



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

TERUMAH

February 28, 2020

3 Adar, 5780

Issue 13, 2019-20

New Sheriff in town



TASA had the honor to have Deputy Sheriff Seth Frydberg visit our campus as part of our ongoing Changemaker Program.

Recently, Deputy Frydberg was appointed

Bexar County's newest deputy sheriff and was featured in local and national news for being the first San Antonio officer to proudly wear a kippah with his uniform.

Deputy Frydberg grew up in San Antonio. He and his family have been congregants of Chabad, Rodfei Sholom and Agudas Achim.

As a child Seth knew he was destined to be a cowboy, however, as he grew, he decided that law enforcement was more his style.

Initially, Deputy Frydberg worked as a traffic police officer, patrolling the streets, and was in charge of issuing speeding tickets. However, his goal was to continuously grow in the field, and learn more about how to serve his local community. This personal goal led him to apply for the local Sheriff's Office and attend their Academy. Now that he has graduated and has a new title, Deputy Frydberg is currently assigned to work in the local jail, where he spends an average of 56 hours per week making sure that the "bad guys" stay off the streets!

Thank you Deputy Frydberg for your fascinating stories and the insightful information into your job!



Shout out!!

Thank you Mrs. Hava Shaul, Mrs. Malkie Marrus, Mrs. Martha Hendler, Mrs. Tamar Bleier and the rest of ALL the wonderful volunteers that made this week's PTO Family Dinner Night such an enjoyable and successful gathering for all our TASA Community & Friends.

Rodeo Day



On February 18th, grades K-2 had the pleasant opportunity of going to the San Antonio Rodeo! The children gazed at a cow getting milked, petted goats, and experienced a pig race! They also had a fun time at the play center where they got to pan for "gold," dig in a bean box (instead of a sand box), observe how ropes are made, and milk a pretend cow. What a great learning experience!

Thank you Mrs. Griver & Mrs. Lowenstein for helping drive & chaperon our TASA students for this fun-filled day!



What's New TASA Crew!

D'VAR TORAH

Terumah — Dig Deep

Looking back to my childhood, I remember learning about the Mishkan, the portable sanctuary that the Jewish people carried with them while travelling through the desert. I was captivated by the description of one of the vessels, the Aron Kodesh, the Holy Ark, and the two cherubim on its lid. The golden cherubim would face each other when the Jews followed in G-d's laws, but would face away from each other when they were not acting in a loving way to G-d.



The Torah specifies that the cherubim couldn't be formed separately and then attached to the lid of the Ark. Rather, they had to be engraved together with the lid, from one solid piece of gold. **"And you shall make two golden cherubim; you shall make them of hammered work, from the two ends of the ark cover" (Shemot 25:18).** It would be easier to engrave the cherubim and weld them onto the lid. Why did G-d specifically want them to be formed from one piece?

Rabbi Leiby Burnham says there is a powerful lesson to be learned from this. If one is looking to build a relationship with G-d, one needs to look deep inside. All the tools are already there within us, waiting for us to tap into them. We don't need to look outside to be closer to G-d, but rather the source is within us waiting to be uncovered.

That is why the cherubim, the symbol of G-d's loving relationship with the Jewish people, must be formed and engraved from one solid piece. The beauty of that connection and relationship is revealed, not formed separately and then attached.

Rabbi Paysach Krohn tells the story of a young Jewish boy in the 1970s. He found no warmth in Jewish life in the big city, but he loved the outdoors. He headed out West and found himself drawn to the open lifestyles of the Blackfoot Indians and joined them on a reservation. He lived there for years, living in a teepee, participating in all their religious powwows, working in the fields, and becoming fluent in the Sioux language. He thought he'd found what his heart had always desired.

But eventually, he once again began to yearn for meaning, and found himself pondering the big existential questions that drove him away in the first place. His mentor, Whitecalf, told him of Elva Onefeather, a seer living in the higher elevations of Ogallala, South Dakota, who was known for her legendary insight. She lived in such a remote place that there were no roads to approach her, so this young man traveled through the wilderness for a number of days accompanied by nothing but his faithful dog, Chika. He finally came to the remote outpost where Elva lived and after three days of waiting was allowed to meet with her privately. Her message was, "You are not one of us. Go back to where

you belong and study your roots. That's where you will find your meaning."

Although initially he was devastated, eventually he did return to his roots, and through an equally incredible story found his way back to a rich, meaningful life, embracing Judaism with love and passion.

He found himself by digging deeper into his roots, by digging deeper into himself. He learned the lesson that the cherubim teach us. He found his connection within, and strengthened his relationship with G-d. This applies to all of us. Spend a few extra minutes each day to find your connection. It may be through your whispered prayer of Shemoneh Esreh in the hushed synagogue. Your connection may be in sharing in the delight of your child as they share what they have learned in school. It can be felt while you volunteer in your community and help out another soul. Whatever it is, treasure it and build upon it, to recognize G-d's blessing in your life.

Shabbat Shalom

Sarah Endzweig, 1st & 2nd Grades General Studies & Kindergarten Judaic & Hebrew Studies Teacher

Scavenger hunt!



Hi everybody, now it's the turn to give you a welcome to our 8th & 9th grade *Gemora/Talmud* class.

In our class, we have been *Shtieging* (growing) in our studies, as well as honing our skills of analysis and inference currently studying the *Sugya* (Topic) of honoring parents. We have also been working on learning Aramaic words used in the *Gemora*.

Since the accomplishments of this class have been very gratifying, last week we headed to HEB for a scavenger hunt to honor their hard work. Students went through the aisles searching, analyzing, asking for assistance, and finding different items. "I hope that we can continue to *Shtieg* together throughout the year, and keep exercising our minds and reaching new heights", said Rabbi Moshe, middle school Judaic Studies teacher.



Coming Soon!!

- * **Mar 2nd - Mar 6th** - Read Across America Week
- * **March 5th** - Food Bank Farm Field Trip 1st - 9th grade students
- * **March 9th** - Fast of Esther & Erev Purim - early dismissal @2pm
- * **March 10th** - Purim Carnival - noon dismissal
- * **March 11th** - Professional Development - No School for Students

