

# KOL KADIMA

## The Voice of the Memphis Jewish High School

Vol. 3 No. 1  
Parsha: Shoftim

5 Elul, 5768  
Candle Lighting 7:03 p.m.

September 5, 2008  
Havdalah 7:57 p.m.

### Schedule of Events

September 7 The Annual Anshei Bar-B-Que Fest. The event begins at 11:00.

September 9 The American Government class is attending the Justine Panel Discussion at the University of Mississippi.

September 10 Mid-quarter grades sent home to be signed by the parents.

### D'var torah – Shoftim - provided by Parker Mantell

Shoftim (Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9)  
**The Greatness of Humility**

This week's portion says that a Jewish king is commanded to write for himself a Torah scroll and to carry it with him at all times (Deut. 17:18-20). The idea behind this is that the king needs to maintain perspective. He should remember just where his power comes from, and not make the mistake of thinking that he is in control. In Jewish thinking, arrogance is the worst of all traits, while humility is the greatest trait. When the Torah looks to praise Moses, he is singled out as the "most humble of all men" (Numbers 12:3). That, the Sages say, is the greatest and most genuine form of charisma.

We see from here that the purpose of humility is not so much a hedge against becoming intoxicated with power; rather, the idea is that humility itself is empowering. But how does this work?

Humility does not mean lack of self-esteem. It does not mean self-denigration (Uriah Heep style). Humility, in Judaism, is a recognition that there are more important things in this world than my own desires and needs. Humility is a matter of perspective. Talented and capable as I may be, I am nevertheless only a small part of a vast universe. The humble person realizes: *What's right is infinitely more valuable than serving myself.*

The more humble, the greater the leader, because a humble person has no interest in his own honor, power and self-aggrandizement. He serves those who he leads. In Torah law, the people are not servants of the king; the king is a servant of the people. The first king of Israel, Saul, did not want the job. And because he did not want the job, he was the right man for the job.

Because the extent to which a leader enjoys the trappings of power, is the extent to which he no longer serves the people alone.

The humble person will not only have the confidence of those he leads, he will also be unafraid of those he leads. Doing that which is right for the nation is all that matters to him. Whether or not he is popular is irrelevant.

On a personal level, this applies to us as well. If you have humility, then living with what you believe to be right is more important than what others think of you. A humble person is unaffected by social pressures, unmoved by societal norms. Indeed, humility is the foundation of true independence.

Arrogance is a fast track to mediocrity. Humility, on the other hand, paves the way for greatness. It is no accident that the Torah considers Moses - "the most humble of all" - to be the greatest human being that ever lived.

Shabbat Shalom!

### Mazel Tov to Parker Mantell by Courtney Thomas

**At a school like ours, we are given so many opportunities to have hands-on life experiences.** The University of Mississippi's Department of Journalism is teaming up with Justine Magazine to host the 2008 *Presidential Election: Teens and Politics* Forum and Panel Discussion. On September 9, our 11<sup>th</sup> grade government class will be going to Mississippi, to participate in this event and to support our fellow student Parker Mantell, as he participates in the teen political panel. Parker was chosen out of many students and schools throughout the south to be part of the panel. The teen political panel will discuss the role of teens in politics and will talk about issues that are important to their age group. Our trip will include a tour of the University's campus and a kosher picnic in the Grove. The U.S. Government class includes, Logan Belz, Jake Tobey, Parker Mantell and myself. Mrs. Libbee Clifford teaches this class. Thanks to Mrs. Bonnie Belz for chauffeuring and chaperoning!

### Art Project at the Oak Court Mall

Please go by the Oak Court Mall, near Dillard's Department Store to see our community service project display. Our art classes last year, under the direction of

Carol DeForest, put together a project under the heading of “Captain Snoopy-Do, the Aviator”. The Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County began the project where different organizations sponsor local artists to construct a themed dog. Our display was sponsored by Mid South Jets. Additional help with the wings was given by sculptor Tylur French.



### **MJHS's 1<sup>st</sup> Golf Team**

We are proud to announce our first sports team – golf. Logan Belz, Jake Tobey, Parker Mantell, Monte Eiseman, Logan Bierman and Alex Nahon are the golf team members. They will begin practice immediately at the Ridgeway Country Club under golf pro Mark Grace. Our own Stuart Thomas will be accompanying the team on their scheduled matches.

### **Toda-Raba**

- To **Elaine Radin, Brian Rubin and Kara Bierman** for consistently driving our physical education class to the J.C.C.
- To **Carol DeForest** for all the time she has given toward the building of our Bar-B-Que Fest booth. Thanks, too, goes to **Logan Belz** for his leadership and time to the booth.
- To **Marc Belz** for transporting our Bar-B-Que Fest booth.

### **Sympathy Goes To**

To the **Wenders** for the damage done to their new home by a fire. We are all thinking of you -