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It's time to "Fall Back!"
Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday at Zman



The next Shul Board meeting will be held on Wednesday night, November 11th, at 8:15 P.M., in the shul basement.

Congregation Beth Aaron

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Ronnie Schwartz, President
Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi

Shabbat Announcements

Parashat Lech Lecha October 31, 2009 15 Cheshvan 5770

- Latest Candles: 5:37 P.M.
- *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 5:40 P.M.
- *Shacharit. Hashkama*: 7:30 A.M.
- Rabbi Rothwachs' *Tefillah shiur*: 8:20 A.M.
- Main *Shul*: 8:45 A.M.
- Youth *Minyan*: 9:30 A.M.
- *Sof Zman Kriat Shema*: 10:02 A.M.
- Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
- *Daf Yomi*: 4:20 P.M.
- Women's Learning Group: 4:30 P.M. We will be studying *Shmuel Bet*, Chapter 23.
- *Mincha*: 5:30 P.M.
- *Maariv*: 6:37 P.M.
- *Havdalah*: 6:46 P.M.

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	5:26	5:28	5:29	5:30	5:31	5:32
<i>Shacharit</i>	6:30 7:15 8:00 8:45	5:40 6:20 7:10 8:00	5:55 6:30 7:15 8:00	5:55 6:30 7:15 8:00	5:40 6:20 7:10 8:00	5:55 6:30 7:15 8:00
<i>Mincha</i>	1:00					
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	4:35	4:35	4:35	4:35	4:35	4:35
<i>Maariv</i>	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	

Please note: For November only, *Hashkama* will begin at 7:15 A.M. and the Youth *Minyan* will begin at 9:15 A.M.

- Weekly Shiurim:**
- *Daf Yomi. Shabbat*: 4:20 P.M. For other *Daf Yomi shiurim*, go to www.teaneckshuls.org/daf
 - **Chabura on Revadim method of Talmud Study:** Sunday evening at 8:15 P.M. This *chabura* applies the *Revadim* method of Talmud study pioneered by Rabbi Pinchas Hayman.
 - **Rabbi Baruch Simon shiur** - Monday evening at 8:15 P.M. on "Tefilat Haderekh - Part 2"
 - **Parshat ha-Shavua shiur by Rabbi Neil Lauer:** "The Other Five Towns" - Tuesday evening, 8:45 to 9:30 P.M.
 - **Rabbi Rothwachs' Bava Kama-shiur:** Wednesday evening at 8:30 P.M.
 - **Chabura by Rabbi Herschel Grossman on Sefer Nefesh ha-Chaim** - Thursday evening, 8:15 to 9:00 P.M.
 - **Morning Mishnah Chabura:** Monday and Thursday - 6:55 A.M.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7:00 A.M.

We are resuming our **Shalom Bayit/Chinuch Chabura**, led by Rabbi Rothwachs, which will meet every other week on Tuesday evenings. If interested in participating, please contact Rob Ernst, robernst@gmail.com, for more details on time and location.

Mazal Tov

- *Mazal Tov* to Rabbi Yitzchok and Rachel Furst on the marriage of their daughter Ahuva to Roman Tsibulevskiy. Mazal Tov also to Roman's parents and grandparents, to Ahuva's grandmother and to the entire family.
- *Mazal Tov* to Michael and Bonnie Rogovin on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Ora.
- *Mazal Tov* to Naphtali and Nancy Lichtenstein on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Rivka.
- *Mazal Tov* to Alona and David Shapiro on the birth of their grandson Eitan Aryeh, born to their children Ayelet and Dovid Tzvi Hirschel.
- *Mazal Tov* to Kal and Barbara Feinberg on the birth of their granddaughter Ahuva Sarah, born to their children David and Hadassah Feinberg of Ramat Beit Shemesh.
- *Mazal Tov* to Rabbi Jay and Dr. Linda Goldmintz on the engagement of their daughter Elana to Jonathan Gotfried of Phoenix, Arizona.
- *Mazal Tov* to Jeff and Sariva Sklar on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Shani and Ariel Kopitnikoff. All are invited to the *shalom zachar*, which will be held on Friday evening at the Sklar home, 700 Queen Anne Road, beginning at 8:15 P.M.

Condolences

- Condolences to Aviva Yablok on the passing of her beloved father Gustav Samter.
- Condolences to Gila Katz on the passing of her beloved mother Leisel Mayerfeld.
- Condolences to Ira and Stanley Cooper and Rochelle Schneider on the passing of their beloved father Paul (Pinchas) Cooper.
- Condolences to Marcia Kreinberg on the passing of her beloved mother Judy Leff.

At present, a member's *simcha* is usually included on the *shul* calendar only if a request has been made to use the *shul* for some part of the *simcha*. As a result, some *smachot* are inadvertently omitted from the *Mazal Tov* section of the weekly announcements, and several *smachot* are sometimes scheduled simultaneously. To attempt to forestall conflicts, we would request that all *smachot* of our members be added to our *shul* calendar, whether the *shul* is being used or not. To add an event to the calendar, please contact Joel Richter, joel.richter@us.hsbc.com, jrich613@optonline.net. (Please note that all *shul* rentals must follow the proper protocol, and that listing an event on the *shul* calendar does not constitute a reservation. Also, only *smachot* that are held at the *shul* will be shown on the printed calendar distributed to our members.)

Miscellaneous Shul Announcements

On *Motzaei Shabbat*, November 7th, at 8:30 P.M., **Sisterhood** will be having an **Open Membership Meeting** at Care One at Wellington Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center, 301 Union Street, Hackensack. We will be playing "Don't Forget the Lyrics," and there will be exciting prizes awarded. The cost is \$18 per person at the door, plus your membership dues (\$36 total). Come out for a fun night and hear about the plans the Sisterhood has for the new year. Dairy desserts will be served. To RSVP, contact Shannon Gononsky, (201) 836-4644, shan1yael@yahoo.com, or Yacha Singer, (201) 836-4040, yacha@mo-b.org.

The **Young Members' Committee** is pleased to announce that our **sixth Round Town Shabbat Lunch** will be held on *Shabbat*, December 5th. The Round Town Lunch program allows young members of Beth Aaron to meet other young members with common interests. A Round Town Lunch is hosted every other month, and we rotate hosts so that, ideally, every family that signs up will have a chance to meet every other family participating in the program. Each family will ordinarily host every third lunch. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, contact Rob Ernst, bethaaronrsvp@gmail.com, Moishe Singer, moishe@gmail.com, or Tzippy Staum, (201) 862-0307. To sign up, please contact Rob Ernst, bethaaronrsvp@gmail.com, by November 13th.

Beth Aaron is proud to be hosting a **Junior YACHAD Shabbaton** on November 6-7. It will be a memorable weekend for many! If you would like to sponsor a participant to attend the *Shabbaton*, please contact Sara Taragin. We are also in need of hosts to house the guests. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Sara Taragin, bstaragin@hotmail.com, (201) 928-1104, Valerie Kahn, (201) 530-1712, kahnclan@optonline.net, or Lisa Breen, lisahbreen@yahoo.com. Thank you!

We are pleased to announce that the **Beth Aaron Boys' Choir** is available for shul functions and Beth Aaron Community's *simchas* (except on *Shabbat*). Updates on all activities are on the shul's website in the Youth section. For more information, or to join the choir, contact Benjy Rosenbluth, bdrosenbluth@yahoo.com, (201) 357-5685, or Yehiel Levy, (201) 357-5495, yehiel@optonline.net.

The annual **Chanukah Toy Drive**, a unique opportunity to bring the joy of *Chanukah* to Jewish children less fortunate than our own, is underway. We are collecting **new, unwrapped items**, such as electronic and board games, arts and crafts supplies, books, dolls, sports equipment, and toys with Jewish themes and content. While this is called a "toy" drive, please keep in mind when selecting presents that many recipients are older children and young teenagers. Ideas for this age group include portable tape players, radios, jewelry, watches, stationery, diaries, books, posters and sports equipment. Hebrew music tapes are especially appreciated for all age groups. Please remove all price tags, and remember -- no used items! Our deadline is December 4th, so that the items can be delivered to the children in time for *Chanukah*. Please drop off all gifts at the Leifer home, 150 Chadwick Road, (201) 807-0309. Zoldan's Judaica Center and Judaica House will take 10% off the price of any non-sale item bought for the Toy Drive. Special collection boxes will be set up in both stores.

Cafe Adam, 445 Cedar Lane, is NO LONGER under RCBC supervision.

Beth Aaron Youth:

- The **learning group for 3rd grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, October 31st, at 4:00 P.M., at the Neugroschl home, 100 Edgemont Place. We will continue studying *Sefer Shmuel*. For more information, contact Doug Dubitsky, douglas_dubitsky@glc.com.
- The **learning group for 4th grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, October 31st, at 4:00 P.M., at the Samuel home, 860 Red Road. Please bring your own *Mishnah (Masechet Beitzah)*. For more information, contact Rebecca Kurz, rkurz1@yahoo.com, or Esther Klavan, eskslp@aol.com.
- Want to celebrate your child's birthday with their friends in *Shabbat* morning groups? You can sponsor a **birthday kiddush** for your child's group for \$36. For more information, please contact Erica or Jason David.

Junior NCSY (grades 6-8):

- Our next **Nosh of Torah** program will be held this *Shabbat*, October 31st, at 4:45 P.M., in the *shul* basement. There will be a special guest speaker.
- On the weekend of November 6-7, we will be going to an **NCSY Shabbaton** at Congregation Ohr Torah in Highland Park. On Friday, November 6th, buses will be leaving from school at 2:00 P.M., and we will return to Beth Aaron about 10:30 P.M. on Saturday night, November 7th. The cost is \$48. To register, go to www.njnscsy.com and click on the Highland Park *Shabbaton* link.
- To RSVP, or if you have any questions about our events, e-mail Danielle, bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com, or call (201) 247-7961.

Beth Aaron Teens (grades 9-12):

- Beth Aaron Teens will be participating in the UJA's annual **Mitzvah Day** this Sunday, November 1st. We will be going to Bright Side Manor, 300 Teaneck Road, from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M., to play bingo and hang out with senior citizens. RSVP to bethaaronteens@gmail.com if you're interesting in coming, and also sign up on the Mitzvah Day web page, www.ujannj.org/mitzvahday
- Beth Aaron Teens will be having its first "**Tea and Torah**" on the afternoon of *Shabbat*, November 14th. We will join together for a *shiur*, delicious tea and snacks, and games. More details coming soon!
- If you have any questions about these events, or to RSVP, e-mail bethaaronteens@gmail.com, or call Shifty Friedman, (201) 341-6022, or Noam Friedman, (201) 937-6249.

Community Announcements

CareOne, the kosher rehabilitation and nursing center located at 544 Teaneck Road, needs volunteers to help make a *minyan*. This Friday, *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat* will begin at 5:45 P.M. *Shacharit* will be at 9:00 A.M., followed by a hot *Kiddush*. Youth groups begin at 9:30 A.M. *Mincha* will be at 5:25 P.M., followed by a *shiur* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 5:40 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 6:38 P.M.

UJA NNJ's Mitzvah Day will be held this **Sunday, November 1st**. Over 1,500 volunteers are expected at more than 35 sites on this special community-wide day of caring. To see all of the project choices and/or to register online, please go to www.ujannj.org/mitzvahday. For more information, please contact Alice Blass, (201) 820-3948, aliceb@ujannj.org.

This Sunday, November 1st, from 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., at Congregation Beth Abraham, 396 New Bridge Road, Bergenfield, **Rabbi Yaakov Marcus of Neve Yerushalayim** will present a philosophic/*hashkafic* lecture on "**A Diamond in the Crown: Discovering the Deeper Meaning Behind Hair Covering.**" The lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The **Torah Academy of Bergen County** invites prospective parents to an **Open House** this Sunday morning, November 1st, at 9:15 A.M., at the yeshiva, 1600 Queen Anne Road. For more information, please call the office, (201) 837-7696, or go to www.tabc.org.

On Monday, November 2nd, at 8:15 P.M., at Yeshivat Noam, 70 West Century Road, Paramus, Yeshivat Noam's Health Committee presents **Practical Tips for Healthy Living and Adjusting One's Lifestyle**, featuring Dr. Steven Becker, pediatrician, and Pliya Plaut, holistic health counselor. For more information, please contact Jordana Becker, sbeck212@yahoo.com.

The **Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey** invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Tuesday, November 3rd, at 8:00 P.M., at the yeshiva, 666 Kinderkamack Road. For more information, contact Debbie Rosenberg, (201) 986-1414, rynjopenhouse@ynj.org.

Yeshivat Ben Porat Yosef invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Wednesday, November 4th, at 8:00 P.M., at the yeshiva. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Ruth Roth, Director of Admissions, RuthR@benporatyosef.org, (201) 845-5007 ext. 16.

Yeshivat Noam invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Sunday, November 8th, at 7:30 P.M., at the yeshiva, 70 West Century Road, Paramus. For more information, please contact Ruchie, (201) 261-1919 ext. 113, or go to www.yeshivatnoam.org.

Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls invites prospective parents and their daughters to an **Open House** on Sunday, November 8th, at 1:30 P.M., at the school, 1650 Palisade Avenue. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Rivka Kahan, (201) 833-4307 ext. 202.

Directed by the Rosh Yeshiva of the highly regarded Ner Israel Yeshiva, Rabbi Aaron Feldman, **Yeshivas Ohr Yosef**, which is moving to a new, permanent building in Teaneck, seeks to inspire young men of diverse backgrounds to achieve a rich Torah experience and excellence in secular studies. This yeshiva high school seeks to nurture emotional, spiritual, social and intellectual maturity, while respecting students' individuality of learning styles, interests, dress and lifestyles. It is currently recruiting 7th and 8th grade boys to enter the school in 2010 and 2011. For more information, please contact Shmuley Brodsky, SJBrodsky@aol.com, (212) 726-2390, or the *menahel*, Rabbi Herschel Grossman, rabbihg@yahoo.com, (201) 921-4921.

Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls is hosting a drive to benefit Bears from Bergenfield, through Friday, November 6th. **We are collecting new or moderately used stuffed animals to be distributed in Israel.** For more information, please contact Ariella Steinreich, Chessed Requirement Coordinator, steinreicha@maayanot.org, (201) 833-4307 ext. 233.

Registration for the 2010 season of the **Teaneck Baseball Organization (TBO)** is now open. Children ages 5 to 14 (as of July 31st) are eligible to participate in our baseball/softball programs. To register, go to www.teaneckbaseball.org. Registration ends November 30th.

Each year, the *TeaneckShuls* e-mail list-serve sponsors a **fundraiser for a local tzedakah** to give members an opportunity to recognize the benefits that *TeaneckShuls* provides to the entire community. All donations are tax deductible and payable directly to the designated recipient.

This year, *TeaneckShuls* has selected **NNJKIDS (Northern New Jersey Kehillot Investing in Day Schools)** -- a new community initiative which seeks to address the challenge of day school affordability, ensuring access to high-quality, dual-curricular education to all children in the community. All proceeds will be distributed to local day schools, mitigating the rising costs of tuition. We recognize that many of *TeaneckShuls*' members may have already contributed to this *tzedakah*, but we respectfully request that you consider an additional contribution in lieu of the annual dues that many would gladly pay to participate in *TeaneckShuls*. Checks payable to NNJKIDS should be sent to Shari Lindenbaum, 464 Winthrop Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666. Donations of any amount are welcomed and appreciated.

Parasha Questions for Parashat Lech Lecha:

- (a) Why did Hashem tell Avram to go "to the land that I will show you," instead of ordering him to *Eretz Canaan* (4 reasons)? (b) When He commanded Avram to go, why did He add "*lecha*" (for yourself) to "*lech lecha*" (10 explanations)? (*Beresheet* 12:1)
- (a) Which 6 of Hashem's 10 *nisyonot* (trials) of Avraham occurred in *Parashat Lech Lecha* (2 opinions)? (b) Did Avram commit a sin by traveling to *Mitzrayim* with Sarai during the famine (2 opinions)? (*Beresheet* 12:1-17:12)
- (a) Why did Avraham separate from Lot (2 reasons)? (b) Why does the *Torah* add: "the *Canaan* and the *Perizi* were then dwelling in the land" when describing the dispute between the shepherds of Avraham and Lot (3 reasons)? (*Beresheet* 13:7-8)
- (a) Who was *Malki Tzedek*? (b) Why was he called by this name (3 reasons)? (c) Why did he bring Avraham bread and wine? (d) (1) What was *Malki Tzedek*'s sin? (2) and his punishment? (e) How do we know that one should not impose his *chumrot* (stringencies that he undertakes) on others? (*Beresheet* 14:18-24)
- (a) Why did Hashem first tell Avraham that his descendants would be uncountable *ke-afar ha-aretz* (like the dust of the land) (*Beresheet* 13:16) and later compare his descendants to the stars of the heavens (2 explanations)? (b) What is the meaning of the angel's description of *Yishmael* as "*yado ba-kol, ve-yad kol bo*" (his hand is in everything, and everyone's hand is in him) (3 explanations)? (c) How do we see this in *Bnei Yishmael* today? (*Beresheet* 15:5,16:12)
- (a) Why did Hashem command the *mitzvah* of *mila* (3 reasons)? (b) Why did He command Avraham that his descendants be circumcised on the 8th day? (c) Why does the *Torah* repeat the *mitzvah* of *mila* in *Vayikra* 12:3? (c) (*Beresheet* 17:10-12)
- In the *haftara*, why does the *Navi*, when criticizing idol worship, call Avraham "*ohavi*" (one who loved Me)? (*Yeshayahu* 41:8)

Learning Opportunities

• The **Amud Yomi shiur** meets week nights at 9:30 P.M. at Rinat Yisrael.

Motzei Shabbat

Rabbi Reisman's satellite *Navi shiur*: 9:00 P.M. at Keter Torah

Sunday

• This Sunday, November 1st, in lieu of the weekly Kollel and Midreshet Yom Rishon programs, Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future invites you to a special **Yom Iyun** entitled "**Heroes and Villains in Tanach.**" The program, in Furst Hall Room 501 (500 West 185th Street, at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue) is open to men and women. Admission is free for YU students, with a \$5 suggested donation for others, and no registration is required. Complimentary parking is available. The program begins at 9:30 A.M. with a *shiur* by **Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter**. This will be followed by three one-hour *shiurim* (beginning at 10:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M.), with four concurrent *shiurim* being offered each hour. The program will conclude with *mincha* at 1:30 P.M. For more information, go to www.kollelyomrison.org or www.midreshetyomrison.org. (212) 960-0041.

• The **Chofetz Chaim Women's Learning Group** will meet this Sunday, November 1st, at the Lewy home, 138 Grayson Place.

Monday

• Each Monday, from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M., a **Tehillim group** will meet at Rochi Lerner's home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

• The **Bergen Community Kollel for Baale Batim** meets every Monday morning in the Beth Aaron library. The schedule is as follows: 8:00-8:20 A.M. - *Mussar Classics*; 8:20-9:30 A.M. - *Gemara Ketubot*; 9:30-10:00 A.M. - *Hilchot Shabbat*. All are invited to come for part or all of the *shiur*. No previous background is required. For more information, contact Dr. Andy Fink, (201) 833-2527.

Tuesday

• Rochi Lerner's **Tehillim shiur** takes place every Tuesday evening at 8:30 P.M. at Rochi Lerner's home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

Wednesday

• On Wednesday mornings, at 10:30 A.M., Rochi Lerner presents a **Megillat Esther shiur**, in memory of the Seidenfeld children, at the Lerner home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

• Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky's Wednesday evening *shiur* takes place at Bnai Yeshurun at 9:15 P.M.

Thursday

• **Rabbi Yissocher Frand's** weekly *shiur* will be broadcast at 9:00 P.M. at Keter Torah.

• Each Thursday morning until January 14th, from 11:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M., **Rochie Lerner** will be giving a *shiur* at **Yeshivat Noam**, 70 West Century Road, Paramus, which will explore the characters of *Yitzchak* and *Shimshon*. The *shiurim* are open to the entire community, and there is no charge. For more information, or if you wish to sponsor a *shiur*, please contact esteeekirsch@yahoo.com or shulamitholzer@yahoo.com.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, **Keter Torah** presents **Torah in the AM**: 9:00 to 9:40 A.M. - *Navi chavura* on *Sefer Shmuel Bet*; 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. - Rabbi Menachem Meier's *Talmud shiur* on *Bava Metzria*, Chapter 5; 10:50 to 11:40 A.M. - Rabbi Meier's *shiur* on *Jeremiah* (Thursday only); 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon - Rabbi Baum's *shiur* on *Sefer Ezra* (Tuesday only)

Answers to Parasha Questions:

1. (a) (1) In order to keep *Avram* in suspense and make the destination more beloved in his eyes (*Bereishit Raba*). (2) Withholding the destination made the journey more difficult, giving him a greater reward (*Medrash Tanchuma*). (3) *Hashem* did not reveal the destination because He did not want heathens to follow him to *Cana'an* (*Abarbanel*). (4) *Terach* might have accompanied him, as he did when *Avram* left *Ur Kasdim*; *Hashem* wanted *Avram* to go alone (*Malbim*). (b) *Hashem* was hinting that: (1) *Avram's* going will be for his own benefit and own good, to become a great nation and have children; (2) *Avram's* travels will make him famous (*Rashi*). (3) *Avram* should abandon his land entirely and not entertain any notion of returning (*Bechor Shor*). (4) *Avram* must break away from earthly matters and lusts (*Zohar*). (5) *Avram* should get out and experience travelers' difficulties, so he will practice hospitality with sincerity and compassion (*Zechuta de-Avraham*). (6) Since the *gematria* of *lech lecha* is 100, when *Avraham* reaches the age of "*lech lecha*" (100), with *Yitzchak's* birth, He will make *Avraham* into a great nation, as stated in verse 2; (7) after *Avraham* goes to *Eretz Yisrael*, he will live another 100 years; i.e., he left *Charan* to travel to *Eretz Yisrael* at age 75, as stated in verse 4, and he died at age 175; (8) *Bnei Yisrael* twice will go (*lech*) into *galut* after destruction of the *Beit ha-Mikdash*; (9) *lecha* signifies that *Bnei Yisrael's galut* occurred after the 50th generation, in the days of *Tzidkiyahu ha-Melech* – there were 10 generations from *Adam* to *Noach*, 13 generations from *Shem* to *David ha-Melech*, and 17 generations from *Shlomo ha-Melech* to *Tzidkiyahu*, a total of 50 generations (*Ba'al ha-Turim*). (10) The phrase "*lech lecha*" is merely a common idiomatic usage (*Ramban*).

2. (a) Both *Pirkei de-Rebi Eliezer* and the *Rambam* list the following 5 *nisyonot* occurring in this *parasha*: (1) *Avram* leaving his homeland; (2) famine in *Eretz Canaan*; (3) *Sarai* taken to *Pharaoh's* palace; (4) *Avram's* war against the 4 kings who captured *Lot*; and (5) the *mitzvah* for *Avraham* to circumcise himself. The 6th *nisyon* was either: (i) *Brit bein ha-betarim* (Covenant between the Parts), during which *Avram* saw his descendants' 4 future exiles (*Pirkei de-Rebi Eliezer*); or (ii) taking *Hagar* for a wife (*Ramban*). (b) (1) Yes, he committed 2 unintentional sins: (i) he should not have left *Eretz Yisrael*; and (ii) he should not have brought his wife to a place of sin and immorality; rather, he should have had faith that *Hashem* would protect both of them in *Eretz Yisrael* from the famine (*Ramban*). (2) No, he did not sin, since the *Mishna* states that *Avraham* was tested with 10 trials and passed all of them – one of the trials was going with his wife to *Mitzrayim* during the famine (*Avot* 5:4); also, he followed what *Bava Kama* 60b says, "when there is a famine in the land, one should withdraw to another place" (*Abarbanel*).

3. (a) (1) Because of the strife between *Avraham's* shepherds, who stopped their sheep from grazing on other peoples' land, and *Lot's* shepherds, who allowed theirs to graze (*Rashi*). (2) The *Canaanim* worshipped idols, and *Avraham* sensed *Lot's* inclination toward *avoda zara* (*Malbim*). (b) (1) *Lot* mistakenly thought that his sheep grazing on others' land was not stealing, since *Hashem* had promised *Eretz Yisrael* to *Avraham*, he was *Avraham's* and *Sarah's* closest heir, and he would inherit the land; the verse tells us that as long as the *Canaanim* and *Perizim* lived there, the land did not belong yet to *Avraham* or his heirs, and it was not available for the shepherds' use (*Rashi*). (2) *Lot's* shepherds grazed their sheep in *Avraham's* territory, and *Avraham* feared that their dispute would draw the unfavorable attention of the *Canaanim* and *Perizim*, who would drive them from *Canaan* (*Ramban*). (3) *Lot* and *Avraham* each had large herds, but neither could enlarge his pastures because they were surrounded by the *Canaanim* and *Perizim* (*Chizkuni*).

4. (a) *Noach's* son *Shem*; *Avraham* was *Shem's* descendant 9 generations later; (b) *Shem* was *melech* (king) over a place: (1) known for its *tzedeck* (righteousness) (*ibn Ezra*). (2) that would not tolerate any injustice or abomination (*Radak*). (3) that would be the future home of the righteous *Shechina* in the *Beit ha-Mikdash* (*Ramban*). (c) to show he bore *Avraham* no malice; *Avraham* had slain *Kedolaomer* who is identified as *Elam*, *Shem's* son (*Rashi*). (d) (1) *Malki Tzedeck* blessed *Avraham*, in *Bereishit* 14:19, before he blessed *Hashem* in *Bereishit* 14:20; (2) as *Noach's* spiritual heir, *Shem* had been given the *kehuna* (priesthood); *Hashem* transferred the *kehuna* to *Avraham*, so that only *Avraham's* descendants were *kohanim*, not any of *Shem's* other descendants (*Nedarim* 32b). (e) *Avraham* refused to take the spoils of war from *Melech Sedom*, even though he was entitled to them; but he did accept payment for *Aner*, *Eshkol* and *Mamre*, the allies who helped him (*Chafetz Chaim*).

5. (a) (1) Comparing *Bnei Yisrael* to dust is a quantitative blessing – they will be as uncountable as dust; comparing them to the stars is a qualitative blessing – they will be as elevated and powerful as the stars (*Malbim*). (2) When *Bnei Yisrael* disobey *Hashem*, they will be trampled like dust, but when they listen to Him, they will be as lofty as the stars (*Megilla* 16a). (b) *Bnei Yishmael* (1) will be robbers, and all will hate and fight them (*Rashi*). (2) at first, will be victorious against all people, but ultimately, others will conquer them (*ibn Ezra*). (3) will be dependent on other nations, who, in turn, will be dependent on *Bnei Yishmael* (*Onkelos*). (c) The nations of the world depend on *Bnei Yishmael's* (the Islamic peoples') oil for the survival of their economies, and the viability of the economies of the *Bnei Yishmael's* nations depends on those nations (*A. Twersky*).

6. (a) (1) *Nedarim* 31b states that the foreskin is abhorrent; at birth, a male's body is imperfect – *mila* perfects it; (2) *Hashem* wanted the body to contain a sign separating *Bnei Yisrael* physically from the other nations; (3) *Hashem* is teaching that just as man takes action with *mila* to perfect his body, he must act to perfect his spirit (*Sefer ha-Chinuch – Mitzvah* 2). (b) The number 7 represents life's natural cycle, e.g., the 7 days of the week; with *mila* on the 8th day, *Bnei Yisrael* rise above nature to serve *Hashem* (*Maharal*). (c) To teach that the *mila* must occur on the 8th day, even if that day is *Shabbat* (*Shabbat* 132a-b).

7. *Avraham* showed his love of *Hashem* by not following in the footsteps of his forefathers, who were idol worshipers (*Rashi*).