

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim



**Nov. 9, 2019 Parshat Lech Licha, 11 Cheshvan 5780**

## Noach Times and Numbers

Candle Lighting- 4:27pm  
 Mincha- 4:30  
 Shacharit- 9:00 am  
 Teen Minyan- 9:45  
 Tot Shabbat-10:15 Beit Midrash  
 Junior Cong.- 10:15 upstairs  
 Mincha- 4:25 pm  
 Shabbos Ends- 5:27 pm



1 **MITZVAT ASEH** (positive commandment): Circumcision- *Brit Milah*  
 NUMBER OF **PESUKIM** (sentences): 126  
 NUMBER OF WORDS: 1686  
 NUMBER OF LETTERS: 6336

## A Sky Full of Stars

After antagonizing four local kings, Avram is worried that even more kings will get together to take revenge. *Hashem* reassures Avram that no army will ever defeat him. *Hashem* will always protect Avram and his descendants...But Avram hasn't got any descendants?! Without kids he isn't going to be a nation - great or otherwise! *Hashem* then tells Avram to look up at the sky. The night is filled with billions of stars. *Hashem* declares: "Your descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky. They will inherit the land of Canaan."

As a sign, *Hashem* and Avram make a pact known as "*Brit Bayn HaBesarim* (the deal between the halves)." What halves? Well, in Avram's time the way a deal was done was to cut animals in half and walk between them. *Hashem* commands Avram to take three calves, goats and rams, a pigeon and a dove. He should cut the animals in half but leave the birds whole. Avram lines up the animal carcasses in two rows. Suddenly a bunch of vultures swoop down. Avram chases these birds away. This is a sign. When idol worshipping nations will attack *Bnai Yisroel* in the future, *Hashem* will remember Avram's merits & save his descendants. Avram falls into a deep sleep and *Hashem* zaps him with a prophecy. A terrible darkness surrounds him. It is a sign that his children will go through hardship before they inherit the promised land, *Eretz Yisroel*. For 400 years they will be exiled in a strange land where they will work as slaves. But not to worry, because *Hashem* will come to the rescue and make this lowly people a great nation. They will conquer the nations of Canaan and inherit this land.



New and gently used coats and sweaters  
 Children and adult sizes

Now thru Sunday, Nov 24, drop off new or gently used coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats & gloves Collection box is located in the shul coat room, so drop off at your convenience.

On Sunday, Nov 24 at 10am we invite our youngest members to help organize the donations and load the truck for delivery to Yad Leah

Any questions? Mindy Schall (email) or Samantha Migdal (smigdal@gmail.com)



Co-sponsored by The Youth Department & Women's Club.

## *"Quote of the Week"*

"When you waste a moment, you have killed it in a sense, squandering an irreplaceable opportunity. But when you use the moment properly, filling it with purpose and productivity, it lives on forever."

-Rav Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the last Lubavitcher Rebbe

## **DID YOU KNOW.....**

**Did you know that largest shul in the world is the Belz Great Synagogue located in the Kiryat Belz neighborhood of Jerusalem, Israel? Construction of the Chassidic shul lasted fifteen years and it was completed in the year 2000. The main sanctuary can sit over 6,000 people! The synagogue is modeled after the original Belz Synagogue in Belz, Ukraine.**

Congregation Etz Chaim: [www.etzchaimnj.org](http://www.etzchaimnj.org)  
 Rabbi Sam Klibanoff  
 Presidents: Dr. Michael Rieber & Jeff Suskind  
 Youth Director: Yoni Glatt

## YIDDLE RIDDLE!

THE FIRST KID WHO TELLS YONI THE ANSWER GETS \$3 MM, THE SECOND GETS \$2, & THE THIRD GETS \$1- NO TELLING THE ANSWER!

**I am read about this time of year  
I have different names, to be clear  
Find where I was living near my end  
Where I met Avraham, my holy friend**

Last Week:

Look closely at the animals on the other side  
Spot the problem- keep your eyes open wide  
The pic contradicts what we read this week  
Can you tell me the pasuk of which I speak?  
A- There should be 14 giraffes, not two.



This week with Morah Debbie.

Morah Nicole Returns Dec. 7

10:15 in the Beit Midrash.

For children in grades 1 and under.

**ETZ CHAIM  
BUDDIEZ  
PROGRAM!  
COMING VERY  
SOON!**

**Come to shul-  
get rewarded.**

**Starting next Shabbos  
we'll now be having  
boys and girls in  
grades 5-7 say the  
prayers for Israeli  
soldiers and for  
Israel.**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:  
Be like Avraham! Don't  
give up the chance to do  
*Hachnasas Orchim!***

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(אַלְטְרוּיִזְם) *n.*

1. Unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness.
2. Zoology-behavior by an animal that is not beneficial to or may be harmful to itself but that benefits others of its species.

## TORAH GREATS: THE RALBAG - 1288-1344

In a time which saw terrible tragedies befall the once great Jewish communities of France, there lived a magnificent genius: Rav Levi ben Gershon, aka Gersonides, better known as the RaLBaG (RG). France was ruled by the cruel King Phillip IV, who was continually at war. When his treasury became empty as a result, he decreed that all Jews be expelled from France and their possessions be forfeited to the crown on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Av in the year 5066 (1306). Yet, it was fortunate RG was born in Bagnols, France, because that province, once a Spanish possession, did not belong to the king of France, but to the Pope. And so, RG escaped most of the trouble that befell his brethren, though he cried with them in many of his poetic writings. He wrote about the lack of understanding & knowledge in the world which permitted such cruelties against an innocent and defenseless people.

In 1320 a terrible catastrophe befell the Jews of France: the *Shepherd's Crusade*. An insane teenage shepherd began to tell tales of a "heavenly mission" commanding him to start a crusade against the Arabs. He managed to gather an army of 40,000 men and began his "holy" crusade by first massacring defenseless Jews. Some 120 Jewish communities were destroyed by the cruel "shepherds" before they were stopped by Prince Alfonso of Spain. The Ralbag's heart bled for his suffering brethren. He used his great influence at the Papal Court in Avignon and his acquaintance with other notables to induce them to take under their protection thousands of Jewish refugees who were fortunate enough to escape the wave of massacres.

Not only did RG master the world of the Talmud & mathematics, but by the age of 30 he was an accomplished scientist and physician whose services were sought after by the nobles of France. His universal genius enabled him to overthrow many of the widely accepted astronomical theories. He criticized and corrected the faults of the Ptolemean system, then as yet fully recognized. Thus he anticipated much of the work done by the great scientists of later days. Not only did he excel in the theory of astronomy, but he invented an instrument which enabled scientists to study and observe the workings of the stars & planets. His book on this invention and his theories greatly impressed Pope Clement VI, who had it translated into Latin. RG was also the forerunner of another great invention: the camera. He produced a model of a "camera obscura" that anticipated the most characteristic features of the modern camera developed more than 5 centuries later. RG also wrote many philosophical works & one of the most celebrated Torah commentaries of all time. It still appears in many chumashim today.