' Soccer</b> vs. Heritage Oak (LS Field)	<b>T</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>MS Boys' Soccer</b> vs. Heritage Oak (LS Field)	<b>T</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>Varsity Boys' Baseball</b> vs. Weaver (Windrow Park)	<b>TH</b>	<b>3/17</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

**Good & Welfare**

Masel Tov to **Jacob Kuppermann** (Grade 7), who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on March 5, 2011 at University Synagogue.

**TVT Welcomes new families:**

**Julia and Danielle Kushner** whose son **Michael** joins KA, and **Monique and Mitchell Shaffer**, whose son **Joshua** joins 5B, while daughters **Moriah and Danielle** join grades 7 and 10.



**Parenting in a Digital World**

*Advice from Ms. Tracie Cagen, Lower School Guidance Counselor*

- **Take Time for Family Dinner**
- **Take the TV and electronics out of child's bedroom.**
- **Check your child's homework daily**
- **Ask your kids to teach you how to use each new digital device or purchase**
- **Sit down and play video and computer games with your children.**



**Precious Cargo**

As a culminating activity in their motion and forces unit, 8<sup>th</sup> graders created “egg drop containers” to safely drop an egg from 6 meters without breaking it. This engineering design challenge incorporated their learning of acceleration, force and fluid friction as they competed to create the lightest possible design. Students made multiple renderings, graphs of their data, designed a logo and then blogged their journal and final results. Please visit their team blogs to see the outcome: <http://tarbutscience.wikispaces.com/Blog+List>