

THE ETZ CHAIM BULLETIN

MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

The story of our people in Chevron began over four thousand years ago and is recorded in this weeks parsha. Our patriarch Avraham went to great pains to purchase the Cave of Machpeila located in Chevron as a burial site for his beloved wife Sarah. There were protracted negotiations between Avraham and the local populace as to how he could properly secure the property. The local group of Hittites punted the issue to Efron, a prominent figure in town who took over the negotiations. Efron turned out to be an evasive individual who was difficult to pin down to seal the deal. Avraham put great effort and energy in investing into closing this deal as he understood that this transaction would be challenged over time. Indeed, the Jewish People as his descendants have been denied their ancestral claim to the Cave of Machpeila and the City of Chevron. In the late 14th century, the Muslim rulers forbade Jews from entering the site, but they were allowed to approach as close as the fifth step on a staircase at the southeast. At some point, this was changed to the seventh step.

Paul Johnson in his book, History of the Jews, wrote the following about the City of Chevron:

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 Avraham is still being realized. Let us never lose sight of this gift to us.

Have a peaceful Shabbos,

Rabbi Yaakov Fisch

PARSHAS CHAYEI SARA SHABBOS MEVARCHIM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Minyan Mincha	5:10PM
Earliest time to light	4:23PM
Candle lighting	5:11PM

SHABBOS, NOVEMBER 19

Sephardic Minyan	9:00AM
Shacharis	9:00AM
Latest Shema	9:33AM
Mincha	5:00PM
Maariv	6:11PM

Following services, Kiddush will be served in the Social Hall.

Seudah Shlishis will be served in the Social Hall. In celebration of Rabbi Joey Hamaoui.

Gateway to Prayer Class with Rabbi Uhr	10:00AM
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NCSY Boys Chaburah in the Social Hall	4:10PM
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No NCSY Girls Chaburah this Shabbos.

MINYAN THIS WEEK:

SHACHARIS

Sunday	8:30AM
Monday-Wednesday	6:45AM
Thursday-Friday	
(Rosh Chodesh Kislev)	8:30AM
Second Minyan	8:15AM

MINCHA - MAARIV

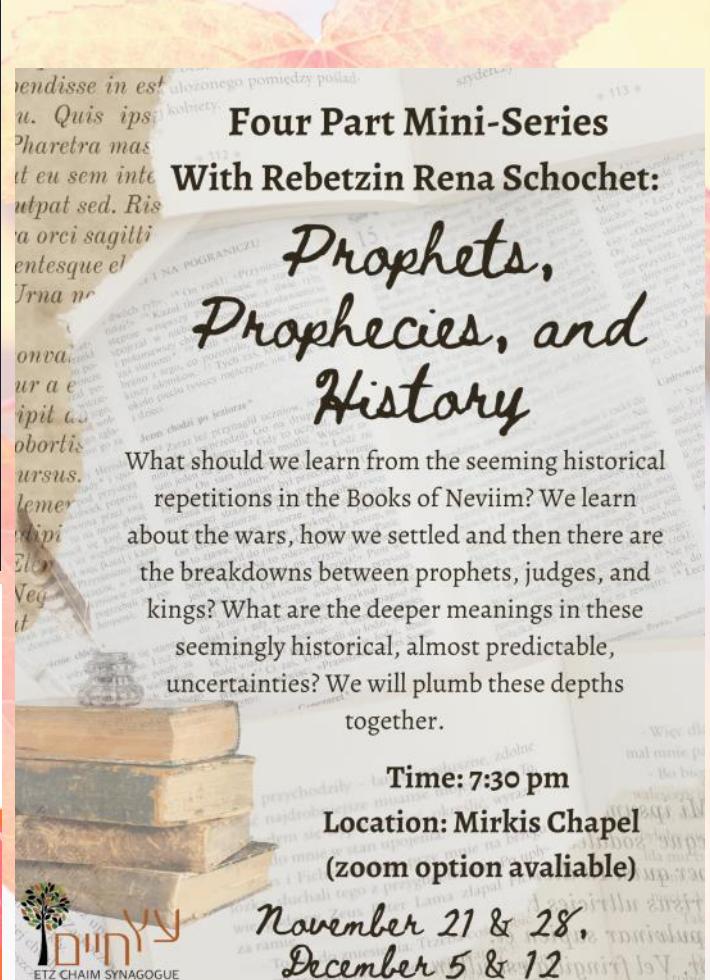
Sunday-Thursday	5:10PM
Additional Maariv at the Kollel Monday - Thursday	8:45PM

DAF YOMI

Monday - Friday	5:45AM
Shabbos	8:15AM
Sunday	7:30AM

TORAH READING

Parshas Chayei Sara	Page: 106
Haftorah Chayei Sara	Page: 1134



TOP CHEF

GRADES 5-8 VS \$15

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20TH 4-6PM

REGISTER NOW! JAX.NCSY.ORG

Contact: Master Chef Sam Clarke 561-409-9383

NEW DATE! THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Community-Wide Challah Bake

Congregation Ahavath Chesed
8727 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32217

Community-Wide Challah Bake
NEW DATE! THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
Registration opens: 6:45 PM
Start: 7:00 PM

The cost to attend is \$10. Sponsorships levels of \$18 Silver & \$36 Gold are also available

Please feel free to BYOA (bring your own apron)!

Register at: <https://events.idonate.com/challahbake22>

Please Contact Tammy Fisch with any questions tammy.etzchaim@gmail.com

HAPPENINGS IN THE COMMUNITY

CHANUKKAH & HAVDALAH

SAT, DEC 3 | 6:45 PM
Jacksonville Jewish Center - Beth Shalom Park

Come together as a community to end Shabbat and join in crafts, a story walk, and a fun and engaging service during our annual Havdalah ceremony with a Chanukkah twist! Support our Monthly Member Mitzvah and donate an unwrapped toy or book for the annual LJD Jewish Family & Community Services holiday gift-giving program.

Please register by Nov 28 at jcajax.org or call (904) 730-2100 ext. 228.

This free community-wide event is in partnership with:

JCA **Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida** **JFCS** **PJ Library**
Temple Bet Yam **IDC** **BETHHEL** **Congregation Ahavath Chesed** **JACKSONVILLE JEWISH CENTER**

GIRLS NIGHT IN!

GET READY FOR A FUN NIGHT OF HAIR STYLING! BRACELETS! PIZZA! MOVIE! POPCORN! ICE CREAM! MUSIC! DANCING!

At the One and Only Torah Academy of Jacksonville
GIRLS 1ST - 6TH GRADE **NOVEMBER 22ND**
1 Girl: \$15 **6:30pm - 9:00pm**
2 Girls: \$25 **RSVP BY NOVEMBER 15**
RSVP: ESMITH22@TORAH-ACADEMY.COM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SUSAN GOLDMAN
ARIELLA HAMAOUI
AIDAN KEMPNER
MOSHE LAZOR
DINA MIRSKY
SIMMA RABINOWITZ
MARK SHORSTEIN



Mazel Tov!

To Dr. Ed and Caroline Lee
upon the engagement of
their daughter, Dr. Tal Lee,
to her beshert, Sam
Kopansky of Philadelphia.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

RABBI SHALOM & SHIRA HOROWITZ

REFUAH SHELEMAH

FERN ESTNER
SUSAN GOLDMAN
HOPE KULISH
FOMA MAKHTINA
BONNIE HARDY
MYRON FLAGLER
JAY LIPPER
RIVKA OHAYON
BOBBY HANDMAKER
CHANA FISHMAN

YAHRZEIT

VICTOR HUBSCH
HARRY JAFFA
CHARLES KUPFER
KHEIM RABILIZAROV
MARGALIT RABILIZAROV
BESSIE SHYKEN
GRISHA SUKHAR
EDWARD TOMACHEVSKIY

Thank you volunteers!

**Thank you to the
Torah Academy High School girls
for helping us enhance the Kiddush
experience this Shabbos.
If you would like to volunteer, please contact
Tammy Fisch (904) 262-3565 extension #5
Tammy@etzchaim.org**

Please note that the
office will be closed on
Thursday and Friday,
November 24 and 25.

