



# THE ETZ CHAIM BULLETIN

## PARSHAS LECH LECHA

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Mincha	5:15PM
Candle Lighting	5:16PM

### SHABBOS, NOVEMBER 9 SHABBOS MORNING

Daf Yomi Class	7:45AM
Sephardic Minyan	8:30AM
Shacharis	8:30AM
Latest Shema	9:28AM
Unlocking the Closed Book with Rabbi Feigenbaum	10:00AM

Please join us for kiddush  
in the social hall following services.

Prophetic Visions with Rabbi Yaakov Fisch	4:15PM
Mincha	5:00PM
Followed by Seudah Shlishis	
Maariv & Havdallah	6:17PM

### SERVICES THIS WEEK: SHACHARIS

Sunday	8:15AM
Monday-Friday	6:45AM

### MINCHA

Sunday-Thursday	5:15PM
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### MAARIV AT THE KOLLEL

Monday-Thursday	8:45PM
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### TORAH READING

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Haftorah Lech Lecha	Page: 1133

### MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

This week we are reintroduced to arguably the most important person in the History of the Jewish People, and that is Abraham. We learn about this individual who left his hometown and comfortable surroundings at the age of 75 to an unknown land. When he arrives in the rocky and barren land of Canaan, he experiences a closeness to G-d as he had never felt. It was an incredible manifestation of G-d's presence, which was unparalleled to any other location on earth. G-d than communicated to Abraham that his descendants will inherit this auspicious land. That is the beginning of our people's story in which G-d declared that the descendants of Abraham would be the chosen people. He also promised Israel would be their homeland in which its people can connect to G-d and his Torah in a spiritually conducive environment. Abraham and his wife Sarah, are interred in the Machpelah Cave in Hebron, and Jews continue to travel there to seek that closeness to G-d.

A fair question would be, has that promise panned out, and in what way? I recall the beginning of the History of Jews by Paul Johnson, who writes the following:

*Hebron has great and venerable beauty. It provides peace and stillness often to be found in ancient sanctuaries. But its stones are mute witnesses to constant strife and four millennia of religious and political disputes. It has been in turn a Hebrew shrine, a synagogue, a Byzantine basilica, a mosque, a crusader church, and then a mosque again. Herod the Great enclosed it with a majestic wall, which still stands, soaring nearly 40 feet high, composed of massive hewn stones, some of them 23 feet long. Saladin adorned the shrine with a pulpit. Hebron reflects the long, tragic history of the Jews and their unrivaled capacity to survive their misfortunes. David was anointed king there. When Jerusalem fell, the Jews were expelled and it was settled by Edom. It was conquered by Greece, then by Rome, converted,*

*plundered by the Zealots, burned by the Romans, occupied in turn by Arabs, Franks and Mamluks. From 1266 the Jews were forbidden to enter the Cave to pray. They were permitted only to ascend seven steps by the side of the eastern wall. On the fourth step they inserted their petitions to God in a hole bored 6 feet 6 inches through the stone. Even so, the petitioners were in danger. In 1518 there was a fearful Ottoman massacre of the Hebron Jews. But a community of pious scholars was re-established. It maintained a tenuous existence, composed, at various times, of orthodox Talmudists, of students of the mystic kabbalah, and even of Jewish ascetics, who flogged themselves cruelly until their blood spattered the hallowed stones. Jews were there to welcome, in turn, the false Messiah, Shabbetai Zevi, in the 1660s, the first modern Christian pilgrims in the eighteenth century, secular Jewish settlers a hundred years later, and the British conquerors in 1918. The Jewish community, never very numerous, was ferociously attacked by the Arabs in 1929. They attacked it again in 1936 and virtually wiped it out. When Israeli soldiers entered Hebron during the Six Day War in 1967, for a generation not one Jew had lived there. But a modest settlement was re-established in 1970. Despite much fear and uncertainty, it has flourished. So when the historian visits Hebron today, he asks himself: where are all those peoples which once held the place? Where are the Canaanites? Where are the Edomites? Where are the ancient Hellenes and the Romans, the Byzantines, the Franks, the Mamluks and the Ottomans? They have vanished into time, irrevocably. But the Jews are still in Hebron.*

Four thousand years later, G-d's promise to Abraham is still being realized. Let us never lose sight of this gift to us.

*Have a Great Shabbos,  
Rabbi Yaakov Fisch*

# ADULT EDUCATION & EVENTS

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

9:00am Sunday Morning Chaburah  
with The Jacksonville Kollel at Etz Chaim

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

7:00pm New Mini Series with Rebbetzin Rena Schochet  
“Sustaining the Days of Awe Experience: New Year’s Resolutions are a Recipe for Disaster!”

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

7:15pm Tuesday Night Torah - Parsha with Rabbi Rabinowitz at The Kollel

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

1:00pm Morning Club with Rabbi Schochet  
7:00pm Mesilas Yisharim class with Rebbetzin Schochet at The Kollel  
8:00pm Talmud Class with Rabbi Rabinowitz at The Kollel  
8:00pm Women’s Partners in Torah at The Kollel

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:45pm Mishmar at The Kollel

## PARSHA SYNOPSIS

G-d speaks to Abram, commanding him, “Go from your land, from your birthplace and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you.” There, G-d says, he will be made into a great nation. Abram and his wife, Sarai, accompanied by his nephew Lot, journey to the land of Canaan, where Abram builds an altar and continues to spread the message of a one G-d.

A famine forces the first Jew to depart for Egypt, where beautiful Sarai is taken to Pharaoh’s palace; Abram escapes death because they present themselves as brother and sister. A plague prevents the Egyptian king from touching her, and convinces him to return her to Abram and to compensate the brother-revealed-as-husband with gold, silver and cattle.

Back in the land of Canaan, Lot separates from Abram and settles in the evil city of Sodom, where he falls captive when the mighty armies of Chedorlaomer and his three allies conquer the five cities of the Sodom Valley. Abram sets out with a small band to rescue his nephew, defeats the four kings, and is blessed by Malki-Zedek the king of Salem (Jerusalem).

G-d seals the Covenant Between the Parts with Abram, in which the exile and persecution (galut) of the people of Israel is foretold, and the Holy Land is bequeathed to them as their eternal heritage.

Still childless ten years after their arrival in the Land, Sarai tells Abram to marry her maidservant Hagar. Hagar conceives, becomes insolent toward her mistress, and then flees when Sarai treats her harshly; an angel convinces her to return, and tells her that her son will father a populous nation. Ishmael is born in Abram’s eighty-sixth year.

Thirteen years later, G-d changes Abram’s name to Abraham (“father of multitudes”), and Sarai’s to Sarah (“princess”), and promises that a son will be born to them; from this child, whom they should call Isaac (“will laugh”), will stem the great nation with which G-d will establish His special bond. Abraham is commanded to circumcise himself and his descendants as a “sign of the covenant between Me and you.” Abraham immediately complies, circumcising himself and all the males of his household.

## SHABBOS YOUTH PROGRAM

Every Shabbos and Yom Tov, the shul provides regular youth services to accommodate the needs of our growing community.

Please be aware that a parent must be readily available to take responsibility for the child while he/she is attending groups.

**Babysitting** is a supervised free play program for boys and girls ages infant through 3 years old. This group is staffed by professional sitters.

**Gan Shabbat** is for boys and girls in nursery and Pre-K, the children are entertained with stories, games, songs, and organized activities.

**Tot Shabbat** is for boys and girls in 'K' and 1st grade. The children are entertained with stories and songs; they pray together and play together with organized activities led by our teenage group leaders.

**Junior Congregation** now meets with distinct groups for boys and girls for grades 2 through Bnei mitzvah, and the girl's group is for grades 2 through B'not Mitzvah. The children begin their morning with group morning prayers and continue with stories, and other activities.

**NCSY Teen Workshop** is a discussion based group dedicated to giving deeper insight into the Parsha and general hashkafa and is for boys and girls b'nei mitzvah through 12th grade. This group is currently studying the Ethics of Our Fathers and is led by Joey Hamaoui.

### **Yom Rishon Enrichment Program with Rabbi Rabinowitz Sundays from 9:15am-10:15am**

The vision of the Yom Rishon Enrichment Program at Etz Chaim Synagogue is to educate the children about their heritage in a fun and engaging manner.

## NCSY UPDATES

### **Wednesday, November 13 at 7PM - JSU AFTER DARK @ The JCA**

Join teens from all over the Jacksonville Community for November's JSU AFTER DARK Program! Make friends, have fun and learn about your heritage!

### **Thursday, November 14th at 5:30PM - NCSY 4G Paint Night at Painting With A Twist**

Attention girls in grades 8-12! You are invited to join us on Thursday for a special girls only paint night with 4G! You will learn how to paint your own masterpiece from a professional instructor and get to take home your own masterpiece!

Cost is \$20 and you must RSVP! Contact Joey Hamaoui.

### **Friday, November 15th at 10:30AM - JSU Club at Bolles**

Join us for JSU Club at Bolles as we learn about Shabbat through an immersive mock Shabbat Dinner. We will discover the hidden meanings behind the Shabbat table while enjoying good food with our friends!

### **Shabbos, November 16th at 10:45AM - Teen Minyan at Etz Chaim Social Hall**

Join us for a teen led mussaf service followed by chulent with all your friends! Bnei mitzvah and up!

### **Sunday, November 17th at 12PM - EMTZA Limo Scavenger Hunt**

Join NCSYers from grades 5-8 on a limo scavenger hunt through Jacksonville! Pick up and drop off will be at Etz Chaim and the program will run from 12-5PM. Cost is \$35 and we have limited spots. RSVP to Joey Hamaoui.

### **Tuesday, November 19th at 8:30AM - JSU Club at Nease**

Join us at Nease High School in RM 211 of the PAC for a Blue and White party! Come dressed in blue and white and enjoy Israeli food while we learn about Israel.

### **Tuesday, November 19th at 2:10PM - JSU Club at ACHS**

Join us in RM 265 for another exciting JSU Club at ACHS!

### **Wednesday, November 20th at 3:00PM - JSU Club at Stanton**

Join us in room 211 for our second annual Blue & White Party! Come dressed in blue and white and enjoy Israeli food and music followed by an interactive activity to learn about Israel!

## DAILY CLASSES

### Daf Yomi

Weekdays	6:15am
Shabbos	8:15am
Sundays & legal holiday	8:15am

Please join us each morning before services in the Mirkis Chapel. Hot coffee is served.

### Limmud Yomi

Rabbi Fisch will teach a brief lesson on "Climb the Ladder" following Minyan every morning.

### Mishna Yomi

Rabbi Fisch will teach a brief Mishna between Mincha & Maariv every evening. We are studying Tractate Shavuot.

## OUR CONDOLENCES

Etz Chaim Synagogue extends our condolences to

**Micki Green**

on the passing of her brother,

**Alvin Coplan.**

May the Al-Mighty comfort the family among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



## HAPPENING WITH NCSY

### JSU JAX Fellowship

If you would like to sponsor one of the following programs please contact Joey Hamaoui.

- NCSY Tefillah Workshop
- JSU Club
- JSU After Dark



Special thanks to Moise & Elizabeth Hamaoui for sponsoring this special program!

## UPCOMING NCSY SHABBATON

GRADES 6-8

**EMTZA  
NCSY  
SHABBATON**

**6-7  
DEC**

SATURDAY NIGHT ACTIVITY:  
**NINJA LOUNGE**

**COST:  
\$105**

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE! // HOME HOSPITALITY

REGISTER NOW AT [SOUTHERN.NCSY.ORG](http://SOUTHERN.NCSY.ORG)

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: Joey Hamoui 305-764-7212  
Jason Segelbaum 305-772-0482

**Emtza  
NCSY**  
Inspiring the Jewish Future

## Youth Breakfast & Auction



## Winter Shabbaton

Mark your calendars:

December 6–8 2019

Etz Chaim's Winter Shabbaton featuring special guest  
Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg

Founder and Director Kids Kicking Cancer

Clinical Associate Professor

Wayne State University School of Medicine

Get ready for three days of learning with topics to include:

- Power, Peace, Purpose; Shabbos is a Triangle
- A Perfect G-D Created an Imperfect World Perfectly
- The Kaddish Ladder; The Mystical Symbolism of an Unusual Prayer
- Heaven in Turmoil: When Angels are not so Angelic

More details to come!

## Baal Tashchis

Parshas Shoftim contains the source for this halacha: "When you lay siege to a city for many days, do not destroy the fruit trees." If the Torah wants us to be careful with our enemies' fruit trees, we should certainly be cautious with our resources. The Torah raises our awareness to appreciate all the physical and spiritual gifts that Hashem bestowed on us, and to use them constructively. This mitzvah referred to as Baal Tashchis, concerns refraining from destroying – and by extension, wasting.

The Chinuch (13th Century) takes the concept of this mitzvah one step further. It makes us wary of needless destruction. It sensitizes us to love that which is useful for us and beneficial to us. If we are troubled by waste and mindless destruction, we will make an effort to prevent it from happening.

The Rambam states anyone who breaks utensils, tears garments, destroys buildings, seals a spring, or ruins food with destructive intent transgresses the command "not to destroy."

Intent is crucial. Demolishing a building to erect another would not be a violation. When we break a glass at a wedding, it reminds us to mourn for the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash, which is a positive intent. It would not be considered wasteful to exchange an old but kosher mezuzah for a new one with clearer writing.

It is essential to cherish every gift Hashem provides for us and not discount its importance.

## Dead ahead: App aims to be a 'Waze' for cemeteries

Paying respects to loved ones who have passed is not always an easy task, especially as they don't have a real address and can't help you find your way.

Now, a new app called Gravez aims to enable users to locate burial sites with detailed directions of how to get there.

"Our app works like Waze, to navigate within a cemetery," said 39-year-old Israel Gold, who studied Industrial Engineering and Management at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. Gold developed the app together with his partner Guy Liany; their company is called Corido.

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Waze is an Israeli-founded GPS navigation app for drivers that provides turn-by-turn navigation instructions and updates in real time, acquired by Google in 2013.

ILLUSTRATIVE — A man walks through a cemetery in Jerusalem (Nati Shohat /Flash90)

It's especially hard for those who visit once every few years, he said, for example those who come from abroad. But even for those who visit yearly, say for the anniversary of the death, the task can be arduous because the tombstone landscape changes so often.

"People found it very hard to get their bearings and we often had to get workers to help them find the graves in question," said Orit Masamy, CEO of the Chevra Kadisha Forum, a nonprofit umbrella organization of the burial societies operating around the country. The landscape of the cemeteries changes all the time, she explained, because the cemeteries expand and more and more graves are added.

"It is like a labyrinth," she said. Now, even the cemetery workers use the app, rolled out in September, to find their way to the various sites, she said.

The Forum initiated the search for such an app, she explained, because of the real need felt on the ground.

"It was a complicated process," she said. The technology needed to have a high navigational resolution — down to a half-meter precision — as the subject matter was grave sites rather than residences. Data needed to be collected from the various burial societies — each one stores data in a different manner — and all of the graves had to be photographed.

Gold said that most of the mapping is done via drones and image processing tools. Corido has mapped out some 1.3 million graves at 28 cemeteries in Israel, providing both walking and driving instructions, in Hebrew and in English, and giving users real-time updates of what is happening on the ground in the cemetery at

that moment. Some 30,000 people have downloaded the app, Gold said.

The app covers only Israel, he said, but eventually the firm will seek to expand its services to cemeteries overseas as well. "There is much scope to expand in this area," Gold said.

The app — as well as the website, which serves the same function — is free. To search for a grave, type in the name of the deceased into the search section; additional information including date of death, which cemetery they're buried in and father's name can be used as for assistance in locating the gravesite.

This reporter searched for the name of a relative buried in Jerusalem's Har HaMenuchot cemetery, but the name and burial site did not appear as a result. That is because not all the plots are mapped out yet, said Gold, and the mapping process is ongoing.

Also, the English-Hebrew matching can be hit-or-miss — the company is working to improve this feature — so for now it is better to use Hebrew in a name search.

In addition to helping users find graves, Gold said, the website and the app also help burial societies map out their plots to see what is occupied and what is still vacant, bringing greater efficiency to their work.

"If you can see the cemetery plots from your office, it makes a big difference," said the Forum's Masamy.

Among the major cemeteries mapped out are the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery in Tel Aviv, Yarkon in Petah Tikva, Holon, Jerusalem's Har Hamenuhot, and Darchei Shalom in Haifa, according to the Gravez website. Jerusalem's Mount of Olives is in the process of being mapped and the company is in talks with the Defense Ministry to add Jerusalem's Mount Herzl military cemetery.

"The aim is to get to all of the cemeteries in Israel," said Masamy.

The Chevra Kadisha pays Corido a monthly fee to use the app, said Gold. But he believes the real revenues are yet to come. The firm is hoping to offer app users a variety of services for their deceased, including tombstone cleaning and maintenance, graveside memorial wreaths, transportation services to the cemetery, memorial prayers in the name of the deceased at anniversaries, and the placement of a memorial candles at the grave.

Corido hopes to launch these services in about a month, with subcontractors offering their services via the app and Corido getting payment from the subcontractors.

Especially for people living abroad, Gold said, being able to get someone to light a candle at the burial site of a loved on the memorial day can be a "very powerful experience."

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Yehudis Finkelstein  
Benita Flagler  
Eliashev Gahanian  
Jay Karp  
Danny Lamensdorf  
Paul Reed  
Efrat Rocca  
David Schecter

## REFUAH SHELEMAH

Fern Estner  
Morris Bendit  
Louise Levine  
Susan Goldman  
Jeff Aaronson  
Sy Schwartz  
Richard Browdy  
Martin Schwartz  
Murray Husney  
Jay Lipper  
Abe Goldenthal  
Phyllis Sprecher  
Bertica Hubsch  
David Robbins  
Hope Tikvah Kulish  
Barbara Feldman

## YAHRZEIT

Rivka de-Jong  
Martha Goldman  
Harry Husney  
Simon Selber  
Rachel Weil

## SAVE THE DATE-ACKERMAN TORAH DEDICATION

**Please join us for the historic event as we welcome the new Sefer Torah to the Shul on January 26, 2020, in honor of Scot and Alex Ackerman.**

**A special committee has been formed to prepare for this event and is being co-chaired by Henny Fisch and Pam Ervanian.**

**If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Henny Fisch.**

## JOIN 90,000 JEWS FOR THE SIYUM HASHAS



**Get your tickets now!!**

**Momentum builds in anticipation of the Global Siyum Hashas of the Daf Yomi Cycle, in which nearly 100,000 people will gather in MetLife Stadium to conclude the daily page of Talmud cycle.**

**Etz Chaim is thrilled to announce a**

**SECOND Daf Yomi class to be taught in the evenings, Monday- Thursday immediately after Maariv (for the next few weeks at 6:00 pm).**

**Rabbi Fisch will teach the evening class.**

**This evening class is in addition to the morning Daf Yomi taught by Rabbi Hauptman at 6:00 am. The Evening Daf Yomi begins this evening with the Daf of Niddah 15a.**

**Please join the Etz Chaim Synagogue delegation and join nearly 100,000 for this historic event as Jews around the world gather to celebrate the conclusion of the Daf Yomi learning cycle.**

**There will be men and women coming from all over the world to New Jersey for this momentous occasion and it only happens once every seven and a half years.**

**This event is not to be missed!**

**Please join our shul delegation.**

**We have tickets available for \$180 and \$360.**

**For more information, please speak to Rabbi Fisch.**

# PARSHAS LECH LECHA

It is interesting to note that the Torah in its opening chapters deals with the lives of individuals with a seemingly very narrow focus. It portrays general society for us and tells us of the events that led up to the cataclysmic flood that destroys most of humanity, but even then, the Torah focuses on the lives of an individual, Noah and his family. This pattern continues in this week's reading as well with the story of human civilization condensed and seen through the prism of the life of an individual Abraham, his wife Sarah and their challenges and travails.

Unlike most history books which always take the general perspective and the overview of things, the Torah emphasizes to us that history and great events spring forth from the actions of individuals and even though Heaven preordains events and trends, they only occur when individuals actually by their choice, implement them and make them real. The prophet Isaiah described Abraham as "one" – unique, alone, individualistic... important and influential.

We often think that an individual really doesn't make much of a difference in the world of billions of human beings. However, all of history teaches us that individuals are the ones that shape all events, both good and better in the story of humankind. For every individual contains within him and her seeds of potential and of future generations, of events not yet visible or foretold.

The greatness of Abraham is revealed to us in the Torah through the fact that he was a person of strong and abiding faith. We are taught that his faith in God never wavered and that the Lord reckoned that trait of faith as being the righteousness that transformed him into being the father of all nations. However, faith in God carries with it the corollary of faith in one's self and one's purpose in life. There is a great difference between the poison of arrogance and hubris and the blessing of self-confidence and self worth.

Abraham describes himself as being nothing more than dust and ashes. Yet, as a sole individual standing against kings, armies, societies and the accepted mores of the time, he is confident in the success of his mission, in calling out for the humankind to hear, over the millennia, the name and sovereignty of the Lord.

It is the sense of mission within us that drives our creativity and accomplishments in all spheres of our existence. The journey of the Jewish people through the ages of history and the countries of this planet are the journeys of our father Abraham and our mother Sarah during their lifetimes. Both sets of journeys are driven by this overriding sense of mission, of the importance and worth of every individual who shares that sense of purposeful existence.

Shabbat shalom,  
Rabbi Berel Wein

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