שערי שמים SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

WINTER 2021
TEVET-SHEVAT-ADAR-NISAN 5781

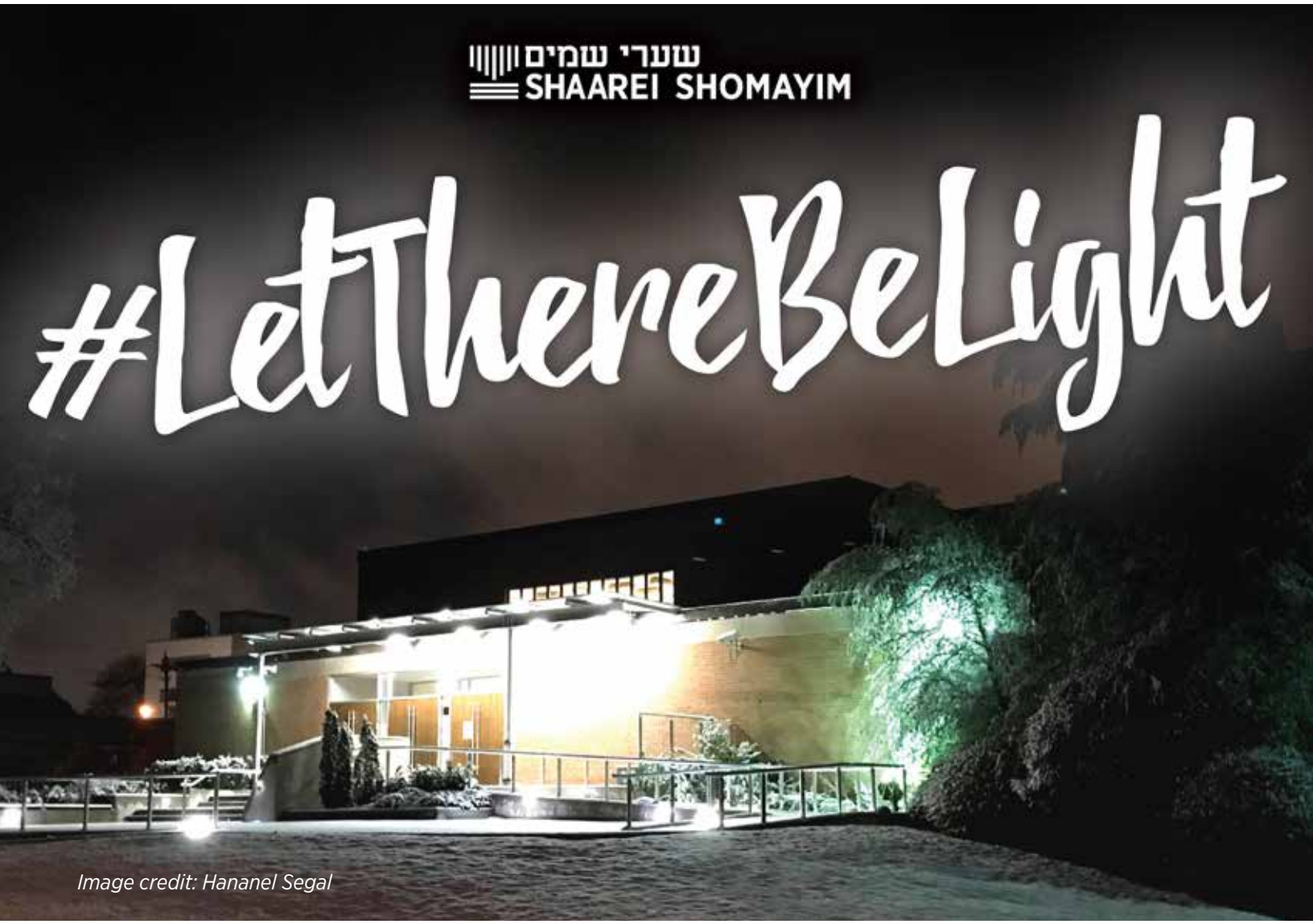

Image credit: Hananel Segal

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RABBI CHAIM
STRAUCHLER

COVID-19: A Success Story

In his book, The Home We Build Together, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks[zt"l] describes three parables for society and identity: the country house, the hotel and the home. The country house divides us into hosts and guests. There are insiders and outsiders, the majority and minorities. In the hotel, everyone is a guest. You pay the price; you get a room; and you are free to do what you like so long as you do not interfere with the other guests. In the home, we care about belonging – it is not just where we are but who we are. We have responsibilities to our home – not just rights within it.

Rabbi Sacks applies these parables to English society. The country house is the assimilationist model – "the melting pot." The hotel is the procedural state with its embrace of multi-culturalism. The home is Rabbi Sacks' vision of a future society committed to a common project.

Rabbi Sacks' three parables apply not just to political life but also to synagogue life. We have witnessed these three parables during the COVID Crisis. Every experience in life teaches us something. This is especially true of crises. In these moments, we can learn the most about others and ourselves.

A synagogue might be seen as a country house in that there are insiders and outsiders with varying levels of commitment. Before Rosh Hashana this year, suspicions were raised, online and within many communities, about whether members would rejoin their synagogues. In the midst of a pandemic, would people contribute to an institution, if they were not able to attend regular High Holiday services? The question presumes an insider and outsider perspective. The insiders judge the outsiders' commitment.

A synagogue might be seen like a hotel in that a synagogue is a business that serves consumers. When a product is delivered, the customer pays; when the synagogue is closed – due to a pandemic or otherwise – he or she does not.

Both these parables find echoes in the following quote from a July 2020 JTA article:

Across the country, synagogues are bracing for a significant reduction in revenues. Though many are seeing increased attendance at virtual services, without the annual cash infusion that in-person High Holiday services bring, and with community members under financial pressure, congregations across the denominational spectrum aren't sure how they'll make ends meet this year.

At Shaarei Shomayim, these dire predictions did not come true. As a synagogue community, we are not a country house or a hotel. We have been, are and will be a home. In the midst of the crisis, new members joined us in support of our response and the values that our response reflects. Throughout the crisis, we come together. Throughout the crisis, we take the health (physical, social, spiritual and mental) of our people seriously. In the early stages of the pandemic, we reached out to one another - seeking out those who were alone. For the High Holidays, I turned to a great group of volunteers who stepped up in leading services. Many more reached out for guidance during this time for themselves, their families and their friends. At Kol Nidrei, we launched the Community COVID Crisis Campaign, which I initiated and led with the help of dedicated community volunteers. We have already raised over half a million dollars from over 165 families. Yet, success is not in dollars. Success is in the commitment and connection that those dollars reflect.

What happened? Why did we succeed in the face of this terrible crisis? The answer is, "A shul is a home." Our Judaism isn't a consumer product or experience. Our Judaism is our

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cont. from page 3

COVID-19: A Success Story

identity. Whether our health allows us to come to shul or not, our Judaism is a part of who we are. That identity involves coming together (sometimes in person – always in spirit) during difficult times. That identity means living for more than our self-interest. We take responsibility for the destiny of our people. We take responsibility for that destiny as embodied by our synagogue. It is here, with our community, that we do together the things that we cannot do alone.

One of the challenges that Rabbi Sacks faced in applying the parable of home to general society is that many had forgotten what a home is. In our preoccupation with the language of rights, we have forgotten the idea of responsibilities. We have become an I-generation: iPod, iPhone, I everything. We see everything in terms of the individual, and this causes an error in our thinking.

So why did the prognosticators quoted by the JTA get this wrong (almost as bad as US pollsters, *l'havdil*.) In some respects they are like classical economists who have created a fictional creature to populate their model of the Jewish people – this creature is very much like what Richard Thaler calls "Econs" in contrast to humans. What's an Econ? Thaler explains:

> "For four decades, since my time as a graduate student, I have been preoccupied by… the myriad ways in which people depart from the fictional creatures that populate economic models. It has never been my point to say that there is something wrong with people; we are all just human beings – homo sapiens. Rather, the problem is with the model being used by economists, a model that replaces homo sapiens with a fictional creature called homo economicus, which I like to call an Econ for short. Compared to this fictional world of Econs, Humans do a lot of misbehaving, and that means that economic models make a lot of bad predictions, predictions that can have… serious consequences…."
> – Richard H. Thaler, Misbehaving: The Making of Behavioural Economics.

We understand that our greatest asset is not in the bank – but in the relationships that give our lives meaning, especially our relationship with Hashem.

Translating the Econ paradigm into a Jewish context, we might describe Jewcons as people who are always rational, always selfish, and unchanging in their tastes. They live in Rabbi Sacks' hotel parable with very little interest in their part of the Jewish story or in their responsibility to one another. However, COVID-19 has proven this understanding of Jews wrong. We are not Jewcons. We are enriched with *neshamot* that respond well to the call of the Torah. We understand that our greatest asset is not in the bank – but in the relationships that give our lives meaning, especially our relationship to Hashem. When under pressure, we will not mortgage our part in the story of our people – our home – for consumables of any sort. We have demonstrated who we are. We are not Jewcons – we are Jewman beings. This is the story of our success this time – and through time.

Yashar kochachem. Let us take pride in our commitments. May we merit to celebrate this success in health and happiness – TOGETHER – sometime soon.

DO YOU RECEIVE RABBI STRAUCHLER'S DAILY UPDATES AND WEEKLY *TORAH FOR YOUR LIFE* EMAILS?

If not, please contact the shul office to be included in the email list. Please visit his regularly updated blog: shomayim.org/rabbi-strauchlers-blog

President's Message

Hope and Inspiration

ROBIN GOFINE

As I write this article, Shaarei Shomayim has just locked down for the second time in eight months. We are now legally permitted to have no more than ten people in the building for davening at any one time. The surge of COVID-19 is strong, and the cold of winter is approaching. There is, however, reason to be hopeful.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks[zt"l] notes that even though the Second Temple was destroyed, Jewish hope was not. We remain a hopeful people – "Od lo avdah tikvatenu"– "we have not yet lost our hope," teaches Hatikvah, and articulates our 2,000 year-old hope of returning to the Land of Israel, restoring it, and claiming it as a free and sovereign nation.

In honour of the eight days of Chanukah, I want to share the eight things that bring light and make me feel hopeful about the future:

1. The unwavering and unending pastoral care, concern and compassion toward the ill, vulnerable and bereaved in our community provided by Rabbi Strauchler, and the devotion of our team of clergy members – Rabbi Diamond, Ralph Levine, Chazzan Freund, and Rabbi Bergman.

2. The professionalism and unbounding energy of our Executive Director, Nicole Toledano, who has so capably lead us through the re-opening of our shul; the hard work and positive attitudes of our office staff Meital, Lejla, Ellen, and Tova; and the care and attention of our maintenance staff who skillfully meet the demands brought by COVID-19, and keep our building clean and disinfected.

3. The incredible work of our volunteers, especially our Gabbai Louis Vandersluis, who has risen to the occasion and so capably oversees our minyanim and ensures that they run smoothly. In addition, our Medical Committee Chair Gili Rosen, and Security Committee Co- Chairs Marc Koplowitz and Eric Ohayon, have advised and guided us and kept us healthy and safe, enabling all of us to attend shul with peace of mind in the past months.

4. The wonderful programs being initiated by our Youth Committee Chairs Rachel Shour and Dalia Yunger, under the capable leadership of Avital Strauchler and our Youth Director Ari Karon.

5. The kindness of shul members and our Chessed Committee, who reach out to others and give encouraging words and provide support.

6. The spirituality of the men and women who attend minyan twice daily in person and on Zoom, and dedication and resilience of our teens who have maintained their commitment to davening by organizing their own minyanim in backyards in the neighbourhood.

7. The commitment and creativity of our Executive Committee and Board of Governors, who meet regularly and have participated in two lengthy strategic planning sessions to think about the future vibrancy and vitality of our shul.

8. The generosity of our members – since our call to action, our Community COVID Crisis Campaign Team, co-chaired by Charlene Arje and Joyce Eklove, has raised over $500,000 to ensure the stability and financial security of our shul in the midst of the pandemic. Please join this effort and contribute to this campaign if you have not yet done so: https://www.shomayim.org/form/donate-COVID.html.

Being part of a diverse and accepting community that consistently demonstrates its caring, respect, and commitment to Jewish values inspires me most of all. Staying connected and involved in our shul provides hope. Please join us for davening, participate in our wonderful lectures and education programs, lend a hand through our Chessed Committee, and reach out to me at president@shomayim.org if you have an idea that you would like to share. I would love to hear from you!

Let us all continue to look to the future with hope and optimism, provide support to one another, and look forward to a time very soon when we can greet each other in shul in person.

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RABBI ELLIOTT
DIAMOND

DOWNSTAIRS MINYAN

Roosters and Hearts

For this volume of the shul bulletin, I decided to go in a different direction entirely. Let me explain. Although the most common name in Hebrew for a synagogue is בית כנסת, which means house of gathering or assembly, our Sages referred to a shul with two other names – בית מדרש – house of study, and בית תפילה – house of prayer. Our shul continues to strive to combine all three functions in order to reach its fullest potential as indicated by the various names.

But of the three stated purposes expressed by the names, I believe that the goal of prayer is the most challenging one to accomplish. For many of us, myself included, we have no difficulty in getting together with friends, neighbours and members of our community, or even with dedicating some time to attend a presentation, class, shiur, lecture or discussion. But prayer – that's not so simple for many of us. I realize that there are many reasons why this is so and there will not be any one response or solution that will address everyone's needs.

But for me, the siddur is a fascinating repository of the accumulated wisdom of our people and religion. The various prayers that are found among the pages of this ancient text express some of the deepest hopes, fears, beliefs, doubts, questions and assertions that our ancestors, grandparents, and parents have dared to record. In some ways, these prayers are the most concise statements of Jewish philosophy that were ever written, and were compiled into one book which can be easily acquired by every Jewish man, woman and child.

And so, for this submission to the shul bulletin, I decided to share some thoughts about a very short prayer that we recite. In fact, it's a blessing with which we begin the morning prayers each and every day.

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם אשר נתן לשכוי בינה להבחין בין יום ובין לילה

"Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, Who gives the rooster understanding to distinguish between day and night."

An alternate translation is:

"Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, Who gives the heart understanding to distinguish day from night." (the Koren Siddur Translation)

These translations differ in their interpretation of the word "שכוי" which means either "rooster" or "heart" and both are based on convincing textual sources.

Either version acknowledges the indispensable role that our human intellect plays in our everyday function and life. Critical aspects of human existence are governed by binary relationships: birth and death, good and evil, dark and light, and day and night. From the moment we wake each morning, Hashem presents us with the opportunity to assert our humanity by choosing to identify with one of these two alternatives.

It's worthwhile noting that the blessing is **not formulated** to read "Blessed is Hashem… who formed day and night." Of course this version is theologically correct, but it eliminates the fundamental assertion of our choice to distinguish between the day and the light it brings, or the night and its related uncertainties.

We rise each morning with the realization that much of what unfolds in our lives flows from the decisions we make. To me, this is an empowering and encouraging statement of our potential.

Within rabbinic literature, the heart was the seat of knowledge and the source of wisdom. Thus the version which translates "שכוי" as heart makes sense. But what is to be learned from the rooster?

Among other answers given, I suggest that the blessing points out that the knowledge we need to gain in order to become the best version of ourselves is not bestowed upon us without our own efforts. It exists in the world in which we live but we must deliberately seek out this wisdom whether it be from the simple rooster, from the study of science and nature (as Maimonides teaches), from our parents and teachers, and most surely from our Torah and tradition. Roosters and hearts – that's how we start our day.

NICOLE TOLEDANO

Staying Connected

Technology, the application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of human life or, as it is sometimes phrased, to the change and manipulation of the human environment. (Britannica.com). What would we do without it? In the world today, it is very difficult to even function without some form of technology. Most important in these days and times, it is what keeps us connected in a world where we are being told we should be disconnected. Whether it is to remain six feet apart or to only associate with members in your immediate household, we need to remain apart.

Technology has enabled us to remain linked – we may be tired of staring at a display, but it is what is on the display that is important. It has now been almost nine months of being disconnected – of not having a meaningful conversation with our loved ones who are not part of "our bubble." Without technology, whether a phone or a monitor, we would be lost. Technology has shown us that we can connect to those close – but also those far away. Weddings, b'nei mitzvot and other smachot have happened that have enabled those in other countries, even across the world, to be a part of a family event.

Technology has enabled us to stay connected to our members and our friends. Whether through calling or zooming, you can participate in our daily minyanim, hear a beautiful pre-Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat, watch / listen to a Scholar-in-Resident – stay connected virtually.

Technology has given people the ability to remain working, no matter where they are. Staff who are immunocompromised or work in facilities that cannot provide acceptable space and safety, have been able to maintain their employment. Technology has enabled the seamless flow of communication between spaces and people – you often don't even know if a call has been rerouted to a personal home phone. The occasional child screaming in the background or a dog barking sometimes gives it away.

Technology has enabled me to keep in contact with my new granddaughter (and daughter and son-in-law), even though they are thousands of miles away. I am able to speak to them day or night, and I am able to see Chaya grow. I am able to ensure that when we do eventually see each other in person, she can – hopefully – recognize my voice and face. She may be three months old, but she looks directly into the cell phone when we are chatting. Technology has given my older daughter the ability to announce her pregnancy when posting a picture of her ultrasound.

It's in these pandemic times that we learn to appreciate technology. How isolating and lonely it would be without it.

RABBI SAMMY BERGMAN

Embracing the Challenges of Pandemic Life

It has been a long time since our lives were normal. I can personally say that now, eight months or so since the lockdown began, I miss many experiences that I once routinely enjoyed and took for granted. I miss having guests at my Shabbat table, and enjoying Shabbat dinner at the houses of friends. I miss dancing while celebrating *smachot*, and greeting people with a handshake and sometimes even a hug. I miss enjoying a good kiddush with the community after shul on Shabbat morning, and sending away Shabbat with friends over *zmirot* and words of Torah at Seudah Shlishit. While I am so grateful to Hashem that my family and I have been healthy, I also acknowledge that in many ways I feel that I can't live life to the fullest.

As the months have passed by, many thinkers have struggled to formulate a philosophical approach toward coping with all the challenges characteristic to this COVID-19 pandemic. In my opinion, these approaches generally boil down to two schools of thought. The first can be described as the *"gam zu l'tovah,"* or "this is also for the good" approach. This approach is typified by the Tannaitic Sage, Nachum Ish Gamzu, who when faced with difficult circumstances according to the Talmud in Taanit 21a would nevertheless proclaim, *"gam zu l'tovah,"* and miraculously witness those difficulties work out to his benefit. Similarly, many voices, especially at the beginning of the crisis, called for finding the good in the adjustments of pandemic life. In this vein, many have called for appreciating the newfound family time due to the inability to travel and focusing on introspection in exchange for reduced social interaction. Recently, at Shaarei Shomayim, we have begun a shiur during the slot normally utilized for Seudah Shlishit and filled the vacuum with engaging Torah ideas and discussions.

However, as time has gone on, and we have developed fatigue, the *"gam zu l'tovah"* approach has grown burdensome. Instead, some have suggested a second approach which argues for looking forward to the light at the end of the tunnel. We have heard quotes such as: "This isn't going to last forever;" "Keep being vigilant, maintain your composure, and before you know it things will be back to normal." This attitude is reminiscent of the Disapora Jew's *"tzipiah l'yeshuah"* or "awaiting the final salvation" (See Shabbat 31a). As our people has travelled from country to country, enduring countless tragedies and disappointments, our faith in redemption, and our vision of what the world will one day become, continues to give us the strength to bear this protracted exile.

But while this approach has its merits, simply holding our breath until the finish line can lead to impatience and even despair. After all, there is no telling when "things will go back to normal." We now realize that the COVID-19 pandemic more closely resembles a marathon than a sprint.

I believe, that while both the *"gam zu l'tovah"* and *"tzipiah l'yeshuah"* approaches can provide inspiration in the appropriate contexts, there is a third perspective which fits our current predicament. I came to this viewpoint while studying the comments of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the last Rebbe of Lubavitch, on a verse in the Torah describing the end of Avraham Avinu's life. In Parshat Chayei Sarah (Bereshit 24:1), the Torah describes Avraham as *"zaken, ba bayamim,"* elderly and advanced in years. At first glance, the 2nd phrase seems superfluous. However, the Rebbe (Likutei Sichot Volume 35 Chayei Sarah Sichah 2) argued that *"ba bayamim"* means something more profound than simply surviving for many years on this earth. Rather, *"ba bayamim"* is an approach to life in which a person inserts himself or herself into each day, and internalizes everyday fully. In this way every experience in life, whether positive or negative, contributes to the growth of their character. Avraham lived a truly long life because he was present for every day of it and took what he could from every experience. Similarly, Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks[zt"l] explained Rashi's comment (Bereshit 23:1) that every year of Sarah's life was equally good in a similar way. Sarah Imeinu saw her life as a mission Hashem had sent her on. Even though, Sarah certainly persevered through many trials and tribulations, she understood that each was an equally important step in reaching her destiny.

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THIS FALL, WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO STUDY WITH THE FOLLOWING FOUR SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE

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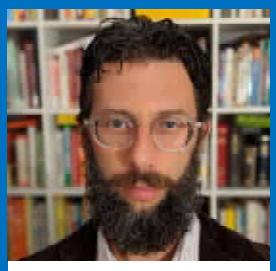
4 FALL 2020/5781 ON ZOOM SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE



PROF. AARON J. KOLLER

NOVEMBER 1

What Does the Akedah Teach Us and Not Teach Us about Judaism and Morality?

Aaron Koller is professor of Near Eastern studies at Yeshiva University. He is the author of *Unbinding Isaac: The Significance of the Akedah for Modern Jewish Thought* and *Esther in Ancient Jewish Thought*, and the editor of five more. Aaron has served as a visiting professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and held research fellowships at the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research and the Hartman Institute.

DR. ERICA BROWN

NOVEMBER 19

Reflections on Losing a Mentor: A Tribute to Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Dr. Erica Brown is the director of the Mayberg Center for Jewish Education & Leadership and an associate professor of curriculum & pedagogy at The George Washington University. Erica was a Jerusalem Fellow, is a faculty member of the Wexner Foundation, and the recipient of the 2009 *Covenant Award*. She is the author of 12 books. She has been published in the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Tablet*, *First Things*, and *The Jewish Review of Books*.

RABBI ALEX ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 23

Rifts in the Family: How Israel Split Apart, and How We Might Heal?

Rabbi Alex Israel is a Tanach teacher and lecturer at Yeshivat Eretz Hatzvi and Midreshet Lindenbaum, and is Director of Community Education, Summer Program and Online learning at the Pardes Institute. Born and raised in London, he moved to Israel in 1991 and gained rabbinic ordination from the Israeli Chief Rabbinate. He holds degrees from London School of Economics, London Institute of Education, and Bar Ilan University. He is the author of *I Kings - Torn in Two* and *II Kings: In a Whirlwind*.

RAIZI CHECHIK

DECEMBER 6

Reaching for the Infinite: A Conversation on Cultivating Spirituality in Our Children & Grandchildren

Raizi Chechik is the Head of School at the Manhattan Day School. She studied Tanach & Counseling at the Michlala Jerusalem, holds an MA in Medieval Jewish History, and did doctoral work at the Azrieli Graduate School. A graduate of the YU Day School Leaders Training Program, Raizi serves as a mentor to new school leaders through their Principals Partnership program. She is a Scholar in Residence and lecturer on Tanach, Jewish History and Jewish Education.

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Embracing the Challenges of Pandemic Life

I would argue that we would benefit by incorporating a *"ba bayamim"* approach toward the challenges that lie ahead of us. When we lack the optimism to say *"gam zu l'tovah,"* and the light at the end of the tunnel feels too distant, we can truly enter into each day, embrace the challenges, cope as best as we can, and appreciate the invaluable lessons we learn in the process. Rather than trying to see past the pain, we can proceed through hardship by looking the pain straight in the eye, and embracing our inner strength as we continue marching through, even though it hurts.

May this pandemic end speedily. May we soon, once again, unite and embrace each other face to face – without any masks obstructing the smiles on our faces. May we join each other in shul to celebrate joyous occasions over delicious food and drinks. But in the meanwhile, before that all happens, may we find a way to be *"ba bayamim"* and appreciate both the challenges and opportunities of every moment of our lives.

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HEAD OF SCHOOL
NETIVOT HATORAH

Honouring Rabbi Jonathan Sacks[zt"l]: A Lesson in Leadership

As Rashi notes at the beginning of Parshat Vayetze, when a *tzadik* leaves a city, it makes an impression - something of the glory of that place, its lustre, leaves with him. With the passing of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks[zt"l], there is a feeling of loss, an awareness that a light in our world, a *tzadik*, has left our city, our community.

Rabbi Sacks represented the very best of Torah u'Madda. The breadth of his Torah learning was enormous, only matched by his extraordinary scholarly knowledge and academic acumen. This was reflected in the over thirty books he published on topics from science and Torah to Jewish philosophy, from morality to economics, from the parsha to the siddur – he wrote about every part of the Jewish library and experience, and every part of modern Jewish life. He was a guide and model for how to live a religious life in the modern world, and someone whose voice found purchase beyond the Orthodox community while remaining authentic to it. And as a leader, he tried to bring people together across the divides that seem to keep growing, and never gave up hope even as those divides widened.

With his passing, his voice, both literal and figurative, is a loss that will be deeply felt throughout the Jewish world, and beyond.

In his memory and merit, I would like to share one of his divrei Torah on Parshat Chayei Sarah, from his collection Lessons in Leadership.

Rabbi Sacks makes the following astute literary observation when interpreting biblical text: the amount of *pesukim* given to a subject is one of the Torah's ways of indicating that topic's significance for us. With this principle in mind, the two main stories of this week's parsha take on a different perspective. An enormous amount of space is given to the negotiations between Avraham and Efron (when Avraham is trying to purchase a burial plot for Sarah), and subsequently, Eliezer's journey to find Yitzchak a wife. All this is in stark contrast, he notes, to the complete absence of information about how either Avraham or Yitzchak thought or felt about the *Akeida*, either before or after, which would seem rather significant. Why the need to spend so much text-time on the details of these two stories?

Rabbi Sacks notes that there are two themes communicated to Avraham in his conversations with Hashem regarding him and Sarah: having children and inheriting the land of Israel. At the moment of Sarah's death in the parsha's opening, Yitchak is unmarried (and so no future progeny can be expected), and Avraham remains a foreigner and nomad in the Land of Israel with no ownership to his name. As such, the parsha then focuses on Avraham accomplishing these two goals – purchasing a piece of land, and finding a wife for Yitzchak. The volume of *pesukim* is a reflection of these two priorities in Avraham's life, yet to be realized. But what is the message for us?

To this Rabbi Sacks gives an answer that says everything about his own leadership: "Despite all the promises, God does not and will not do it alone…. What changes the world, what fulfils our destiny, is not what God does for us, but what we do for God." Both stories spare no words in fleshing out the degree to which human beings involve themselves in the details of fulfilling God's promises, and do not simply leave it to Him to work out. The stories impress upon us our need to act, to be bold, and be responsible, even when we know God is on our side.

Following in Avraham's footsteps, Rabbi Sacks lived this form of leadership. He took action, and he led by example. He was vocal in support of a religious, tolerant and open-minded worldview, and modeled it for us. He did not leave it to God, but instead led the members of his many *kehillot*, us, to reach "our full stature as human beings." We are better people, we are a better People, because of the years Rabbi Sacks was with us. His passing is a great loss. May the learning of his Torah be an *aliyah* for his *neshama*, and a *zechut* for all *Klal Yisrael*.

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

COMING THIS SPRING

Bat Mitzvah Program 5781

OPEN TO GRADE SIX GIRLS

APRIL - JUNE 2021

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FUN, ENGAGING WORKSHOPS

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שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

ARI KARON

Youth Matters

What happens when you take the shul out of shul youth programs? It sounds like the start of a witty joke, but it's a question we were forced to take seriously during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our answer? Youth programs come to you!

Over the past several months, programming has been entering the homes of the shul's youth through screens and delivered activities. Between the *High Holiday Youth Programs To Go* Packages and our *Children's Machzor, Parsha Packages,* virtual Rabbi B concert and Simchat Torah *Kahoot!*, there has been lots to do! I'd like to say a big thank you to the parents and, of course, our participants who have been so receptive and make all our efforts worthwhile. I'd like to highlight two of our ongoing programs.

Parent-Child Learning (PCL) with Rabbi Bergman takes place every moztei Shabbat, and provides families with parsha activities and pizza to enjoy. *Music Time* is a davening and sing-along group taking place on Sunday mornings. These programs are fun, engaging and provide a much-needed opportunity to be together while staying apart.

Please God we can all return to shul soon, but for the time being, staying up to date by reading our weekly *Kids Matter* emails is more important than ever. Don't miss any of the opportunities we have going on! If you're not signed up yet, please contact the shul office.

Thank you to our Youth Committee Co-Chairs: Dalia Yunger and Rachel Shour, and to our Committee Members: Arielle Berger, Dara Dishy, Naomi Glustein, Yael Lipson, Rina Parker, Chana Posluns, and Davida Shiff. A special thank you for the ongoing support, guidance and leadership that our youth program receives from Avital Strauchler.

The shul will always be committed to engaging the youth, no matter the format. Looking forward to seeing you at many more great programs!

Bar Mitzvah Program 5781

Rabbi Strauchler has been conducting our Bar Mitzvah Program online. He is working with eight young men on Sunday mornings for an hour. The program begins with a video, which triggers discussion. It continues with the study of the laws of Tefillin. We conclude each session with a competitive *Kahoot!* quiz, during which the boys review what they have studied while competing, using this digital platform. We have been making the most of this "different" learning environment, and we look forward to enriching the Bar Mitzvah year with meaningful Torah study.

Avital Strauchler will initiate the Bat Mitzvah program – in person – in the spring.

Pre-Yom Kippur Havdallah, COVID Campaign Launch and Farewell to the Shore Family

On Motzei Shabbat, September 26, in a Zoom Pre-Yom Kippur Havdallah & Kumzitz, Shaarei Shomayim launched its Community COVID Crisis Campaign. It featured Special Guest Speaker Prof. Arna Poupko Fisher, a musical Havdallah, and a farewell to Rabbi Shore, Lauren and Zachy on the eve of their departure to New York.

We said goodbye to the Shores and wished them well in their new home. A few reflections on their work from the members of our community were shared via Zoom chat that evening…

"Thank you so much Rabbi Shore and Lauren. I'll miss you. Your warmth and dedication is uplifting. I wish you all the best, and hope that our paths will cross in the future. *Gmar Chatima Tova.*"

"We will really miss you. You have inspired a whole community, but each of us have felt a personal connection to both of you. Our family is so grateful to have you spent this time together, and look forward to many more years of friendship."

"We will miss you and pray for your well being and success. Having you here and being so open and authentic was what we needed. We all have become better for having you as part of our community. Thank you and *tzeitchem l'shalom*."

"You have all had tremendous positive impact on all of us, individually and collectively. Your music and your ın have been inspiring and uplifting. And be sure to send a forwarding address and come back to us soon and often... on Zoom and in person!"

Shaarei Shomayim COVID Crisis Campaign

CHARLENE ARJE AND JOYCE EKLOVE, CO-CHAIRS, COVID CRISIS CAMPAIGN

We launched the Shaarei Shomayim COVID Crisis Campaign in the summer of 2020 to ensure the stability and strength of our shul, for the future. Special thanks to Rabbi Strauchler for his leadership, and also to Robin Gofine, Carol Seidman, David Brown and Michael Goldrich, for their invaluable guidance and strategic inputs.

On Kol Nidrei, we officially launched and promoted our campaign at all the shul's services, and our membership has rallied together in a beautiful way. As of December 11th, 170 families have contributed $550,000. Special thanks to the Goodman family for dedicating the kiddush club room in memory of Gil Goodman z"l, and also to the Hershtal family for a beautiful dedication in memory of Lisa Sandorfy Rosenfeld z"l, who has been part of the shul family for many years.

Our community is strong, but it is clear that many of our families have been impacted negatively by COVID. This fund will ensure that we will be able to get through this pandemic, and we will be able to support those of our community who are struggling.

We set our goat at $800,000, as we believed that the financial impact of COVID could last up to three years. On the following page is a list of donors who have contributed as of December 1st. This list gets updated weekly and distributed to our membership.

Thanks again to each of you who have gone above and beyond to support our shul's COVID Crisis Campaign. *Yasher Kochachem!*

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

PRE-YOM KIPPUR HAVDALLAH & KUMZITZ

Launching the

SHAAREI SHOMAYIM COMMUNITY

COVID CRISIS

CAMPAIGN

STANDING TOGETHER ♥ SUPPORTING EACH OTHER ♥ SECURING OUR FUTURE

Motzei Shabbat, September 26 | 8:00 PM

Featuring:

Special Guest Speaker: Prof. Arna Poupko Fisher

Prof. Arna Poupko Fisher is on the faculty of the Judaic Studies Department of The University of Cincinnati and serves as guest lecturer at the Hebrew Union College Institute of Religion, Cincinnati Campus. She is a faculty member of the Wexner Heritage Foundation and has lectured on Bible, Jewish Thought and Jewish communal leadership in over 140 communities.

Program Highlights will include:

- Musical Havdallah and Kumzitz with Rabbi Jesse Shore
- Information about the Covid Crisis Campaign
- Farewell to Rabbi Shore, Lauren and Zachy and an opportunity to wish them well on the eve of their departure to New York

Via Shul's Zoom

WWW.SHOMAYIM.ORG

We are so proud of how our community has come together and supported one another during this challenging time. The success of the **Shaarei Shomayim COVID Crisis Campaign** is a testament to the strength of our commitment to our shul.

– Rabbi Chaim Strauchler

YASHER KOCHACHEM AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE COVID CRISIS CAMPAIGN.
OUR GOAL IS $800,000; TO DATE, WE HAVE RAISED $550,000 FROM 170 FAMILIES.

Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood
Miriam Weinstein and Yossi Adler
Marcy Ages
Barry Alspector
Charlene and George Arje
Sahri and Bernard Baum
Ahuva and Sammy Bergman
Julie and Rodney Bergman
Becky and Shai Berliner
Helen and David Wm. Brown
Paul Brown
Marlene and Jack Brudner
Tova Gaisin and Neil Bubis
Alan Burger
Anne Burger
Lily and Immanuel Burton
Carole and Brian Cantor
The Closner Family
Beverley and Samuel Cohen
Helen and Alan Cohen
Morris Cooper
Linda and Randall Craig
Elise Herzig and Ron Cuperfain
Sally and Elliott Dale
Lori and Sheldon Disenhouse
Vivian and Lewis Dubrofsky
Chaim Eisenstat
Rifka and Sholom Eisenstat
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Laura and Jeff Fialkov
Roberta Kremer and Sandy Finkelstein
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Sandy and Jerry Genesove
Sharon and Louis Goelman
Robin and Tim Gofine
Louise Goldberg
Raquel and Jason Goldberg
Yvonne and Rick Goldberg
Ilana Arje and Evan Goldenthal
Michael Goldfarb
Francine and Michael Goldrich
Tamara and Yaakov Goldrich
Rebecca and Ori Goldstein
Family of Gilbert Goodman z"l
Helen and Jerry Grad
Arlee and Kenneth Grad
Avi Joshua Green
Casey and Adam Green
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Shoshana Kagedan
Andy Kaminker
Toby Kasner
Gerald Katz
Heather Reich and Kevin Katz
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Israel Kaufman
Corey Keeble
Jennie and Jeremy Kellerstein
Davida Shiff and Ian Kessler
Miriam Erlichman and Eli Klein
Anna and Bernie Kleinberg
Emily Klemensberg
Mark Kopstick
Katy and Cliff Korman

This listing will be updated and shared each week during our Campaign.
December 11th, 2020

YASHER KOCHACHEM AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE COVID CRISIS CAMPAIGN.
OUR GOAL IS $800,000; TO DATE, WE HAVE RAISED $550,000 FROM 170 FAMILIES.

Elianne and Adir Koschitzky
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Rachel Libman and Gerald Lazar
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Leah and Mitchell Lerner
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Suzy Tylman and Richard Maisel
Agi and Jack Mandel
Naomi Rifkind Mansell & David Mansell
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Elaine and Benny Osher
Tsiona and Jonathan Ostro
Karen Pape
Zahava Stadler & Matthew Paradisgarten
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Ronitte Friedman and Dr Kusiel Perlman
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Sophia and Zev Spiro
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Ruth Strauss
Sarah Brown and Steven Strauss
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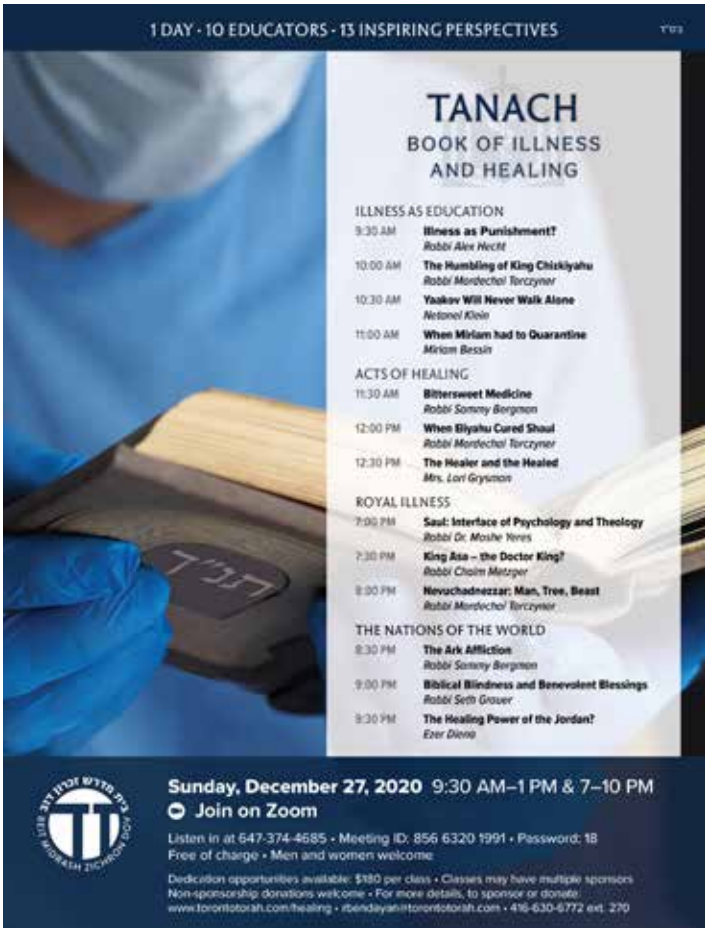
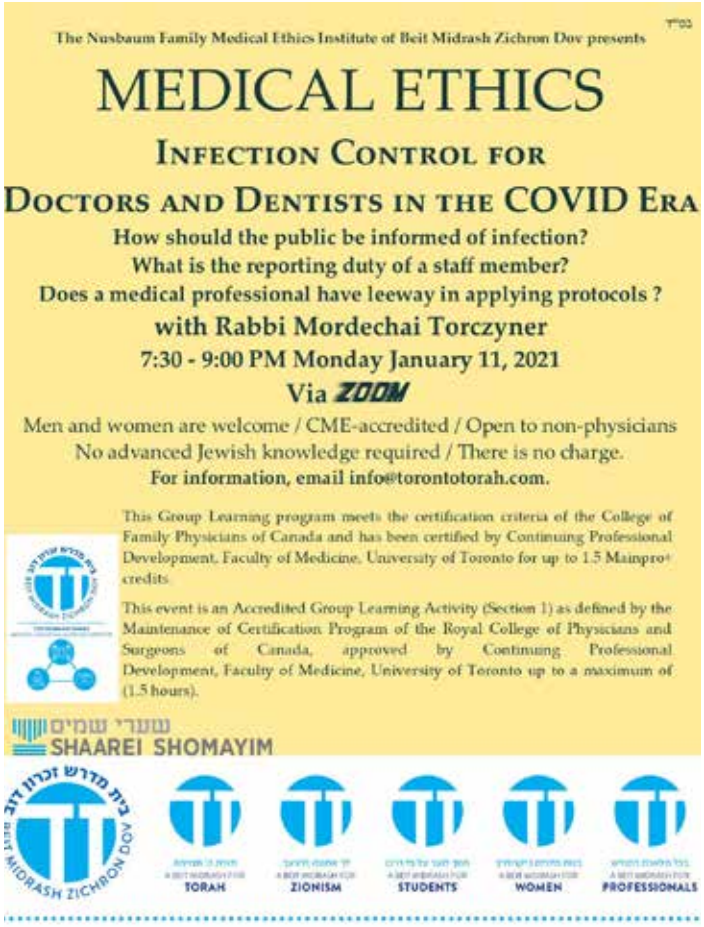
Jillian and Moishe Weinberg
Dalia and Shloimie Yunger
Nelly and Barry Zagdanski
Dianna and Ricky Zauderer
Jackie and Larry Zimmerman

This listing will be updated and shared each week during our Campaign.
December 11th, 2020





We were fortunate to participate in the Beit Midrash Zichron Dov *Jewish Identity Shavua-ton* with BAYT. To watch recordings of all the Shavua-ton presentations, please go to: torontotorah.com/identity/.

"The Beit Midrash Zichron Dov Shavua-ton in partnership with Shaarei Shomayim and the BAYT was excellent, and has made the long dark evening bright!"

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

בס"ד

GENESIS JOURNEYS

WITH

Rabbi Sammy Bergman

WEDNESDAYS | 7:30 pm

Via Shaarei Shomayim's Zoom

For more information please email Rabbi Bergman at
sbergman@torontotorah.com

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Aaron Rifkind: One million steps for CMDA

Toronto

Aaron Rifkind, a very generous donor and supporter of Canadian Magen David Adom has embarked on a mission. His love of walking and his dedication to helping save lives have inspired him to walk a million steps in the coming months with the aim of raising $75,000 for the purchase of a much-needed All-Terrain Ambulance 'Traxter' for the People of Israel - which were raised at a record time.

In a letter to family, friends and donors, Aaron wrote, in part, "In the middle of March the world came to a standstill, but I did not! I have been walking for several years so, with more time on my hands, increased my walking. It has certainly helped me stay fit and has kept me sane. However, it has started to get boring so I decided that I needed a focus, a sense of purpose and, with that in mind, I have decided to raise money for an All-Terrain Ambulance 'Traxter', designed to maneuver in rough terrain and under extreme weather conditions."

Why did I pick MDA? It was easy. It is a remarkable organization, founded 90 years

MDA inspired Aaron Rifkind to walk a million steps to raise money to purchase an All-Terrain Ambulance 'Traxter'.

ago with the mandate to save the lives of all citizens of Israel, regardless of race, religion, colour or socio-economic group. What makes this organization so amazing is that of the 27,200 who work for MDA, 25,000 are volunteers.

MDA is not a government agency, so it relies heavily on private funding. It has a network of 169 medical stations throughout Israel. It maintains a fleet of more than 1,850 Ambulances, Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs), and Emergency Medi-Cycles . MDA responds to more than 900,000 calls for accidents, everyday emergencies, births and disasters per annum. It collects more than 260,000 units of blood per year and is often the first to respond to crises overseas.

I am asking for your help to support MDA, to save lives, because saving a life is the greatest gift that anyone can give."

If you would like to continue supporting the People of Israel through Aaron Rifkind's Campaign, please visit **www.cmdai.org**

We thank Aaron for his generosity and perseverance in completing this life-saving project and wish him and his entire family much health and peace.

Use your passion to support CMDA!
Contact us today to launch your own fundraising campaign: info@cmdai.org

Confessions of a Shul COVID Politician

A POST FROM *SHUL POLITICS*, SHULPOLITICS.COM | POSTED: OCTOBER 20, 2020 AT 4:09PM PDT

Most people cringe at the thought of politics and politicians, but if you wikipedia the word, you will find that politics is the process by which groups of people make collective decisions. The Covid crisis has tested the capabilities of Shul Politicians the world over. So I just wanted to share some challenges we are currently facing. Our particular Shul is a membership organization, with active Officers, a Board of Directors, and a Rabbi who leads and guides us.

Shul politicians want the approval of their members. At the core, that's our raison d'etre – making our members happy. With regard to Covid, we need to develop constantly changing policies and procedures in response to the changing environment. The process involves trying to arrive at a consensus after discussing the issues with the members, officers, board and Rabbi. In the case of Covid, it's often hard to reach a complete consensus, but with much input and discussion, it's possible to develop policies that are safe, in the spirit of the law, and provide members with the services they need and expect.

After the policies are formulated and communicated, Shul Politicians are looking for the cooperation of the members. Cooperation sometimes morphs into compliance, and people sometimes need to be told to cover their nose, keep 6 feet distanced, and to attend a non preferred minyan location. It's natural for people to focus on their own interests, and the Shul Politician must remember that it's their job to nudge people into cooperation and compliance when necessary.

The payoff of these efforts for the Shul Politician is that every minyan, especially on Shabbos, is a mini-victory. In our Shul, our members are cooperative and appreciative, and that sweetens the efforts even more. May Hashem give us the continued strength to deal with this situation and bring us quickly to the days of yore, when seating, talking and funding were our primary concerns.

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

PRESENTS

RABBI SHLOMO KATZ

Zoom Scholar-in-Residence

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 | 1:00 PM

ON THE TOPIC

Emunah in 2021

Rabbi Shlomo Katz was born in New Jersey, the son of Cantor Avsholom Katz. His family moved to Israel when he was nine years old and subsequently moved back and forth between LA and Israel. While studying in a Ra'anana yeshiva, Katz was introduced to the music and teachings of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. Shlomo received his rabbinical ordination at Yeshivat HaMivtar in Efrat under Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Chaim Brovender. Today he serves as the Rabbi and spiritual leader of Cong. Shirat David in Efrat. He is a renowned Torah teacher and musician, and his unique style empowers individuals to explore, grow and form connections to themselves, others and to HaShem.

Sponsorships available - please contact the shul office

Via Shul's Zoom

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שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

PRESENTS

RABBI DOVID BASHEVKIN

Zoom Scholar-in-Residence

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021 | 8:00 PM

ON THE TOPIC

Sin•a•gogue and Synagogue: Sinful Thinking in Jewish Communal Life

Rabbi Dovid Bashevkin is the director of education for NCSY, and an instructor of public policy, religious crisis and rabbinic thought at Yeshiva University. After studying in Yeshivas Ner Yisroel, he completed rabbinic ordination at RIETS, and a master's degree at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies focusing on the thought of Rabbi Tzadok of Lublin. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in public policy and management at The New School's Milano School of International Affairs. He published the book *B'Rogez Rachem Tizkor* and a work entitled *Sin•a•gogue: Sin and Failure in Jewish Thought*.

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שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

PRESENTS

SHULI TAUBES

Zoom Scholar-in-Residence

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 | 8:00 PM

ON THE TOPIC

The Fruits of Sin: The Tree of Knowledge and the Birth of Moral Relativism

Shuli Taubes received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and her BA in history from Barnard College. She currently serves as a faculty member at SAR High School in Riverdale, New York, where she teaches Tanach, Jewish Identity, and chairs the Jewish Philosophy department. She has also developed and teaches a curriculum for educating Modern Orthodox high school students in comparative religion. Shuli was the Sopher Community Scholar at the Young Israel of North Riverdale where she gave shiurim and served in a pastoral role. She lectures in synagogues throughout North America. Shuli and her husband Ari live in Washington Heights, New York.

Sponsored by:

Rachel Libman & Gerald Lazar

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SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

DECEMBER 2020

Kislev/Tevet 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Tevet 20 8:30 am Shacharit	*6 Tevet* 21 7:15 am Shacharit	*7 Tevet* 22 7:15 am Shacharit	*8 Tevet* 23 7:15 am Shacharit	*9 Tevet* 24 7:15 am Shacharit	*10 Tevet* 25 **Fast of 10th of Tevet** **6:40 am Fast Begins** **8:30 am Shacharit & Slichot** **4:15 pm Mincha** **4:27 pm** 🕯🕯 **5:26 pm Fast Ends**	*11 Tevet* 26 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha וישלח 4:15 pm Mincha 5:30 pm Shabbat Ends
Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 4:30 pm						
12 Tevet 27 8:30 am Shacharit	*13 Tevet* 28 7:15 am Shacharit	*14 Tevet* 29 7:15 am Shacharit	*15 Tevet* 30 7:15 am Shacharit	*16 Tevet* 31 7:15 am Shacharit		
Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 4:35 pm						

You can view our full calendar of services and events at

shomayim.org/calendar

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

JANUARY 2021

Tevet / Shevat 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					17 Tevet 1 **Statutory Holiday** 8:30 am Shacharit 4:33 pm 🕯🕯 4:40 pm Mincha	*18 Tevet* 2 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha ויחי 4:20 pm Mincha 5:35 pm Shabbat Ends
19 Tevet 3 8:30 am Shacharit Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 4:40 pm	*20 Tevet* 4 7:15 am Shacharit	*21 Tevet* 5 7:15 am Shacharit	*22 Tevet* 6 7:15 am Shacharit	*23 Tevet* 7 7:15 am Shacharit	*24 Tevet* 8 7:15 am Shacharit 4:40 pm 🕯🕯 4:50 pm Mincha	*25 Tevet* 9 **Shabbat Mevorchim** 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha שמות 4:30 pm Mincha 5:42 pm Shabbat Ends
26 Tevet 10 8:30 am Shacharit Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 4:45 pm	*27 Tevet* 11 7:15 am Shacharit	*28 Tevet* 12 7:15 am Shacharit	*29 Tevet* 13 7:15 am Shacharit	*1 Shevat* 14 **Rosh Chodesh** 7:00 am Shacharit	*2 Shevat* 15 7:15 am Shacharit 4:48 pm 🕯🕯 4:55 pm Mincha	*3 Shevat* 16 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha וארא 4:35 pm Mincha 5:50 pm Shabbat Ends
4 Shevat 17 8:30 am Shacharit Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 4:55 pm	*5 Shevat* 18 7:15 am Shacharit	*6 Shevat* 19 7:15 am Shacharit	*7 Shevat* 20 7:15 am Shacharit	*8 Shevat* 21 7:15 am Shacharit	*9 Shevat* 22 7:15 am Shacharit 4:57 pm 🕯🕯 5:05 pm Mincha	*10 Shevat* 23 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha בא 4:45 pm Mincha 5:58 pm Shabbat Ends
11 Shevat 24 8:30 am Shacharit Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 5:05 pm	*12 Shevat* 25 7:15 am Shacharit	*13 Shevat* 26 7:15 am Shacharit	*14 Shevat* 27 7:15 am Shacharit	*15 Shevat* 28 **Tu B'Shevat** 7:15 am Shacharit	*16 Shevat* 29 7:15 am Shacharit 5:06 pm 🕯🕯 5:15 pm Mincha	*17 Shevat* 30 **Shabbat Shira** 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha בשלח 4:55 pm Mincha 6:07 pm Shabbat Ends
18 Shevat 31 8:30 am Shacharit Sun: Mincha/Maariv 5:15 pm						

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

FEBRUARY 2021

Shevat / Adar 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	19 Shevat 1 7:15 am Shacharit	*20 Shevat* 2 7:15 am Shacharit	*21 Shevat* 3 7:15 am Shacharit	*22 Shevat* 4 7:15 am Shacharit	*23 Shevat* 5 7:15 am Shacharit	*24 Shevat* 6 **Shabbat Mevorchim** 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha יתרו
	Mon - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 5:15 pm				5:16 pm 🕯🕯 5:25 pm Mincha	5:05 pm Mincha 6:16 pm Shabbat Ends
25 Shevat 7 8:30 am Shacharit	*26 Shevat* 8 7:15 am Shacharit	*27 Shevat* 9 7:15 am Shacharit	*28 Shevat* 10 7:15 am Shacharit	*29 Shevat* 11 7:15 am Shacharit	*30 Shevat* 12 **I Rosh Chodesh** 7:00 am Shacharit	*1 Adar* 13 **Shabbat Rosh Chodesh** **Shabbat Shekalim** 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha משפטים
Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 5:20 pm					5:25 pm 🕯🕯 5:35 pm Mincha	5:15 pm Mincha 6:25 pm Shabbat Ends
2 Adar 14 8:30 am Shacharit	*3 Adar* 15 **Civic Holiday** 8:30 am Shacharit	*4 Adar* 16 7:15 am Shacharit	*5 Adar* 17 7:15 am Shacharit	*6 Adar* 18 7:15 am Shacharit	*7 Adar* 19 7:15 am Shacharit	*8 Adar* 20 9:00 am Shacharit **Shabbat Zachor** Parsha תרומה
Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 5:30 pm					5:35 pm 🕯🕯 5:45 pm Mincha	5:25 pm Mincha 6:33 pm Shabbat Ends
9 Adar 21 8:30 am Shacharit	*10 Adar* 22 7:15 am Shacharit	*11 Adar* 23 7:15 am Shacharit	*12 Adar* 24 7:15 am Shacharit	*13 Adar* 25 **Ta'anit Esther** 5:58 am Fast Begins 7:00 am Shacharit/Slichot 5:30 pm Mincha	*14 Adar* 26 **Purim** 7:00am Shacharit/Megillat Esther*	*15 Adar* 27 9:00 am Shacharit Shushan Purim Parsha תצוה
Sun - Wed: Mincha/Maariv 5:40 pm				6:05pm Maariv/Megillat Esther* 6:31 pm Fast Concludes	5:44 pm 🕯🕯 5:50 pm Mincha	5:35 pm Mincha 6:42 pm Shabbat Ends
16 Adar 28 8:30 am Shacharit Sun: Mincha/Maariv 5:50 pm	****On account of COVID-19, details of additional Megillah reading(s) to be specified when circumstances are known.***					

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

MARCH 2021

Adar / Nisan 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	17 Adar 1 7:15 am Shacharit	*18 Adar* 2 7:15 am Shacharit	*19 Adar* 3 7:15 am Shacharit	*20 Adar* 4 7:15 am Shacharit	*21 Adar* 5 7:15 am Shacharit	*22 Adar* 6 **Shabbat Parah** 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha כי תשא
	Mon - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 5:50 pm				5:53 pm ðð 6:00 pm Mincha	5:40 pm Mincha 6:51 pm Shabbat Ends
23 Adar 7 8:30 am Shacharit	*24 Adar* 8 7:15 am Shacharit	*25 Adar* 9 7:15 am Shacharit	*26 Adar* 10 7:15 am Shacharit	*27 Adar* 11 7:15 am Shacharit	*28 Adar* 12 7:15 am Shacharit	*29 Adar* 13 **Shabbat HaChodesh** **Shabbat Mevorchim** 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha ויקהל-פקודי
Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 6:00 pm					6:02 pm ðð 6:10 pm Mincha	5:50 pm Mincha 7:00 pm Shabbat Ends
1 Nisan 14 **Rosh Chodesh** ***2 am Turn clocks forward one hour*** 8:30 am Shacharit	*2 Nisan* 15 7:15 am Shacharit	*3 Nisan* 16 7:15 am Shacharit	*4 Nisan* 17 7:15 am Shacharit	*5 Nisan* 18 7:15 am Shacharit	*6 Nisan* 19 7:15 am Shacharit	*7 Nisan* 20 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha ויקרא
Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 7:10 pm					**7:00 pm Mincha** 7:11 pm ðð (6:14*)	7:00 pm Mincha 8:08 pm Shabbat Ends
8 Nisan 21 8:30 am Shacharit	*9 Nisan* 22 7:15 am Shacharit	*10 Nisan* 23 7:15 am Shacharit	*11 Nisan* 24 7:15 am Shacharit	*12 Nisan* 25 **Fast of the First Born****	*13 Nisan* 26 7:15 am Shacharit	*14 Nisan* 27 **Shabbat Hagadol** צו **Erev Pesach****
Sun - Thurs: Mincha/Maariv 7:20 pm						

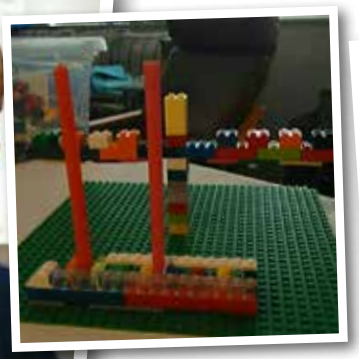
*Earliest time for this activity.

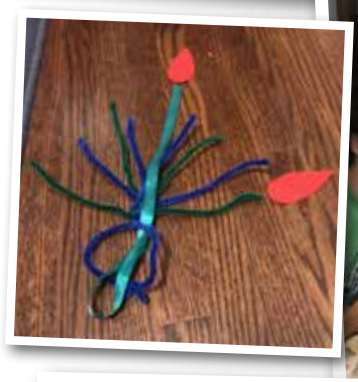
**The complete Pesach zmanim will be included in the next Bulletin.

THE SHUL IS TALKING

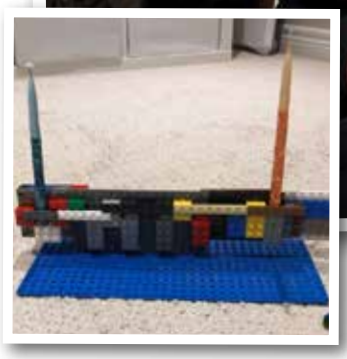
Our shul continues to talk! Look closely – it has a special message for you.

THE AMAZING CHANUKAH RACE



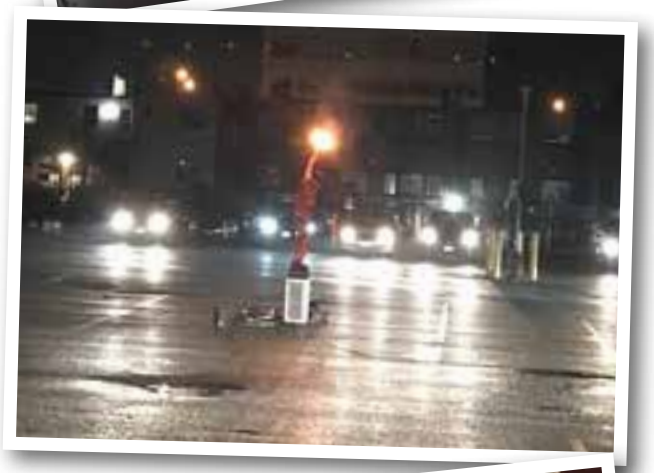


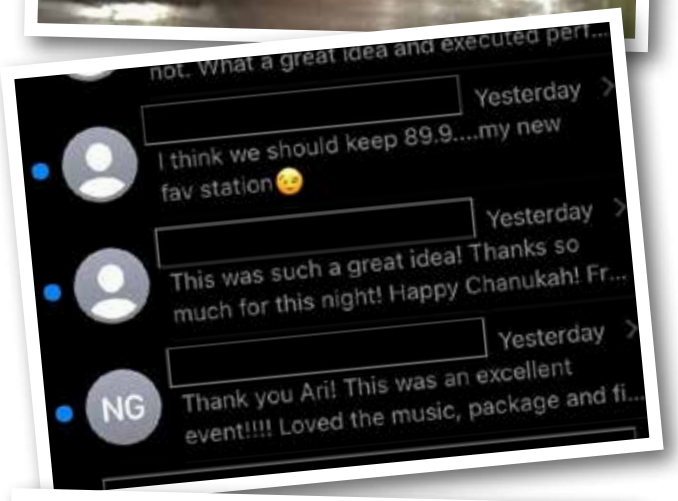
THE AMAZING CHANUKAH RACE



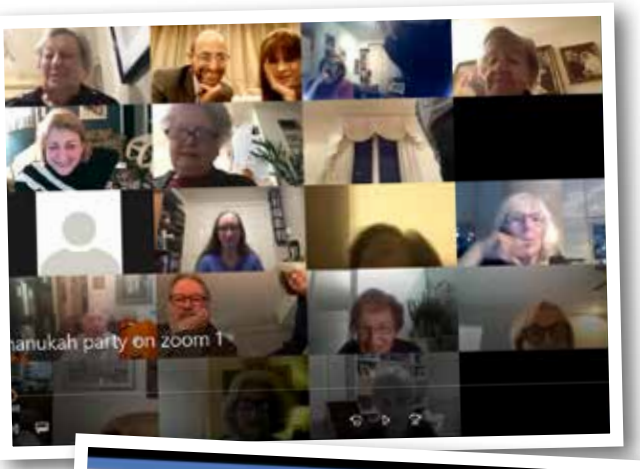
CHANUKAH FIRE & NEON SHOW

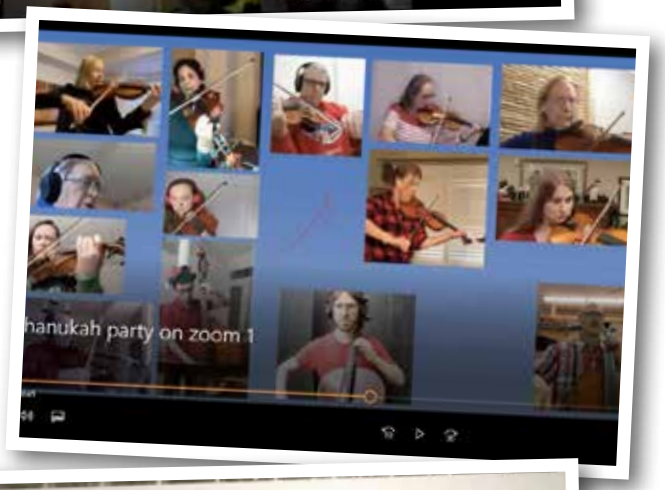
CHANUKAH FIRE & NEON SHOW





CHANUKAH PARTY ON ZOOM





שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

CHANUKAH PARTY
Via Shul's Zoom

Join us for Candle Lighting, A Musical Presentation by *Strings Attached* Orchestra, and Special Chanukah Presentations by our Members!

Tuesday, December 15, 5:15 pm

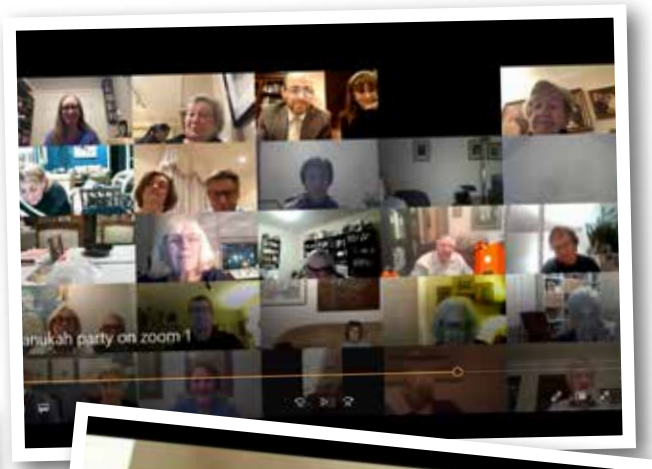
Register at: Shomayim.org/form/chanukahparty2020

Please have a Menorah handy to light candles, and be prepared for a *l'chaim*!

Event Committee: Dalya Hakimi, Linda Levenstein, Kitty Wintrob, and Avital Strauchler

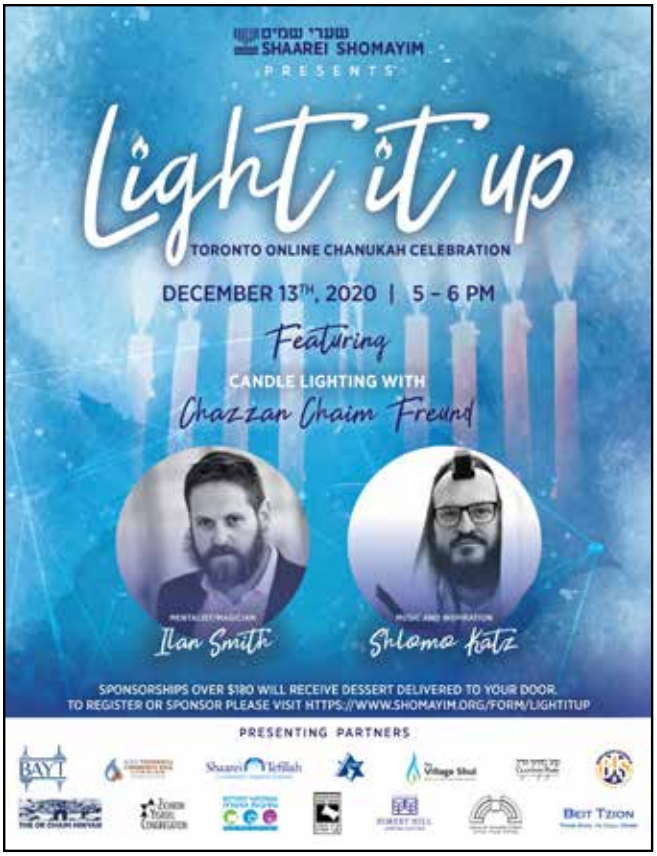
"Thank you Rabbi Strauchler, Dalya, Avital, Ruth, Linda and the entire Chessed Committee for arranging this Chanukah Zoom program. From beginning to end, it was beautiful from the candle lighting with Rabbi to Ruth Levenstein and her ensemble, the members memories, and the chanukiyah exhibit. Most of all for me personally, it was wonderful to see so many friends on line, it's been a long time! A great big thank you, Happy Chanukah!"

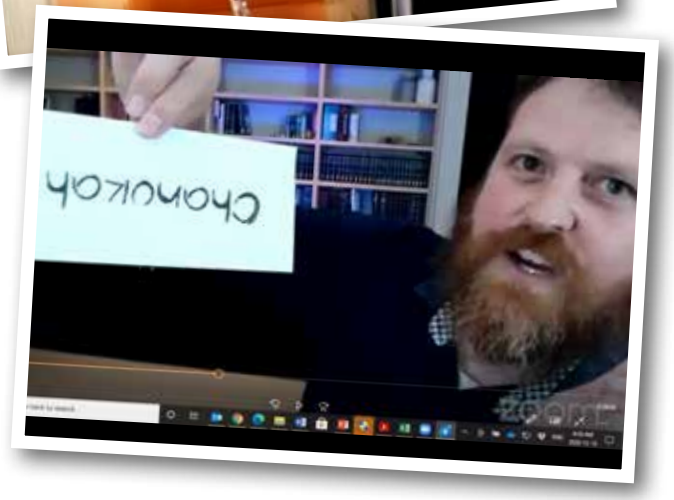
"I had a great time at the Chanukah party last evening. I was also very overwhelmed when Francine, of the Chessed Committee, delivered the latkes to me. All of this has really made my Chanukah a delight. Happy Chanukah!"

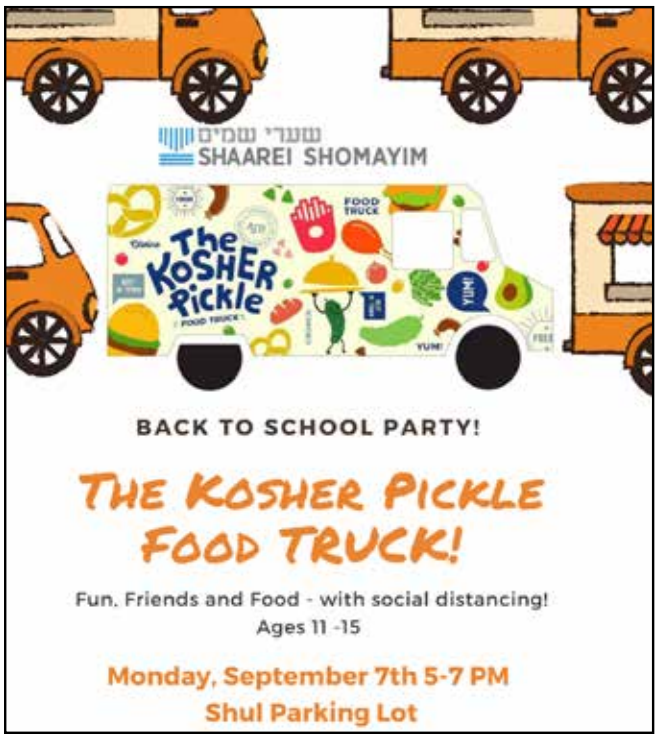


"I really enjoyed the Tuesday evening program. Thank you so much to Dalya, Kitty and the entire Chessed Committee, Avital and Rabbi Strauchler and everyone at the shul. The Dvar Torah, the *Strings Attached Orchestra* and all the lovely stories from our members brought me so much joy and inspiration."

LIGHT IT UP: TORONTO ONLINE CHANUKAH CELEBRATION






שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM
The KOSHER Pickle
FOOD TRUCK
BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY!
THE KOSHER PICKLE FOOD TRUCK!
Fun, Friends and Food - with social distancing!
Ages 11 -15
Monday, September 7th 5-7 PM
Shul Parking Lot

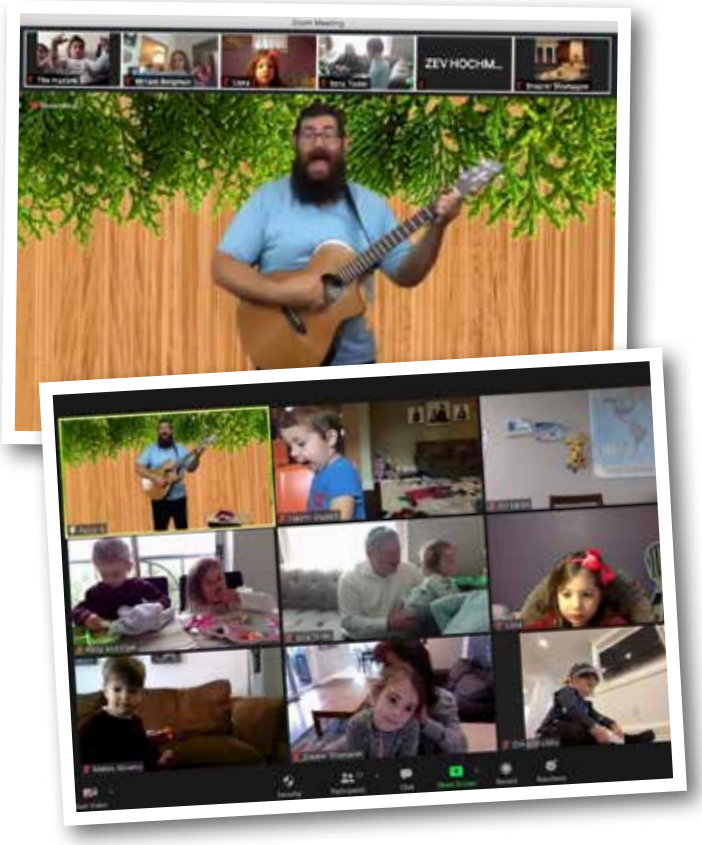
Divine
BEST IN TOWN
YUM!

The KOSHER Pickle
Divine
BEST IN TOWN
YUM!

Divine
BEST IN TOWN
YUM!

PARENT CHILD LEARNING

TOT SUKKOT WITH RABBI B



WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU BETTER!

Make donations, sponsor, make a payment on your account, etc. online – right from our website, anytime you want! You can also access your account from our web portal. Please call the office to get this access.

Donate, sponsor, and make a payment on account
shomayim.org/payment.php

PRE-ROSH HASHANA CLASSES

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

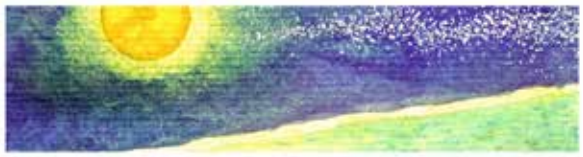
HIGH HOLIDAY 5781
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SERIES

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 | 8:00 PM
How to "Home-Shul" your Child
Avital & Rabbi Chaim Strauchler

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

HIGH HOLIDAY 5781
PROGRAM SERIES

Sunday, September 27, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Pre-Yom Kippur Zoom
Kol Nidrei & Yizkor

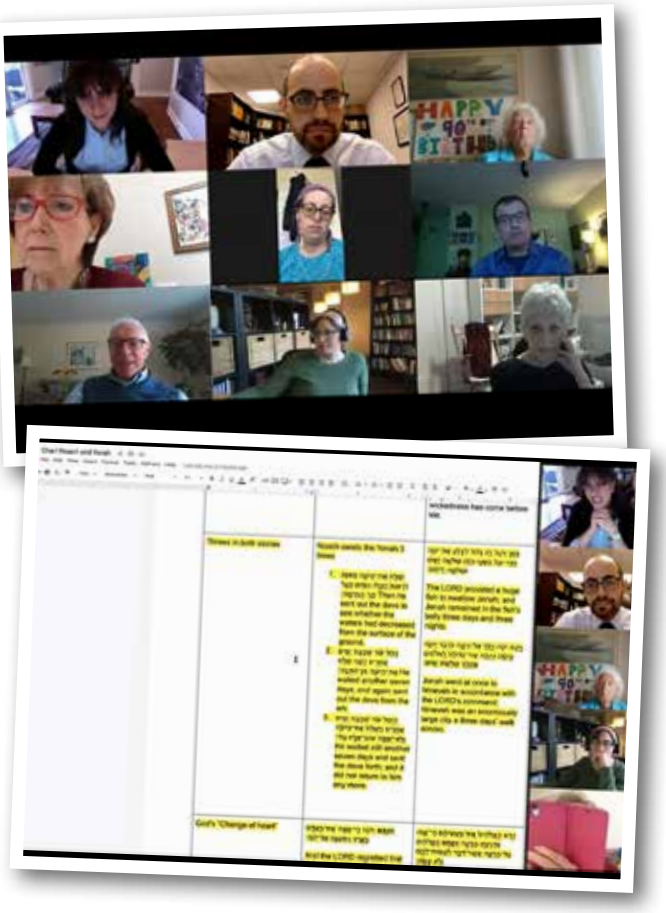


Sponsored by Mendel & Milla Tenenbaum in memory of their parents, David & Leah Shikman z"l and David & Deborah Tenenbaum z"l, and Mendel's brother, Hersz Tenenbaum z"l

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

HIGH HOLIDAY 5781
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SERIES

Monday, September 21, 2020 | 12:00 PM
Did Yonah Remember Noach?
Avital Strauchler



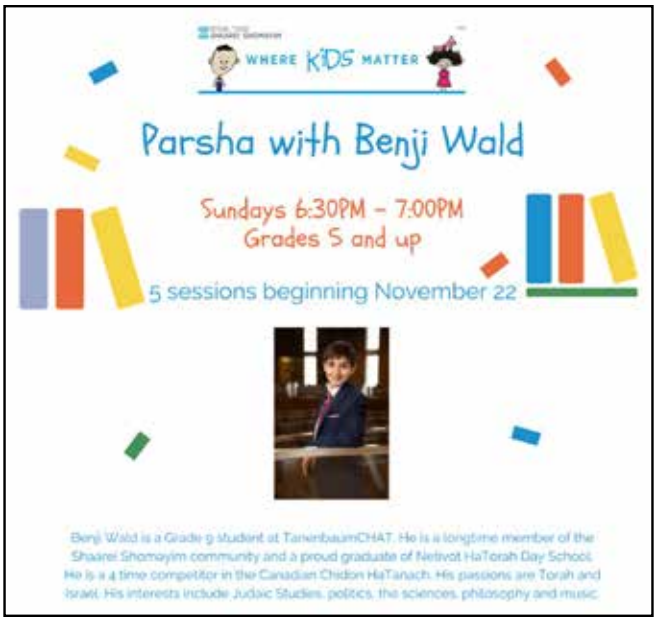
שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

HIGH HOLIDAY 5781
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SERIES

Wednesdays, September 16 & 23, 2020
September 16 - Rosh Hashana
September 23 - Yom Kippur
In two parts: 12:00 & 8:00 PM
Machzor Cheat Sheet
Rabbi Chaim Strauchler

PARSHA WITH BENJI WALD

Benji Wald led a Parsha series for grades 5 to 8, exploring the weekly Parsha through riddles, art, games, life lessons and much more. There was something for everyone!



YOUTH MUSIC TIME

DRIVE-BY PRE-ROSH HASHANA GREETINGS

Shaarei Shomayim Members participated in a Pre-Rosh Hashana Drive-By and socially distanced schmooze, and received a special gift package which included: Rabbi Strauchler's *High Holiday Reader*, our shul's *High Holiday Bulletin*, a Honey Cake, and Youth Rosh Hashana Activity Package – all from Shaarei Shomayim to say *Shana Tova U'Metuka!*

We thank The Silber Family for sponsoring the Rosh Hashana Gift Packages and the High Holiday Reader.

PRE-ROSH HASHANA RUACH

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

HIGH HOLIDAY 5781
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SERIES

Sunday, September 13, 2020 | 7:45 PM

Pre-Rosh Hashana *Ruach*

With Rabbi Shore, Rabbi Strauchler and Chazzan Freund

In Person: Outside on the Shul's Front Patio

And Via Shul's Zoom

470 Glencairn Avenue | Toronto, ON M5N 1V8 | Tel 416-789-3213 | Fax 416-789-1728
WWW.SHOMAYIM.ORG

YOUTH PARSHA PACKAGES

Even though we are not yet ready to welcome the Youth back to shul (so that everyone can stay safe) – we care very much for them and their religious experience. If they can't come to the shul, the shul would come to them! The packages contained a packet of Torah material for them to colour before Shabbat, parsha questions, crafts, games and comics!

ShulCloud Registration / Login

If you have not already done so and have an email registered with us, please login to your account at shomayim.org, set up your password, and look to see if the information that we have for you is correct. You can check birthdates, yahrzeits, children's details, and your account – all the information we have for you and your family. Please call the office for assistance at 416-789-3213.

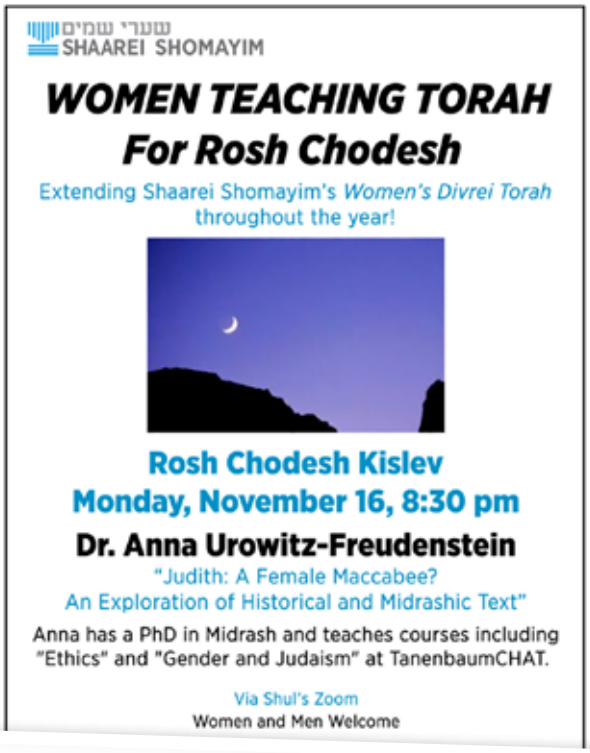
WOMEN'S DIVREI TORAH PROGRAM & WOMEN TEACHING TORAH FOR ROSH CHODESH

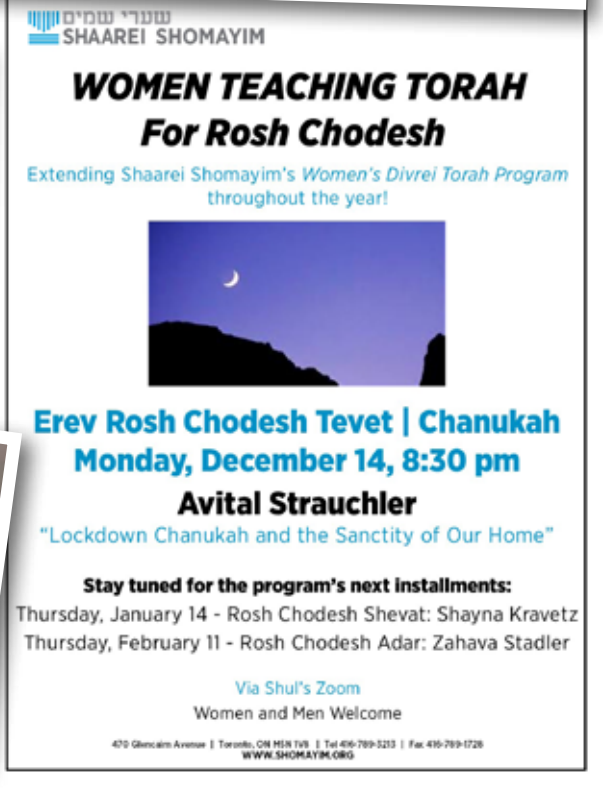
For many years, Simchat Torah at Shaarei Shomayim has featured a *Women's Divrei Torah Program*, in which women and men gather on Simchat Torah morning to hear words of Torah from a cross-section of the women of the community. This year, the program moved online, with eight women offering divrei Torah over Zoom and in writing. Topics ranged widely, from Yonah and the impact of his prophecy (both in his lifetime and as we read it today at home), to our personal and national observances of Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, to existential questions about the challenges of burnout and despair that we may face this year. The program was attended by over a hundred people online and we look forward to reconvening in shul on future Simchat Torah mornings.

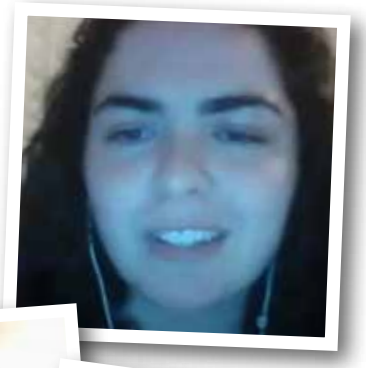
We thank all the contributors: Miriam Bessin, Sofia Freudenstein, Emily Goldberg Winer, Raquel Kaplan Goldberg, Shayna Kravetz, Michelle Landy-Shavim, Zahava Stadler, and Anna Urowitz-Freudenstein. Thank you to Zahava Stadler and Shayna Kravetz for chairing the program.

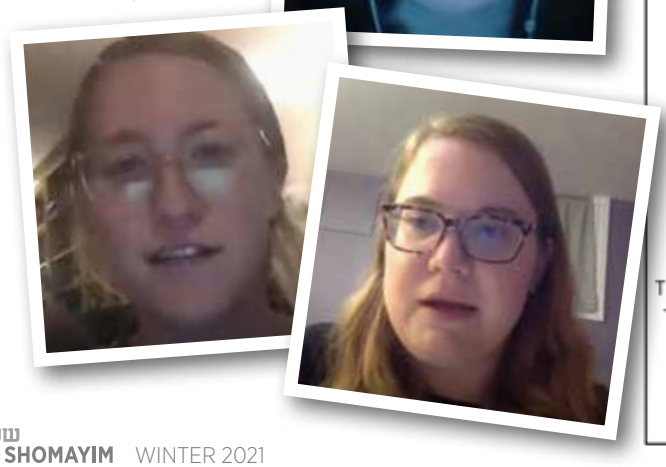
Our shul has collected and published the divrei Torah from this year's *Women's Divrei Torah Program*. For a digital copy of this publication, go to: https://www.shomayim.org/shul-publications.html.

This fall has brought further opportunities to learn Torah with and from the women of our community. In a new *Women Teaching Torah for Rosh Chodesh Program*, women are offering shiurim to both women and men over Zoom each month. Dr. Anna Urowitz-Freudenstein kicked off the program on Rosh Chodesh Kislev. Avital Strauchler offered the second shiur of the program on Rosh Chodesh Tevet, and we look forward to a full slate of Torah teaching in the months to come.









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Member News

We wish Mazal Tov to the following:

FROM AUGUST 15 TO NOVEMBER 28, 2020

BIRTHS

BARRY & GILDA WALTMAN and Jacki & Norman Kahn on the birth and naming of their new granddaughter, Tamar Bella (Hila Tamar). Proud parents are Jordan & Dayna Waltman, and brother Ian Waltman. Mazal Tov to all the excited aunts, uncles & cousins.

RABBI SAMMY & DR. AHUVA BERGMAN on the birth of their daughter, DEVORAH. Excited sister is MIRIAM. Proud grandparents are Dr. Michael & Jeri Bergman and Drs. Avi & Elin Freilich.

LORRAINE HANSER on the birth of a great-grandson, Chase Parker, born to Dale & Falyn Abrams. Excited siblings are Cole and Paige. Proud grandparents are Kim & Jon Abrams and Elise & Danny Waltman. Thrilled aunts & uncles are Jesse & Shani, Lee & Tali, Ryan, Ahron & Sarah Abrams, Adam & Samara Waltman and Andrew & Eryn Sergel.

SETH & DANIELLA GREENSPAN on the birth of their son, JUDE DANIEL. Excited siblings are WILLIAM, JAMES, and SOPHIE. Proud grandparents are JOHN & LORI ULMER and Brian & Renee Greenspan.

BRIAN & BRYNA BLOOM and Rona Light (and the late Peter Light z"l) on the birth of a grandson, Yehuda Zacharia, born to Rachel & Robert Bloom in Israel. Excited siblings are Izzy, Akiva, Moshe, Zehava and Gavriel. Proud great-grandfather is Ray Pines.

STEVEN & LAURA SLAVENS on the birth of their son, SIDNEY REUBEN. Excited brother is BEN DAVID SLAVENS. Proud grandparents are JAMES & LINDA SLAVENS and David & Alicia Wexler.

JOEY & NATHALIE BERLJAWSKY on the birth of their twin girls, SOPHIE and ISABELLE. Excited siblings are ABIGAIL and EVAN. Proud grandparents are Mark and Suzanne Gans and Sheila Wimisner.

JEFFREY PELCHOVITZ & ELIZABETH GOTTESMAN on the birth of their son, JACK THOMAS PELCHOVITZ. Excited sister is ZOE. Proud grandparents are STEVE GOTTESMAN & LIDDY BECK and Mark & Saimi Pelchovitz.

CHAZZAN CHAIM & MIREL FREUND on the birth of a son, ZALMAN. Excited sister is SARAH. Proud grandparents are Rabbi Mendel & Toby Bernstein, and Rabbi Yecheskel & Malky Freund.

REBECCA & ORI GOLDSTEIN on the birth of their daughter, ZOE ROSE. Excited big brother is ASHER. Proud grandparents are Genady & Sara Shapira and Zev & Shaindy Goldstein. Honoured great-grandmother is DODO COHEN.

NICOLE & JEFF TOLEDANO and Sam & Anita Miller on the birth of their granddaughter, Chaya Solika, born to Eve & Yisroel Miller. Thrilled aunts and uncles are Ashley & Jeremy Mammon and Jacob Toledano, Yechiel & Noa, Yitzy & Devorah, Devorah and Leah Miller. Proud great-grandparents are Barry Brin and Bella Miller.

We welcome Clara Chaya (Tzipporah Chaje) Fryman among Kol Israel. Elated parents are Rachel & David Fryman. Excited big sister is Aliza and big brother is Asher. Proud grandparents are Anne & Edward Fryman of Long Island, and our members ANDREW NEUMAN & MARLEE NEWMAN.

YONA & ADAM SOLOMON on the birth of their daughter, חנה מאירה (HANNAH MEIRA). Elated grandparents are RISA & LOUIS VANDERSLUIS and Glenda & Philip Solomon. Proud great-grandmother is Helen Parker.

DANIEL & ORA KLEIN on the birth of their daughter, AMELIA ROSE. Proud grandparents are Martin & Anna Klein and Howie & Sorrie Javasky.

JUDY LAXER & JEFFREY LIPSITZ on the birth of their first grandchild, Lily Maytal Lipsitz, born to Lauren & Yonatan Lipsitz. Proud grandparents are Tamar Sivkin and Edwin Gans. Thrilled great-grandparents are Betty (Carl z"l) Laxer and Marsha Gans of Montreal. Excited uncles and aunts are AVI, MICHAL and ORLY LIPSITZ, Jennifer Gans & Michael Keshen, and Daniel Gans.

BRIAN & ROBBIE SCHWARTZ and Susie & Remo Coen on the birth of a grandson, Yuri Simcha, born to RABBI SHMUEL & ELANA SOROKA. Excited siblings are Dov Ber, Masha Miriam, Baila Sara, Chayim Yehuda, Tzvi Meir and Ephraim Noach. Late grandfather and great-grandmothers are Berl Soroka z"l, Lyla Schwartz z"l and Agnes Gottesman z"l.

We welcome Jessie Stanley Plant among Kol Israel. Elated parents are Anna Neuman & Eric Plant. Joyous aunt and uncle are Rachel Neuman-Fryman & David Fryman. Excited cousins are Aliza, Asher, and Tzipporah. Proud grandparents are Rosie & Jeff plant, and our members ANDREW NEUMAN & MARLEE NEWMAN.

LINDA LEVENSTEIN on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Gilli Moriah Hershkovitz, born to Yair & Merav Hershkovitz of Kiryat Malachi, Israel.

NACHUM & YAEL SILVERMAN on the birth of their son, AYDEN JULIUS. Proud grandparents are REUVEN & DEBBIE SPIEGEL and Murray & Susan Silverman. Excited uncles, aunts and cousins are Avi & Erin, Isaac, Evan and Ezra Silverman, NAPHTALI & AVA, JACOB and JOSHUA SILVERMAN, Binyamin & Leora Silverman, AKYVA & GILA, ARLEY and AYAL SPIEGEL, Geoffrey & Miryam, Judah and Sammy Kiderman, and KOBY & RACHELI SPIEGEL. Proud great-grandparents are Beatryce Spiegel and Harry & Helen Cohen.

HAROLD & GILI ROSEN on the birth of a granddaughter, Ateret Sarah, in Jerusalem, 2nd daughter to Avital & Joseph Freedman. Proud big sister is Elisheva Tzipora. Great-grandparents are BRONA ROSEN, Lois Buckstein and Carl Rosen. Mazal Tov to the Freedman family in Jerusalem, and the Buckstein and Rosen families in Toronto.

COURTNEY & MICHAEL SHERMAN on the birth of their daughter, RACHEL SARAH. Excited big sister is DALIA.

BETH & MIGUEL SINGER on the birth of their first grandchild, Emery Morgan. Proud great-grandparents are HELEN & ERNEST SINGER and Beverley Stern.

VICKY & RALPH LEVINE on the birth of their first great-granddaughter, born to their grandchildren Chanie & Ephraim Fink of Toms River, New Jersey. Mazal Tov to the very excited big brothers Zevi and Momo; to grandparents Deena & Rabbi Shmuli Schwebel of Cedarhurst, New York, and Esti & Berel Fink of Flatbush, New York.

BERL & REBECCA NADLER on the birth of a granddaughter, Hallel Bayla, daughter to Ariella Nadler & Hody Nemes. Thrilled brother is Shaya. Proud great-grandparents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins are Annabelle & Kenny Chapel, Alan Nemes & Fawn Chapel, Batya & Matt, Hillel & Tova, Tova & Seth, Yosef, Shoshana, Rose, Charlie, Adira, Adin, Abie and Yonah.

Laura & Rick Orzy on the birth of their grandson, Yishai Moshe Flaster, born to Noa & Jake Flaster in Jerusalem. Excited siblings are Oze and Lielle. Other proud grandparent is Linda Flaster of Pennsylvania.

BARUCH HARARI & SARAH TURK on the birth of their son, ISRAEL MEIR. Proud grandparents are STEWART & DANIELLE TURK and Amichai & Ruchel Harari.

IRVING & SHARON KNOPMAN on the birth of a grandson, born to Jason & Jolene Knopman. Excited sibling is Evan. Proud grandparents are Stan & Marilyn Abel.

BAR / BAT MITZVAH

JEFFREY & GAYLE ROBERTS on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, DANIEL. Excited siblings are MICHAEL, RACHEL, and JOSHUA. Proud grandparents are ANDOR & ILONA ROBERTS and Dr. Bernard Sered. Mazal Tov to the whole extended family.

TED SHOUB & YVETTE ROSENBERG on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, JAMIE. Excited siblings are JONAH, LAUREN, ELLA and LEA. Proud grandparents are Susan Rosenberg & Tibor Rosenberg z"l and Cyrele & Bernard Shoub.

DR. YONATAN & YOCHEVED MILEVSKY on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, YONAH. Excited siblings are YIDDLE, ETHEL and JJ. Proud grandparents are Dr. Chaya Mannes-Milevsky & the late Rabbi Uziel Milevsky zt"l, and Simcha & Esther Dick.

ADAM & CASEY GREEN on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, AVI. Excited sisters are NOA and MARA. Proud grandparents are HELENE & BERNIE GREEN and Harold & Lynne Cipin. Proud great-grandmother is Myra Sadowski.

AARON & EMILY HERSHTAL on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, ARIEL. Excited siblings are MAYTAL, ILAN and LEVI. Proud grandparents are Sybil & Zev Hershtal and Pam & Ricky Turetsky.

ENGAGEMENTS

ELAINE & DANNY SHIFF on the engagement of their daughter, SARAH to Seth Frieberg, son of Jack Frieberg and Sandy Herlick. Thrilled siblings are Rachel, Jeremy and Benji Shiff, Adam & Sara Frieberg, Mathew & Lindsay Frieberg, and Orly Frieberg & Daniel Prupas. Excited nephews and nieces are Noah Levman as well as Emunah, Rina, Chana, Ezzy, Mia and Hannah Frieberg. Proud grandparents are DOROTHY SHIFF, Isaac & Basia Jesin, Gerda Frieberg, David and Lorraine Herlick.

LEORA ZAUDERER and Jacob Cherney on their engagement. Thrilled parents are DIANNA & RICKY ZAUDERER and Lynn & Jerry Cherney, of Chicago. Ecstatic grandparents are ANDOR & ILONA ROBERTS. Thrilled Siblings are TANYA, BOSSMAT & ARIEL ZAUDERER; Brad and Janie Cherney, Leslie and Yehuda Gutstein, Emily and Yoel Dvorin. Delighted nieces and nephews are Oshri and Rami Zauderer; Hillel, Zack, Yossi, Eli and Sarah Cherney; Tani, Allie, Yair and Atara Gutstein; and Mollie Dvorin. Mazal Tov to the extended family: JEFFREY & GAYLE ROBERTS, MICHAEL, RACHEL, DANIEL and JOSHUA; Linda and Anya Roberts.

MICHAEL & AURELIA OSTRO on the engagement of their son, EITAN to Danielle Levine, daughter of Gary Levine and Lynn and Marvin Katz. Excited siblings, nephews and nieces are Daniel & Reena, Adriel, Aiden and Adira Ostro, JONATHAN & TSIONA, EMANUELLE and ARIELLE OSTRO, and Stephanie and Jessica Levine. Grandparents are Menachem Mendel z"l & Aviva Malatzky z"l, Melvin z"l & Celia Ostro z"l, Rose z"l & Pinchas Levine z"l, and Doris z"l & Alfred Raskin z"l.

LINDA LEVENSTEIN on the engagement of her granddaughter, Atara Levenstein to Michkail Hoffman of Jerusalem.

ALA GAMULKA (LARRY z"l) on the engagement of her granddaughter, Eliana Bayer Gamulka to Nitzan Goldberg, both of Jerusalem. Proud parents are Jenny Bayer and Daniel Gamulka, and Hadas Achituv (Jeremy Kuttner) and Oded Goldberg. Excited siblings are Avi, Noam, Shalev and Yagel. Delighted grandparents are Ellen Bayer, Ada and Avraham Goldberg.

MARRIAGES

LINDA LEVENSTEIN on the marriage of her grandson, Aaron Lesser, son of Carol & Stewart Lesser, to Dr. Talia Stark, daughter of Marla & Bob Stark of Cleveland, Ohio.

JASON KLEMENSBERG and Laura Shnall on their wedding. Proud parents are PETER & ADRIANNE KLEMENSBERG and Jeff & Adriana Shnall. Thrilled grandparents are Edit Galfi, Arlene Shnall, Ruth Schweitzer and Daniel Rozenberg. Delighted brothers and sisters are EMILY, AVA & NAPHTALI SILVERMAN, Ben and Joanna

ELAN PRATZER & MALKA LEWITTES and Michael & Karen Rosenberg and families on the marriage of their children, ARIELLA PRATZER to David Rosenberg. Excited family members are siblings NOAM PRATZER & YAEL WERTENTEIL, AVIVA PRATZER, and Eric Rosenberg. Proud grandmothers are Betty Cohen and Ida Pratzer.

AMANDA SALEM & DAVID EISENSTAT on the marriage of their daughter LEORA to Josh Stern, of Silver Spring, Maryland. Excited siblings are ARIELLA EISENSTAT and JOSHUA EISENSTAT. Proud grandparents are CHAIM EISENSTAT, Ketty Salem and Joseph Salem. Mazal Tov to Larry & Alicia Stern and the Stern family.

SUSAN & BRUCE BATIST on the marriage of their son, NOAH to Abby, daughter of Susan & Michael Andrew. Thrilled siblings are Jacob Batist and Jill Taras, Judah Batist, and Aiden Batist, Rachel and Dorron Rybko, and Jonathan Andrew. Proud grandmothers are ROSLYN BERGER and Gert Batist. Excited niece is Micah Batist.

ARTHUR & JOYCE EKLOVE on the marriage of their grandson Yehuda, son of Harley & Susan Eklove of Ra'anana, to Daniella Einhorn, daughter of Alvin & Cheryl Einhorn, and granddaughter of Annette Needleman.

KAREN DONIN on the marriage of her granddaughter, Chaya Rosen to Mordechai Applebaum. Proud parents are Cheryl & Gerry Rosen and Kayla & Avrohom Applebaum. Thrilled grandparents are Milton Rosen and Bella Goldberg.

IES & RUTH VAN MESSEL on the marriage of their granddaughter, Frady, daughter of Samuel & Nechama van Messel of Monsey NY, to Amram Lisauer, son of Dovid & Chany Lisauer of Borough Park NY.

FRANK & KAREN ANDER on the marriage of their daughter, TOVI to Yonatan, son of Eric Pellow & Rachel Blumenfeld. Proud grandparents are Max & Lil Ander and Morry & Charlotte Blumenfeld. Excited siblings are ADINA, DAVIDA and SHIRA ANDER, David and Adin Pellow.

Pam & Hersh Brenman and Clarissa & Dr. Neil Hahn on the marriage of their children, Arielle to Shmuel. Proud grandparents are HARVEY$^{Z"L}$ & YETTA BRENMAN, Elayne Isenberg, Jack Day$^{z"l}$ & Annette Auerbach, Benno$^{z"l}$ & Malka$^{z"l}$ Hahn, and Benjamin$^{z"l}$ & Jeanette Massouda.

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

BRIAN CANTOR on the 50th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah, and on his birthday.

RANDALL CRAIG on the 3rd anniversary of his transplant.

SANDY GENESOVE on her special birthday.

GORD STEINBERG on his special birthday.

SOL NAYMAN on his 85th birthday.

MOSHE & BRENDA BESSIN on their 40th wedding anniversary.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tov to EVAN GOLDENTHAL for successfully defending his thesis and completing his PhD in the Humanities Department at York University.

B'hatzlacha to the students who are in Israel for their year of study: MAYA ARONSON, JUSTIN GOODMAN, BENJAMIN MAISEL, NATAN PARKER, LAUREN SHOUB, NATHAN STARKMAN, ROBBIE TYLMAN and MAYER WEINBERG.

Yasher Koach to AARON RIFKIND for walking 1 Million steps for the Canadian Magen David Adom, and raising $75,000 in order to purchase an All-Terrain Ambulance 'Traxter.'

Mazal Tov to PROF. DAVID NOVAK on receiving the *Canadian Jewish Literary Award* (Scholarship Category) for his book "Athens and Jerusalem: God, Humans, and Nature."

CONDOLENCES TO

ELISE HERZIG & RONNIE CUPERFAIN, Jack Herzig & Heather Shay-Herzig, Tzudyk Mandelcorn, Elizabeth Swift, Allie Cuperfain, Justin Cuperfain & Orli Bogler, and Marissa and Gavin Herzig, on the loss of their father, father-in-law, brother-in-law, and grandfather, Adam Henri Herzig$^{z"l}$.

Judy Perle & Edward Schnurr, Honey Fisher & Dan Fennick, Morris & Rose Mandelker and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law and aunt, SARAH GERSTL$^{z"l}$.

JONATHAN & ELLEN ALLEN, Steven Allen & Rachelle Matlow, Roselyn Allen & Chris Cerar, Shayna & Darren Strong, Faye David, Leon Dubinsky & Dr. Beth McCormack, Leslie & Josine Dubinsky, Barrie Carnat, BOB, ASHER and TRUDY ALLEN, Hazel Allen, Maks Pikoul, Ally and Brendan Cerar, Ethan and Manny Strong, on the loss of their father, father-in-law, brother, brother-in-law and grandfather, Louis Allen$^{z"l}$.

RALPH & KITTY WINTROB and family, on the loss of their brother and brother-in-law, Dr. Ronald Marvin Wintrob$^{z"l}$.

Polly Solomon, ADA MORRIS KOSOY & DR. PHIL KOSOY, Earl Morris, WARREN KOSOY, Abbey Morris, Erin Morris, Leslie Morris & Linda Robinson, Jeny Vaidenfeld, Ben & Jane Solomon, and Rachel & Don Marcovitch, on the loss of their husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother and brother-in-law, Sidney Morris$^{z"l}$.

EVAN & ILANA, LEORE and KOBY GOLDENTHAL, Joshua & Shely, Charlotte, James, Caroline, Cayden, Liam, Noah and families, on the loss of their grandmother and great-grandmother, Madeline Goldenthal Rosen$^{z"l}$.

LINDA LEVENSTEIN, Connie & Chuck Solomon, Leora Levenstein, Merav (and Yair) Hershkowitz, Elnatan, Atara, Tsahala (and Elnatan) Peretz, Aviel, Yonadav, Yehudah Mevaser, Shilo Eliezer, Tair Tova, Raz Rivka, Kamah, Sari (and Allan) Stitt, Carol (and Stewart) Lesser, and Daniel (and Ruth) Levenstein, on the loss of their son, son-in-law, husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother and brother-in-law, Michael Allan Levenstein$^{z"l}$.

Ilan and Susan Shapiro, JENNIFER SHAPIRO (Barry Schwartz), Ari and Leanne Shapiro, Zachary, Julia and Noah Shapiro, AMY GOTKIN and COREY GOTKIN, Natasha, Justin and Dina Shapiro, and BRONDELL SHAPIRO, on the loss of their father, father-in-law and grandfather, PAUL SHAPIRO$^{Z"L}$.

Syndie Geller, Stephanie (Shayna) and Lorne Chapman, Judy and Martin Zelikovitz, Jeffrey Olin and Debbi Mecklinger, Shirley Granovsky, Peter and Roz Olin and families, on the loss of their father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather, companion, brother and brother-in-law, JACK OLIN$^{Z"L}$.

YETTA BRENMAN, Cyril & Leigh Ann, Hersh & Pam, Aaron Howard, GILA & AKYVA, Dova & Josh, Sarina, Shayna & Tzvi, Arielle & Shmuel, Benjamin, ARLEY, AYAL, J.J. and Emmy, on the loss of their husband, father, father-in-law, brother-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, HARVEY BRENMAN$^{Z"L}$.

NAOMI ROSKIES AND ALEX NEUMAN, the late Jon Roskies[z"l] (Susan Roskies Cytrynbaum), Mark Galler, Richard Roskies and Jessica Wertman, Dr. Michael Roskies and Marissa Rosen, Karina Roskies and Brian Gottlieb, Elianne Neuman Schiff and Yaakov Schiff, Jonathan Roskies, Samantha Roskies; Jackson Roskies; Jordyn Gottlieb, Tori Gottlieb; Nati Schiff and Adi Schiff, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, companion, grandmother and great-grandmother, Dr. Ethel Roskies[z"l].

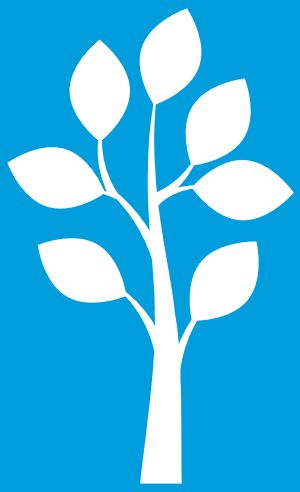
Elsa Stringer, Stephen Stark and families, on the loss of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, BARBARA STARK[z"l].

ROBIN & TIM GOFINE, David & Victoria Coven, MIRIAM, NAOMI, and DANIEL GOFINE, Isaac, Sam, Ruby, and Pearl Coven, Marcy Fish, and Justice Morris Fish on the loss of their father, father-in-law, grandfather and brother-in-law, Malcolm Coven[z"l].

Shoshana Ages, David Goldberg, Aaron & Deena Wapner, MARCY AGES, Miriam Ben Shalom, Devorah & Efron Sturmwind, Esther & Roni Abrahamovitz, Yakov Mordechai Goldberg, Sarah, Aviva and Yoni Wapner, on the loss of their husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, Arnold Ages[z"l].

FAROKH S. & DALYA HAKIMI, Louise Varsanof, Diana & Maurice Eilian, Elana & Henry Levian and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, Rifka Shafizadeh Hakimi[z"l].

Leo & Eva Reich, Marcel Reich-Salamon and families, on the loss of their mother and mother-in-law, MARGARET REICH[z"l].



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EDITH FEIGER, Brian Feiger, Yarden, Eitan and Eliav, on the loss of their husband, father and grandfather, EUGENE FEIGER[z"l].

Ariel & Sara Walsh, Liron & Orli Walsh, Bruria & Danny Frances and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law and grandmother, RELY WALSH[z"l].

Stephen & Nancy Magder, Michael Magder, Marty Magder, Paul & Cindy Magder, Anna Kaufman, Marsha Cargman and families, on the loss of their father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and brother-in-law, JOSEPH MAGDER[z"l].

Shelley, Cindy, Dalit, Laila, Tammy, David, Howie, Ron, Simon, Hy, Mark, Dina, JERRY & SANDRA GENESOVE and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister-in-law, Belle Genesove[z"l].

Rochelle Balaban, Alana & Steve Fisher, Shira & Elias Levy, Tammy & Steve Erenberg, DALI & TZVI FRIED and families, on the loss of their husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, Vernon Balaban[z"l].

Mendy Finkelstein and Bonnie Lass, Gloria and David Wiener, Shelli and Marty Kalson, SANDY FINKELSTEIN AND ROBERTA KREMER, Yetta Lanys, Vicky Lanys, Jeremy and Zsuzsanna, Roxanne and Mike, Marissa, Shawn, Daniel and YJ, Josh and Marnie, Marcie, Noah and Faith, Sarah and Avi-Shai, Ezzie and Eliza, Emma and Michelle, MARA, ADELE and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, Dorothy Finkelstein[z"l].

RUTH (SHERMAN) TALESNICK, Mark, Lisa, Shoshi, CHYLA & JEFF TRAUBICI, Judith Michal Amir, Barry Katz, Michael Stein, Tirra, Shefa, Raya, Ben, Alona, Ariel, Yona, Avia, Raimie, Shai, Avishua, Avital, Ore, Guy, Illi, Ofri, Michael, Eli, Omer, and Yuval, on the loss of their husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, IRWIN TALESNICK[z"l].

JUDY & BRIAN KOTZER, ROBERT KOTZER & ALEXANDRA ROSE, Jennifer Kotzer & Jonas Cohen, Michael Kotzer, ELLIS KOTZER, Alivia Cohen, and Gracie Cohen, on the loss of their father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, ANDREW RAAB[z"l].

Mendy & Ann Feld, AVI & SARA FELD and families, on the loss of their daughter, sister and sister-in-law, Marilyn Feld[z"l].

LAWRENCE & ILANA KURTZ and family on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Joyce Asher[z"l].

Carol Weinbaum & Nigel Schuster, Allan Weinbaum & Karen Eidinger, Callum, Luke, Tom, Jonathan, and Adam, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, ANNE WEINBAUM[z"l].

Thank You for Zoom Shivas

Over the past six months, the shul has hosted Zoom shiva gatherings for our members and their families. This has enabled friends, family and community members to connect with mourners during this difficult time, when "regular" shivas have not been possible. While we have not been able to share hugs, the opportunity to share memories and tears together while staying safe during the pandemic has been so valuable.

From the Community: "We wish to thank you for all the work you have done to enable Zoom shivas. This not only is of great service to the bereaved but also to friends from near and far who cannot visit. In the last short while three families with whom we have had close ties for many decades have suffered losses. To be able to participate in a Zoom shiva has brought comfort to us."

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday	9:00AM - 5:00PM
Friday	9:00AM - 2:00PM
Shabbat, Sunday	Closed

WHO'S WHO

Rabbi	Chaim Strauchler
Rebbetzin	Avital Strauchler
Shamash / Baal Koreh	Ralph Levine
Rabbi, Downstairs Minyan	Elliott Diamond
Chazzan	Chaim Freund
President	Robin Gofine
Executive Director	Nicole Toledano
Bulletin Contributor	Lawrence Savlov

DONATIONS

COVID Crisis Fundraising Campaign	$72 and up
Capital Fund	$18 and up
Philip Zucker Torah Fund	$18 and up
Phillip Wintrob Youth Fund	$18 and up
Rabbi's Charity Fund	$18 and up
Volunteer Appreciation Fund	$18 and up
Beit Medrash Book Fund	$36 and up
Chessed Fund	$36 and up
Security Fund	$250 and up
Memorial Plaques	$450
Tree of Life: Leaf	$1,800
Tree of Life: Stone	$5,400

SPONSORSHIPS

Zoom *Kabbalat Shabbat*	$360
Zoom *Havdallah*	$360
Rabbi Strauchler's Zoom *Gemara* Shiur	$180
Rabbi Strauchler's Zoom *Trei Asar* Shiur	$180
Zoom *Youth Music Time* Program	$180
Rabbi Diamond's Zoom *Parshat Hashavua* Shiur	$180
Zoom *Parent Child Learning* with Rabbi Bergman	$180
Zoom Evening *Tehillim*	$180/week or $36/day
Shabbat Matters	$180
Weekly Matters	$180
Youth *Parsha* Packages	$180
Rabbi Strauchler's *Torah for Your Life*	$180
Mazal Tovs (recognized in Shabbat Matters)	$72 and up
Yahrzeits (recognized in Shabbat Matters)	starting at $36

To make a donation or arrange for a sponsorship, please email, call or go to: shomayim.org. Tax receipts will be issued.

ENDOWMENTS

Endowment funds can be set up to suit your individual requirements. For further information, please contact the shul office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DEC 25	Fast of the 10th of Tevet
JAN 4	Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Shlomo Katz ZOOM
JAN 6	The Creativity and Chaos of Medieval Jewish Provence with Rabbi Bergman ZOOM
JAN 11	Medical Ethics with Rabbi Torczyner ZOOM
JAN 13	The Creativity and Chaos of Medieval Jewish Provence with Rabbi Bergman ZOOM
JAN 20	The Creativity and Chaos of Medieval Jewish Provence with Rabbi Bergman ZOOM
JAN 24	Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Dovid Bashevkin ZOOM
JAN 28	Tu B'Shevat
JAN 30	Shabbat Shira / Soulful Evening of Song & Inspiration ZOOM
FEB 14	Scholar-in-Residence Shuli Taubes ZOOM
FEB 25	Ta'anit Ester / Erev Purim
FEB 26	Purim
FEB 27	Shushan Purim
MAR 25	Ta'anit Bechorot
MAR 27	Shabbat Hagadol / Erev Pesach
MAR 28	I Pesach
MAR 29	II Pesach
MAR 30 - APR 2	Chol Hamoed Pesach
APR 3	VII Pesach
APR 4	VIII Pesach