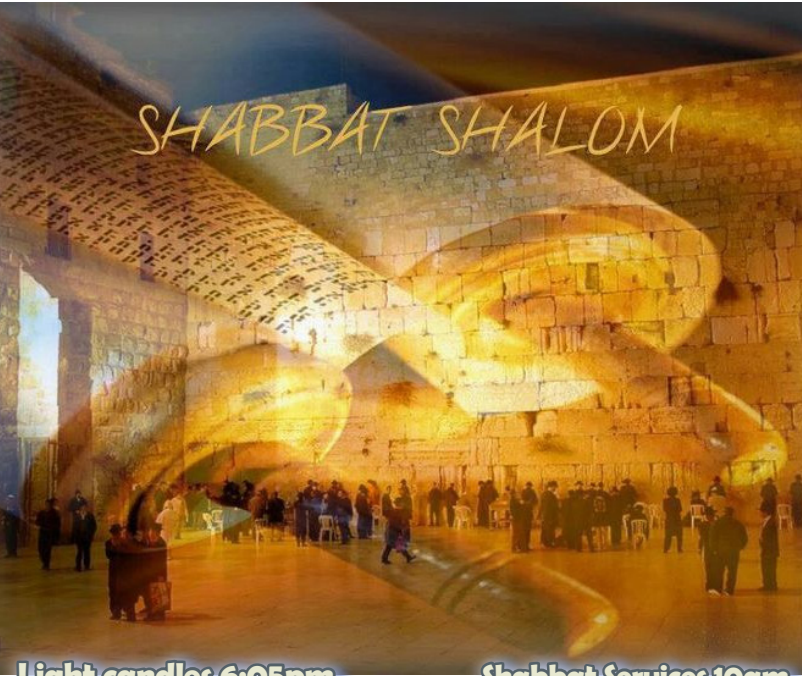




Carnegie Shul Chatter

October 25, 2023



Light candles 6:05pm

Shabbat Services 10am

Shabbat Services on Zoom, 10am

Attend services virtually this week. Watch your email for a Zoom link or contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2474599/jewish/Lech-Lecha-Torah-Reading.htm

The Covenant

This week's parshah includes some of the most important verses in the entire Torah.

It includes God making his covenant with Abraham and promising him the entire land of Canaan for an everlasting possession. It includes the requirement that Abraham's seed and the seed of every male after him be circumcised as the sign of a covenant between God and Abraham.

It includes the birth of Ishmael, and God blessing him, and promising to making him fruitful, and to multiply him exceedingly and make him into a great nation.

And it includes God telling Abraham, "Indeed, your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac, and I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his seed after him."

And so we have the very good news of a covenant between God, Abraham and the Jewish people, and the gift of the land of Canaan as the Promised Land for the Jewish people.

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And we have the promise of the birth of Isaac, who was to follow in Abraham's footsteps, and who would carry on the Jewish tradition and relationship with God as established by Abraham.

But we also have the birth of Ishmael, who God says, "will be a wild donkey of a man," and who was not fit to carry on Abraham's legacy.

Ismael and Isaac. Polar opposites. And no good was certainly to come from that.



Please continue reciting the Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel daily and pray for the wellbeing of all of our Israeli brothers and sisters.

Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel

“Our Father Who art in Heaven, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, bless Thou the State of Israel which marks the dawn of our deliverance. Shield it beneath the wings of Thy love. Spread over it Thy canopy of peace; send Thy light and Thy truth to its leaders, officers, and counselors, and direct them with Thy good counsel.

“O God, strengthen the defenders of our Holy Land; grant them salvation and crown them with victory. Establish peace in the land, and everlasting joy for its inhabitants.

“Remember our brethren, the whole house of Israel, in all the lands of their dispersion. Speedily let them walk upright to Zion, the city, to Jerusalem Thy dwelling-place, as it is written in the Torah of Thy servant Moses: ‘Even if you are dispersed in the uttermost parts of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather and fetch you. The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it.’

“Unite our heart to love and revere Thy Name, and to observe all the precepts of Thy Torah. Shine forth in Thy glorious majesty over all the inhabitants of Thy world. Let everything that breathes proclaim: The Lord God of Israel is King; His majesty rules over all.”

Amen.

Lech Lecha in a Nutshell

From Chabad.org

Genesis 12:1–17:27

The name of the Parshah, “Lech Lecha,” means “Go Forth” and it is found in Genesis 12:1.

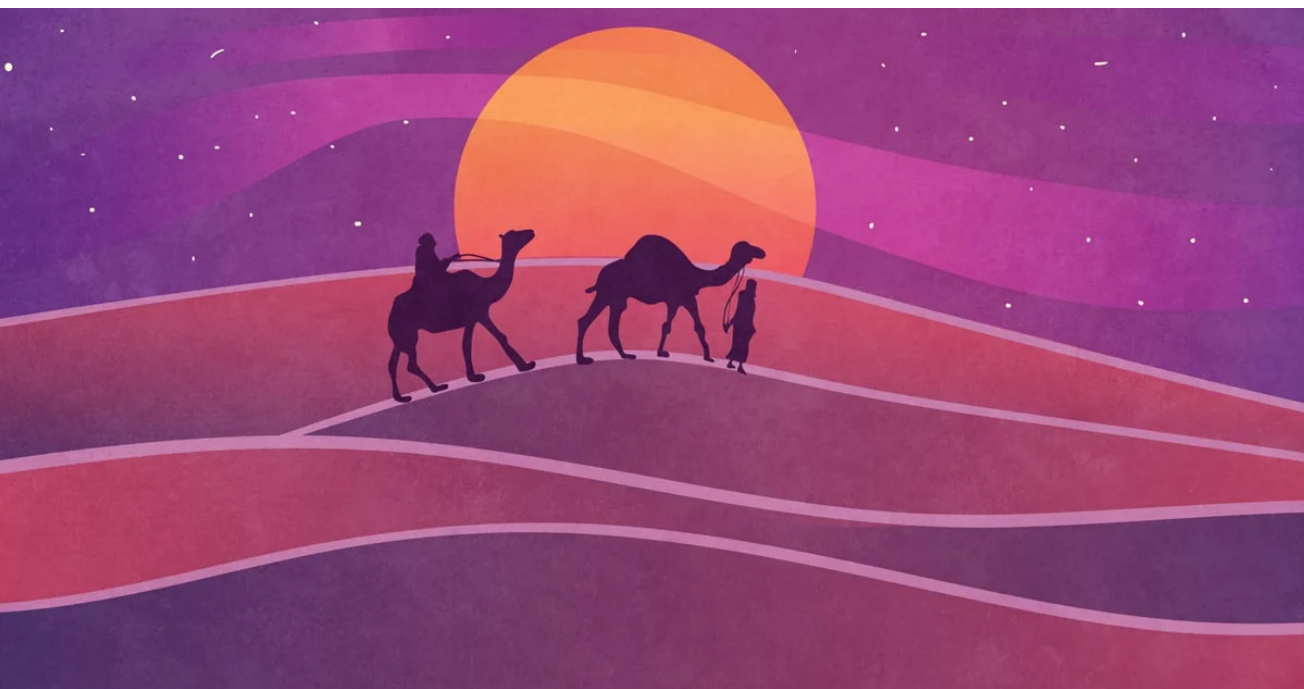
G-d speaks to Abram, commanding him, “Go from your land, from your birthplace and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you.” There, G-d says, he will be made into a great nation. Abram and his wife, Sarai, accompanied by his nephew Lot, journey to the land of Canaan, where Abram builds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

Haftorah in a Nutshell

Isaiah 40:27-41:16

The haftorah for this week discusses Abraham's journey to the land of Canaan at G-d's behest, and touches upon Abraham's miraculous battle against the four kings, both of which are described in this week's Torah reading.

The prophet Isaiah addresses Israel's complaint: "'My way [of serving G-d] has been ignored by the Lord, and from my G-d, my judgment passes [unrewarded]."

Isaiah reminds Israel of the Creator's greatness. The time will come when "He will give the tired strength, and to him who has no strength, He will increase strength. Youths shall become tired and weary, and young men shall stumble, but those who put their hope in the Lord shall renew [their] vigor, they shall raise wings as eagles; they shall run and not weary, they shall walk and not tire." Nevertheless, "there is no comprehension of His wisdom," and as such, at times we cannot understand why He chooses to delay the reward of the righteous.

The haftorah then turns its attention to the idolatrous nations of the world. Isaiah reminds them of Abraham's greatness, how after arriving in Canaan he pursued and defeated four mighty kings. "The islands saw and feared; the ends of the earth quaked." Nevertheless, the nations who witness these miracles did not abandon their ways. "The [idol] craftsman strengthened the smith, the one who smoothes [the idol] with the hammer strengthened the one who wields the sledge hammer; the one who glues its coating says, 'It is good,' and he strengthened it with nails that it should not move..."

G-d promises the Jewish nation to reward them for their loyalty to G-d. "Do not fear for I am with you; be not discouraged for I am your G-d. . . Behold all those incensed against you shall be ashamed and confounded; those who quarreled with you shall be as naught and be lost."



Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Hermine Green

Jennie Landau

May their memories be for a blessing.

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6 p.m.
At Chatham University's Eddy Theatre

A Conversation with Holocaust Survivor Albert Farhy

PART OF THE ELIZABETH SYLVIAN MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

**HOLOCAUST
CENTER OF
PITTSBURGH**

Kristallnacht programming is generously
supported by Edgar Snyder



The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh will present its first in a series of “Elizabeth Sylvian Memorial Lectures,” addressing issues related to the Holocaust, including lessons still to be learned and implications for the 21st century.

Thursday, November 9, 6 PM • Chatham University’s Eddy Theatre

This program marks the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the “night of broken glass,” the organized pogrom against Jews in Nazi Germany.

Albert Farhy was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. At the age of 13, he was forced into a ghetto then almost sent to a concentration camp, before Bulgarian officials stepped in to prevent his deportation. Albert will discuss topics including his life before and during the Holocaust, and his rescue at the hands of the Bulgarian officials. He will also recount stories about the presence of music in his life, as his father was once a musician, who played the violin and was involved with the Jewish Symphony of Bulgaria.

This event is in-person and capacity is limited. Be sure to register in advance!

Visit the Holocaust Center’s website to register: <https://hcofpg.org/>