



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

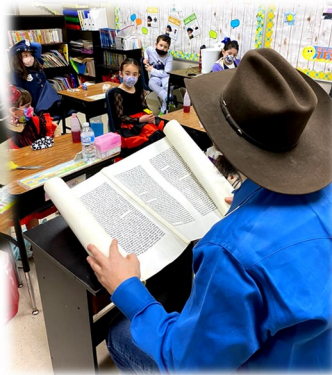
of San Antonio

KI TISA Parah

March 5, 2021 - 21 Adar, 5781

Light Candles at 6:18pm

Issue 10, 2020-21



פורים שמח! PURIM 2021



What an exciting Purim celebration it was! On

Taanit Esther, TASA students participated in all the different Mitzvot of Purim and had a wonderful time doing so. They also contributed \$111.00 for the Od Yosef Chai Tzedaka organization in our annual Matanot L'Evyonim Campaign.

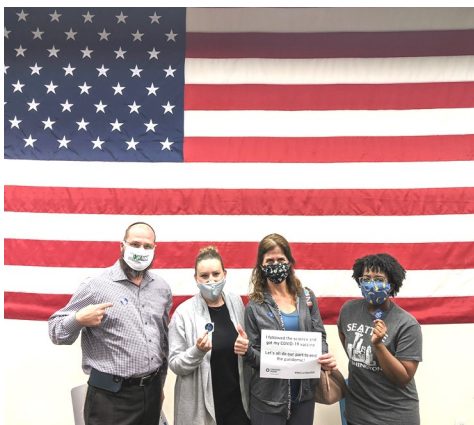
Students got to listen to a mock Meggillah reading from Rabbi Marrus, and exchange Mishloach Manot with friends. Finally, thanks to our wonderful TASA PTO, the students got to have a fantastic Magic Show and have some great Purim activities



TASA - doing its part & contributing with science

Just before Purim, TASA - San Antonio's Jewish Day School, was able to secure spots for the COVID-19 Vaccine for the entire teaching staff and administration. TASA Faculty were excited to have the opportunity to receive their first Pfizer dose through University Health. By trusting in science, staff felt strongly that it was an important step to protect students and family members during the ongoing pandemic. Their second shot will come during the week of the one year anniversary of the nation-wide lockdowns.

While TASA has been able to remain open for in-person instruction this school year, we look forward to resuming our many extra curricular activities, as soon as it becomes safe to do so.

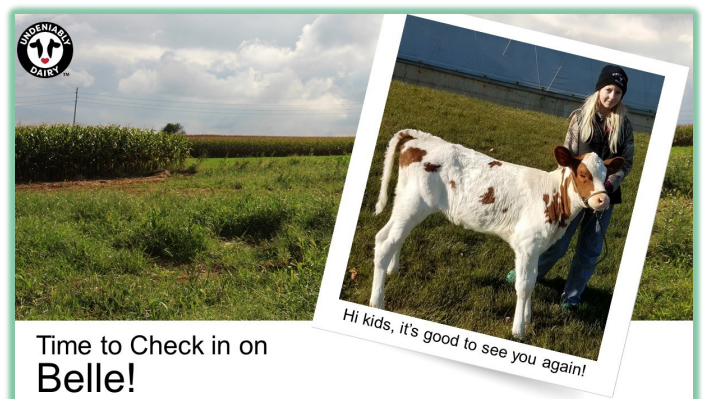


Meet Belle



Last Fall, TASA registered for an “Adopt a cow” experience through Discover Dairy, and on October 28th our very own calf was born in Mil-R-Mor Farm Orangeville, IL, her name is Belle.

With this program, TASA students have had the virtual experience to care for Belle, learn about her life on the farm and how she’s being cared for.



What's New TASA Crew!



Coming Soon!!

- * **End of 3rd Quarter** - Thursday, March 18th.
- * **Pesach Break** - Thursday, March 25th - Friday, April 2nd.
- * **Monday, April 5th** - Late start @9am
- * **Yom HaShoah** - Thursday, April 8th
- * **Yom HaZikaron** - Wednesday, April 14th
- * **Yom HaAtzma'ut** - Thursday, April 15th

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Transformative Spices Parshat Ki Tisa



One of the most special and hallowed services in the Temple was the *Ketores* (incense). In this week's Torah portion of Ki Tisa we are told about this commandment (Exodus 30:34-38). These eleven ingredients (as derived by our sages) were mixed in a most special way and were offered on the golden altar twice daily.

One of the ingredients was called Chelbena (galbanum). It had a foul aroma, yet it was included in the *Ketores*. Rashi commentary (1040-1106 France) brings an explanation from the Talmud (*Kereisos* 6b) that this foul aroma represents the sinners in our community, and how they should also be included with the community in its prayers. As such, the *Ketores* represents Jewish unity, no matter who or how far they may have strayed.

One of the greatest challenges in parenting is how to curb specific behaviors of our children. Often, these negative behaviors and/or mannerisms seem to be impossible to change or subdue. As a result, we feel that our children will certainly fail at life, and we as parents, have certainly failed them as well. We then "label" the children as "poorly behaved" or even worse, as "bad kids".

The *Chelbana* ingredient on its own may have had a foul aroma, yet when mixed with all the other ingredients, the *Ketores* had the most special aroma in the world. In fact, it was the foul aroma of the *Chelbana* that brought out the intensity of the other sweet smelling fragrances. As such, we need to remember that the mannerisms and personality traits of our children are from Hashem. These personality traits make us who we are and very often are the secret to our success as adults. Our natural tendencies and idiosyncrasies are not necessarily bad, they just need to be "mixed" with other ingredients, so the end product smells wonderful. Left on its own, we are overwhelmed by the foul odor.

There is a story in the Talmud (*Brachot* 10a) of some

local bandits who were always harassing Rabbi Meir. As such, Rabbi Meir prayed for them to die. His wife Bruria said "Is this permitted? The verse in *Tehillim* (Psalms 104:35) says: "SINS will cease from the earth - not SINNERS will cease from the earth". Rather than pray for their demise, she said, pray for them to repent and transform themselves".

This is the lesson from the *Ketores*. We must use our natural talents, mannerisms and character traits, and TRANSFORM them into a positive and motivating force. While a specific behavior may be uncouth, the place that it comes from isn't necessarily bad. Used in the right way, it can be the greatest catalyst for growth and success. All we need to do is transform it.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Mazal Tov



To Rabbi Levi & Naomi
Grossbaum & Family in welcoming the birth of their
baby daughter Yashah Liba.

2021-2022
School Year



EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION

Ends Friday, March 19th!