

TOLDOT

November 5, 2021 - 1 Kislev, 5782

Light Candles at 6:27pm

Issue 5, 2021-22

The TASA Times

שבועון של בית ספר היהודי



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY
of San Antonio

Bandage Project

It began in November 20018, with a special letter of request from a 4th grade student in California: "Please help us remember the 1.5 million children lost in the Holocaust."



The Torah Academy of San Antonio middle school Student Council and National Honor Society students quickly jumped on the request to help Freedom Writer Teacher, Lisa Liss, and her Tolerance Kid's "Bandage Project". Starting in 2008, schools and organizations in 50 states and 23 countries around the world, supported the Tolerance Kids and their ambitious goal of collecting and writing the names of the 1.5 million child victims of the Holocaust by what would be Anne Frank's 100th birthday on June 12, 2019.

TASA students took on the task of writing the names and ages of **20,000** children from the Yad Vashem list. Ultimately, the 1.5 million bandages were placed in a beautiful glass container, and are currently on display in the Tolerance Museum in California. Their future home will be the Anne Frank Museum in southern California. Lisa Liss wrote a book about this amazing tolerance-driven journey, which will be available on Amazon soon. We will be gifting a copy of the book to the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. TASA Co-Head of School, Jessica Diric, and TASA students are acknowledged in this book for helping meet the final push of 1.5 million personalized bandages.

TASA students and staff would like to extend a thank you to parents and family members, as well as numerous community supporters, who donated band-aids. We would also like to give a very special recognition to our San Antonio Jewish Seniors, who gave money to purchase nearly 10,000 of the personalized bandages sent to California!



תודה רבה!

Gracias!

Merci Beaucoup!

From the bottom of our hearts, we say "Thank

You for your support, love & friendship!

TASA is a stronger community because of

YOU!"

THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING JEWISH DAY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN SAN ANTONIO

**8TH ANNUAL
TASA
Match-a-thon**

**WE RAISED....
\$118,842**

FROM 365 DONORS!!

www.matchathon.com/TASA

210.607.7261 OFFICE@TORAHACADEMYSA.COM

STRONGER TOGETHER

A Community Gathering Against Hate

Join us for an evening of unity as we come together to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of Kristallnacht, "The Night of Broken Glass", and stand up against hate in San Antonio.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 | 6:15 P.M.

HARRY & JEANETTE WEINBERG CAMPUS OF THE SAN ANTONIO JEWISH COMMUNITY
12500 NW MILITARY HWY

CHECK IN BEGINS AT 6:45 PM

—ADKAS REQUIRED—

Registration Required:
HMMSA.ORG/STRONGER-TOGETHER

HOSTED BY



Jewish Federation of San Antonio
Holocaust Memorial Museum
(OF SAN ANTONIO)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



CAMPUS
OF JEWISH EDUCATION
& RESEARCH

Barshop JCC
of San Antonio

SUPPORTED BY

CHABAD CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE & LEARNING | CHABAD ISRAELI CENTER OF SAN ANTONIO | CONGREGATION AGUDAS
ACHINE | CONGREGATION BET HAYIT | CONGREGATION KESHER ISRAEL | CONGREGATION KESHER LEUMI | CONGREGATION KESHER
HASADIM | HEBREW FREE LOAN OF SAN ANTONIO | ISRAELI SAN ANTONIO | JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS
COUNCIL | JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE | NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN | OUR LAM FOUNDATION | SAN
ANTONIO JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES | TEMPLE BETH EL | TORAH ACADEMY OF SAN ANTONIO



FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

דבר תורה

The Little Things - Parshat Toldot

The week's portion of Toldot opens with the birth of Jacob and Esau and their childhood years. The Torah describes how on the day of Avraham's passing, Yaakov cooked lentil soup for his father Yitzchak who was sitting Shiva (the seven-day mourning period after a loved one's loss). Esav walks in famished and wants to eat. The commentaries explain that this was the day that Esav did some terrible things, including committing murder. It is in this context that Esav says "Pour into me some of that red stuff". Jacob convinces his older brother Esau to sell him the *Bechorah* (the firstborn birthright) for a pot of red lentil soup.

The verse describing how Esav ate states "*Vayochal, Vayeisht, Vayakam, Vayelach, Vayivez Esav Et Habechorah - And he ate and drank, got up and went on his way, and Esav spurned the firstborn birthright*". As a youngster in the Cheder, I recall the rabbi teaching this verse in the following way; **Vayochal Vayeisht** - and he ate and drank but did not make a *Bracha*. **Vayakam**-and he got up, but did recite Birkat Hamzaon (grace after the meal). **Vayelech**- and he went on his way, without kissing the Mezuzah or thanking the host.

For some reason this explanation has stuck with me some forty years later and I have been wondering why. While this explanation is certainly embellished and trying to create a relatable experience and imagery for your students, perhaps there is a deeper message that applies to all of us.

Chinuch Al Taharat Hakodesh (Torah Education) is not based on amassing knowledge or erudition in a specific field. It is based on educating children to value a Torah way of life, take pride in their heritage, and appreciate that every *Mitzvah* and small act counts. Of course, knowledge, erudition, competency in the written Torah, Oral Law, Hebrew, the prophets and so much more, will land you good grades and will help you graduate or receive your academic degree or *Semicha* (rabbinic degree). But knowledge alone does not make you a good Jew. Completing academic courses does speak to your commitment and dedication to your faith and G-d. *Chinuch* is so much more.

There is a story told that the great Greek philosopher Aristotle was once caught in a compromising and undignified situation. When asked by his shocked students how he could be involved in that type of behavior, he responded "when I am in the classroom I am Aristotle, now I am just a man". This way of thinking is diametrically opposed to a Torah-way of thinking. For the character and behavior of a teacher is far more important than their erudition or brilliance in study. In fact, the *Baal Shem Tov* (founder of Chassidism 1698-1760) known for his great piety, took great pride in being a teacher's assistant in his younger years. In this capacity he would teach young children to make blessings, sing songs and work on their character traits.

Perhaps the lesson we learn from this novel explanation of the story of

Coming Soon!!

- * Tuesday, November 9th - Picture Day!
- * Wednesday, November 17th - Thanksgiving Family Breakfast - Rodfei's Social Hall 9am
- * Thanksgiving Break - Monday, Nov 22 - Friday, Nov 26



Yaakov and Esav is that little things really do matter. Making blessings on our food, thanking Hashem after eating (*Birkat Hamazon*), kissing the Mezuzah, or thanking the host of whose meal you have partook, are all seemingly small and insignificant things. But when you put them together a pattern begins to emerge. The lesson is that the little steps we take, the little Mitzvot we do, the little things that we teach our children, really do have an impact, and shape them to become the people we hope they will become.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus



To Rabbi Tal & Hava Shaul & Family in welcoming the birth of their baby boy!

