



TARBUT V'TORAH
Community Day School

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MALE STUDENT ORGANIZES ORANGE COUNTY'S ONLY HIGH SCHOOL "V-DAY" PRODUCTION FEBRUARY 12, 2009

[Photo Op]

Cast of students and teachers reading on set from emotionally charged true stories about violence against women

IRVINE, CA – (January 28, 2009) By special arrangement with V-Day, Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School presents a benefit staged reading of *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer*, one night only (6:30 pm) on Thursday, February 12, 2009. The evening performance will be held at the Merage JCC Theatre, 1 Federation Way, Irvine. Tickets are now on sale - \$20 adults, \$10 students with student ID (full price of ticket is tax-deductible). All proceeds benefit Women of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Mariposa Women's Center. There will be a reception with the cast following the performance. Additional monies may be donated during the reception or by sending a check directly to the school, marking it for the V-Day fundraiser. All donations are tax-deductible.

This staged reading features student and faculty performers, and is produced by Nathan Grouse, a current senior at Tarbut V'Torah. "Nathan is a student tuned in to social issues," says Ms. Sarah Lougheed, Grouse's mentor and Visual & Performing Arts Department Chair. After participating in the 2008 "V-Day" production, Grouse is determined to educate others about the urgent need to end violence against women and girls. "I am particularly impressed with this year's V-Day Spotlight: Women of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The number of people who are not aware of the mass murder and rape that has plagued the Congo for the past decade is staggering."

V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* and her new book *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer*. In 2007, more than 3000 V-Day events took place in the U.S. and around the world.

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To date, the V-Day movement has raised over \$50 million and educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it, crafted international educational, media and PSA campaigns, launched the Karama program in the Middle East, reopened shelters, and funded over 5000 community-based anti-violence programs and safe houses in Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt and Iraq.

Each year V-Day increases awareness by focusing on a specific group of women in the world who are resisting violence with courage and vision. In 2009, the spotlight is turned to the Democratic Republic of Congo. In the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, rape is used as a weapon to subdue and break apart entire communities. In partnership with UNICEF, V-Day has organized a global campaign called: "Stop Raping Our Greatest Resource: Power to Women and Girls in Democratic Republic of Congo." The event will serve as a venue for the survivors of sexual abuse from the Democratic Republic of Congo, to speak out against the violence in their lives. 10% of TVT's benefit's proceeds will be donated to the Women of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Because violence against women is also a local issue, Grouse chose the Mariposa Women's Center as the local recipient of 90% of the benefit's proceeds. The Mariposa Women and Family Center is an organization that assists women who suffer from domestic violence, low incomes, and mental health issues. The institution also provides support for girls who are victims of child abuse, and a number of other maladies afflicting the women and girls of our community.

TVT is the only K-12 Jewish Community Day School in Orange County, and one of the largest in North America with over 600 students. Located in Irvine, TVT serves students from 39 surrounding cities in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. For more information and to purchase tickets or to make a donation, please visit the TVT web site at www.tarbut.com or call (949) 509-9500. Tickets may also be purchased at the Merage JCC Theatre, one hour prior to the performance. The performance is recommended for mature audiences, due to the graphic nature of the topics being discussed.