



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

Israel Education



TASA students participated in its second OTS Omiel Bakhila Israel education program featuring Israeli journalist and photographer Laura Ben-David from Tekoa, Israel. Laura's workshop focused on her award

winning photographs of cities, life, people, and scenery of Israel. Her personal story of making Aliya, and her beautiful photos also focused on the history of Israel, as well as the culture and beauty of Eretz Yisrael. Everyone enjoyed her presentation and interactive workshop. We once again thank Rodfei Sholom for making this workshop available to our students.



PTO Family Dinner Recap

On November 6th TASA's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) held its second annual family kosher dinner night. The event, which coincided with the 2019 Matchathon, saw more than 100 people join for a delicious spaghetti dinner. The event brought in more than \$600.00 for future PTO events and projects. We wish to thank the 19-20 PTO chairpersons Malkie Marrus and Loreleigha Glassburner, as well as the dinner chair Hava Shaul and the many parents that helped shop, cook, set up and clean up for the event. We also thank the Chabad Center for graciously hosting the event.



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Thanksgiving Gathering

Just before Thanksgiving Break, we had a nice breakfast gathering at Rodfei's Social Hall for parents and grandparents to enjoy. 4th & 5th grade students did a magnificent job presenting their poster boards about the most recent novel they have read. They had to dress up as the main character of their book when explaining their board, and all of them were so self confident about themselves. Kindergarten through 2nd grade kiddos sang and recited poems in the cutest way possible. Middle schoolers just kept it cool!

Overall, it was a very pleasant festivity, thanks to the help of our TASA Staff and PTO Thanksgiving Committee putting everything together.

On behalf of the Board & Administration, we hope you have a wonderful and enjoyable Thanksgiving Break.

What's New TASA Crew!

D'VAR TORAH

Made in America - Thanksgiving

As families prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving again, it is time to reflect on the blessings that A-lmighty G-d has given us. Judaism teaches us that gratitude is an essential part of our relationship with G-d and others. In fact, it is the first words uttered when waking up each morning, "Modeh Ani Lefanecha... I thank you G-d for restoring my soul within me". Without gratitude we become an unfocused and petty existence.



Arguably, outside of our everlasting homeland, Israel, no country has been as gracious, generous and welcoming as the United States of America since our exile from Israel some two-thousand years ago. Notwithstanding all the positives and blessings, we have a real problem in this country. I am talking about the moral decay and disintegration of morality, decency and holiness. The accusations and convictions of misconduct and abuse. The killings of men, women and children, again and again. I'm also talking about the movies, music, and video games that promote a lack of decency and morality. It seems that every day on the news there is another breaking story of some hideous and disgusting behavior of another "prominent" individual. Another mass murder, Heaven protect us. Guns don't kill people. People do. People with no moral conscience. People who do not fear a G-d or value the sanctity of life.

What does this say about us as a society? What has to happen for us to realize that we value the wrong things. That we have placed the wrong people on the pedestal! When do we wake up?

Let us use this Thanksgiving weekend to re-examine our role models and who it is that we are asking our children to emulate. Let us focus on proper education with the timeless values and traditions, and instill in our children a sense of right and wrong, black and white, not this confused "grey shade" of today's dubiety. Let us bring back the values of these United States, that we are truly One Nation Under G-d, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Perhaps, if we refocused our values, our headlines would read a bit differently. Yes, let's make America great again.

Shabbat Shalom and Happy Thanksgiving
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Veteran's Day

Monday, November 11th we commemorated Veteran's Day. For the occasion TASA students had the pleasure of celebrating Mr. Irwin Barath from San Antonio's Jewish War Veteran's Post 753 and Lt. Hendel, a JAG officer with the Navy, stationed at Ft. Sam Houston.



Both men shared their stories of their military service. With the direction and dedication of our teachers, students sang "American Tears", honoring all military veterans that have served in the United States Armed Forces.



Coming Soon!!

* November 25th - 29th - Thanksgiving Break