



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

VAYEITZEI

December 20th, 2019

22 Kislev, 5780

Issue 9, 2019-20

L'dor V'dor

Through our L'dor va'dor (from generation to generation) Program, TASA 4th - 9th students visited Madison Estates retirement home this past Monday, December 16th. This trip was all in the spirit of Chanukah. Rabbi Grossbaum recounted to everyone the story of Chanukah, followed by one of the senior residents lighting the menorah.

Afterwards, the children sang and danced to Chanukah songs and played Dreidel with the seniors. SAJSS also had lakes and cookies for the seniors to indulge. It was an enjoyable time for our TASA students, teachers and the seniors at Madison Estates.



"These daily themes focused on having conscious and positive shifts of our minds to better ourselves as full time working mothers, combined with outreach to our communities, building greater relationships in our professional and personal lives, while recentering ourselves within our families to strengthen our Jewish values and beliefs." shared Mrs. Diric. It was an amazing trip and a huge learning opportunity for her to bring back and share with her family as well as with all TASA community.



Momentum in Israel

Our Director of General Studies, Mrs. Jessica Diric, just returned from a 10 day visit to Israel, on the women's Momentum trip. Her journey first began with several days in the Western Galilee Partnership region, of Akko. From there, the official Momentum conference started in Tel Aviv and Jaffa, and then made its way to Tiberias and Tzfah, following with multiple days, including Shabbat, in Jerusalem.



Daily tours of the highlights within Israel were tied directly to daily conference themes of Learning Growth, Courage, Relationship Building, Faithfulness and Trust, Generosity, Human Dignity, Unity and Mutual Responsibility and Gratitude.

Time to say goodbye

On behalf of everyone here at TASA we would like to wish farewell and best of luck to Yosef and Tali Miller and their family as they move to Denver, CO. Farewell, until we meet again. We will miss you!



What's New TASA Crew!



Coming Soon!!

- * **January 6th** - Return from Winter Break
- * **January 20th** - MLK Jr. Day, No School/

D'VAR TORAH

Three Voices of Chanukah

While the majority of historical knowledge about Chanukah comes from the ancient book of Macabees, the Talmud also discusses (Tractate Shabbat 22b) the laws and history of this special holiday. Of course, paramount among the traditions was the finding of the flask of oil with seal of the high priest, and the subsequent lighting of the Menorah. It miraculously burned for eight days, until new olive oil was brought. This article draws attention to three different Chanukah stories found in the Talmud and Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law) that provides a unique perspective into this holiday.



1. The Men's War

The prayer Al Hanisim (that is recited throughout Chanukah in the Amidah and Birkat Hamazon) focuses on the miraculous victory of the Hasmoneans Kohanim (priests) against the powerful Syrian-Greeks and their ruler King Antiochus Epiphanes. This story focuses on the men who fought in those battles, their bravery and self-sacrifice, and the miracle they experienced through the victory of the war.

2. A Woman's Courage:

Our sages also recounted the story of Yehudit, daughter of Yochanan Kohen Gadol (High Priest), who through her courage, brought salvation for the Jews. The Greeks had decreed that all Jewish women were to present themselves prior to marriage to the commanding general, to be violated first. Yehudit feigned interest in the general to gain access, proceeded to feed him dairy delicacies, and when he grew thirsty fed him wine until he fell asleep. She then killed him and brought his head to Jerusalem. This heroic act caused great panic and confusion amongst the enemy, which led to the downfall of the Greeks. This second story focuses on the courage of Jewish women, and their specific contribution to the victory of the holiday.

3. Children's Sacrifice

Finally, we are told of the moving story of Chana and her seven sons. King Antiochus had decreed that everyone was to worship his idols. As a result of their refusal to bow down to idols and conform to the idol worshiping practices, Chana and her children were brought before Antiochus. He demanded that they bow to him under the penalty of death. One by one, her innocent children refused, and in turn, were murdered by the dictator. In one of the greatest acts of self-sacrifice in Jewish history, Chana watched all of her children slaughtered, for refusing to give up their faith. This story brings to the fore the role and sacrifice of children in the story

of Chanukah.

Chanukah is not a holiday for one gender or specific class of people. It isn't an adults-only party, but rather, a holiday that brings the entire community together, the entire family, in celebration of the miracles that Hashem did for each and every one of us.

Shabbat Shalom, Chag Sameach - Happy Chanukah!
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Happy Chanukah

From TASA Administration and Board to All our TASA Community: May this festival of lights bring blessing and *Ohr*-Light to you and your families and all of Klal Yisrael.



After School Clubs wrap up!

Math club was amazing! We worked on different topics with fun games, and the delicious snacks.

Some of the material we reviewed were probability, symmetry, factors, multiples, patterns, sums, products, decimals, and fractions.

The best part of math club is creating a math game for all kids to enjoy. We had many brainstorm sessions, and a game is forming. Stay tuned for next semester's sessions to see the finished product!

