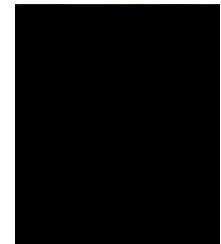


Jews have always been a community drawn together by virtue of Torah. No matter where you may be, we welcome you to the Ziegler community through Today's Torah e-mail.

Shabbat Tetsaveh
February 16, 2019 – 11 Adar I 5779



By: Rabbi Cheryl Peretz
Associate Dean
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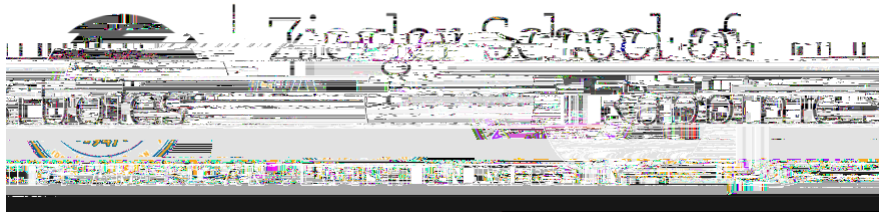
Smell the Flowers

Torah Reading: Exodus 27:20 – 30:10
Haftarah Reading: Ezekiel 43:10 - 27

Companies invest millions of dollars to create the best-smelling scents, coming up with as many different scents as one can imagine – flowers, fruits, plants, trees.

This week's Torah portion, Tetsaveh, intimates that those modern companies were not the real innovators of perfume. Rather, it seems, even God has a preferred scent: *"On it (the altar) Aaron shall burn aromatic incense: he shall burn it every morning when tends the light. And, Aaron shall burn it at night when he lights the lamps – a regular incense offering before the Lord throughout the ages."* (Exodus 30:7-8)

With this statement, a blend of secret substances that exhale perfume during combustion, the *k'toret*, an incense offering whose very smoke produces the smell that is considered the desired scent, became an important act of sacred worship. Moreover, while in context of these two verses, this was done at the request of the High Priest only, the Talmud tells us that all priests in the Temple completed the daily incense offering ritual.



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