



Eleanor Kolitz Academy

Ram Recorder



November 14, 2008

210-302-6900 - www.eka-sa.org

Cheshvan 16, 5769

Parasha: Vayeirah

Candle Lighting 5:21 pm

NOVEMBER 2008		
25	Tu	Thanksgiving Program 2:30 p.m.
27-28	Th-F	Thanksgiving Break – No School
DECEMBER 2008		
14	Sun	EKA Gala - Rodfei Sholom 6:30 p.m.
15-18	M-Th	Middle School Exams
18	Th	Mensch Breakfast 7:50 a.m. (Oct. and Nov. Honorees) PIE Chanukah Dinner 6:00 p.m.
19	F	All School Kabbalat Shabbat
20	Th	PIE Social 8:15 a.m. Fisher Board Room

Help Our Library

The Beldon Library Catalog which contained every book, CD, Video, and DVD that the library owns has been lost.

Every item needs to be put back into the computer and SAVED. Without YOUR help, it could be a year before our students could use the Library. An hour or two or more a week would make a **BIG difference**.

Call Marlene Reynolds 302-6805 to volunteer.

EKA Kindergarten Round Up

The EKA Kindergarten Round-Up has been rescheduled to Friday, January 16, 2009. If you have the name of a prospective student, please contact Nancy Gold at 302-6906 or email: ngold@eka-sa.org.



8th Graders played "Rock, Paper, Scissors" to develop data to put in an Excel spreadsheet. They created a worksheet that included formulas and graphs.



The Reptile Man showed students many different kinds of reptiles from lizards to turtles and snakes.

Message from the Head of School

A very plain, average looking man goes to a *Shadchan* (marriage broker) to find him a wife. Several days go by and the two meet to discuss the prospects. "Have I got the girl for you!" exclaimed the *Shadchan*. "Is she beautiful?" the man asked. "Yes," was the reply. "Is she rich?" "Yes!" "Is she smart?" "Yes!" "And she's interested in me?" "Yes!!" The man thinks for a moment. "What is she, crazy?" Replied the *Shadchan* "You can't have everything," This concept was also immortalized by my close friends the Rolling Stones, when they sang, "You can't always get what you want."

What does this story have to do with *Parashat Vayeira*? When we meet Avraham this week he is rich and powerful and seems to lack for nothing, except for the one thing he truly wants, a son. Hashem asks Avraham if he can count the number of stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the beach; this infinite number represents the number of his future descendents. And now, Avraham gets what he wants, a son, whom he names, Yitzchak.

But next week, in *Parashat Chayei Sarah*, it is Yitzchak who can't get what he wants. So Avraham prepares his faithful servant, Eliezer to find a wife for his son. Of Avraham the Torah says, "Hashem blessed Avraham with everything." (24:1) The commentator Rashi tells us that the Hebrew word, *B'chol*, everything, has the same Gematria, numerical value, as the Hebrew word *Bayn*, a son. (The Gematria is 52.) Avraham's son was *everything* to him, far more valuable than any other riches he possessed.

It is the same for us here at the EKA. We have beautiful facilities, a caring and nurturing faculty, and a great school to work for. But what is really everything? "*Bayn*," a son, the children. They are our most precious possessions. They are the reason we are here; they bring joy to our hearts, smiles to our faces, and a picture of how bright the future will be. Sometimes, you can always get what you want.

Shabbat Shalom,

Robert A. Scott, Head of School

D'var Torah – Parashat Vayeirah

In פרשת וירא, we learn about the destruction of S'dom. As moral people, we must ask, "Why was S'dom destroyed?" Why did G-d send sulfur and fire upon it, killing all its inhabitants and destroying all the vegetation? What was the sin of S'dom?

The Torah is vague in giving us the reason for S'dom's destruction. The Rabbis in the Talmud, however, tell us that the people of S'dom were great sinners. They were thieves and murderers. The Torah only tells us "הַטָּאֲתָם" "כִּי כְבֹדָה מְאֹד" their *sin* (not *sins*) is very great. What was that one sin that did them in?

According to the Talmud, S'dom's location in very fertile land made its citizens very wealthy. Instead of making them appreciative of the gifts G-d had given them, however, they hoarded their wealth, and refused to help others who were not as fortunate. It was due to this failure to help others that G-d decided to eliminate them. "If you are going to misuse My gifts," said G-d, "then I will take them all away from you."

In contrast to the people of S'dom, Avraham was a great example of caring for those less fortunate than he. It is ironic that in an instance when Avraham cares for others, he stands up to G-d on behalf of S'dom! Avraham is described by G-d as being one who will instruct his children לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט, to do righteousness and justice. As opposed to S'dom, Avraham will try and better other people's lives. He will not hoard G-d's gifts only for himself.

I hope that all of us will lead our lives as Avraham led his. If G-d has blessed us with a particular talent or financial success, we should share this with others. Whether this means demonstrating our artistic talent, athletic ability, or giving צְדָקָה, we must always remember to use G-d's gifts wisely.

Shabbat Shalom,

Henry Stolow, 7th Grade



PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!!

We have received a number of requests from other agencies on Campus to remind our parents to observe the posted speed limits on Campus. Driving faster than the 5 MPH creates a danger for families with young children, older citizens and others who are here to enjoy the facilities. Thank you for helping to make the Campus a safer place for all.

More chances to support the EKA Gala!

Thank you so much to all of you who have made donations towards our Gala fundraiser either by purchasing tickets or placing ads in our Tribute book. Our gratitude also goes out to all of you who have solicited others to place ads as well.

We realize that the economic downturn has made it a bit more difficult for some of our donors to contribute this year. Indeed, the EKA itself has directly experienced this financial strain (investments are down, tuition assistance need up). Despite all these changes, however, the EKA remains devoted to its mission of educating the best and most well-rounded students and to attracting and retaining the finest faculty and providing the top-notch programs that students and their families have come to expect.

We also remain committed to keeping our tuition as affordable as possible, but we need your help in order to do so. Since tuition does not cover the cost of a student's education, the gap between tuition revenues and operating costs is bridged through fundraising efforts such as the Gala. If you have not placed your ad in the Gala Tribute Book, made a donation, or purchased a ticket to the big event, there's still time. The deadline has been extended one week through next Friday, November 21. If you are interested, please call the EKA office or Monica Lizka-Miller with questions. Further, if you know of any individual (grandparents, alumni, friends or supporters) or any business that might be interested in placing an ad (remember, the book is viewed by more than 300!), please take them an ad form and ask if they'd like to do so.

Thank you, in advance, for your participation in our fundraising efforts and for contributing at a level that suits your family's ability.

The Search Begins...

As we announced last week, the EKA is now undergoing a search for a new head of school to commence this summer. Under the able leadership of parent and alumnus Dan Weingart, a [search](#) committee which mirrors the broad interests of our community is in the process of being formed. This committee consists of parents, non-parents, supporters and educators [who are committed](#) to the mission of our school. If you have any questions regarding the committee or the process, please direct them to Dan Weingart at danfweingart@yahoo.com.

We will give all of our constituencies--parents, teachers, administrators and rabbis--an opportunity to meet with the candidates as the search narrows. In the meantime, I want to thank all of you for your continued support during this transition. We look forward to a bright future for the EKA.

Monica Lizka-Miller, President, Board of Trustees

Fresh Baked Goods delivered to the EKA

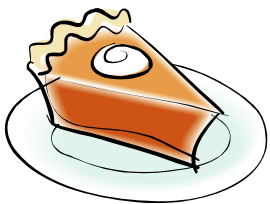
In cooperation with Reggiano's Bakery, the EKA is now accepting bread orders for delivery on Fridays. Reggiano's breads are DELICIOUS and under the supervision of The Vaad of San Antonio. (The order form is attached) Your order has to be placed no later than 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday and be prepaid by check or cash. It will be ready for pick up Friday.



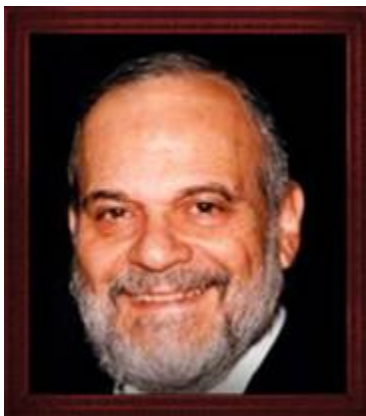
PIE

Take a Little Piece of the Pie!!

PIE social - Thursday, Nov 20, at 8:15am - Fisher Board Room.



You are invited to a lecture by



Rabbi Berel Wein

“Israel: Past, Present & Future”

This Sunday, November 16, at 7:30 pm

Congregation Rodfei Sholom

3003 Sholom Dr.

Rabbi Berel Wein is a noted scholar, historian, educator and raconteur - admired the world over for his lectures, books and now films - particularly on Jewish history.

The founder and director of The Destiny Foundation since 1996, Rabbi Wein has, for over 25 years, been identified with the popularization of Jewish history through world-wide lectures, his more than 1,000 audiotapes, books, seminars, educational tours and, most recently, dramatic and documentary films.

Rabbi Wein has authored four Jewish history books – *Triumph of Survival, The Story of the Jews in the Modern Era; Herald of Destiny, the Medieval Era; Echoes of Glory, the Classical Era and Faith and Fate, the story of the Jews in the Twentieth Century* – all of which have received popular and critical acclaim.

Rabbi Wein also authors and edits a monthly newsletter – *The Wein Press* – a source of information and inspiration on topics of Jewish interest. He also pens a weekly column for The Jerusalem Post.

Currently, The Destiny Foundation is in the process of translating Rabbi Wein’s riveting accounts of Jewish history into a series of films on Jewish personalities – the first, entitled *Rashi-A Light After The Dark Ages*, was released in 2000, and *Rambam/The Story of Maimonides* had its premiere in New York, in November 2004. Currently in production, The Destiny Foundation is preparing a 10-part documentary series, based on Rabbi Wein’s history of the Jews in the twentieth century, *Faith & Fate*.

Rabbi Wein is the recipient of the Educator of the Year Award from The Covenant Foundation in 1993. Most recently, Rabbi Wein received the Torah Prize Award from Machon HaRav Frank in Jerusalem for his achievements in teaching Torah and spreading Judaism throughout the world. Rabbi Wein makes his home in Jerusalem.

For more information please call Congregation Rodfei Sholom at 210-493-3557

Email: rodfei@sbcglobal.net or iparodfei@sbcglobal.net



Inventory Reduction Sale!

Dec. 1 - Dec. 31*

**Check with local store for Holiday Closings*

**20 % off merchandise in stock
(no back orders)**

Store:

210-530-0087
2108 NW Military Hwy
San Antonio, Texas 78213

Store Hours:

Tues-Fri	10-6
Sat.	10-3

****Also available on our website from Dec. 1 - Dec. 31: www.parkersu.com ****