

# KOL MEVASSER



## The Long and Winding Road

**Rabbi Daniel Bouskila**

The day God pronounced two simple words – *Lech Lecha* – Abraham and Sarah's life changed forever. God instructs Abraham to leave his homeland, his birthplace and his father's home, "to the land that I will show you, and there I will make of you a great nation" (Genesis 12:1-2). "*Lech Lecha* – Go Forth" – and thus the long journey began.

In a creative reading of these two words, the 14<sup>th</sup> century Spanish Bible commentator Rabbenu Bahya ben Asher says that the two words *Lech Lecha* sound strikingly similar to the word *lichluch*, which means "dirt." A *Lech Lecha* journey, says Rabbenu Bahya, is filled with dirt (*lichluch*), and whoever sets out on a journey goes into it knowing that the roads are not always clean and paved.

Rabbenu Bahya's unique reading of *Lech Lecha* prepares us for the "long and winding road" -- filled with bumps and detours -- that Abraham and Sarah were to embark upon. Abraham was promised that his journey would ultimately lead him to a new land where he would become a great nation, and where "all of the earth's families would be blessed through him" (Genesis 12:3). The promise is inspirational, and the goal sounds like a dream. The challenge is getting there.

Abraham and Sarah indeed reach this new promised land, but a short ten verses into the narrative, they hit the first bump in the journey: "And there was a famine in the land, and Abraham went down to Egypt to so-journ there, for the famine was sore in the land" (Genesis 12:10). What happens when there's nothing to

eat in the land of your promises and dreams? Abraham finds his *Lech Lecha* journey tainted with the *lichluch* of famine, causing his detour down to Egypt.

A stranger in Egypt, Abraham fears for his life and that of his wife Sarah. His fear represents an existential *lichluch* in his journey. After a brief stay in Egypt, Abraham and Sarah ultimately make their way back to the promised land, where they confront a new *lichluch* in the journey: internal family strife. Abraham's herdsmen and his nephew Lot's herdsmen engage in a territorial dispute. All is not so well in paradise. After Abraham's suggestion that he and Lot separate, the journey should seemingly calm down.

Instead, it explodes into the ugly *lichluch* of war. A major regional war erupts in the promised land, and Abraham is caught in the middle. He learns that his nephew Lot is taken captive, prompting him to mobilize 318 men and enter the war. Abraham successfully redeems his captured nephew, thus ending the war.

Just when the external threat of war subsides, the internal challenge of survival and posterity confronts Abraham and Sarah. Will there be a next generation in the promised land after them? With Sarah unable to bear children, a new *lichluch* in the journey emerges: who will be our descendants in this land?

No people on earth are more aware of the potential *lichluch* on a long journey than Abraham's own children – the Jewish people. The twisty road of his *Lech Lecha* journey in many ways mirrors the challenging journey of the Jewish people throughout history. The Jewish people's long journey has indeed included hunger and famine, living in foreign countries under constant existential threat, internal strife and dispute

*(Continued on page 2)*

## KJ Schedule Lech Lecha

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, October 31st

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:15 am  
Candle Lighting ..... 5:43 pm  
Minha / Arbith ..... 5:30 pm

### Shabbat Lech Lecha

Saturday, November 1st

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .... 8:30 am  
with Special Guest, Rabbi Bouskila  
Minha, Seudah, Arvit..... 5:15 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah 6:45 pm

**Reminder: Reset your clocks for Daylight Savings Time change.**

### Weekdays

Sunday, November 2nd

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am  
KJ Kids Talmud Torah..... 10:00 am

Mon to Fri, November 3rd to 7th  
Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am

### Erev Shabbat / Friday, Nov. 7th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:15 am  
Candle Lighting .....4:37 pm  
Minha / Arbith ..... 4:35 pm

### NEXT SHABBAT

Saturday, November 8th

### Guest Speaker

**Dr. Yehuda Maimran, PhD**

Executive Director, Alliance in Israel

Dr. Maimran is an expert in Sephardic Rabbinical figures and will speak about:

**"Sephardic Rabbis as Agents of Social Change"**

# 12TH LOS ANGELES SEPHARDIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



OPENING GALA  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH  
PARAMOUNT STUDIOS

CLOSING NIGHT FILM  
**THE DOVE FLYER**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH AT 5 PM  
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY KAHAL JOSEPH  
AT LAEMMLE'S MUSIC HALL IN BEVERLY HILLS

*(Continued from page 1)*

within the Jewish people, many long, ugly and devastating wars, and the ever-present challenge of Jewish continuity. The Jewish journey of *Lech Lecha* is one filled with promises and dreams of a better life and a better world. Jews have continued to sojourn down the road towards a better place, only to be confronted with continuous detours.

Remarkably, from the time of Abraham and Sarah's journey to the present, the Jews have never stopped the journey. They never got off of the road and never turned back. Jewish history has been one long, continuous march through the world, filled with some of the worst *lichluch*, yet never deterring the Jews from their dream and belief that this metaphoric road ultimately leads to a destination in this world where things will be better. More than any other contribution to humanity, the Jewish power of persistence is a light that helps illuminate many dark roads and journeys.

In the *Odyssey*, Homer writes, "The journey is the thing." For Abraham, Sarah and their descendants,



## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in  
honor of the  
Bar Mitzvah of

**Adam Yehuda Kelly**

by his parents  
**Sigal & Jonathan Kelly**

Mazal Tov to Adam  
on his Bar Mitzvah  
and to his family

Congratulations  
to his parents, Sigal & Jonathan  
his siblings, Maya & David  
and his grandmothers  
**Hannie Kelly & Gota Ben Abu**

## Congratulations

**Dinah & Michael Irani**  
on the birth of your daughter

**Nava Madison Irani**  
Mazal Tov to grandparents  
Mitra & Moshe Irani and  
**Shahla & Bahram Zaghi & both families**

the journey—though long and challenging —  
is really only the beginning.

*Rabbi Daniel Bouskila is the Director of the Sephardic Educational Center, an international organization with a historic campus in the Old City of Jerusalem. Follow Rabbi Bouskila's blog, Through Sephardic Lenses, at [jewishjournal.com](http://jewishjournal.com).*

## In Memoriam

We remember these *yahrzeit* anniversaries for Nov. 1 to 8, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate *tzedaka*, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

**9 Heshvan / Sunday, November 2nd**  
Ezekiel Ezra

*Farha Joseph Farha bat Haviva*

**10 Heshvan / Monday, November 3rd**  
Jacob Ezekiel Azoory *Yaacov Yehezkel Azoory*  
Nissim Elie *Nissim Elie ben Dona*  
Edward E. Sassoon *Yehezkel ben Aharon*

**11 Heshvan / Tuesday, November 4th**  
Jacob Silas Mussry *Yaacov ben Saleh Mussry*  
Naji Perry

**12 Heshvan / Wednesday, November 5th**  
David Dallal *David ben Shlomo*  
Flora Rahamim Pinhas  
Joseph Jacob *Yoseph ben Yaaov Azoory*  
Lulu Ezra Baroukh  
*Yair ben Menashe*

**13 Heshvan / Thursday, November 6th**  
Isaac Ezer *Itzhak ben Shaul*  
Akhtar Sarraf *Khanom Agha bat Kokab*  
*Yehuda Refael ben Pinhas*

**14 Heshvan / Friday, November 7th**  
Haskel Kelly  
Albert Simon *Albert Yeheskel Moshe*

**15 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 8th**  
*Eliyahu ben Yaacov Benzaquen*

## Refuah Shlemah

Moselle Amron • Tilda Levy • Joseph Sharaf  
Maurice Ovadia • Michael Herzbrun  
Saul Sassoon

## Torah & Haftara Readings

Parashat Lech Lecha 45 to 60  
*Haftara Yishayahu / Isaiah 60 to 62*