



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

LAG B'OMER - EMOR

April 30, 2021 - 18 Iyar, 5781

Light Candles at 7:52pm

Issue 13, 2020-21



Lag B'Omer at TASA

TASA students celebrated the special holiday of **Lag B'Omer** (33rd day of the Omer) in a fun and *Shvitzky* (hot and sweaty) manner. Coach Keegan prepared a fun outdoors Field Day

with tons of activities and entertainment.

Lag B'Omer marks the end of a terrible pandemic that wiped out the majority of Rabbi Akiva's students (20-37 C.E.). For this reason the days of the Omer are traditionally observed as days of sadness, but Lag B'Omer is a day of happiness and festivities. It is also the *Yahrtzeit-Azkara* of the great Tannaic sage Rabbi Shimon Ben Yochai (known as the Rashbi) who passed away in Meron, Israel and requested that this day be celebrated. The Rashbi was the one who revealed the inner dimension and Kabbalah of the Torah and is viewed as the author of the holy Zohar.



As our ABC End of the School Year Countdown continues, E-Day started off with a bang--or should we say "SPLAT". TASA students participated in a STEM experiment where they were encouraged to design a contraption to protect a raw egg from a high fall. Grades K-7 shared ideas, giggles, screams of anticipation, and cheers of mazal tov over the eggs that survived, or cracked, in the fall. No tears in this experiment! The cheers were LOUDER for the yellow cracked GOO!

Ready for Take-Off



The middle school class has had the opportunity to create their own science experiments throughout the school year.

Their latest experiment was called "water bottle rock-

ets". As with each science project, TASA Scientists created a hypothesis. Based on their hypothesis the scientists created their bottle rocket. When the students shot their rockets there were some successes and some floops. They learned how to make their rockets better and how chemical reactions make them fly.



STEM Egg Drop



What's New TASA Crew!



Coming Soon!!

- * 1st Grade Siddur Celebration - Thursday, May 6th., 9am
- * 2nd Grade Chumash Celebration - Thursday, May 13th, 9am
- * Shavout - Monday, May 17th & Tuesday, May 18th - No School!
- * 7th Grade Graduation - Friday, May 21st, 9am
- * 2021 Casino Night - Sunday May 23rd, 8pm
- * End of 4th Quarter & School Year - Friday, May 28th.

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Actions Louder Than Words Parshat Emor

Don't just tell me.
SHOW ME.



This week's Torah portion is called *Emor*. It is a portion that is chock-full of the laws and rituals related to the *Kohanim* (family of priests, descendants of Aaron the High Priest). These laws range from who a *Kohen* may marry to the well known *Mitzvah of a Kohen* not entering a cemetery.

The opening verse begins (Vayikra: CH 21:1) **אמר אל** - **ואמרת** אלהם - Speak to the Kohanim the sons of Aaron and say to them".

The commentaries wonder why the double emphasis in the verse; **"Speak"** and then again **"say"** to them?

The *Ibn Ezra* (1089-1167 Spain) explains that the first statement is related to the *Kohanim*, as teachers of Torah relate all the previous commandments (*Parshat Kedoshim*), the second statement is related to the specific commandments of the Kohanim.

The *Ramban* (1194-1270 Spain) explains that the double language is meant to emphasize the importance of these laws. Since most people are not required to abide by them, therefore, it is emphasized for the *Kohanim*, who are held to a higher standard. They are therefore to be extremely careful in this regard.

The *Talmud* (*Yevamos 114a*) in discussing the laws of ritual purity and how it relates to children states, that this statement (in our portion) is cautioning parents to teach their children the laws of ritual purity and that they must be careful not to allow their children to become ritually unclean. The elders bear the responsibility of the young.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (1896-1986 Belarus/US) explains beautifully, that this is teaching us to regulate our own behavior and model good behavior for our children. For when we model the proper, moral and ethical behavior that the Torah teaches us, it will speak for itself to our children. The mid-19th century essayist and

philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson quipped "What you do speaks so loud, I can't hear what you say".

Indeed, modeling proper behavior will always be more powerful than a thousand lectures.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

7TH ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT • CELEBRATING JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

GAD ELBAZ

ISRAELI MUSIC STAR

SUNDAY, MAY 23

8:00 P.M. LIVE STREAM

COCKTAILS UNDER THE STARS

Outdoor COVID-friendly, situation permitting RODFEI SHOLOM 3003 Sholom Pl.


TORAH ACADEMY
of San Antonio

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Refuah Sheleima—Get Well Wishes

Please continue to Daven for Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg (Rav Aryeh Ben Ada) for a speedy recovery.

Our hearts and minds are with our brethren in Israel after the horrific tragedy in Meron, Israel on Lag B'Omer. Please do Mitzvot and recite Tefillot in their merit.

