



# Tarbut V'Torah Shabbat Shalom

from Derek Gavshon, Acting Head of School

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## HAPPY CHANUKAH!

Rabbi Shmuel of Lubavitch fame said, "One must listen to the Chanukah candles." Gazing at the beautiful candles isn't sufficient; one must also pay attention to the lessons they are imparting. The soft glow of the candles lends added radiance and luster to the kaleidoscope of colors which it touches. The walls, the furniture, and even the dispositions of the people who are within its reach, are all enhanced by the Chanukah candles. Similarly, the lessons of the menorah affect all aspects of life-the more we listen to the flickering flames, the more areas of our life are positively affected. The following are some of the lessons the candles have taught me:

1. Every educator - this includes parents as well as those who choose the sacred task of education to be their lifelong calling - is entrusted with beautiful candles made of the purest oils. The educator has two options: he or she can endeavor to safeguard the candles, protecting them against all harmful influences by keeping them safely ensconced in their carton; or he can kindle the precious candles, enflaming them with warmth and passion for their heritage-clearly, the choice of the consummate educator.
2. A flame must be lit by using another flame. In order to educate a generation to be excited and passionate about Judaism, the educators must exude those same qualities. Children intuitively pay more attention to our actions than our words. We must rejuvenate our excitement about Judaism. We must pray with fervor and do mitzvahs with zeal. Do it for the children. Hackneyed and stale Judaism just won't ignite a fire in our children's hearts.
3. The menorah is proudly displayed on our windowsill; we do not attempt to conceal the pride we feel with regards to our glorious heritage. Similarly, it is our duty to raise a generation of "living menorahs," Jews who are proud of their Judaism and are not ashamed to behave as Jews-even when walking on the street or in the workplace. Children who are raised with these values will certainly live up to their G-d-given designation, and be an unabashed "light unto the nations." This army of light will undoubtedly chase away the darkness of exile and will proudly witness the kindling of the menorah in the newly dedicated Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

## THE CUBS' ROAR

eLearning Classrooms

**THIS WEEK AT TVT**

**DECEMBER 14**  
ARTS TEACH  
PROGRAM

FILM PRODUCTION  
TRIP

CHANUKAH CANDLE  
LIGHTING

**DECEMBER 15**  
KD CHANUKAH  
CELEBRATION

CHOIR PRACTICE

MATH CLUB

**DECEMBER 16**  
GRADE 5:  
SPECIAL PROGRAM

GIRLS  
VARSITY BASKETBALL

MS TOWN HALL

**DECEMBER 17**  
LS CHANUKAH  
PERFORMANCE

BOYS BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT

VARSITY SOCCER

**DECEMBER 18**  
HOMECOMING

LS SOMEONE SPECIAL  
DAY

ROSH CHODESH /  
CHANUKAH ASSEMBLY

**DECEMBER 19**

Click for this week's [Cubs' Roar](#)

**BREAKING NEWS**

**NESHAMA CARLEBACH IS COMING TO TVT!**



The esteemed musician, daughter of **Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach**, will perform in the lower school MPR this Monday, from 1:25pm - 2:05pm and then again from 2:20pm - 3:00pm. All parents, family and friends are invited to attend! Samples of Ms. Carlebach's music are available online at [www.sojournrecords.com](http://www.sojournrecords.com) or [www.neshamacarlebach.com](http://www.neshamacarlebach.com).

Three professional musicians and a five-member choir will join Ms. Carlebach for two 45-minute sets. The event is sponsored by the Community Scholar Program ([www.occsp.org](http://www.occsp.org)), which was able to pull the event together after Ms. Carlebach's schedule freed up unexpectedly. The CSP will also host Dr. Alick Issacs for a speaking engagement on January 15th, 2010.

One of the leading superstars in Jewish Entertainment, Neshama Carlebach is continuing the legacy established by her father and is a natural role model for young musicians: "From the moment I was old enough to know I was alive, I knew I wanted to perform. I trained as a singer and actor from when I was five years old, and began singing with my father, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, of blessed memory, when I was fifteen. Never in my lifetime did I imagine that I was developing the strength, knowledge and skill to follow in his footsteps.

I began my singing career three weeks after I lost my father, my best friend. At first I felt compelled to sing, knowing in my heart he would have wanted me to. The beginning was a time of great sorrow, as I traveled around the world singing for thousands of people, all of us unable to accept the fact that we would never again be in his holy presence.

In 1996 I met my producer, pianist David Morgan. He changed the way I listened to the music all around me as we began to arrange my father's songs together and to collaborate. When I started to compose I discovered that by singing I was not only continuing in my father's way but was accomplishing my own life's work as well. The high moments on stage with David and my band give me the deepest inspiration.

My father always said that when we sing, it's like we're praying twice. When I am on stage I experience prayer in the deepest sense. In this crazy world, sadly enough, people often are too afraid to feel. We are too terrified to open our souls to our deepest

## WINTER BREAK

prayers, yet so broken at all we are missing inside. Somehow, when we don't have the words to express all that we need, music says it for us. Music can somehow break our hearts and allow us to feel so whole all at the same time. This miracle is what I feel when I sing. I thank G-d every moment of my life that I have the honor of praying and singing with the people I meet all over the world. I thank you all for your love and support and for giving me the chance to live my dreams. May we all have the courage to keep singing."

We look forward to sharing this wonderful opportunity with you and your friends!

### WELCOMING HOME OUR ALUMNI AT HOMECOMING

Friday, December 18th is Homecoming. We hope all of our alumni will join us. Click [Chanukah](#) for the details.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### LOWER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

##### Arts Teach Program

: On December 14th from 10:00-10:45, our children will enjoy story teller Michael Katz as part of our Arts Teach program.

**Hanukkah Candle Lighting** Please join our beautiful children December 14-18 at 3:00 pm in the Lower School Courtyard (Friday at 2:15 pm) for a special Hanukkah Candle lighting ceremony.

**Special Someone Day** is December 18th. Bring that special someone to school to participate in arts & crafts, singing and games (visitor must be 18 or older). Please see details in your child's transmittal envelope.

#### UPPER SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

##### Dance Performance: December 17th

[DECADES](#) 6:30 - 8:00pm in the US Lecture Hall

##### HOMECOMING!

**December 18th**, 11:30am - 2:30pm

##### Ribbons of Fire

Watch 8th grade band Ribbons of Fire perform January 9, 2010 at It's a Grind Coffee House in Laguna Hills. TVT's 8th Graders Jacob Steinberg, Nathan Price, Eitan Jaffe, and Roy Elzur are Ribbons of Fire

### DID YOU KNOW???

##### Caravan For Democracy

As part of the Caravan for Democracy Program, TVT welcomed syndicated columnist and political commentator **Micah Halpern** this week to speak to the Upper School students. Mr. Halpern is an expert on terrorism and has been invited to the White House to consult with the Justice Department. He gave the students an in-depth look at the peace process in the Middle East.

The Caravan for Democracy program brings experts from the Middle East and Israel to educate our students about Israel and leadership. The speakers are first class scholars and policy makers and prepare the students with knowledge and skills to discuss Israel during college years.

### **TARBUT V'TORAH LIBRARY HOUSES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

#### **The Legacy of Alfred Avila at the Tarbut V'Torah Library**

If you browse the Tarbut V'Torah Library, you may pick up a book and notice a bookplate explaining that this book came from the library of **Alfred Avila**. Readers may not know about the man who donated over 100 very fine Jewish books, ranging widely from halacha and Jewish practice, to kosher cookery.



Alfred was the son of Catholic Mexican Americans, Jose and Guadalupe. He was born in Los Angeles and grew up in an area just below Boyle Heights, heavily populated by Jewish Russian immigrants. These neighborhood friendships made a lasting impression and planted a desire deep within him, to become a practicing Jew. He realized his choice with the assistance of Rabbi Robert J. Bergman, a prominent Orange County rabbi.

He attended El Monte Union and Rosemead High Schools, and sacrificed a football scholarship to Pasadena City College to join the U.S. Navy and serve in Korea. The remainder of his 23 year career was spent on naval vessels in the Far East, where he met and married Sachiko, in Tokyo. After his release from the Navy, he worked for the U.S. Post Office. During that time he also published 2 books of folktales and obtained an A.A. and A.S. from local community colleges.

After Alfred passed away in 2001, Tarbut V'Torah was contacted by his daughter, Kat Avila. She explained that Alfred had converted to Judaism later in life, even though everyone in the immediate family was Catholic. His passion was to collect Jewish books, using much of his limited means to buy the most highly reviewed and authoritative works. He called these books his "treasure". Now, the Avila family was looking for a good home, as they knew the importance of his Jewish library to him. They wanted to entrust the entire collection to Tarbut, and as the boxes were opened and the

books were unpacked, clippings from newspaper reviews, personal notes and tickets to hear the authors speak, slipped out from between the pages. This was no ordinary collector. These books had been read, studied and loved!

We never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Avila but we have come to know him through his legacy of books.

### THE TIMES - TVT & LA

#### TVT TIMES . . .

Want to see the wonder and excitement of learning through the eyes of our students? Check out this month's edition of the [TVT Times](#).

#### AND IN THE LA TIMES . . .

Congratulations to 5th grade student Griffin Knutson, whose piece "OCEAN: A fanciful view of the world" was recently featured in the LA Times' "Creativity Corner".

### INSIDE THE LIONS' DEN



Kol HaKavod to the TVT Lions Varsity Basketball team who have once again won the **Gelman Hoops Invitational Tournament!** They beat Santa Ana Valley on Monday (52-24), Sage Hill on Tuesday (65-57), Zinsmeyer Academy on Wednesday (84-32), and met Santa Ana Valley in the Championship game last night, winning 45-41. This marks the 9th time in 11 years the Lions have won the Gelman Hoops. Seniors, **Eric Avdee** and **Brad Neutel** were named Co-MVPs while classmates **Zach Bruss**, **Aryeh Kashdan**, and **David Bruss** were named to the All-Tournament Team. Hopefully, the Lions can carry the momentum of their 6-0 season into the **Cooper Invitational**, next week in Memphis. See [Jewish Hoops America](#) for more information.

We have more great teams shaping up this season - Our **Varsity Boys Soccer** team has a 3:0 record --defeating YULA 4:1, Brethren Christian 2:1 and St Michaels Prep 2:1.

**Middle School Basketball - two wins!**

Our Middle Schoolers are also off to a great start! The girls beat Heritage Christian 38-20 and the boys were also winners 44-16.

We are filled with loads of Lion Pride!

**PTSO CORNER****ADOPT-A-FAMILY IMPORTANT UPDATE...**

Of the ONE HUNDRED families requesting assistance from Jewish Family Services this year, TVT has committed to adopting TEN. Of these ten families ALL of them are single mothers with two or more children with the exception of one young mother whose husband recently died of complications from diabetes. She has only one child, a two year old little boy who is now fatherless.

One mother is living in someone's garage with her four children and has been asked to leave.

Our goal every year is to make life a little easier for the families that we adopt. Although \$500 does not sound like much, I feel it is sufficient enough to make a difference in the lives of the struggling families that we adopt. In order to provide these ten single mothers with \$500 we MUST raise our goal of \$5,000.

As it stands we are nowhere near our goal.

Let's GIVE and MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Cash, checks (to PTSO) and gift cards are being collected in your child's homeroom and at the front office.

Thank you,

Gali Glantz and the Adopt-a-Family team.

Idea: In order to encourage your children to get involved it has been suggested by a 2nd grade mom that we match our children's donations at ten dollars for every one dollar that they give.

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