



Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf

Term 1 Edition 12

9 November 2018 - 1 Kislev 5779



Dvar Torah: Toldot

This week's parsha, Toldot, describes the upbringing of Esav and Yaakov, and the beginning of their relationship. Both sons of Yitzchak are very different, with Esav described as "a cunning hunter, a man of the field"; and Yaakov as a studious scholar. Even before being born the children are "struggling within" Rivkah.

During this period of pregnancy, G-d tells Rivkah that there are "two nations in [her] womb", and that the younger one (Yaakov) will prevail. This is of course mirrored by the events of the parsha, where Yaakov, even though younger, still manages to receive the blessing of the firstborn from Yitzchak.

The Rav Hirsch (HaRav) focuses on the specific noun of "nations" and relates the message of this parsha to

actual nationhood. He says that throughout history the nation of Esav will dominate - the power hungry nation of soldiers, but one day will realise that with all their conquests everything that they created was flawed, of which Rome was an example.

Rabbi Hirsch continues saying that with time however, even the most war-loving nation will recognize the true values of the younger brother's philosophy (Yaakov) and "lay down all that [they] conquer before" the younger brother. While it is uncertain whether HaRav is talking about a time post-Mashiach or not, he ultimately concludes that values of violence will bow before knowledge and peace; a hopeful message I think that we could all use in the aftermath of last week's tragedy.

Shabbat Shalom,

Ian Lyons Grade 12

Top Secret!

Former Mossad agent Yossi Alper shares his experiences with Elsa High School students

Last Friday, we had the honour of being visited by ex-Mossad agent and author, Yossi Alper. Yossi told us some information about his background. He was a Mossad Collections Officer and has worked in many places around the globe. In this interesting talk, we learned that Yossi's job was to collect information which could tactically help Israel.

This is a very dangerous job, as some of the people you may have to talk to could be trying to trick you or harm you. Yossi told us a story about a time where he was working with another collections officer, and he had to talk to a man who was willing to betray his country and sell information to Israel. The man had a gun, hidden on his person. Yossi then paused and then asked us, what we would do in this situation?

Many students gave ideas about what they would do in the situation. Yossi then told us what he did: he talked to the man, and told him not to bring a gun again, as he was breaking the law. Not the Hollywood ending we were expecting, but a very difficult decision to make in such a situation.

From this talk, I learned a lot about the Mossad, and about what the job requires from its agents. I also learned that when making decisions, you need to assess and take your time to think about the risk of each possible scenario. In doing this, you have the highest chances for success.

Many thanks to Eli Biton, Chairman of the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival and to Nicole Izsak, Festival Producer, for bringing Mr. Alper to Hong Kong and to Elsa. Thank you to Mr. Alan Landau for accompanying Mr. Alper to the School. Finally, a big thank you to Mr. Alper for taking time out of his schedule to come and speak to us.

Dan Hasofer Grade 9



Dr. Lichtenstein visits Elsa High School

Last Wednesday, students from Grades 10 to 12 were privileged with an empowering and insightful talk from Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein, who, in addition to being a first generation American and the daughter of Rabbi Soloveitchik (OBM), has led an extremely meaningful and impressive life pursuing careers in both social work and education. She is well known for her social work and contributions to Israeli society.

During our discussion, Dr. Lichtenstein painted a picture of her life as a first generation American and her struggles of finding her Judaism living in a multicultural society. This was especially relevant to us living in Hong Kong, as we could empathize with the struggle of remaining connected to Judaism in a non-Jewish country. Reflecting on her discussion, we, as students in Grades 10-12, can further relate to the points she brought up as we will all eventually move on to university and face equally unfamiliar situations, while maintaining our Jewish identity.

After this she went on to tell us about her experience making Aliyah in 1971 in order for her husband, Rabbi



Soloveitchik(OBM) to teach in a new Yeshiva; Yeshiva Har Etzion. This was a unique story, because during this time, the area surrounding the Yeshiva was occupied by the Palestinian Authority and she found herself, once again, removed from Jewish society even in the Land Of Israel; she concluded by explaining how this made her Jewish identity even stronger.

Many thanks to Dr. Lichtenstein for taking time out to speak to us,

Louis Effron and Issy Lyons Grade 11



Learning about the history of the Opium War at Tai Kwun

Last Sunday Grade 9 students Jamie, Paz, Ativa, Yvette and myself, attended a talk on the topic of the Opium War at Tai Kwun, a former colonial-era prison in Central.

Before the talk began, we were privileged enough to get to speak with the historian Dr. Jeff Wasserstrom. We asked him questions about the events surrounding the Opium War and he did a lot of connecting the dots about the relationship between this war and the major changes that occurred in China in the century after. It was an interesting chance to expand on some of the things we had learned about in class but in greater detail. He also shared with us some of what it was like being a historian, the kind of questions he is asked and what it's like trying to solve them. It was great to get a chance to speak to someone who actually works in the field.

The talk afterwards was called 'Imperial Twilight and the Opium War'. Dr. Platt spoke about how, in his opinion, the main cause for the war was the British, who wanted to make up for the huge amounts of tea they purchased from the Chinese. In order to do this they found something to sell them: opium. It was an interesting perspective because in many ways it focused on how neither side really wanted the war but it was the actions and mistakes

of individuals that created the conditions for conflict.

It was generally an interesting experience, and I am grateful to Mr. Wappel and Hayley Goldberg for the opportunity.

Diya Gangaramani Grade 9



Elsa High School Football Team take on Singapore International School

Last Monday Elsa High School faced Singapore International School (SIS) at Happy Valley. It was a shaky start for both teams but after a few minutes, Benji played a through-ball to Marco who slotted the ball into the back of the net to make it 1-0 to Elsa.

Singapore had a few near misses on Ori's goal but we held the score until half-time. During the second half, SIS were coming closer to scoring and Elsa needed the two-goal buffer to secure a solid lead. Up stepped Alon who scored a quick header from a dipping corner delivered by Dan. Moments later, a shot from Marco sent the ball into the back of the net for the third time but only for it

to be disallowed. Elsa were seeking a third and they got it from an unfortunate own goal. It's hard to pick a man of the match as everyone gave a solid performance. An all round great and hard-working team performance from Elsa High School!

Thank you Mr. Julian for organizing the game and thank you to Coach Julius for coaching us!

Tal Konyn Grade 9



West Island School Cross Country Meet

This Thursday, the Elsa High School Cross Country team took part in our first meet of the year at West Island School with 5 kilometers for the U16 and U20 age groups, and 4 kilometers for the younger groups; all on an extremely hilly course providing a challenge for all our participants.

The meet was extremely successful as, in addition to all Elsa High School participants qualifying for the final

cross country meet in March, the meet also helped prepare us for future races by inspiring us all to put more time into our individual training regimes in order to further improve our times.

We are all excited for upcoming meets and would like to thank Mr. Julian for organizing!

Issy Lyons Grade 11



CARMEL ANNUAL FUND



Thank you to all who have pledged so far

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Happy Birthday to
Natalie Kleinberg, Sarah Cohen,
Trevor Liu and Oz Haviv



We hope you've enjoyed reading The Weekly Daf!

From **The Weekly Daf Team**

Tyra Dahlberg, Louis Efron, Hanna Hipwell-Serfaty, Ian Lyons, Issy Lyons, Luis Yap and Mr. Dan Bartholomew

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Library

Support at home is key to how young people approach reading for pleasure. Every week we will be promoting books new and old, fiction and non-fiction for readers of all ages and levels.

Our libraries are open to students and parents alike and books can be borrowed through student's accounts.

These books, and more, can be found directly here:

libraryceo.com/carmel/opac/index.php

or through our school library site here:

carmel.edu.hk/learning/library

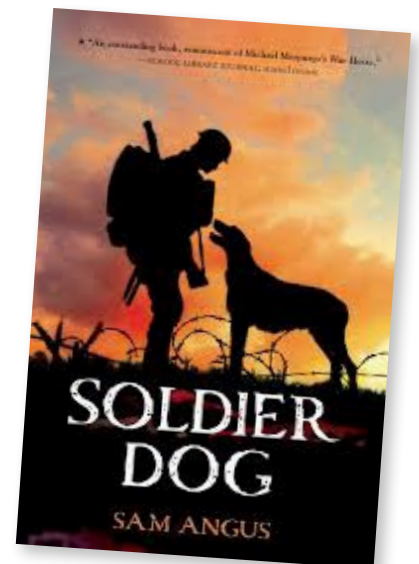
Soldier Dog by Sam Angus

'He'll always be true, faithful and brave, even to the last beat of his heart.'

It's 1917. In the trenches of France, miles from home in England, Stanley is a boy fighting a man's war. He is a dog handler, whose dog must be so loyal that he will cross no-man's-land alone under heavy fire to return to Stanley's side, carrying a message that could save countless lives. But this journey is fraught with danger, and only the bravest will survive.

As the fighting escalates and Stanley experiences the true horror of war, he comes to realize that the loyalty of his dog is the only thing he can rely on . . .

"Amidst these harrowing events, the bravery and the trusting relationship built up between a dog and their handler shines through. The novel covers an unusual aspect of World War 1 which would be a useful springboard to introduce the topic of trench warfare." - Carousel



Fiction

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

Thomas Peaceful and his elder brother Charlie do everything together. They used to go to school together, face their problems together, sleep and eat together; they even loved the same girl... but now they have to face the many facets of war together. Can a bond and loyalty between brothers overcome the brutality of the front lines and bring them safely home? When the lines of heroism and cowardice collide, what can one man or even a brother do to fight the injustices of it all?

A beautifully written novel, which contrasts bittersweet childhood memories with the horrors of war. Told in the first person it alternates between past and present, creating both humour and heartache and building tension for its dramatic and thought-provoking conclusion.

"Full of warmth as well as grief, conveying vividly how precious it is to be alive..." - The Sunday Times



Fiction

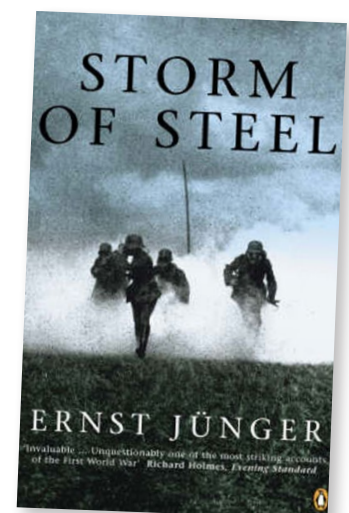
Storm of Steel by Ernst Jünger

'As though walking through a deep dream, I saw steel helmets approaching through the craters. They seemed to sprout from the fire-harrowed soil like some iron harvest.'

A memoir of astonishing power, savagery and ashen lyricism, Storm of Steel depicts Ernst Jünger's experience of combat on the front line - leading raiding parties, defending trenches against murderous British incursions, and simply enduring as shells tore his comrades apart. One of the greatest books to emerge from the catastrophe of the First World War, it illuminates like no other book not only the horrors but also the fascination of a war that made men keep fighting for four long years.

Published shortly after the war's end, Storm of Steel was a worldwide bestseller and can now be rediscovered through Michael Hofmann's brilliant translation.

"To read this extraordinary book is to gain a unique insight into the compelling nature of organized, industrialized violence." - Niall Ferguson



Fiction

פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 10
א' בכסלו ה'תשע"ט



בספר זה מסופר על ילדה בשם רותי ולה בת דודה בשם גיטה, בערך בת גילה, שגרה בצ'כיה.

אמא של רותי מקבלת מכתב מאחותה, אמא של גיטה, ובו היא כותבת שהיא שולחת את גיטה אליהם, לארץ ישראל, וגיטה תגור אצלם. רותי מאושרת מאוד לפגוש סוף סוף את בת דודתה. גיטה מגיע לארץ, מתאקלמת נפלא ומחליטה להחליף את שמה לשם ישראלי יותר, גיתית.

קשר נפלא נרקם בין רותי, גיתית והחברים של רותי. באחד הימים היא והחברים עוברים ליד מנזר קרוב לשכונה שלהם. גיתית מזהה ילדה שהכירה בצ'כיה בשם אווה. מרגע שגיתית והחברים מוודאים שזאת אכן אווה הם מנסים בכל דרך אפשרית, אפילו מסוכנת, להציל אותה מהמנזר ולהביא אותה לאמא, שחושבת שהיא אינה בין החיים, לאחר שברחה מהרכבת שבו נסעה לתאי הגזים בזמן השואה. ספר מרגש מלא בהרפתקאות.

אני התחברתי לסיפור כי הוא מאוד מרגש ומעניין והיה מאוד כיף לקרוא אותו לכן אני ממליצה לכולם על ספר זה.

איזבל מדליאר - כיתה ו'

מתוך הספר "החטיפה מן המנזר" כתבה: אורה מורג

השיכון, נצרף אותה לתעלולים שלנו. זה אמיתי?"

מאז שאני זוכרת את עצמי אני שומעת סיפורים על בת־דודתי הצ'כית היפה, גיטה. אמא שלי ואמא שלה היו תאומות. הן התחתנו באותו יום ושתינו נולדנו באותו שבוע, רק שאני נולדתי בארץ ישראל, וגיטה בצ'כיה. ידעתי בדיוק מה קורה לה, איך היא נראית, מה היא מרגישה וזאת מהמכתבים הרבים ומהתמונות שהגיעו אלינו בקביעות. ליוויתי את גיטה בכל אשר עברה, הכרתי את הבגדים שלה, את הצעצועים ואת הרהיטים שבחדר המהודר שלה.

כשהיינו שתינו בנות שנה פרצה מלחמת העולם השנייה. צ'כיה, שבה חיו גיטה והוריה, היתה תחת כיבוש הגרמנים. גם שם, כמו בכל ארצות אירופה, התחילו לרדוף את היהודים, להטיל עליהם גזירות, ומאוחר יותר לרכז אותם בגטאות, אבל לגרמנים לא היה די בזה. כשהיתה גיטה בת שש הם התחילו לאסוף את היהודים ולשלוח אותם למחנות־עבודה, ועד מהרה התפשטו שמעות שהיהודים נשלחים לא למחנות־עבודה אלא למחנות השמדה.

אבא ואמא של גיטה ידעו שיגיע גם תורם.

"מוכרחים להימלט", אמר מיכאל, אבא של גיטה, ערב אחד.

"מוכרחים", הסכימה איתו אנה אשתו.

היה ברור שהדבר מסוכן, אבל אמא של גיטה הבינה שמוטב להסתכן.

המכתב מדודה אנה הגיע אלינו בסוף השליש הראשון של כיתה ו'. חזרתי מבית־הספר עם מתנה לאמא - כרית לסיכות שעשינו בשיעור מלאכה. אמא חיבקה אותי ואמרה: "תודה רותינ'קה", אבל שמתי לב שהיא לא כל־כך מתלהבת כמו תמיד. אמא הוציאה מכיס הסינר הרטוב מכתב עם בולים מחוץ לארץ, שלפה מתוך המעטפה שלושה דפים כתובים בכתב לועזי ואמרה לי: "קיבלתי מכתב מצ'כיה, מאחות!"

"מדודה אנה?" "כן", אמרה והרכיבה את משקפיה.

אמא החלה לקרוא בצ'כית ממולמלת, ואני הבטתי בה, דרוכה לשמוע מה מסתתר מאחורי השורות הכהות והמפותלות.

"מה היא כותבת?" "לא התאפקתי ושאלתי."

אמא התנערה. הרגשתי כאילו החזרתי אותה לכאן ממקום רחוק.

"דודה אנה כותבת", פתחה אמא בקול איטי, "שעכשיו, החיים שם, בפראג, די בסדר, אבל הם החליטו לעלות לארץ. קודם תעלה גיטה עם עליית־הנוער, וכמה חודשים אחריה תבוא גם היא."

"גיטה מפראג?" שאלתי לא מאמינה, "לכאן? אלינו? לבת־גלים? לשיכון שלנו?"

"כן", ענתה אמא בחיוך גדול, "אלינו לארץ־ישראל."

"אמא!" קפצתי ונישקתי אותה, "היא תגור איתי בחדר? איזה כיף! נישן ביחד, תהיה לי אחות, נדבר כל הלילה, נצא לדשא של