



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

PURIM 2021 Update

MISHPATIM/ SHEKALIM
February 12, 2021 - 30 Shevat, 5781
Light Candles at 6:03pm
Issue 9, 2020-21

The exciting holiday of Purim is quickly approaching. As every year, TASA will be doing a number of things to get into the festive mood. Firstly, we will be having spirit days during the week prior to Purim, and the students will be studying our Purim Chagim educational units in Judaic Studies. We will also be holding our annual Tzedaka Drive for the Od Yosef Chai Tzedaka organization, that feeds poor families. Last year we raised \$120.00 and we hope to beat that number this year.

On Taanit Esther, Thursday, Feb. 25, we will come to school in costume and have the opportunity to exchange Mishloach Manot, give Tzedaka, and have special Purim programming (in the individual units/pods) thanks to the PTO. We ask that the Mishloach Manot items be individually wrapped, have a proper hechsher, and to be mindful to include everyone in the festivities.



Marrus, Dean of Students and Director of Judaic Studies.

Mr. Griver is married to Alee and together are parents to Ari (grade 2) in our school. Yair and Alee have been very involved in the Jewish community since moving to San Antonio and Yair has been a board member of both TASA and Congregation Rodfei Sholom for a while. "Mr. Griver has extensive background in start-up companies, finance, and developing long-term strategies and solid business acumen for many companies and businesses throughout his professional career. "We are excited that Yair will assume leadership of our board of directors and school in the next few years" said Howard Feinberg, current president of the TASA Board of directors. "We wish Yair Mazel Tov and much success in his new position," he said.



Balancing vibrant and challenging academics for both Secular and Judaic studies.

COMPUTER LAB
READING
music
HEBREW Language Program
SPORTS
CRITICAL THINKING PROBLEM SOLVING
ROBOTICS 101
ARTS
JUDAIC STUDIES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING
CHAMP DISCIPLINARY PROGRAM
JEWISH HISTORY
SCIENCE
Writing

2021-2022 Enrollment Open!

New TASA Board President Elected

On January 28 at a special TASA Board Meeting, Mr. Yair Griver was unanimously elected as the new Board President, beginning August 1, 2021. "Mr. Griver will work closely with the current board president Howard Feinberg and the administration over the next months, to ensure a stable, smooth, and easy transition for the school" said Rabbi Yossi



www.TorahAcademySA.com
210.607.7261

What's New TASA Crew!



Coming Soon!!

- * **President's Day** - Monday, February 15th, **No School!**
- * **Fast of Esther, Erev Purim & Carnival** - Thursday, February 25th, **Noon Dismissal.**
- * **Purim** - Friday, February 26th, **No School!**
- * **End of 3rd Quarter** - Thursday, March 18th.
- * **Pesach Break** - Thursday, March 25th - Friday, April 2nd.

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

A Helping Hand Parshat Mishpatim



Our weekly portion of *Mishpatim* is well known for the many laws contained in it. To be exact fifty-three Mitzvot are articulated in our Parshah, the majority of them commandments that are focused on *Bein Adam La'chavero* - between human beings. As such, *Mishpatim* is the basis for the laws of Torts and Damages, which fills tomes of the Talmud. But there are also many practical and spiritual lessons to be derived from each of these seemingly mundane legal laws.

The Torah tells us (Exodus, 23:5) *"If you see the donkey of someone you hate crouching under its burden, would you refrain from helping him? - you shall help repeatedly with him"*. Simply put, this commandment is telling us to help others, even if we don't like them. But as we examine the verse there are so many questions. Firstly, how can we HATE someone? Aren't we supposed to show love and compassion for each individual? Secondly, why does the Torah tell us that we must repeatedly help "WITH HIM"?

The Rambam-Maimonides (Spain 1138-1204) explains that this must be talking about someone who we have a valid reason to hate, otherwise the Torah would not even validate such a statement. As such, we must be talking about a wicked person. Rashi (France 1040-1105) explains further that although you may really dislike this person, are you going to let your hatred of the individual take precedence over helping them in their time of need? Other commentaries explain that the idea here is, that by working together you will be forced to communicate, and that will begin to mend the relationship between the two people.

Perhaps, we can also see in this verse a more personal lesson, as it relates to the way we interact with our children. Sometimes children do things that are wrong. They need to be disciplined and set straight. As parents, we are upset, disappointed or angered by the decisions our children have made. Yet, while we are upset we also have the responsibility to love

them, parent, guide and lift up our children so they will not make the same mistake again. While we have every right to be upset and need to discipline our child, we have to be careful not to let that overshadow our relationship with them. We need to put them first and make sure they are not "crouching under the load" but rather "you shall help repeatedly with him".

The goal is to lift up our children and empower them to grow and learn from their mistakes and then forge forward into the beautiful future that awaits them.

Shabbat Shalom and Chodesh Tov!
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Nichum Aveilim



The TASA Community would like to express our heartfelt condolences to Rabbi Tal & Hava Shaul and Family on the loss of his father Pinchas Ben Gavriel Shaul.

May they be consoled among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

