



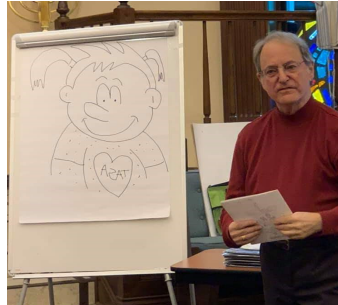
Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

Changemaker Program

We have had two great visitors to TASA for our Changemaker Program. First, students were very attentive with Mr. Joel Friedman's presentation. Mr. Friedman is a retired science teacher and principal in San Antonio, who happens to have a very famous and super-fun hobby: Cartoon Drawing. Did you know we had an author and cartoonist right in the midst of our Jewish San Antonio community?



"Never give up, keep practicing and perfecting", was Mr. Friedman's advice. He showed us drawings of Bugs Bunny and Tramp the dog (from Lady and the Tramp), which were from his 8th grade year in school. We saw panels of cartoons, published cartoon books and even got a sneak peek of an upcoming children's book! Mr. Friedman also showed students how he began his cartoon drawings, and had us guess which of his famous characters he was drawing: Mimi! If you do not already follow Friedman Cartoons on Facebook, check out his daily cartoons for an ever-day laugh!



We also had a visit from a very busy business man: Howie Nestel. Starting as a young teen, inspired and helped by his father, Howie's first business was selling snow cones in the south Texas heat! His father, Isaac had some great advice that has resonated over the years: "Just do something! Ideas are great, but 99% is what you do with that idea!". From that point on, his drive for success only increased tenfold!

Now the owner of Sharkmatic, Matson Multimedia, My Chef Meals, and numerous non-profits, Howie knows not only how to make money, but he also knows the importance of generosity and giving back to the local and greater community. One of his most successful giving opportunities takes place the first Sunday of December every year with his non-profit called Gotcha Covered, bringing food, clothing and much more to the Battered Women's Shelter, Haven for Hope, and the Food Bank.

THE TASA TIMES

BEREISHEET
October 25th, 2019
26 Tishrei, 5780
Issue 5, 2019-20

Our TASA students were eager to hear more about helping with this drive on December 8th.

Thank you Joel and Howie for visiting us at TASA and inspiring us to make smart decisions, never stop trying, work hard and give back like you!

ANNUAL MATCH-A-THON

On November 5th & 6th, TASA will hold its 5th annual Match-A-Thon Challenge to raise \$180,000 in 48 hours supporting Jewish Day School education in San Antonio.

"A number of extremely generous donors have already stepped forward contributing and allowing us to set an ambitious goal," said Rabbi Yossi Marrus, Dean of Students. "After last years success, with so many parents, teachers, and community members participating and doing their utmost to support the school, we are excited and energized as we gear up for another match-a-thon campaign" said Mrs. Diric, Director of General Studies. Stay tuned for more details!!



Coming Soon!!

- ◆ **Wednesday, October 30** - End of 1st Quarter
- ◆ **Monday, November 4** - No School / Teacher's Professional Development
- ◆ **Tuesday & Wednesday November 5 & 6** - Annual TASA Matchathon Challenge.
- ◆ **Wednesday, November 6th** - PTO Family Dinner

What's New TASA Crew!

D'VAR TORAH

New Beginnings, Old Traditions

"Beraishit Bara Elokim Et Hashamayim V'et Ha'aretz -In the beginning G-d created the heavens and the earth".

Once again, we find ourselves reading the first portion of the Torah, Beraishit. After the culmination of the reading the entire Torah on Simchat Torah we restart from Genesis once again for the 3,292nd time. The book of Genesis begins with the account of creation, describing to us how Hashem created the world in six days and then rested on Shabbat, the seventh day.



When one reads the account of creation in the Torah one can only be puzzled and left wanting more information. For the most part, the description in Chapter 1 & 2 of Genesis is sketchy at best, and it is difficult to comprehend what was before the world was created and what happened afterwards. While the Torah places great emphasis on some parts of history it also skips out on hundreds of years with zero information! It is for this very reason that our sages explain that the Torah, while recounting the history of the world, is not really a history book. Rather, the Torah is a book of guidance, morals and teachings. The Hebrew word Hora'ah (teaching) is the same Shoresh (root word) as the word Torah. Its not about the history as much as it is about the lessons, we are to learn from what the Torah is telling us.

When we read the stories of Bereishit it is important to approach these stories with the understanding that while we may have read the very same stories for so many years, the lessons we derive from them are grounded in our age-old traditions and teachings and are applicable in every day and generation. There is a beautiful custom that on Simchat Torah as we read the account of creation, the entire congregation calls out the conclusion of every day "Vayehi Erev Vayehi Boker..." One of the great Chassidic masters explained that we do this as witnesses would proclaim their testimony. We are essentially bearing witness to the history of the world, as we dedicate ourselves, once more, to study the Torah yet again for the 3,292nd time.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

SUKKOT PROGRAMMING *Zman Simchateinu*

The Sukkot holiday found our students extremely busy with holiday programming and fun activities. As in past years, TASA had its own Arba Minim (4 species) for the students to be able to do the Mitzvah every day. We also had the opportunity to eat lunch in Rodfei's beautiful Sukkah. On Wednesday, Oct. 16th TASA students in cooperation with SAJSS organized a field trip to the Adante and Madison senior living centers. The students and teachers visited with the residents, sang and danced and then had the opportunity to schmooze and shake the Arba Minim with the seniors. On Thursday, Oct. 17, we were treated to a special SukkArt activity with Judaic Artist Chaya Toron from Cincinnati, OH. All the students participated and painted beautiful pieces including a Rimon-Pomegranate, the Arba Minim and the Kotel. To wrap up the Sukkot programming the students watched a skit on the life of the Ushpizin put on by our middle school students.



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Our first and second grade class has been immersed in Mexican culture through the books of Yuyi Morales. They have been researching the geography in Mexico, and learning about important symbols in the Mexican culture. After reading Nino Wrestles the World, they researched the Mexican wrestling called "Lucha Libre." The entertaining wrestlers are called luchadores, and wear unique, elaborate, brightly colored masks. El Santo is one of the most famous luchadores who never removed his mask, even when he wasn't wrestling. After decorating special masks, our students connected to thirty classes around the globe, showing how each of them designed their own masks.

