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

We are pleased to announce that next *Shabbat, Parashat Chayei Sarah, Rabbi Eliezer Ozer, Rosh Yeshiva* of the Lomza Yeshiva in Petach Tikva, will be joining us. Rav Ozer will be speaking at an *Oneg* on Friday night and on *Shabbat* afternoon between *mincha* and *maariv*. More details to follow.

# Congregation Beth Aaron

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Ronnie Schwartz, President  
 Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi

# Shabbat Announcements

## Parashat Vayera November 7, 2009 22 Cheshvan 5770

- Latest Candles: 4:29 P.M.
- *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 4:35 P.M.
- *Shacharit. Hashkamah*: 7:15 A.M.
- Rabbi Rothwachs' *Tefillah shiur*: 8:20 A.M.
- Main *Shul*: 8:45 A.M.
- *Sof Zman Kriat Shema*: 9:06 A.M.
- Youth *Minyan*: 9:15 A.M.
- Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
- *Daf Yomi*: 3:10 P.M.
- Women's Learning Group: 3:20 P.M. We will be studying *Shmuel Bet*, Chapter 23.
- *Mincha*: 4:20 P.M., followed by a *shiur* by Rabbi Shimon Yerucham Green.
- *Maariv*: 5:29 P.M.
- *Havdalah*: 5:38 P.M.

Schedule for Week of Oct/November 8th:	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	5:35	5:36	5:37	5:39	5:39	5:41
<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>	4:25	4:25	4:25	4:25	4:25	4:25
<i>Maariv</i>	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	

### Weekly Shiurim:

- *Daf Yomi. Shabbat*: 3:10 P.M. For other *Daf Yomi shiurim*, go to [www.teaneckshuls.org/daf](http://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 Feldman's shiur**: Monday evening at 8:45 P.M.
- **Parshat ha-Shavua shiur by Rabbi Neil Lauer**: "Eliezer: Our Man From Damascus" - 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](mailto:robernst@gmail.com), for more details on time and location.

The next **Multi-Sponsored Kiddush** is scheduled for November 21st, *Shabbat Parshat Toledot*. Sponsorships are \$200. If you are commemorating a *yahrtzeit*, celebrating a *simcha*, or simply want to say "thank you," please consider being a sponsor of the *Kiddush*. To sponsor, please contact Bryan Stern, (201) 965-5820, or David Goldberg, (201) 530-0996, [goldbergda@yahoo.com](mailto:goldbergda@yahoo.com).

This *Shabbat*, following *mincha*, we will host **Rabbi Shimon Yerucham Green**, who will deliver a special *shiur*. Rabbi Green is the *Rosh Yeshiva* of Bircas HaTorah in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, a *yeshiva* of Talmud professionals that specializes in intensive programs for adults. His exciting presentations are renowned for their depth, clarity, humor and inspiration.

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.

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](mailto:joel.richter@us.hsbc.com), [jrich613@optonline.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bethaaronrsvp@gmail.com), Moishe Singer, [moishe@gmail.com](mailto:moishe@gmail.com), or Tzippy Staum, (201) 862-0307. To sign up, please contact Rob Ernst, [bethaaronrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:bethaaronrsvp@gmail.com), by November 13th.

Our next **Sisterhood Book Club** meeting will be on Saturday night, December 5th, at 7:30 P.M., at the home of Pearl Markovitz, 201 Grayson Place. We will be reading "The Zookeeper's Wife," by Diane Ackerman, a nonfiction book about a Polish woman who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust by hiding people in the zoo. All Beth Aaron women are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Diane Fogel, (201) 837-0651, [difogel@aol.com](mailto:difogel@aol.com)

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 Benji Rosenbluth, [bdrosenbluth@yahoo.com](mailto:bdrosenbluth@yahoo.com), (201) 357-5685, or Yehiel Levy, (201) 357-5495, [yehiel@optonline.net](mailto: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.

The **Teaneck Baby Gemach** has formula, diapers and clothing up to size 4T for girls and boys. It is open to anyone in Bergen County **regardless of financial status**. If you would like to receive items anonymously through the *gemach*, you may send an email to [jrfleisher@gmail.com](mailto:jrfleisher@gmail.com) with the items you need and they will be put out on the front porch for you to pick up at a designated time. We are still low on the following items and would appreciate donations of diapers, specialty formula (Soy, Gentlease, Nutramigen, etc), onesies, pajamas and one-piece outfits. We also give and receive donations of baby food.

#### Beth Aaron Youth:

- The **learning group for 3rd grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, November 7th, at **3:00 P.M.**, at the Schwartz home, 641 Cumberland Avenue. We will continue studying *Sefer Shmuel*. For more information, contact Doug Dubitsky, [douglas\\_dubitsky@glic.com](mailto:douglas_dubitsky@glic.com).
- The **learning group for 4th grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, November 7th, at **3:10 P.M.**, at the Cooper home, 915 Prince Street. Please bring your own *Mishnah (Masechet Beitza)*. For more information, please contact Rebecca Kurz, [rkurz1@yahoo.com](mailto:rkurz1@yahoo.com), or Esther Klavan, [eskslp@aol.com](mailto:eskslp@aol.com).
- This *Shabbat* afternoon, November 7th, at 3:00 P.M., there will be an **Oneg for all 1st and 2nd graders** at the home of Jason and Erica David, 12 Grayson Place. The children will be walked back to the *shul* in time for pick-up at *mincha*.
- The first **Parent-Child Learning** will take place on Saturday night, November 14th, at 6:00 P.M., at the *shul*. Children and parents are invited to learn together, enjoy snacks and participate in a raffle for great prizes.
- 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):

- On Sunday evening, November 22nd, from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M., we will be having an **After-BJE Party** at the shul, for 8th graders only. Come and join your friends! We will be making ice cream sundaes, and the cost is \$5.
- On Friday evening, November 27th, we will be having a **Turkey Stuffed Oneg** at the shul at 8:30 P.M.
- To RSVP, or if you have any questions about our events, e-mail Danielle, [bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com](mailto:bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com), or call (201) 247-7961.

#### Beth Aaron Teens (grades 9-12):

- 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* and shmoozing from 3:00 P.M. until *mincha* at 4:15 P.M. The boys' *shiur* will be led by Noam, and the girls' *shiur* will be led by Shiffy. The *shiur* will be followed by snacks and games.
- We will be ending off Thanksgiving-weekend with a bang at a **Movie Night** at the shul. Join us on *motzaei Shabbat*, November 28th, at 8:30 P.M., for a night of popcorn, pizza and a movie, of course! The cost is \$8, and RSVPs are requested. If you have a favorite movie you would like to see, suggestions are welcome.
- We hope to see you (and your friends) at our events. We'd love to hear feedback about past events and ideas for future events. We can be contacted at [bethaaronteens@gmail.com](mailto:bethaaronteens@gmail.com), or by calling Shiffy (Staiman) 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 4:35 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 4:15 P.M., followed by a *shiur* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 4:30 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 5:30 P.M.

**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. Space is available for Pre-K 2010. For more information, contact Ruchie, (201) 261-1919 ext. 113, or go to [www.yeshivatnoam.org](http://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](mailto:SJBrodsky@aol.com), (212) 726-2390, or the *menahel*, Rabbi Herschel Grossman, [rabbihg@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:steinreicha@maayanot.org), (201) 833-4307 ext. 233.

This Sunday, November 8th, at 8:00 P.M., all women are invited to an evening of inspiration at the home of Orit Rubinstein, 255 Warwick Avenue, to benefit the *hachnosat kallah* efforts of the **Bayit Lepletot Orphanage**. For more information, call Risa, (201) 837-2160.

On Monday, November 9th, at 8:00 P.M., there will be a **Parlor Meeting for Camp 613** at the Fischman home, 77 Grayson Place. For more information, call (845) 356-6613, or go to [www.camp613.org](http://www.camp613.org).

On Tuesday, November 10th, from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M., at the Beit Midrash of the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey, 666 Kinderkamack Road, River Edge, **Gila Manolson** from Yerushalayim will speak on "**Outside/Inside: A Jewish Look at Who We Really Are.**" All women are invited to attend.

The **Frisch School** invites prospective parents and students to an **Open House** on Sunday, November 15th, from 9:45 A.M. to 12:00 noon, at the school, 120 West Century Road, Paramus. For more information, go to [admissions@frisch.org](mailto:admissions@frisch.org).

On Sunday, November 15th, at 8:00 P.M., Rabbi Sender Shizgal will be speaking in Teaneck about the latest happenings at **Mossad HaRav Kook**, the Jerusalem-based Torah research institute and publishing house, which is one of the most respected publishers of Torah literature in the world. For more information, contact Moshe Fuksbrumer, (201) 530-0034, [mfuksbrumer@gmail.com](mailto:mfuksbrumer@gmail.com).

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](http://www.teaneckbaseball.org). Registration ends November 30th.

The **Jewish Learning Experience Torah in Action series** invites the entire community to special presentations on **Business Laws and Ethics** at Congregation Keter Torah. On Thursday, November 12th, at 8:00 P.M., Rabbi Daniel Feldman will give a presentation on what you are allowed -- and what you are not allowed -- to say in business dealings, and will also discuss the prohibition against deception in the workplace. For more information, contact Rabbi David Pietruszka, (201) 966-4498, [rabbip@jle.org](mailto:rabbip@jle.org), or go to [www.jle.org](http://www.jle.org).

**Sharsheret** is sponsoring a **Pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale** that will help support the development of new programs and services addressing the needs of Jewish women and their families living with ovarian cancer. Please place your orders by Monday, November 16th. Pickup will be on Wednesday, November 25th in Teaneck. All ingredients are certified kosher. To place your order, or for more information, go to [www.sharsheret.org/PiesForPrevention.php](http://www.sharsheret.org/PiesForPrevention.php), or call Sharon Wieder, (201) 837-7837.

On *Motzaei Shabbat*, November 21st, at 8:00 P.M., at Bnai Yeshurun, **Rabbi Zev Leff**, Rav of Moshav Mattisyahu, will be giving a *shiur*, "**Chinuch in Difficult Times**" on behalf of **Be-Lev Echad**, an organization that strengthens Jewish observance throughout Israel.

On Sunday, November 29th, at Congregation Keter Torah, 600 Roemer Avenue, ATARA (the Sisterhood of Keter Torah) will be having a **Chanukah Mini Mall** as well as a **children's show by Jay Jay the Balloon Guy**. The Mini Mall will be held from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M., and the children's show will take place from 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. The cost of the show is \$7 per child if reserved by November 22nd, and \$9 per child at the door. There will be food for sale after the show. For reservations for the children's show, please e mail [rtjzme@gmail.com](mailto:rtjzme@gmail.com).

**Parasha Questions for Parashat Vayera:**

- (a) At the beginning of the *parasha*, why did *Hashem* appear to *Avraham* (3 explanations)? (b) At what time of year did the angels visit *Avraham* and *Lot* (2 opinions)? (c) How do we know that *Avraham* was a *tzadik* "who said little but did much"? (d) For which 4 things that *Avraham* provided the angels did *Hashem* subsequently reward *Bnei Yisrael*? (*Beresheet* 18:1-16)
- (a) Why did *Hashem* inform *Avraham* in advance of His plan to destroy *Sodom* (10 reasons)? (b) Why did *Avraham* pray on behalf of the *resha'im* (corrupt inhabitants) of *Sodom*? (c) Of all of the evils committed by the *Sodomites*, which sin sealed their doom? (*Beresheet* 18:17-18, 23:19:5)
- (a) Which of *Lot's* daughters was more modest? (b) What was her reward? (*Beresheet* 19:37)
- Why did *Avimelech* want to marry *Sarah* (two reasons)? (*Beresheet* 20:2)
- (a) For how long was *Sarah* pregnant with *Yitzchak*? (b) On what basis did *Avimelech* conclude that "*Hashem* is with you [*Avraham*] in all that you do" (3 explanations)? (c) How did *Hashem* punish *Avraham* for entering into the treaty of *Be'er Sheva* with *Avimelech* (4 ways)? (*Beresheet* 21:1,22,31)
- (a) When the *Torah* says that *Hashem's* request to *Avraham* to offer *Yitzchak* as a *korban* was made "*achar ha-devarim ha-eileh*" ("after these things"), to what do "these things" refer (4 explanations)? (b) Since *Hashem* knew beforehand that *Avraham* would pass His test of the *akeida*, 7. what was the purpose of the test (2 explanations)? (*Beresheet* 22:1)
- In the *haftara*, how were the actions of the *Navi Elisha* toward the *Shunamite* woman similar to those of the angels that visited *Avraham*? (*II Melachim* 4:16)

## 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*: 7:30 P.M. at Keter Torah.

### Sunday

· This Sunday, November 8th, Yeshiva University invites you to its **Midreshet Yom Rishon**, weekly Sunday morning learning for women. The program which will be held at the Shenk Shul in the Schottenstein Center (on West 185th Street, between Audubon and St. Nicholas Avenues) is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, Midreshet Yom Rishon will feature **Rabbi Meir Goldwicht** and **Dr. Deena Zimmerman**. The first *shiur* starts at 9:30 A.M.; second *shiur* starts at 10:30 A.M. For more information or to download *mar'ei mekomot*, call (212)960-0041, or visit [www.midreshetyomrishon.org](http://www.midreshetyomrishon.org).

· This Sunday, November 8th, Yeshiva University invites you to its **Kollel Yom Rishon**, weekly Sunday morning learning for men. The program, which will be held in Furst Hall Room 501 (500

West 185th Street, at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue) is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, Kollel Yom Rishon will feature **Rabbi David Stav** and **Rabbi Dovid Hirsch**. The first *shiur* starts at 9:30 A.M., second *shiur* starts at 10:30 A.M. For more information or to download *mar'ei mekomot*, call (212) 960-0041 or visit [www.kollelyomrishon.org](http://www.kollelyomrishon.org).

· The **Chofetz Chaim Women's Learning Group** will meet this Sunday, November 8th, at the Schuss home, 110 Cherry Lane, Teaneck.

### 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 welcome. 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 [esteekirsch@yahoo.com](mailto:esteekirsch@yahoo.com) or [shulamitholzer@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Metzia*, 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) To perform *bikur cholim* (visiting the sick) with *Avraham*, who was recuperating from his *mila* (*Rashi*). (2) To confirm the *mila* covenant that *Hashem* and *Avraham* had entered into (*Sforno*). (3) To inform *Avraham* of the impending destruction of *Sodom* (*Levush*). (b) (1) It was *Sukkot* – *Avraham* circumcised himself on 10 *Tishrei* (*Yom Kippur*); the angels visited him on 3<sup>rd</sup> day (12 *Tishrei*); and they visited *Lot* in *Sodom* on 15 *Tishrei* (*Sukkot*) (*Pirkei de-Rebi Eliezer*). (2) It was *Pesach*, which is why *Lot* served the angels *matzot* (*Rashi* 19:3). (c) *Avraham* offered the angels *pat lechem* ("a piece of bread") but served them a feast; (d) since *Avraham*: (1) ran to the cattle" (18:7), *Hashem* provided *Bnei Yisrael* with meat (quail) in the *midbar*; (2) "took cream and milk" with the bread that he offered the angels (18:8), *Hashem* provided *Bnei Yisrael* with the *mon*; (3) "walked with them to escort them" (18:16), *Hashem* escorted *Bnei Yisrael* in the pillar of clouds; (4) ordered "let water be brought" (18:4), *Hashem* had *Moshe* get water from the rock, and provided *Bnei Yisrael* with water from *Miriam's* well (*Bava Metzia* 86b-87a).

2. (a) (1) Since *Hashem* had promised *Avraham* the entire land of *Cana'an*, He saw fit to inform him before he destroyed 5 *Cana'anite* cities (*Rashi*). (2) Since *Avraham* was destined to become *Hashem's* great nation, future generations could argue that it was "callous" of Him to keep His plan from him; (3) *Hashem* knew that if there was a reason to pardon *Sodom*, *Avraham* would pray for the cities; and if there was no reason, even *Avraham* would agree with the punishment (*Ramban*). (4) *Hashem* wanted *Avraham* to know that if there were righteous people in *Sodom*, He would save them (*Alschich*), and (5) if the people of *Sodom* were to repent, *Hashem* would accept their *teshuva* (*Sforno*). (6) *Lot* lived in *Sodom*, and *Hashem* gave *Avraham* an opportunity to pray for *Lot*, so that he would merit to be saved (*Ran*). (7) *Hashem* had promised in *Bereishit* 17:5 that *Avraham* would be "av hamon goyim" (father of a multitude of nations); it would be improper to destroy a nation without informing its "father"; (8) *Avraham* had told the public that *Hashem* punishes evildoers; He revealed *Sodom's* crimes and punishment beforehand, so people would believe in Divine punishment; (9) *Hashem* wanted the world to know that He did not conceal any of the *Torah's* mysteries from *Avraham*; it was therefore fitting that he be made aware of *Sodom's* destiny (*Bereishit Raba*). (10) When *Avraham* saw that, in the war against the 4 kings, *Sodom* retreated from the battle, he thought they were good pacifists; *Hashem* had to tell him about their evil and that their destruction was fitting; (b) *Avraham* hoped that the *resha'im* would repent and mend their ways (*Medrash Tanchuma*). (c) They oppressed the poor and needy (*Ramban*).

3. (a) The younger daughter, who named her son *Ben-Ami* (son of my people), a "clean" name, in contrast to her older sister, who named her son *Moav* (from father), a reference to her disgraceful relationship; (b)

*Hashem* instructed *Moshe* that although he could not go to war with *Bnei Moav* (*Devarim* 2:9), he could harass them; but *Moshe* was not permitted even to provoke *Bnei Amon* (*Devarim* 2:19) (*Rashi*).

4. (a) When the angel informed *Sarah* that she would become pregnant (*Bereishit* 18:10), her youthful beauty returned, and *Avimelech* desired her (*Ramban*). (b) He wanted to marry into *Avraham's* illustrious family (*Ran*).

5. (a) 6½ months – *Yitzchak* was conceived on 1 *Tishrei* (1<sup>st</sup> day of *Rosh Hashana*) and was born on 15 *Nisan* (1<sup>st</sup> day of *Pesach*) (*Rosh Hashana* 11a). (b) (1) *Avimelech* saw the miracle of *Avraham* and *Sarah* having a son in their old age; (2) when he heard that *Avraham* listened to *Sarah* and expelled his first-born son, he considered it madness; when he saw that *Yishmael* was a robber, he realized that *Avraham* was following *Hashem*; (3) Since *Avraham* derived income from dealing with travelers, *Avimelech* thought that because of the loss of travelers as a result of the destruction of *Sodom*, *Avraham* would become poor; yet, he saw that *Avraham* was as prosperous as before (*Bereishit Raba*). (c) (1) *Hashem* delayed *Bnei Yisrael's* entry into *Eretz Yisrael* for seven generations (*Avraham* through *Moshe*), until *Avimelech's* grandchildren died; (2) *Avimelech's* descendants killed seven of *Avraham's* righteous descendants – *Chafni* and *Pinchas*, sons of *Kohen Gadol Eli*; *Shimshon*; *Shaul ha-Melech*; and *Shaul's* 3 sons; (3) seven of *Bnei Yisrael's* sanctuaries (the *Mishkan*; *Gilgal*; *Nov*; *Givon*; *Shilo*; and 2 *Batei ha-Mikdash*) were destroyed; (4) The *Pelishtim* captured the *aron* for seven years (*Medrash Tanchuma*).

6. (a) (1) *Satan* had criticized *Avraham* for making a party in honor of *Yitzchak's* birth but not offering any *korbanot* thanking *Hashem*; *Hashem* told *Satan* that even if He asked *Avraham* to offer *Yitzchak* as a *korban*, he would; (2) *Yishmael* told *Yitzchak* that he was greater than *Yitzchak* since he volunteered to be circumcised at age 13, whereas *Yitzchak* had no choice at 8 days old; *Yitzchak* responded that from the *mila*, *Yishmael* lost only a piece of skin; while if *Hashem* wanted *Yitzchak* to sacrifice his whole body, he would do so (*Sanhedrin* 89b). (3) *Avraham* made a treaty between his descendants and *Avimelech's* descendants that *Hashem* did not authorize; He wanted him to sacrifice *Yitzchak* to show him that the treaty was valueless (*Rashbam*). (4) *Hashem* told *Avraham* that his descendants would rise to great heights like the stars; now *Hashem* "nisa" (elevated) *Avraham* through the *akeida* (*Ha'ameik Davar*). (b) (1) *Hashem* wanted *Avraham* to translate his love of and reverence for Him from the potential into the actual, so that he would act like *Hashem*, Who shows His goodness through His works (*Sforno*). (2) *Hashem* wanted to show the world how *tzadikim* obey His Will (*Rambam - Moreh Nevuchim*).

7. An angel told *Avraham* and *Sarah* that the elderly *Sarah* would have a son "ka-eit chaya" (at that season, the following year), and *Elisha* told the elderly *Shunamite* woman the same thing; both prophecies were fulfilled (*Mosaf Rashi*).