

DiVine Years  
by  
Leigh Bonner

Ten years ago, a young vine found its way into the Solomon Schechter Vineyard. An amiable viticulturist, Lois Davidson, looked at the small but eager vine, eased her fears, and began to prepare for cultivation.

Before long, the vine's roots became intertwined in Schechter's enriching field. She came to grow alongside the other young vines that were... in a class of their own. Closeness and support for one another created a structure ripe for a great crop. A crop that she didn't quite realize how much she would miss until now.

The soil's stimulating core minerals of Hebrew, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science fed the curiosity of the budding vine, and each day the group of wonderful winemakers tended the soil and kept it fresh with new data. The soil was also kept moist with the water of Jewish Studies, as it is said, "the words of Torah are like water."

This soil of perpetual knowledge excited the vine to such an extent that she would push herself to grow beyond her boundaries. Why? Her special winemakers had given her inspiration and confidence to seek new shoots of wisdom for herself.

Now "well grounded," the vine saw the production of her grapes and her true colors emerged. It is true that when the workload was heavy, there was a small tendency to produce "sour grapes," but the majority were luscious.

The succulent fruits of achievement were pressed and placed into barrels, where her particular talents matured in their quality of knowledge, leadership, and character.

It has been almost ten years since the vine settled in Chateau Levine Academy. Now, its rich flavor is imbued with nurturing, motivation, and dedication.

In celebration, let's raise our glasses to honor Chateau Levine, and its incomparable winemakers... I thank you all for so many diVine years and for all your unconditional love, patience, and kindness, which you gave me each day... A vineyard such as this cannot be replaced, and though I am ready for my next stage of life, the fields of Levine will *always* be rolling in my memories. All I can say is that the crop of '07 has been quite a vintage year. L'Chaim!