

שערי שמים SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

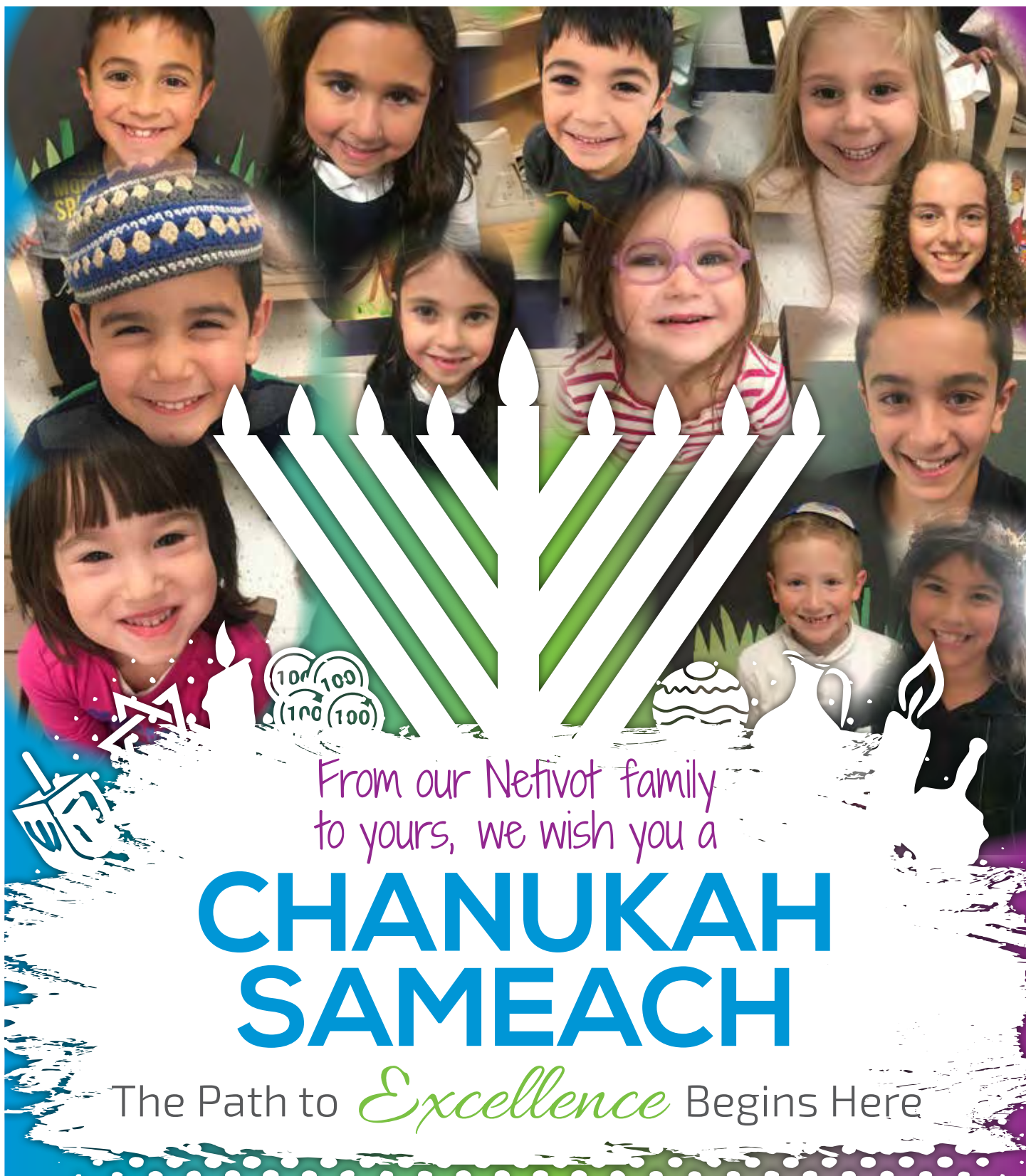
WINTER 2017 - 2018
 TEVET-SHEVAT-ADAR-NISAN 5778



AvitalZemer.com Photography

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NETIVOT HATORAH
נתיבות התורה



TORAH. ISRAEL. DERECH ERETZ.

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The Crisis Crisis

I recently learned of a school project for grade 2 students at one of our local Jewish day schools (I will not reveal my sources or their relation to me). The task given to these budding authors was to compose a complaint letter. A child (who may or may not be related to me) wrote a letter to his teacher about homework. He complained that his homework interfered with his time for drawing and colouring. We teach our children to *kvetch* from a very young age.

Kvetching is worth complaining about. From Moses' time, complaining has been a Jewish problem. Yet, in our day, complaining has been taken to a higher level. We generalize complaints and call them crises. They sound more important that way. We have so many crises. They are all legitimate and worth working to resolve. Yet, together they create a culture of complaint that blinds us to the good in our lives. This is itself a crisis – a Crisis Crisis.

The Crisis Crisis afflicts many layers of our world: from national politics (extremism on the left and right), to health (opioid) to economics (housing). The media cycle and social media prioritize crisis thinking. If you want our attention, tell us that something horrible is happening. Yell, "Fire" and you will get the attention of the theatre.

Yet, as Orthodox Jews, we uniquely experience the Crisis Crisis. With every population survey – be it Pew or the new Nishma research project on Modern Orthodoxy – we have more to wring our hands over. We focus on what is wrong and not on what is right.

What can we do about the Crisis Crisis?

The first step toward a solution is to ask, "What is the opposite of a complaint?" The opposite of complaint is praise. The opposite of a *kvetch* is prayer.

I recently came across a beautiful quote about praise: "Praise is like sunlight to the warm human spirit; we cannot flower and grow without it. And yet, while most of us are only too ready to apply to others the cold wind of criticism, we are somehow reluctant to give our fellow the warm sunshine of praise."

Why does one person criticize? Why does another person praise?

Rashi commenting on the Jewish people's demand for meat in the desert explains that the Jews had sheep and cattle with them in the desert. There was no true need. Meat was merely a pretext to *kvetch*.

Often a *kvetch* is not about the *kvetch*. If not for that issue, it would have been something else. A complaint is about the person complaining. Likewise, we can choose to praise – and when we do so – it often says more about us – than about the thing we are praising.

Praise is a gift. Praise is also a habit. One of the powerful features of Jewish prayer is the overwhelming presence of praise. As we pray, if we read our words carefully and think of their meaning, we will condition ourselves to see the good in the world around us. This can make us praisers. Prayer is a practice in positive mindfulness. What many take as boring and meaningless is in fact an invitation to hope. Prayer invites us to see the good in God's world and the good in our world. The warm sunshine in our prayers can melt away the cold complaints from our hearts.

The importance of praise extends to how we think about our Judaism and our community.

It is worthwhile every now and again to take a step back and appreciate what's working. We live in a time of peace and prosperity. We are blessed with freedom and security. For the first time in North American Jewish History, a segment of

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The Crisis Crisis

the Jewish community (Orthodoxy) is expanding through internal growth and not immigration. We have found the secret sauce to Jewish survival in a pluralist Western democracy. This is remarkable. For all that they say is wrong (and there is much that needs fixing), the surveys also point to much that is right. The Nishma survey reports:

“Modern Orthodox Jews see their Orthodox Observance as an extremely important part of their life... The #1 reason by a wide margin is the sense of community and belonging. Other reasons are Shabbat, family togetherness, seeing observant children, connection to Hashem and learning.”

What a beautiful description of what we love about our Jewish lives. What a statement of praise for the blessing that is the Torah – God’s gift to the Jewish people.

Shaarei Shomayim recently ran an after-school activity. One of the games required the children to write a thank you letter for the synagogue maintenance staff and to praise them for the help that they give the children. Each child took a crayon and created a card that said thank you. For every complaint letter or email we choose to write, let’s write a letter of praise. Let’s encourage our children to do the same. Before we speak out on the next crisis, let’s give praise for the good in our lives.

During these cold months, may the sunlight of praise raise your spirit’s temperature; may you encourage others to flower and grow by sharing the warmth of praise. 

DO YOU RECEIVE
RABBI STRAUCHLER’S
WEEKLY TORAH FOR
YOUR LIFE EMAILS?

If not, please contact the shul office to be included in the email list. Or you can visit our website at shomayim.org and click on “join email list”. Please visit his regularly updated blog: shomayim.org/blog



What We Talk About When We Talk About Israel:
A conversation among three of Toronto's leading Rabbis

Wednesday, October 25, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Holy Blossom Temple
1950 Bathurst Street

After private discussions on contemporary issues relating to Israel and today's Jewish world, **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl** of Beth Tzedec Congregation, **Rabbi Yael Splansky** of Holy Blossom Temple, and **Rabbi Chaim Strauchler** of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation have decided to bring their congregations and the broader community into the conversation.

Among the strategic and soul-searching questions these rabbis ask themselves and one another are: How do we rally greater support for Israel among Toronto Jews of all ages and all denominations? What role do we have to play in responding to anti-Israel attitudes and in negotiating the shifting sands of political support for Israel? And how do we navigate the painful complexities of religious pluralism in Israel and the Diaspora?

All are most welcome.

Canadian Zionist Federation
בית צדק
שְׁעָרֵי שוֹמַיִם
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

Next Rabbinic Conversation will take place at Shaarei Shomayim on March 6, 2018 (see page 40)



President's Message

The lighting of the Chanukah candles is a good time to reflect on the 'lights' of our great community. What makes a great community? You – our members. Our community's power comes from you. We are all partners in bringing light and brightness to our shul's accomplishments. By combining our light, we make Jewish life so much brighter.

Some of us come to our shul regularly during the week, some mainly on Shabbat and Holidays, some just a few times a year. But, importantly, when we gather – we do so much more than pray: we converse (sometimes a little too much), we catch up, we share our lives and experiences, and motivate one another to do well and to live better. Our connections continue as we join each other beyond the walls of our synagogue – sharing meals, caring for one another during times of need, celebrating simchas, and much more. This past September, at our Volunteer Appreciation Shabbat, we celebrated the volunteers in our shul community who help out in many ways. People continuously help in our office, on committees, on the board and executive. Unspoken heroes help run all types of different events; they give of their professional skills; they help with the religious services. Literally, hundreds of people, give of themselves regularly for our community. We are better together.

There is a small group of volunteers who, *when* they see a need take initiative *and* get it done. Here are some examples:

- a couple organized a summer lecture series;
- dedicated individuals helped us maneuver through the challenges with the proposed development to the west of our property;
- a member organized our High Holidays services;
- a recent university graduate wanted to see more programming for her cohort, so she planned a program and took on the leadership of the group;
- a young person wanted to enjoy Friday night dinners with others, organized a Friday night Dinner and Schmooze series, and many more;
- Then there's the gentleman who received peticha and noticed that the inside of the Aron was well worn after 50 years of use, and offered to have it re-done;

- a group of families understood the important need to provide assistance to singles in our community, and organized an incredible singles Shabbaton;
- and last, but not least, an anonymous volunteer wanted to improve our Shavuot Learning program, donated several thousand dollars to make sure it happened... and, helped organize the successful event.

Our shul runs so well not just because we are engaged – but because of our incredible clergy team. Rabbi Strauchler is a true leader who is dedicated, creative, learned, and compassionate. He leads the team composed of our assistant rabbi, Rabbi Jesse Shore, Rabbi Elliott Diamond, our Baal Tefillah Zvi Katzman, and our Baal Koreh / Shamash Ralph Levine.

Also making up a part of our administrative organization is the office, led by our Executive Director, Nicole Toledano, and office staff of Miriam, Meital, Lejla and Joven.

In order to help our staff serve you better, we are moving from our 30+ year-old synagogue management software to a newer, more contemporary application. Not only will it enable the office to better care for you, but you (if desired) will be able to securely access your own member information. The transition is proceeding along as planned. Our expected cutover to the new software will be at the end of this calendar year. That way, all tax receipts will be issued from the old software, and all new transactions will be entered in the new system.

Our shul is once again graced with two excellent ShinShinim. Two post-high school, pre-army young people become part of the fabric of our community deepening our engagement with Israel. Hillel Ben Tal and Naama Geffen are doing a great job in creating Israel programming for our youth and adults.

Anyone with young kids appreciates how the youth of our community thrive under the leadership of our Youth Director, Jacob Posluns. They also appreciate and admire the dedication and creativity put forward by our rebbetzin – Avital Strauchler in overseeing our youth and teen programming and ShinShinim. We've seen some fun and creative programming, including a Parshat Noach animal show; a scavenger hunt where our kids explored our shul

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President's Message

earning prizes while learning about our shul, our members, and Torah, too; a Rosh Chodesh Kislev Saturday night family skating party; and of course, our popular Chanukah and Chessed program.

All of our volunteers and staff collaborate and unite to make our shul run. We have a growing membership, strong minyanim, and learning opportunities. We work to be inclusive, striving to have something for everyone.

Looking back over the recent months, we heard Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and his son Yoni in late October for the Shabbat Project. We welcomed back Shlomo Katz and his acclaimed brother, Eitan Katz, for our annual Rakowski Scholar in Residence Weekend at the beginning of November. They created a phenomenal weekend of Torah, music and prayer, including an amazing Saturday night concert. For Chanukah, we look forward to the "Chanukah and Chessed" event which has become, for our community, a great way to both celebrate the season, while participating in acts of *Tikkun Olam*.

Our impact goes beyond the walls of our shul, with programming such as an evening to encourage kidney donation with Renewal Toronto (in Spring 2017), a programs with Hillel and Hasbara on Jewish campus life (on Chol Hamoed Sukkot), a panel discussion between Rabbi Strauchler, Rabbi Frydman Kohl (of Beth Tzedec), and Rabbi Splansky (of Holy Blossom) on "What We Talk About When We Talk About Israel". We engaged with local medical experts such as Dr. Don Redelmeier, a senior scientist who specializes in areas exploring how people reason, formulate judgments, and make decisions. A group of our members just completed the sponsorship of a Syrian Christian family with two young daughters,

who arrived in Canada just over a year ago, and are successfully settling into Canadian society (and loving Toronto).

We engage in Israel advocacy and support, by welcoming units of IDF commandos for the third consecutive year with Peace of Mind.

In the Fall, we introduced KIDDUSHFEST – a series of special kiddushim designed to call attention to a regular kiddush food by having a number of flavours and styles to enjoy. In October, just after Rosh Hashanah and the High Holidays, we celebrated AppleFEST in its different sweet and savoury recipes. In November, as the weather got colder, we turned to one of our favorite winter comfort foods – Cholent; we enjoyed six different types, and learned more about the meaning behind this special Shabbat food.

We invited Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, an Israeli lawyer, human rights activist, and the founder of Shurat HaDin Israeli Law Center. The Consul General of Israel spoke here on Yom Kippur before Neila, and we engage our political leaders on Israel, including a visit to our shul by the MP for Eglinton-Lawrence, Marco Mendicino.

Some of these initiatives are due to our work building partnerships with others, while for other programs, we have taken a leadership role in. All reflect the power of community. We do together what we cannot do alone.


We continue to be engaged in monitoring the proposed development application for the lands abutting and to the west of our property. As previously reported, the developer, Riverking, has appealed its revised application to the Ontario Municipal Board. A pre-hearing before the OMB is scheduled for mid-December. There was a North York Community Council Meeting held on November 13, where Community Council adopted a recommendation of City Staff to

have City Council authorize the City Solicitor and appropriate staff to oppose the Riverking development application at the OMB, based on a number of areas of concern. The synagogue expressed its support for Community Council's recommendation. The court proceeding we initiated to determine the right of Riverking to use our laneway continues. As always, I will keep you informed as we progress.

Chanukah is a special time for us to say thank you for all the little and big miracles in our lives. When we look into the beautiful, pure flames of the candles, we remember that no day is just another day. There are blessings around all of us every moment, just waiting for us to notice them.

When we look at the Chanukah candles we are grateful for all the wonderful things in our lives. I hope you will consider not only enriching your shul experience, but also think about helping to enhance our community. Here are a few ideas:

1. attend some of the great shul events
2. attend the weekday (or Shabbat) minyanim more often
3. volunteer your time to help with initiatives that showcase your skills and talents
4. sponsor programs that resonate with you
5. plan a fundraising event
6. open your home for one of our Shinshinim to live with you for three months
7. help on a committee

As I look ahead for the next few months at this great shul, I take great pride in the wonderful religious and community hub that we have nurtured and cared for. Our shul is busy during the week and packed almost every Shabbat – and the feeling in our halls is one of dynamism and vibrancy. Great things are happening here – we are better together. 



A Beautiful Light

It's not the latkes or the jelly donuts with the raspberry jam filling that oozes out with the first bite. Nor is it the feeling of accomplishment getting the dreidel to spin on its handle upside down. The memory that stays fresh in my mind about Chanukah is the sight of four lit *chanukiyot* lined up on the window sill, burning against slightly frosty glass in our apartment. Rochelle and I had prepared a menorah for each of our three children, and after the last verses of Maoz Tzur was sung and everyone went off in different directions, I hung back a little to take in the scene.

Like many families throughout the world, we followed the custom that each child should light their own menorah when they were capable of doing so. (Until recently we kept the collection of the various *chanukiyot* that we used over the years, while our kids were growing up). But why this custom?

The Talmud teaches that when it comes to the lighting of Chanukah candles, the prevailing custom (certainly in the Ashkenazi world) was to light in the manner called מְהַדְרִין מִן הַמְהַדְרִין – “*mehadrin min hamehadrin*” – the most beautiful way to fulfill the mitzvah.

As outlined in the discussion in the Talmud, there really are three halachically acceptable options to light the candles on Chanukah. The first is that a single candle per household is lit on each night of Chanukah. The second manner, labelled by the Talmud as “*mehadrin*”, meaning a more beautiful way, is that each member of the household lights a single candle each night of Chanukah. But the most beautiful way to fulfill this mitzvah, called “*mehadrin min hamehadrin*,” is for each member of the household to light their own menorah and to increase the number of candles each night. It is the “*mehadrin min hamehadrin*” manner of lighting that has become the accepted custom.

Oddly, there is no other mitzvah that we perform that has three levels of performance options. All other *mitzvot*

have a single agreed upon prescribed manner that is codified and followed by the community. Why does the mitzvah of lighting Chanukah candles involve the notion of the “most beautiful way” – “*mehadrin min hamehadrin*”?

The notion of beautifying a mitzvah does have a biblical source. Upon crossing the Red Sea and witnessing the downfall of the Egyptian army, Moshe sang a song of praise to Hashem.

“זֶה אֱלֹהֵי וְאֲנֹכִי” – “this is my God and I will beautify Him”, Moshe declared. This phrase became the source for making the effort to perform a mitzvah in a beautiful manner. But the thoughtful reader will probably note, that these words were recited before the *mitzvot* of the Torah were given at Mt. Sinai! Isn't it odd to talk about beautifying *mitzvot* before there were any *mitzvot*?

The answer to this question also explains why we light Chanukah candles the way we do. The Jewish people's desire to make Torah beautiful preceded the Torah. It is our attitude to our observance of *mitzvot* that ultimately will determine just how deeply the experience of our religious lives will affect our hearts and minds. When we see Torah and its influence on our lives as beautiful, the *mitzvot* and their impact will endure. The generation of Jews who crossed the Red Sea understood, that to successfully impart the significance of Jewish life and observance to their children, they needed to impart the message of its beauty in a meaningful way.

Chanukah celebrates the deliberate choice of our people to elevate the beauty of the Torah over a foreign culture. This struggle repeats itself throughout history. What is the best way to guide our children, a new generation, to make the right choice? Show them the beauty of Torah and the delights that it can offer. In that case, let's light the menorah in the most beautiful way possible – “*mehadrin min hamehadrin*” – a menorah for each child. That way is the most beautiful way, each of our children can light, or better yet, be a light.

Chanukah Sameach! 🕯️



Chanukah: Reflecting on Our Past to Envision Our Future

For each day of Chanukah, we read a sequence of passages from chapter 7 of Bamidbar which recounts the dedication ceremony of the *mishkan*. The sequence ends with Hashem's commanding Aaron to light the menorah in chapter 8, linking the dedication ceremony with the menorah. There are two odd features to this Torah reading. Exploring them may give rise to a unique perspective on the meaning of the holiday.

Firstly, most of the content we read focuses on the inaugural sacrifices that were brought on the altar. This is strange because the most visible and popular object of the holiday is not the altar, but the menorah. The last day's readings, which includes the commandment for Aaron to light the menorah, seems more like a postscript than the main thrust of the Torah reading. Even the bulk of Chanukah's *halachot* are centered around lighting the menorah! Nevertheless, the Torah reading nudges our attention in another direction: towards the altar.


Secondly, it is surprising that we read about the dedication ceremony from Sefer Bamidbar. Bamidbar records twelve days of sacrifices brought by the representatives of each tribe. A more appropriate passage, *apropos* the eight days of Chanukah, would come from early on in Sefer Vayikra. There, the account focuses on seven days of the priestly consecration ceremony, which culminates in a miraculous fire that consumes the final sacrifice on the eighth day.

Perhaps the Torah reading for Chanukah is intended to emphasize the importance of two themes that may get overlooked in the course of our festivities: (1) the altar, which has become estranged from typical Jewish life; and (2) the crucial participation of the nation in the dedication process of the *mishkan*.

The Ramban notes that, while the altar became inoperative after our exile, the commandment to light the menorah of Chanukah would continue to be followed by the Jewish people, even after the destruction of the second temple (Bamidbar, 8:2). According to the midrash, Aaron foresaw the destruction of our temples, but was comforted by this news before he lit the menorah for the very first time. For Aaron, a glimmer of the temple service will survive, even in the darkness and confusion of a long exile. Suitably, Aaron's commandment to light the menorah is indeed a postscript of sorts. It reminds us that the menorah will continue to be lit even after the cessation of sacrifices on the altar.

As Aaron took heart from this message, we too may take heart. The purpose of our lighting the menorah is not only to publicize a victory over our oppressors and a rededication of the altar. Such a victory was – after all – only temporary. Lighting the menorah may also suggest that the original temple services, even those of the altar, are not extinguished practices of a bygone era. The menorah therefore serves as a symbolic link to the altar. At present, the service of the altar is suspended, but perhaps not in perpetuity. Our national vision of a fully reinstated Temple is not forgotten. It is rekindled each year at Chanukah.

Chanukah then is not only a time to reflect on our past - it is also a time to look forward. It is a time to contemplate and celebrate the prospects of our national future. Our lighting the menorah and reading about the altar can awaken our imaginations to entertain the Temple as a place of national unity and religious purpose that has yet to be fully realized.

Lauren and I wish you a Chanukah filled with warmth and light, joy for our past and hope for our future. 

LET'S MAKE OUR SHUL WARM AND HOSPITABLE

We are looking for members who can host young singles, new members or visitors for Shabbat and Yom Tov meals. We would like to make sure that every person who comes to our shul has a place to go. If you are interested, please email or call the shul office.



From the Executive Director's Desk

It's finally here. We've been talking about it for many years. We've been doing research for many years. We can now definitively say that we will be moving to a new shul database in January. You may not know, but we have been working with a system called SMS – for at least 35 years now. Based on a Linux/isql database, it has been plodding along over the last number of years. Not being set up for our current technology, we have no choice but to move to a new, technologically advanced system.

We will be working with **ShulCloud** – a cloud based system built and owned by RustyBrick, a leader in custom online software and mobile applications. ShulCloud provides systems for accounts receivable, web site, smart scheduling and events, membership and donation tracking, member communication, an online portal; it is mobile friendly and much more. There are over 650 synagogues in their client group, and they are growing.

What does this mean for you as a member? The new database will be very interactive. Want to know what you owe? You can go on line to YOUR account. See a charge on your credit card and want to know what it was for? You can go on line and check it out. Unsure of your upcoming yahrzeit? You can go on line to your account and check it out. Have a new addition to the family? Mazal Tov – now you can register your newborn child directly on to your account. Don't want to receive any paper mail for your aliyah/membership contribution/yizkor book charges? You will be able to choose if you receive an email or a letter in the mail. You will also be able to choose whether you want an email notification or mail notification for an upcoming yahrzeit. Want to know who is in your records for yahrzeits? You can go onto your account and select the yahrzeits that you want to observe. The system even makes it easier to pay your bills – if you receive an email with your invoice, there will be a link to pay your bill.

What else can this system do? Want to know some Hebrew dates moving forward? Our ShulCloud will have a calendar integrated into the system: service times, holidays, notes about when there will be a Bar or Bat Mitzvah on a Shabbat, etc. Wondering what English date your yahrtzeit

falls on? You can look at the English/Hebrew calendar.

What do we want from you? We are trying to ensure that all the data we have gets transitioned. We have put processes in place to ensure that this happens properly. Thanks to Brian Cantor, Ira Povitz and Ariel Burton, the data conversion is going well. We need to make sure that the data going in is clean and accurate. We will let you know when we are ready for you to log in and check out YOUR account. When the time comes, you will be provided YOUR log in information. We ask that you please look over ALL the names and dates – this includes your children, their birthdays, your birthdays, your wedding anniversary, your yahrzeits. The data we have for you, will now be in your hands.

Wishing you and your family a happy, light-filled Chanukah. 🕯️

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU BETTER!

Did you know that you can now make donations, sponsor kiddushim / breakfasts, make a payment on your account, etc. online – right from our website, anytime you want!

Donate	Shomayim.org/donate
Sponsor	Shomayim.org/sponsor
Make a payment on account	Shomayim.org/pay-bills

JACOB POSLUNS

YOUTH DIRECTOR



שַׁעְרֵי שְׂמַיִם
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM



WHERE KIDS MATTER



Youth Matters

The Torah describes many blessings that parents give to their children. The consistent theme in these blessings is the potential of each child. There are few blessings with immediate results, rather blessings focus on the future of the child. When we bless our children we look to this future, as we envision their potential. We try our best to guide them in discovering their unique mission and the light that is within them.

The Shaarei Shomayim youth program focuses on this blessing. Kids enjoy their Shabbat morning activities while taking in short lessons in Tefillah, Torah and Israel. They spend time with their friends and enjoy informal, experiential education. Children see shul life as a joyous part of their religious experience, as they develop future commitment to Jewish community.

Come downstairs after 10:00 AM on a Shabbat morning and listen to the beautiful voices of our children davening. The shinshinim have brought new life to our programs. The only thing better than their creative games is their enthusiasm. We continue with educational questions on Parsha and more. Our Stay n' Play room has new adorable Shaarei Shomayim Tot Siddurs for circle time and musical fun.

Here is a recap on the past season's events.

We began the year with an amazing annual BBQ. The children made their own 'back to school' pencil cases with special Shaarei Shomayim Pencils. They also had lots of fun on the mega bouncy castle-obstacle course.

All the children were on a spiritual high over Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. We had special davening in the Lower Level Social Hall, with our brand new children's machzorim. The kids were able to get a taste of what it is like to be in shul. I enjoyed leading davening on Rosh Hashana. Rabbi Strauchler led a beautiful Yom Kippur davening for grades 1-2, and davening for grades 3-5 was led by Serena and Ari Rubin. Rabbi Shore and Avital Strauchler prepared educational programs for these groups, as well. There were so many participants. It was nice to see so many faces, new and old! We welcomed visiting families and special entertainers.

Sukkot was jam packed with fun! Mini golf, Sukkah hop, Ezone Day with Bnei Akiva, and an awesome Simchat Torah colour war! The blue and yellow "shtick" and donuts got our kids excited about Simchat Torah.

Post-holiday fun included a sold out Noah's Ark petting zoo for our young families. Children got to interact with and pet a tortoise, rabbit, lizard, chinchilla, snake, parrot and a not-so-smelly skunk. They worked on an art project and enjoyed yummy pizza (while their parents sipped Second Cup Coffee). We look forward to more Sunday morning activities for the adorable "under 5" group!

The shinshinim Scavenger Hunt was both fun and educational. We had a great time exploring the shul – a highlight included making welcome cards and candy bags for our Camp Aim Shabbat on November 4 (which


was awesome).


Chodesh Kislev was brought in with a "RINX" Skating Party sponsored by Alan Burger and family in memory of Suzanne Burger^{z"l}. Parent Child Learning, Bat Mitzvah learning and Bar Mitzvah learning all came together in one room followed by skating and pizza. The turnout was incredible – over 100 people! What a great way to celebrate Rosh Chodesh.

Work on the annual Chanukah & Chessed event is happening as I write! Let's be a light onto others as we bring in the holiday of Chanukah with acts of Chessed.

Here is a sneak preview of what we have planned:

- More educational programming on Shabbat morning
- Movie Night
- Game Nights
- February PD day activities
- Chessed Activities
- Chol Hamoed Pesach fun.

Thank you to our youth committee led by Emily Hershtal, Avital Strauchler and Chantal Ulmer. A special thank you to the super youth leaders who come to shul on Shabbat morning ready to engage the children. Thank you to all the kids and their parents for bringing both blessings and community to the Shaarei Shomayim youth program. May we merit to see our children reach their full potential. 


WHERE KIDS MATTER

**ROSH CHODESH KISLEV
FAMILY SKATING PARTY**

Sponsored in Loving Memory of
 Suzanne Burger ז"ל
 by her husband, children and
 grandchildren

Motzei Shabbat, November 18, 2017
 6:30 pm - Parent Child Learning with Rabbi Yaron Perez
 7:00 pm - Pizza Dinner
 7:30 - 9:00 pm - Skating and Activities



Young Professionals

Shaarei Shomayim YPs have created more programming and events, starting with a pre-Rosh Hashana program with Rabbi Jesse Shore. We explored the Torah and Haftarah readings for Rosh Hashana, which relate the stories of Hagar and Hannah. We discussed how the stories of these women communicate important themes in our religious lives, the challenges we might face, and how each woman modeled a different relationship with God. We had the opportunity to read through the texts together, ask probing questions, and discuss our thoughts about how each text helps to inform our outlook on Rosh Hashana as we seek to deepen our own connection with God.

Simchat Torah featured hugely successful *Hakafot* once again this year, where young members of the community came together to celebrate the holiday. Shaarei Shomayim was the place to be, as we welcomed approximately 200

young members and guests who came from across the city to dance with the Torah and enjoy a delicious dinner.

After the *chagim*, the YPs gathered on Shabbat for the return of the always-popular meat kiddush, and launched another season of compelling and diverse programs. Highlights included a special yoga and breakfast for women to focus on body and mind, as well as further learning opportunities with Rabbi Shore. These intimate learning sessions explore timely and challenging topics, such as: what happens when the Torah's ethics conflict with our own sense of what's right. These classes along with other programs planned for the future, offer young professionals an opportunity to come together and build community through meaningful and compelling special events.

We look forward to bringing the young professionals of the shul community together with more exciting programming coming up next year. 🍷



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Shaarei Shomayim Singles Shabbaton

This past November, Shaarei Shomayim hosted a Singles Shabbaton, open to singles ages 23-35. Eighty singles from all over Toronto, as well as Ottawa, Vancouver, Chicago, Cleveland, and New York, joined us for a weekend of fun, food, and friendships.


The Shabbaton featured ice-breakers, speed-dating and dynamic speakers, providing the participants with both welcoming and unique ways to meet people and to explore the possibility of new relationships and connections.

Avrum Nadigel, MSW, a family therapist and author, spoke with the group on Shabbat afternoon and shared his insights on how to discover and nurture meaningful connections, and how to become more self-aware as we grow in our relationships.

Saturday night, Rabbi Jesse Shore led the group in a musical Havdallah, followed by a night of bowling and pizza. The group gathered Sunday morning for a farewell breakfast, and an opportunity to continue establishing connections with one another.

After the Shabbaton, at least 14 matches were made! The

committee tasked with planning the Shabbaton received very positive and helpful feedback from the participants, and will be brainstorming on organizing similar events for the future. The participants felt that the committee paid close attention to every detail, creating a fun, successful event, ensuring that everyone felt respected and cared for.

The program would not have been such a huge success without the leadership of Yaffa Factor and Francine Goldrich, whose enthusiasm, support and vision made it all possible. So many members of our community contributed as well! These individuals are sensitive to the needs of the larger Jewish world and, working to meet those needs, also make our shul a place where Jewish singles from near and far can come to feel welcome. They work to make our community a place where the future of the Jewish people matters. 

AS APPEARED ON: FAITH & THE COMMON GOOD

greeningsacredspaces.net

Ontario 150: Growing Community with Youth Gardens

We've been planting gardens!

This spring, we received funding via the Ontario150 Partnership Program in support of "Growing Community: Engaging Diverse Youth to Strengthen Ontario's Tapestry of Urban Gardens" in Ottawa, Halton, and Toronto.

In recognition of 2017 as Ontario's 150th anniversary, this program provides youth with

opportunities to participate in their communities in ways that reflect their creativity, cultural expression, diversity, inclusion, environmental stewardship, entrepreneurship, healthy living and civic engagement.

In Toronto, a Jewish synagogue (Shaarei Shomayim Congregation), a Christian church, and a Muslim mosque have planted and are managing pollinator gardens, fostering sustainability.



Bringing Out the Light of Chanukah

RABBI DR. RAFI CASHMAN

Imagine a helicopter dropped four people on a hill. All four are handcuffed together and blindfolded, and they are given the following instruction: find the top of the highest peak amongst the many peaks in this particular area. The four decide that the first thing they need to do is figure out which way is up. The one on the north takes a step and realizes it's uphill; the ones on the east and west take steps and realize they are level; and the one in the south takes a step and realizes he's going downhill. So, they follow the one facing north, and repeat this process with each step until all find themselves on flat land. Now – are they at the top of the highest peak? Probably not. They are most likely at the top of the hill, but have no idea if it's the highest hill. So, how do they find the highest peak? The only way to do this is by following the south facing person *downhill*, then experimenting going uphill in different directions, until they figure out which hill is the highest. Sometimes we need to consider the opposite direction, and begin challenging what seems to be the way forward in order to find our true goals.

Nicholas Kristakis, a social scientist and physician researcher at Harvard, shared the above analogy, when trying to explain the notion of productive tension.

The Maharal in his book *Ner Mitzvah*, describes this kind of productive tension between Torah and Greek culture, of movement in the opposite direction of one's ultimate goal, as the key message of Chanukah. He bases his idea on the following midrash:

“The world was formless and void, and darkness covered the deep waters; and God's spirit hovered over the waters’ (Bereshit 1:2). Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish explained that the verse refers to the four empires: ‘The world was formless’ is a reference to Babylonia... ‘Void’ refers to Media... ‘Darkness’ refers to Greece, who darkened the vision of the Jewish people with their decrees... ‘The deep waters’ refers to Rome, whose eventual downfall is as inscrutable as the deep... ‘God's hovering spirit’ refers to the spirit of the Messiah.” (Bereshit Rabba 2:5)

Each exile and conflict, he says, was an opportunity for productive tension, with the final goal being the coming of Mashiach, which is the conclusion of the midrash. Each nation and its cultural values challenged the Torah's set of values, each time resulting in a higher, more complete understanding and practice of Torah. Greece and Chanukah, he says, represent the push for a materialist, scientific rationality, which on one side provides a healthy grounding in the world and realist approach to our surroundings and ourselves. This perspective illuminates the recognition that *Torah u'Mada* (Torah and Science, or here, Torah and Greece) exist in a necessary and legitimate relationship, bringing each to a higher level. But ‘Greece’ for its own sake can lead, unmoored from the Torah's values, to a determinist, hedonist, even fatalist approach to life – a life that is narrow and limiting. And Torah has not fully shown itself without the productive tension Greece offers.

Ultimately, in our time, this struggle is not only a national one, but a very personal one as well – *ner ish u'beito*, with each person lighting the Chanukah candles in his or her house. When light from the Chanukah candles emerge from one's home, through living the productive tensions of *Torah u'Mada* of each home – the education in one's home – the world becomes full of light.

May we all be blessed with a ‘light’ (or as they said in the old country, *lichtig*) Chanukah. 🕯️

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Bar Mitzvah Program

BY RABBI JESSE SHORE

We are in the middle of such a wonderful Bar Mitzvah program! The program provides kids preparing for their Bar Mitzvah with the opportunity to explore what that rite of passage means to them. We learn about *mitzvot* that are particularly relevant to becoming a Bar Mitzvah, including *Tefillah*, *Tefillin* and *Tzitzit*. We had a professional *Sofer* give a presentation on how *Tefillin* are made; it was interesting and enlightening, and helped to give the students a more intimate and familiar understanding of *Tefillin* as they begin to wear their own. We also discussed the importance of *Tefillah*, how there are different kinds of prayer, and how praying regularly can be like an athlete who sets aside time to practice hockey. Both can be hard work but also very rewarding. We even learned how to tie our very own *Tzitzit*! We hope that our exploration of these *mitzvot* can help to nurture a sense of familiarity with prominent aspects of our religious heritage, as well as to instill a sense of entitlement and independence for further learning. We are also engaging in *Chessed* activities, working with various members of our community to help us gain a greater appreciation of the different needs in our community, and the different ways in which we can help. Of course, special treats for breakfast and just getting together to watch the Leafs play is always fun too! 🍷

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SHAAREI SHOMAYIM BAR MITZVAH PROGRAM

Tefillah and Tefillin, Havdalah and Hockey,
Chevrutah and Chessed

OCTOBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018



Join your friends and Rabbi Shore to learn and
explore ideas about becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Contact Rabbi Jesse Shore for registration and
information: rabbishore@shomayim.org



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SHAAREI SHOMAYIM BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM

10 EXCITING MOTZEI SHABBATOT
OCTOBER 28 – JANUARY 27



Bat Mitzvah Program

BY AVITAL STRAUCHLER

Imagine the pre-texting, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat world. A parent walks past his or her pre-teen's bedroom. Beautiful sounds of incessant chatting and laughing float outward from inside their daughter's expanding personal universe.

Imagine the same situation today. The parent walks past the bedroom. He or she hears only an eerie silence. Thumbs are chatting; emojis replace giggling.

What takes place in a child's world at home also affects what goes on at shul. In that pre-texting, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat world, a pre-teen waited all week for a Saturday night shul program. Shul was an exciting place to be, a social scene with lots of friends. Today, the same social scene can take place alone in a bedroom with a bright screen on a small device. Today's pre-teen can find community in a class chat, a cousins' Whatsapp group, locker buddies chat, camp friends Facebook group and Snapchat photos; all with more silly facial expressions than were ever deemed possible.

As parents and as a community, we look at these girls. They have redefined community. We say to them, "When you turn 12, we will welcome you as a member of the Jewish community." Yet, their definition of community doesn't align with what it is that we provide. Can we create an Instagram account and call it "Jewish community?"

Perhaps the answer is yes. After all, you can daven on your phone, read an article off of Twitter about female leadership in Tanach, enjoy an entire Shlomo and Eitan Katz concert on Soundcloud, learn *Krav Maga* on Youtube, satisfy an artistic inclination by scrolling on Pinterest, and replace a group discussion with a blog post. But is this really Jewish community? Will this really meet the spiritual and social needs of the next generation?

When we reflect on this question, we know that our children need more. Real community – face to face – remains crucial to the work of cultivating meaningful life-affirming relationships. That's why business travel still happens. Community leaders are cultivated by the quiet respect after an intense discussion that cannot be captured on Facebook; meaningful relationships are cemented by the quiet between the laughter which does not happen with a "lol" text.

The Tanach gives us examples of these face to face interactions for the sake of community. Miriam Hanevia led her peers in song after the splitting of the sea. She was a force in creating the community of the *nashim tzidkaniyot* – righteous women who are given the credit for coming together as a community, instilling hope in their families that they will one day be redeemed.

We too look for opportunities for meaningful relationships and community building. We know the difference between an online conversation and the meaningful experience of spending time with friends at a Shabbat meal. Our communities take pride in coming together to help a family who is busy with a simcha or are suffering through hard times at a shiva. Let's make sure our children continue these traditions.

A Bat Mitzvah program asks pre-teens to show up in shul on a Saturday night and create experiences with face to face interactions and actual noise. Evenings where the beautiful voices of a mother-daughter learning session are heard as they study texts and think through ideas. A time for Bat Mitzvah girls to sit side by side with women at Baycrest, most likely three generations their seniors. When they have the opportunities to meet Jewish communal professionals and lay leaders, listen to their stories and integrate their messages together. They experience a Jewish music concert and dance with friends. And, they collaborate together for a shul wide Chanukah and Chessed program.

Let's find more opportunities to teach both our boys and our girls the importance of physical communities and not communities of fleeting photos. Let's find experiences outside of school or camp and call it the "extracurricular" or "enrichment" Jewish community building. When our students have graduated from formal Jewish day-school education and Jewish camps, they will continue to seek out meaningful personal interactions with the noise and quiet necessary to continue Jewish growth, leadership and relationships. 📖

KAYLA'S CHILDREN CENTRE VISITS FOR SHABBAT AND JOINS BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM FOR BOWLING

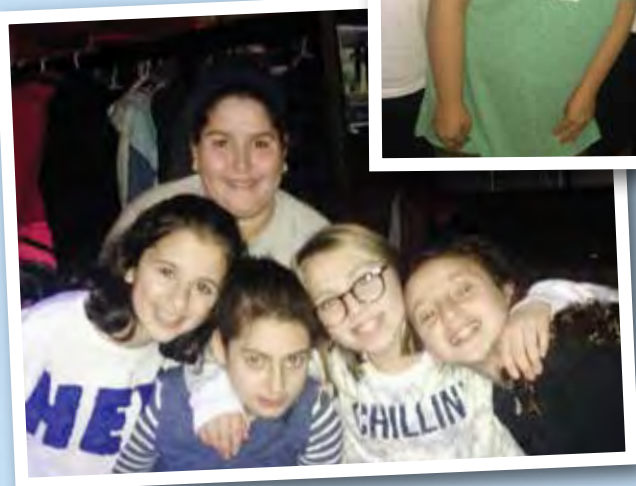


Kayla's Children Centre

Saturday at 9:06 PM · Instagram · 🌐



Can we talk about this shul for a minute? Because so many people TALK about inclusion. And there are so many PLANS around inclusion. But here is a shul that embraces the very meaning of inclusion. For years now, they have always made sure Camp AIM campers are invited and involved in every single special event they host. We had a fantastic time at the Eitan and Shlomo katz Shabbat! But it doesn't stop at the invitation. They really mean it when they say our kids are welcome. Even when one of our children ran up to the bimah mid service he was met with smiles and chuckles- the rabbi simply continued alongside him... now THAT is an **#inclusivecommunity** Thank you to @shaareishomayimyps !!!**Shaarei Shomayim**



Shinshinim

HILLEL BEN-TAL AND NAAMA GEFFEN

We are having an amazing experience here in Toronto and especially at Shaarei Shomayim. Thank you for your warmth and hospitality. Thank you for being so excited to meet us, we really feel welcomed. We are impressed with the place of Zionism and Israel within this community. We have gained so much from the conversations surrounding Israel's relationship with the diaspora. As we prepare our educational messages, we ourselves become educated through our interactions with you.

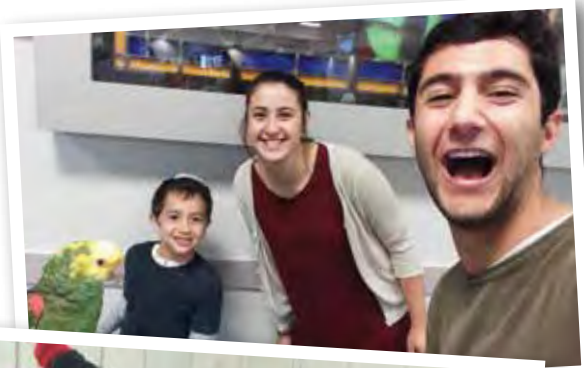
We are grateful to our host families. Thank you for opening your homes to us. You have become a true family to both of us.

The relationships that we have created and the bonds we have formed will last us forever. As we head back to Israel for winter break, we bring with us the lessons learned from a community that is so devoted to each other, to Israel and to Judaism.



We have had so much fun creating and running programs – we love the youth programming at shul! The kids are wonderful and we enjoy our time together. Each Shabbat, we prepare an activity for the Youth Program. Our games are fun and educational. We teach Torah, Israeli culture, and Jewish History through interactive activities for each age group. Additionally, we have spent time with young families at the Noah's Ark Animal Show, and with children for a Sukkah Hop and a Scavenger Hunt. The highlight of November was the Teen Israeli Dinner – in honour of the 70th anniversary of the UN vote approving the partition plan, we created a replica of the Balfour Declaration with a giant gavel and international flags. It was so nice to spend time with the Teens, and we hope to have more Israeli Dinners!

In the months ahead, we are planning more youth activities, teen activities and adult education including Israeli Cafe nights, Movies and discussion evenings. We can't wait to continue making friends and to learn together, with Israel as our focus. [📺](#)



PHILIP ZUCKER Z"l
MEMORIAL SHABBAT
February 3, 2018



Join us as we mark the first yahrzeit of our Shamash, Baal Koreh, and renowned Bar Mitzvah teacher. Mr. Zucker was a Torah scholar, teacher, survivor, zaida, and a beloved part of the Shaarei Shomayim community. To commemorate his yahrzeit, Mr. Zucker's students will read from the Torah on Shabbat, February 3, Parshat Yitro. Join us for a special Kiddush and a lecture on Torah Cantillation in Mr. Zucker's honour.

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Entertainment and Cultural Committee

JERRY AND SANDRA GENESOVE

We ended our Summer Series with a big bang. We had world renowned international lawyer, Dr. Jacques Gauthier, speaking on “Israel’s Legal and Moral Right to the Old City of Jerusalem.” Although he was going to give a talk in Israel shortly after, he found the time to speak to us. We were the first major venue for him to speak on this important matter ten years ago.

Let us also not forget our historian, Gerald Ziedenberg, who gave us a series of six talks. We had Rabbi Michael Skobac speaking on “The Mystical Meaning of the Hebrew Alphabet,” and then Ralph Wintrob on “The Gambling Kings of Jewish Toronto between Two Wars.”

Thank you for taking part in our programs, see you next summer. 📺



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Blow your
Own Horn?

CAVALCADE OF STARS
SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018, 6:30 PM
Sound the great shofar for our freedom!
Honourees: Katy Korman and Ian Tweyman
Presenters: Elliott Dale & Rick Goldberg
Master of Ceremonies: Roberta Finkelstein

Join us in celebrating the joy and pride of being Jewish at the *Cavalcade of Stars*, in support of *Jews for Judaism*. It will be an exciting musical program with a mass Shofar blowing interlude.

We invite Jews from all denominations to join us.
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Jerry Genesove at 416-783-0582,
or email miriam@shomayim.org



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Motzei Shabbat, January 13, 2018

7:30 to 9:30 pm



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Pizza will be served

Register early at: Shomayim.org/KneadingForACause

Committee: Yael Katzman, Katy Korman, Elaine Oziel, Judy Roth, Avital Strauchler

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A Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood event

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 Shevat 8:30 am Shacharit	4 20 Shevat 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	5 21 Shevat 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	6 22 Shevat 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	16 Shevat 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit Thurs Mincha is 5:10 pm	17 Shevat 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit 5:11 pm 5:20 pm Mincha	18 Shevat 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 5:00 pm Mincha 6:12 pm Shabbat Ends
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 5:20 pm						
26 Shevat 8:30 am Shacharit	11 27 Shevat 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	12 28 Shevat 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	13 29 Shevat 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	14 30 Shevat I Rosh Chodesh 6:45 & 7:45 am Shacharit	15 1 Adar II Rosh Chodesh 6:45 & 7:45 am Shacharit 5:30 pm 5:30 pm Mincha	16 2 Adar 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 5:20 pm Mincha 6:21 pm Shabbat Ends
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 5:25 pm						
3 Adar 8:30 am Shacharit	18 4 Adar Statutory Holiday 8:30 am Shacharit	19 5 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	20 6 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	21 7 Adar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	22 8 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit 5:39 pm 5:45 pm Mincha	23 9 Adar Shabbat Zachor 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 5:30 pm Mincha 6:39 pm Shabbat Ends
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 5:35 pm						
10 Adar 8:30 am Shacharit	25 11 Adar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	26 12 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	27 13 Adar Ta'anit Esther 5:53 am Fast Begins 6:45/7:45 am Shacharit/Slichot 5:35 pm Mincha 6:15 pm Maariv/Megillat Esther 6:36 pm Fast Concludes 8:30 pm Second Reading	28		
Sun - Tues Mincha is 5:45 pm						

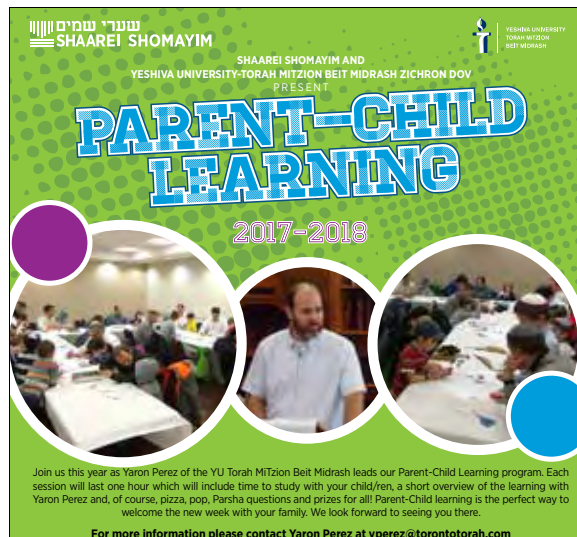
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CHAMETZ TIMES FOR EREV PESACH						
Thursday March 29 - Search for Chametz after 8:11 pm						
Friday March 30 - Last time to eat Chametz is 11:15 am						
Friday March 30 - Chametz must be burned and nullified by 12:18 pm						
At the first seder, afikoman must be eaten by 1:21 am						
At the second seder, afikoman must be eaten by 1:20 am						
17 Adar 8:30 am Shacharit	4 18 Adar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	5 19 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	6 20 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	7 21 Adar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	8 22 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	9 23 Adar Shabbat Mevorchim Shabbat Parah 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 5:45 pm Mincha 6:57 pm Shabbat Ends
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 5:55 pm						
24 Adar 8:30 am Shacharit 2:00 am Turn clocks forward 1 hour	11 25 Adar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	12 26 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	13 27 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	14 28 Adar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	15 29 Adar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	16 1 Nisan Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Shabbat HaChodesh 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 6:55 pm Mincha 8:05 pm Shabbat Ends
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:05 pm						
2 Nisan 8:30 am Shacharit	18 3 Nisan 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	19 4 Nisan 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	20 5 Nisan 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	21 6 Nisan 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	22 7 Nisan 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	23 8 Nisan Shabbat HaGadol 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 11:15 am Rabbi's Drasha Part I 6:00 pm Rabbi's Drasha Part II 7:05 pm Mincha 8:14 pm Shabbat Ends
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:15 pm						
9 Nisan 8:30 am Shacharit	25 10 Nisan 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	26 11 Nisan 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	27 12 Nisan 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	28 13 Nisan 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	29 14 Nisan Erev Pesach Fast of the Firstborn 5:58 am Fast Begins 7:00 am Shacharit & Siyum See box for chometz times 7:23 pm ח (6:25*) 7:30 pm Mincha 8:19 pm earliest start for seder 8:23 pm ח*	30 15 Nisan Pesach 8:45 am Shacharit Tefillat Tal 7:20 pm Mincha 8:23 pm ח*
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:25 pm						
						Count Omer 1 after Maariv

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 Nisan II Pesach 8:45 am Shacharit	17 Nisan Chol HaMoed 6:45 & 7:50 am Shacharit	18 Nisan Chol HaMoed 6:45 & 7:50 am Shacharit	19 Nisan Chol HaMoed 6:45 & 7:50 am Shacharit	20 Nisan Chol HaMoed/Erev Chag 6:45 & 7:50 am Shacharit	21 Nisan VII Pesach 8:45 am Shacharit	22 Nisan VIII Pesach 8:30 am Shacharit 10:45 am Yizkor (approx.) Shir HaShirim 7:20 pm Mincha 8:31 pm Shabbat/Chag End Count Omer 2 after Maariv
7:35 pm Mincha 8:24 pm Yom Tov Ends Count Omer 2 after Maariv	Mon - Wed Mincha is 7:35 pm Count Omer 3 after Maariv	Count Omer 4 after Maariv	Count Omer 5 after Maariv	Eiruv Tavshilin 7:00 pm Mincha 7:30 pm $\text{אש$ (6:29*) Count Omer 6 after Maariv	7:00 pm Mincha 7:31 pm $\text{אש$ (6:30*) Count Omer 7 after Maariv	Count Omer 8 after Maariv
23 Nisan 8:30 am Shacharit	24 Nisan 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	25 Nisan 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	26 Nisan 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	27 Nisan Yom HaShoah 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	28 Nisan 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	29 Nisan Shabbat Mevorchim 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 7:30 pm Mincha 8:40 pm Shabbat Ends Count Omer 14 after Maariv
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:40 pm Count Omer 9 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:40 pm Count Omer 10 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:40 pm Count Omer 11 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:40 pm Count Omer 12 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:40 pm Count Omer 13 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:40 pm Count Omer 14 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:40 pm Count Omer 15 after Maariv
30 Nisan I Rosh Chodesh 8:30 am Shacharit	1 Iyar II Rosh Chodesh 6:45 & 7:45 am Shacharit	2 Iyar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	3 Iyar Yom HaZikaron 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	4 Iyar Yom HaAtzmaut 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	5 Iyar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	6 Iyar 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 7:35 pm Mincha 8:50 pm Shabbat Ends Count Omer 21 after Maariv
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:50 pm Count Omer 16 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:50 pm Count Omer 17 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:50 pm Count Omer 18 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:50 pm Count Omer 19 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:50 pm Count Omer 20 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:50 pm Count Omer 21 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:50 pm Count Omer 22 after Maariv
7 Iyar 8:30 am Shacharit	8 Iyar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	9 Iyar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	10 Iyar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	11 Iyar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	12 Iyar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	13 Iyar 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 7:45 pm Mincha 8:58 pm Shabbat Ends Count Omer 28 after Maariv
Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:55 pm Count Omer 23 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:55 pm Count Omer 24 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:55 pm Count Omer 25 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:55 pm Count Omer 26 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:55 pm Count Omer 27 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:55 pm Count Omer 28 after Maariv	Sun - Thurs Mincha is 7:55 pm Count Omer 29 after Maariv
14 Iyar Pesach Sheni 8:30 am Shacharit	15 Iyar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	16 Iyar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	17 Iyar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	18 Iyar 6:55 & 7:45 am Shacharit	19 Iyar 7:00 & 7:45 am Shacharit	20 Iyar 9:00 am Shacharit Parsha 7:45 pm Mincha 8:58 pm Shabbat Ends Count Omer 29 after Maariv
Sun - Mon Mincha is 8:00 pm Count Omer 30 after Maariv	Sun - Mon Mincha is 8:00 pm Count Omer 31 after Maariv	Sun - Mon Mincha is 8:00 pm Count Omer 32 after Maariv	Sun - Mon Mincha is 8:00 pm Count Omer 33 after Maariv	Sun - Mon Mincha is 8:00 pm Count Omer 34 after Maariv	Sun - Mon Mincha is 8:00 pm Count Omer 35 after Maariv	Sun - Mon Mincha is 8:00 pm Count Omer 36 after Maariv

*Earliest time for this activity.

PARENT CHILD LEARNING

Parent Child Learning makes Motzei Shabbatot at Shaarei Shomayim fun and educational. In partnership with Yeshiva University, young families gather to learn together, enjoy great activities, pizza and prizes. Our Yeshiva University avreich, Rabbi Yaron Perez, runs the program and has added insight and lots of fun to our learning.



ANNUAL COMMUNITY BBQ

On a beautiful summer day, Shaarei Shomayim hosted its annual Community BBQ on our shul's front lawn. We enjoyed the *chevruta*, great food, arts and crafts, bouncy castle and games for the kids, and fun for everyone. We introduced our shinshinim, Hillel Ben Tal and Naama Geffen. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended the BBQ, and helped to make it a great success!



ANNUAL WELCOME BBQ

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 4:00 pm—8:00 pm

JOIN US ON THE FRONT LAWN!
(In case of rain, please join us inside)

Great reasons to end your long weekend with us:

Meet our new Shinshinim: Naama Geffen and Hillel Ben Tal

Time with friends and meet new people

Delicious BBQ - free of charge

Games and crafts for the kids

Draw for 1 free year of Shul membership (new members only)



SHLOMO AND EITAN KATZ SHABBAT

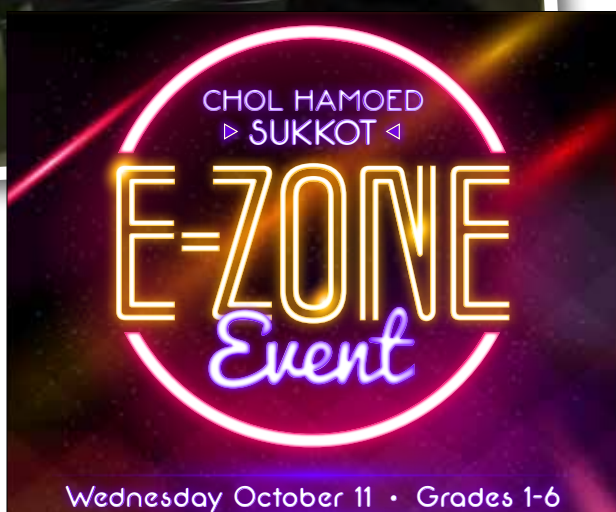
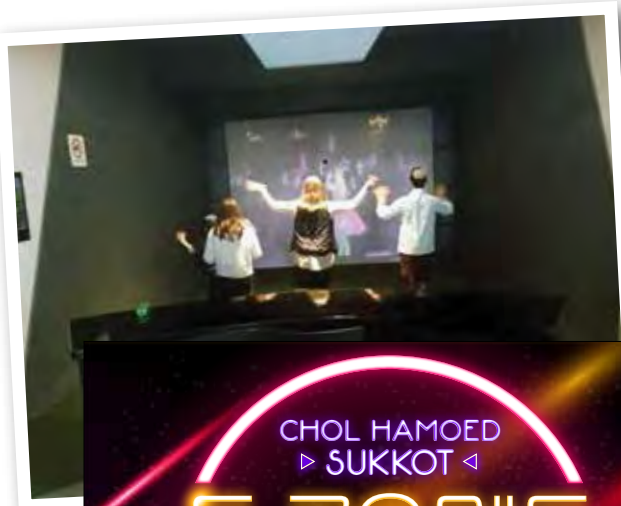
Shlomo and Eitan Katz, two of the most spiritually sensitive musicians alive today, led an uplifting weekend at Shaarei Shomayim in November. Highlights included a Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat dinner and inspiring tisch, Shabbat morning services, and a jam packed Saturday night concert. Thank you to the Rakowski family for sponsoring Shlomo and Eitan's visit in memory of their mother, Genia Rakowski^{z"l}.

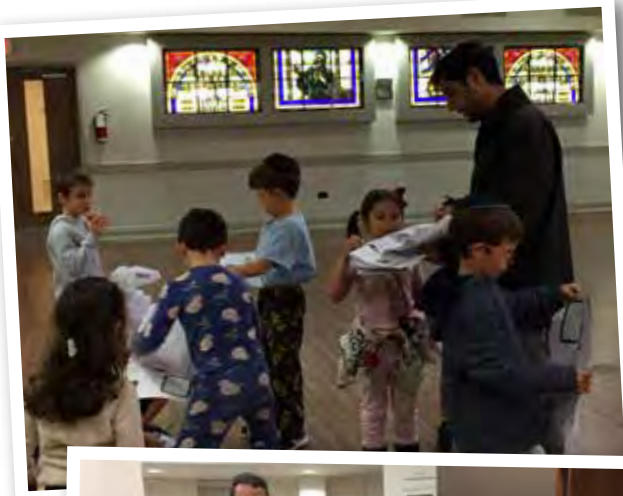


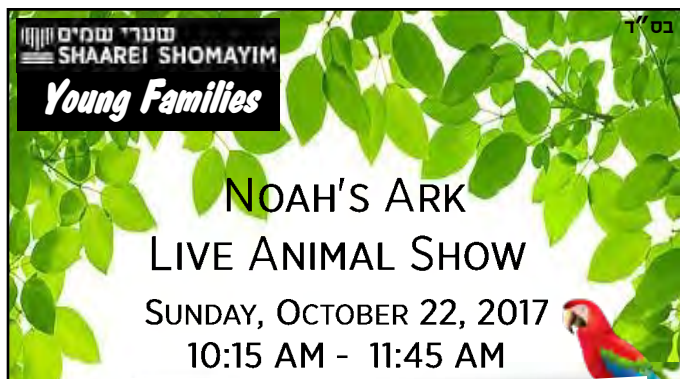
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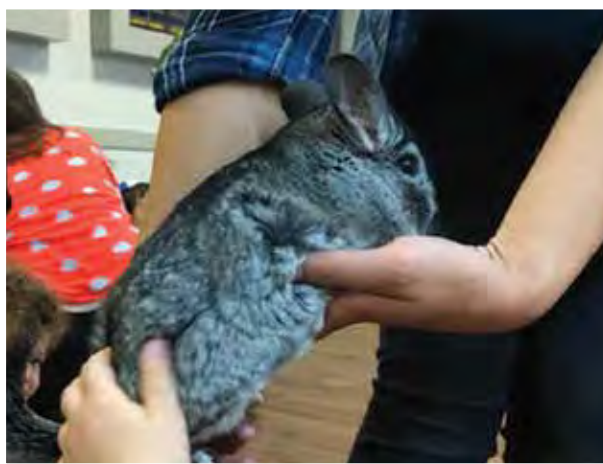
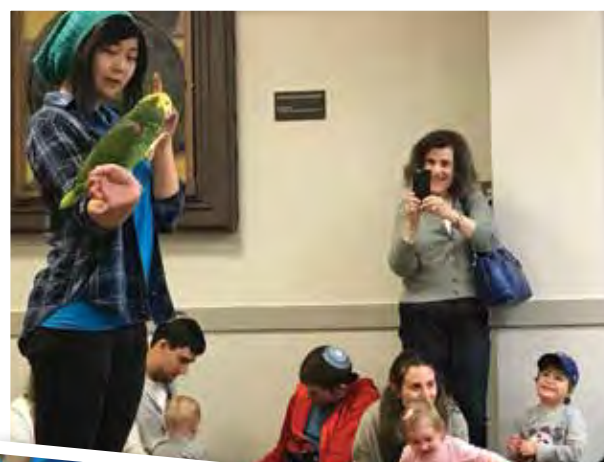


WELCOME YOUTH EVENT FOR SHINSHINIM









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Teen Matters

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chanukah was set at a time of unprecedented assimilation. For this reason, Chanukah is Jewish holiday that has a Mitzvah of Pirsumei Nissah (publicizing the miracle / mitzvah). The Mitzvah of lighting the Chanukah candles was not just to show how proud we are to be Jewish to non-Jews, but also to display our pride to our own people who were having difficulties with Judaism at the time.


One of the amazing parts of running the Teen program is seeing the success case that is the Shaarei Shomayim community. Having recently arrived in this community, I (Ari) was absolutely blown away by the passion and dedication that the Teens in this shul show for Torah and Judaism, as a whole. I saw a group of truly amazing teens constantly working towards bettering themselves and publicising what it means to be good Jews (especially to the younger kids). It is for this reason, that Serena and I are so honoured and happy to have been given charge of Teen Programs. These teens truly embody the purpose of Chanukah, and we love the fact that just as we try to teach them weekly, we learn so much from them, too.

Teens: Look forward to future programming, because we have amazing things planned for you guys over the next six months. If you haven't come and introduced yourself, or come to any of our programs yet, please do – as we'd love for you to join us.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

We have been off to a great start! This year in our girls shabbat morning group, we have focused on understanding our Judaism in the context of the world around us. We have done this through looking at current events and halacha, history and parsha, and by asking lots of questions about what we see around us. As a group, we were privileged to hear from an Orthodox young woman serving in the Israeli army who shared her knowledge and experiences, and answered many thoughtful questions posed by the girls about life in Israel. Through conversations like this, I (Noa Bordan) have had the opportunity to steer the girls towards inspired, thoughtful discussion and watch them grow in their appreciation of Torah and mitzvot.

As we transition between semesters and into the depths of winter, I look forward to keeping this spark, a reminder of the lightness that these girls bring in their incredible commitment to attending shul each and every week.

The Middle School Boys have been introduced to Teen Minyan and are gaining skills and understanding of Shabbat morning davening. We, the teen leaders, look forward to continued growth of the Teen Minyan. 



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BREAKING THE STIGMA IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Mental health during and after pregnancy

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018 • 7:15 – 9:30 P.M.



2017163F

LOCATION: Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto

COST: Free Admission

MODERATOR: Dr. Melyn Leszcz, Psychiatrist, Sinai Health System

PRESENTERS AND PANEL: Dr. Ariel Dalfen, Head, Perinatal Mental Health, Sinai Health System
Yanekah Jacobs, a personal perspective on postpartum depression
Dr. Andrew Howlett, Head, Fathers' Mental Health Network, Sinai Health System
Ira Weisman, a personal perspective on fathers and mental health
Dr. Arielle Berger, a personal perspective on perinatal loss
Dr. Jonathan Golden, Jewish Family and Child (JF&CS)

SUPPORTING RABBIS: Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler

Anxiety and postpartum depression are common mental health complications of childbearing. Stigma and lack of knowledge often prevent mothers and fathers from addressing these conditions.

Join community experts and those with personal experience as they shed light on these important issues.

PARTNERS:



Taking Up the Challenge

BY THE INTERIM DAY PROGRAM DREAMERS

Recently a few members of the Shaarei Shomayim Book Club (*Where Words Matter*) approached the President, to ask for a shul supported enhanced book club program that would make it possible to bring experienced reviewers to present to us. We saw it as a feature of a professionally planned and executed daytime program for Shaarei Shomayim members.

Our vision: a regularly scheduled program as frequently as feasible, with some learning, followed by lunch, followed by a cultural event of Jewish content afterwards. Possible programs of this nature: presentations on music, art, literature, film, plus fitness and games. You want it, we'll try it! Help us locate the programs and presenters we need.

The Board has offered us a small sum as seed money. The Sisterhood has offered to help plan a program. What the Board wants next is a written proposal including a budget to provide for an experienced and dedicated coordinator, plus incidental expenses, and how we propose to raise the necessary funds, perhaps with a robust kickoff event. All we need is a few people to help us get the ball rolling, to bring this dream to life. We need ideas, energy, imagination. We need visionaries who might fund us to get the ball rolling in exchange for naming rights. We need you.

Call Miriam in the office if you're interested, and we'll meet. And the dream might become a reality. 📖



Mark A. Greenberg MD, FCFP
Mohel and Family Physician
416-702-8990

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Shaarei Shomayim
Congregation Family

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WHAT DO WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE NEW ANTI-SEMITISM: A CONVERSATION AMONG THREE OF TORONTO'S LEADING RABBIS

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation | 470 Glencairn Avenue



After private discussions on contemporary issues relating to Israel and today's Jewish world, **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl** of Beth Tzedec Congregation, **Rabbi Yael Splansky** of Holy Blossom Temple, and **Rabbi Chaim Strauchler** of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, have decided to bring their congregations and the broader community into the conversation.

Among the questions these rabbis ask themselves and one another are:
How does anti-Semitism affect the Jewish lives of our congregations?
When does anti-Zionism become anti-Semitism?
How can we combat the recent surge in anti-Semitism?

All are most welcome.

Co-sponsored by :



Our Shul is Growing!

We've had an amazing two years, welcoming many new members and their families.
May we become a stronger and tight-knit community together. 

We wish a warm welcome to the following new members:

Shane and Shelby Altbaum
Harriet Bain
Jerry and Tammy Balitsky
Alejandro and Tania Berlin
Adam Charnaw
Chaim Bell and Sharon Chodirker
Avi Benchetrit and Yael Rozenblit
Julie Borst
Josh Disenhouse and Tali Silberman
Adir and Dara Dishy
Yaakov and Gavriella Freedman
Tzvi Fried and Dahlia Balaban
Joel and Rebecca Friedman
Dale and Ruth Fyman
Samuel Glustein
Louise Goldberg
Michael Goldfarb
Yaakov Goldrich and Tamara Elituv
Ori Goldstein
David Green and Sarah Halpert
Adam Gurza
Steven and Barbara Held
Marcel Jakubovic and Erin Gano
Shoshana Kagedan
Ian Kessler and Davida Shiff
Effie and Tamar Kleinberg
Noal and Jaclyn Korman
Robert and Alexandra Rose Kotzer
Shira Lass
Ron and Phyllis Levin
Mark Lichtblau & Anita Schmideg Lichtblau
Ronald and Marina Lichtenberg
Ilan Liebner
Ross Linker and Melissa Lass

Steven Lipari
Peter Mezei and Suzanne Wintrob
Yonatan and Yocheved Milevsky
Sam and Micki Mizrahi
Jonathan and Tsiona Ostro
Jeffrey and Elizabeth Gottesman Pelchovitz
Ira Povitz
Andor and Ilona Roberts
Brona Rosen
Jonathan and Hana Rutman
Aryeh and Chana Samuel
Akiva and Avital Sandler
Dan and Dina Scheiner
Eli and Ilana Aisen Schneider
Elliott Shapiro
Jackie Silver
Naphtali and Ava Silverman
Randal and Shirley Slavens
Allan and Michelle Socken
Mitchel and Sari Seifer
Nachum and Yael Silverman
Daniel Socken
Adam and Yona Solomon
Koby and Racheli Spiegel
Gordon and Joyce Strauss
Jesse Tepperman
Michael and Ethel Toutou
Elad and Tova Travis
Daniel and Stacey Vandersluis
Robert Vlessing
David Wagner and Sharona Elmaleh
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Jordan and Dayna Waltman
Chaim and Maryka Weisz



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BIRTHS

NAPHTALI and AVA SILVERMAN on the birth of their son, JACOB DOV. Proud grandparents are PETER and ADRIENNE KLEMENSBERG and Murray and Susan Silverman. Thrilled great-grandparents are Dr. Harry and Helen Cohen and Mrs. Edit Galfi.

LOUIS and RISA VANDERSLUIS and Judy and David Brener on the birth of a granddaughter, LEORA ROSE. Proud parents are DANIEL and STACEY VANDERSLUIS. Thrilled great-grandmother is Helen Parker. Excited uncles and aunts are Jonathan, Avi and Maddie, and Eli Vandersluis, Yona and Adam Solomon, Eric and Shiran Brener, and Debbie Brener.

ANSHEL BUXBAUM on the birth of a great-grandson, Gavriel Adiv. Proud parents are Liron and Orly Walsh. Excited siblings are Ilan and Liam Walsh. Thrilled grandparents are MURRAY and RELY WALSH, and Michael and Dina Rosen.

SHAI and BECKY BERLINER on the birth of a baby girl, ORLI LEAH. Thankful and overjoyed grandparents are ORVIN and LYNNE ZENDEL and Carmela and Dov Berliner. Excited aunts and uncles are Adam Zendel, Tomer and Shoshana Berliner, Yaniv and Shirra Berliner, and Eran and Erin Berliner. Mazal Tov to all the thrilled great-uncles, great-aunts and cousins.

Rabbi YARON and ELLIEZRA PEREZ (YU Torah MiTzion Avreichim and Shlichim) on the birth of a baby boy, MEVASER YITZCHAK. Excited big brothers are NOAM MOSHE and DVIR ELIYAHU.

SHAEL and HEIDI GREEN on the birth of a baby girl, MIA MANNI. Proud grandparents are BERNIE and HELENE GREEN, and Howard and Hynda Freed. Excited brother is GAVIN.

JONATHAN and TSIONA OSTRO on the birth of a daughter, EMANUELLE SELAI AVIVA. Proud grandparents are MICKEY and AURELIA OSTRO, and Shalom Taspay from Israel. Thrilled great-grandmother is CELIA OSTRO. Excited uncles and aunts are Daniel and Reena, Eitan, Rabbi Sharon and Avital, Tal, Nava and Gal, Smadar, Bracha and Guy. Overjoyed cousins are Adriel and Aiden.

RALPH and VICKY LEVINE on the birth of their great-grandson, Yaakov. Proud parents are Heshy and Ariella Bauer of New York. Excited siblings are Chani, Ephraim, and Dov Schwebel. Thrilled grandparents are Shmuli and Dina Schwebel.

EVAN GOLDENTHAL and ILANA ARJE-GOLDENTHAL on the birth of a baby boy, KOBY MYER. Excited big sister is LEORE. Proud grandparents are GEORGE and CHARLENE ARJE and Ruth Parker. Thrilled uncles and aunts are ELI and TAMAR LECHTMAN, DANIELLE ARJE, and Josh and Shely Goldenthal.

JERRY and TAMMY BALITSKY on the birth of their grandson, Leor Shmuel. Proud parents are Benji and Kiera Kirshenblatt. Excited big sister is Lily Luba. Thrilled grandparents are Steve and Fern Kirshenblatt. Elated great-bubbie is Esther Kirshenblatt.

SETH and DANIELLA GREENSPAN on the birth of a baby girl, SOPHI EVELYN. Excited brothers are WILLIAM and JAMES. Ecstatic grandparents are JOHN and LORI ULMER and Brian and Renee Greenspan. Thrilled great-grandparents are Luba Tamari and Noah and Cynthia Fleschner.

LORNE and YAFFA FACTOR and Louis and Lynne Pillemer on the birth of their granddaughter, Chaya Ayala, born to Lorne and Carly Pillemer. Excited sister is Michal. Ecstatic aunts and uncles are Melissa Factor, Ethan Factor, Lee Pillemer and Jacob Pillemer. Proud great-grandparents are ROSE FACTOR, Pesach and Gloria Halberstadt, and Raymond and Brenda Pillemer.

BERL and REBECCA NADLER on the birth of a grandson, Charlie Reuven. Proud parents are Matt Albert and Batya Nadler. Thrilled grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins are Stephen and Brenda Albert, Ariella, Hillel and Tova, Tova and Seth, Yosef, Shoshana and Rose.

Dr. MARK and JANINE NUSBAUM on the births of their great-grandchildren, Aliza Frumit Pomper, daughter of Daniel and Bracha Pomper, and Hadassa Frumit Warner, daughter of Yair and Rifka Warner.

GERSHON and HEATHER HURWEN on the birth of their son, COLE HARRISON. Excited brothers are NOAH and JAKE. Proud grandparents are DAVID SOCKEN and GALE BORISON-SOCKEN, and Jennifer and Aubrey Hurwitz of South Africa. Ecstatic uncles and aunts are ALLAN and MICHELLE SOCKEN, DANIEL SOCKEN and Sarah Hurwitz.

RAFFI and NAOMI PELEG on the birth of a baby boy, ZACHARY ASHER. Excited big brother is GABE. Proud grandparents are Yossi and Judy Peleg and Bill and Marilyn Sklar. Thrilled great-grandparents are Eva Kalocsan and Bertha Sklar.

BARRY and NELLY ZAGDANSKY and Barry and Elaine Kuretzky on the birth of their grandson, Ellis Judah, born to Joshua and Jennie Zagdanski. Excited brother is Henry. Proud great-grandparents are ERNEST and HELEN SINGER. Thrilled uncles and aunts are Max and Tamar Weisbrod, Ari Zagdanski and Madeleine Venn-Mitchell, Joshua and Anndra Kuretzky, and Peter and Naomi Kuretzky.

EDWARD and CATHERINE BIERSTONE and Stan and Faith Feinberg on the birth of a granddaughter, Tehilla Paule, born to Daniel and Yael Bierstone. Excited big sister is Raizy. Proud great-grandparents are Chaim and Gloria Feinberg and Helen Parker.

ROZ FINE on the birth of her granddaughter, Lori Caroline, born to Brett and Katie Fine. Excited big sister is Megan. Thrilled grandparents are Ellie and John Wright and Alan Fine.

STEVEN and LAURA SLAVENS on the birth of their son, BEN DAVID. Proud grandparents are JAMES and LINDA SLAVENS and David and Alicia Wexler.

RALPH and VICKY LEVINE on the birth of a great-grandson, born to Ephraim and Chanie Fink of New York. Excited big brother is Zevi. Proud grandparents are Shmuli and Deena Schwebel, and Berel and Esti Fink. Thrilled great-grandmother is Sheila Schwebel.

BAR / BAT MITZVAH

JUDITH and PAUL BLOOM on the Bar Mitzvah in Israel of their grandson, Koby Gottlieb, son of Sara and Darren Gottlieb. Excited brother is Cooper Gottlieb. Proud grandparents are Gabby Gottlieb and Lisa Baum and Judi and Larry Silverberg.

DANI and SHARI WEIL on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, JOSEPH. Excited siblings are MICHAEL and EDEN LITWACK and KIRA WEIL. Proud grandparents are Dr. MARK and JANINE NUSBAUM. Mazal Tov to all the aunts, uncles and cousins from Israel, Miami and New York.

KEVIN KATZ and HEATHER REICH on the Bnei Mitzvah of their sons, JOSEPH and ELI. Excited sister is GABRIELLE. Proud grandparents are Solomon and Frances Katz and Lawrence and Carolyn Reich.

STANLEY and MIRIAM PRICE on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Maya, daughter of David and Amy Price. Thrilled brother is Jack. The Bat Mitzvah took place in Israel.

RANDAL and SHIRLEY SLAVENS on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, SAMARA, in Jaffa, Israel. Excited brother is ISAAC. Proud grandparents are ERIC and MARSHA SLAVENS, and Arie and Vera Avraham.

ANSHEL BUXBAUM on the Bar-Mitzvah of his great-grandson, Noam Zvi Bienenstock. Proud parents are Eli and Yael Bienenstock. Excited siblings are Avital, Rafi, Atara and Yoni Bienenstock. Thrilled grandparents are Zev and Chana Bienenstock, and Daniel and Bruria Frances.

MENDY and MARILYN MAIEROVITZ on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Niva Drazin, in London. Proud parents are Hillel and Meira Drazin. Thrilled grandparents are Yale and Miriam Drazin of Riverdale. Excited siblings are Shai, Izzy and Emmanuelle.

RODNEY and JULIE BERGMAN on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, MAYA. Excited siblings are ALYSSA and JASON. Proud grandparents are Elliot and Marilyn Godel of Montreal, and William Bergman of Johannesburg, South Africa.

CHAZAN ZVI and Yael KATZMAN on the occasion of their daughter, SHAYNA's Bat Mitzvah. Proud siblings are ALIYA, MEIRA, DANIELLA and ASHI. Proud grandparents are Dov and Malka Asher and Avraham and Betty Katzman.

Dr. MARK and JANINE NUSBAUM on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Yakov Yehuda (Koby) Pomper, son of Mark and Suzy Pomper of Miami. Delighted grandparents are Dr. Mark Pomper of Miami, Dr. and Mrs. Zuker of New York, and Dr. and Mrs. Leonard ("Leibi") Warner.

SOL and TAUBE ZEIFMAN and Haim and Myrna Riback on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Gabriel Zeifman, son of Mitchell Zeifman and Natalie Riback. Excited big brother is Charlie.

JEFFREY and GAYLE ROBERTS on the Bar Mitzvah of their dear son, MICHAEL. Excited siblings are RACHEL, DANIEL and JOSHUA. Proud grandparents are ANDOR and ILONA ROBERTS and Dr. Bernard Sered.

ENGAGEMENTS

BERL and REBECCA NADLER on the engagement of their daughter, ARIELLA, to HODY NEMES, son of Alan Nemes and Fawn Chapel of St. Louis. Mazal Tov to siblings Batya and Matt, Hillel and Tova, and Tova and Seth, and nieces and nephews Yosef, Shoshana and Rose.

SHELDON and FERN GOLDBAR on the engagement of their son, HART, to SUSIE SENDERS, daughter of Debbie and Shelly Senders of Cleveland, Ohio. Excited siblings are Elinor, Dayna and Hilli Goldbar, and Tammie, Ruthie and Joey Senders. Proud grandparents are EVE LERNER, PAULA GOLDBAR, Rabbi Haskel and Audrey Lookstein of New York City, and Mike Senders of Boca Raton, Florida.

CYNTHIA GASNER on the engagement of her granddaughter, Raffi Gasner, daughter of Dr. Jon and Ellise Gasner and granddaughter of Dr. Arnold and Roneen Weingarten, to Benji Brandwein, son of Dr. Aaron and Linda Brandwein. Proud grandparents are Fay Brandwein and Rosalind Schnitzler. Excited siblings are Micha Gasner and Sean Haber, Noah and Adi Gasner, Zev, Avishai, Nadav, Atara, Yakira Gasner, Mike and Neira, and Monica Brandwein.

MARRIAGES

RANDY SHIFF and DONNA STRKMAN-SHIFF on the wedding of their daughter, ILANA, to JEREMY ROSH, son of Joel and Susan Rosh of New Rochelle, NY. Proud grandparents are DOROTHY SHIFF, Meyer and Betty Rosh, and David Stadmauer. Lovingly remembered at this time are Sidney and Elva Starkman^{z"l}, J. Richard Shiff^{z"l}, and Paula Stadmauer^{z"l}.

RICHARD and IRINA KAY on the marriage of their daughter SERENA, to ARI, son of Roger and Debra Rubin. Thrilled siblings are Gregory and Deena Kay (and little nephew Benji Kay), Jeffrey Kay, and Eliana Rubin. Excited grandparents are Judith Kay, Milcah Milman, Pierre Milman, Andrew and Leila Braude, and Stanley Rubin. Remembered at this time are their dear grandparents Harry Kay^{z"l} and Muriel Rubin^{z"l}.

PAUL BROWN and Carol Brown on the wedding in Israel of their grandson, Akiva Barron, son of Daniel and Bayla Barron of Bet Shemesh, to Rivky, daughter of Rabbi Doniel and Aviva Schreiber of Alon Shvut. Proud grandmother is Joyce Barron. Excited siblings of the groom are Uriel, Tehila, Meira and Yehoshua. Rivky shared the simcha with her seven siblings.

REUVEN and DEBBIE SPIEGEL on the marriage of their youngest son, Koby, to RACHEL SAMUEL, daughter of Jack and Marla Samuel, and niece of BERNIE and ANNA KLEINBERG. Delighted siblings, nephews and nieces are AKYVA and GILA (and ARLEY) SPIEGEL, Miryam and Geoffrey Michael (and Judah and Sammy) Kiderman, and Yael and NACHUM SILVERMAN. Proud grandparents are Beatrice Spiegel, Howard and Nancy Kleinberg and David and Dorothy Samuel.

CYNTHIA GASNER on the marriage of her grandson, Noah, son of Dr. Jon and Ellise Gasner, to Adi, daughter of Shmulik and Nadine Sheinberg. Proud grandparents are Dr. Arnie and Roneen Weingarten, Monti and Eileen Kobrin and Yakov and Lilly Sheinberg. Excited siblings are Micha, Rafi, Zev, Avishai, Nadav, Atara and Yakira Gasner, Meirav and Mike Rosen, and Hilla Sheinberg. Proud uncles and aunts are MYRA MECHANIC, BRIAN and BRENDA LASS, and Robert and Julea Gasner.

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

PHILIP SCHENKER on his 90th birthday.

BRIAN CANTOR on his special birthday.

AARON RIFKIND on his special birthday.

MICHAEL MILLS on his special birthday.

Rabbi ELLIOTT and ROCHELLE DIAMOND on their birthdays.

YAAKOV and DEENA EIZICOVICS on their twins, Aviva and Noam's 11th birthdays.

MICHAEL OSTRO on his special birthday.

KEN KANTOROWITZ on his special birthday.

JEFFREY HERTZ on his special birthday.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tov to CAMILLA BENZAQUEN, daughter of ALBERT and SYLVIA BENZAQUEN, on being elected Vice President of Communications for Hasbara at York University.

Mazal Tov to Dr. DIANA ROBERTS-ZAUDERER on receiving her PhD from the University of Toronto.

Tzetzchem L'shalom to the students who departed for Israel for their year of study: JOSHUA HOLTZMAN, ADAM BENZAQUEN, JOSHUA EISENSTADT, MAX HANDELMAN, EZRA NADLER, SASHA OHAYON and JACOB TOLEDANO.

Mazal Tov to KITTY WINTROB on the September launching of the third edition of her wartime memoir, *I'm Not Going Back*.

Mazal Tov to the co-chairs of the Association for the Soldiers of Israel-Canada Gala Dinner, KATY KORMAN, Felicia Posluns, BETH SINGER, NELLY ZAGDANSKI, and Sara Zagdanski, on a successful and well-attended dinner by over 1100 people.

Mazal Tov to RALPH and VICKY LEVINE on their granddaughter, Chani Fink, graduating with highest academic achievement with a Bachelor of Health Sciences and Masters of Science, in Occupational Therapy from Touro College School of Health Sciences.

Mazal Tov to YONATAN MILVESKY for successfully defending his PhD thesis, which pertains to Professor David Novak's *Natural Law Theory*, at McMaster University.

Mazal Tov to JONAH, son of BENNY and ELAINE OSHER, on completing his *Tekes Kumta* for the *Tzanchanim* (paratroopers).

Mazal Tov to RANDALL CRAIG who was recognized this week for his contribution to the field of Management Consulting in Canada, as a Fellow Certified Management Consultant.

Mazal Tov to YONATAN MILEVSKY on his graduation with a Doctorate in Religious Studies from McMaster University.

CONDOLENCES TO

Annalee and Grant Sawiak, Philip Cohen and Janet Weeks, Marcy and Robert Franklin, Marcel Cohen and Zlati Meyer and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, JULIETTE COHEN^{z"l}.

Family of LOUIS CROTIN^{z"l}.

Connie Kussner, JOEL and ROCHELLE MONSON, Deborah and Rabbi Richard Vale, Rebecca and Alan Simpson, Marc Monson and families, on the loss of their brother, father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, Daniel Monson^{z"l}.

Rachella Stern, Fay Wilanowski, STEVEN and SHOSHANA STERN, Allen and Bianca, Mark and Nanci Stern and families, on the loss of their husband, brother, father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, Isaac David Stern^{z"l}.

Anne Margles, Reta Newman, DONNA MARGLES and STEVEN ALBIN, Alane and Alan Berdowski and families, on the loss of their husband, brother, father, father-in-law and grandfather, Lloyd Margles^{z"l}.

Claudette Tawil, Maurice Esses, Lillian Esses, Stephen and Caroline Esses, Victoria Esses and David Sherry and families, on the loss of their sister, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, MARCELLE ESSES^{z"l}.

Cynthia Green, DOROTHY SHIFF, Grace Schelew, Melanie Green and Steve Colomby, Robin Green and Lawrence Allen, Eric and Karen Green and families, on the loss of their husband, brother, brother-in-law, father, father-in-law and grandfather, Dr. Samuel Morris Green^{z"l}.

Nancy and Sydney Levine, Hershey and Judy Bromley, Marc Monson, Deborah and Rabbi Asher Vale, Rebecca and Alan Simpson, JOEL and ROCHELLE MONSON and families, on the loss of their sister, sister-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, Edith Monson^{z"l}.

Dr. William Chodirker, Morris and Carol Raizen, Ed Chodirker, Norm Chodirker, SHARON CHODIRKER and CHAIM BELL, Judy Chodirker, David Chodirker and Shira Deener and families, on the loss of their wife, sister, sister-in-law, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Rachelle Chodirker^{z"l}.

Lisa and Allan Garmen, ADRIENNE HATTIN, Simone Hattin, Alan Hattin, Rabbi Michael and Rivka Hattin and families, on the loss of their father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, BERNARD HATTIN^{z"l}.

Kate and Joseph Hemi, Solly and Pamela Solomon, Robin and Karen Solomon and families, on the loss of their sister, sister-in-law, and aunt, RUBY EZEKIEL^{z"l}.

Ida Kestenberg, Ellen Nightingale, Jeffrey and Sherri Nightingale, Rob Nightingale and Cheryl Libman and families, on the loss of their sister, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, RUTH NIGHTINGALE^{z"l}.

SARA GEVANTSCHNITER, Chaya and Israel Yust, Dalya and Zvi Fruchter, Eran Gevantschniter, Mirit Gevantschniter-Schwartz and Louis Schwartz, Ronit and Itzik Goldenberg and families, on the loss of their husband, brother, brother-in-law, father, father-in-law and grandfather, BEN-AMI GEVANTSCHNITER^{z"l}.

Harry and Elaine Rakowski, David and Shanea Rakowski and families, on the loss of their father, father-in-law and grandfather, HENRY RAKOWSKI^{z"l}.

Moishe and Frances Goldstein, Zev and Shaindy Goldstein, ORI and REBECCA GOLDSTEIN and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, SUSANNA GOLDSTEIN^{z"l}.

CATHERINE SULEM-BIERSTONE and EDWARD BIERSTONE, Reine-Brigitte Sulem, Pierre-Louis and Ronit Sulem, Jean and Laurence Sulem, Agnes and Roland Bialobroda and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, Paule Sulem^{z"l}.

Family of ARTHUR NEAL SHEPS^{z"l}.

LISA and KEN KANTOROWITZ, Greta and Allan Reiss, Barry Nathanson and families, on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, LORRAINE NATHANSON^{z"l}.

Ethel Freedman, RON and RAQUEL FREEDMAN, Jeff and Nicole, Harley and Shelley and families, on the loss of their father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, Phillip Freedman^{z"l}.

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 5:00pm
 Friday 8:30am - 2:00pm
 Shabbat, Sunday Closed

WHO'S WHO

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler
 Assistant Rabbi Jesse Shore
 Shamash / Baal Koreh Ralph Levine
 Cantor Zvi Katzman
 Rabbi, Downstairs Minyan Elliott Diamond
 President Brian Cantor
 Executive Director Nicole Toledano
 Youth Director Jacob Posluns
 Bulletin Contributor Lawrence Savlov

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ENDOWMENTS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

JAN 13	Kneading for a Cause – <i>Baking for the Homeless</i>
JAN 20	International Kollel Torah MiTzion Shabbaton
JAN 27	Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown
JAN 31	Tu B'Shevat
FEB 3	Philip Zucker ^{z"l} Memorial Shabbat
FEB 6	Breaking the Stigma in the Jewish Community <i>Mental Health During and After Pregnancy</i>
FEB 28	Ta'anit Esther (Fast of Esther)
FEB 28	Purim Carnival
MAR 1	Purim
MAR 1	Purim Seuda
MAR 2	Shushan Purim
MAR 6	Rabbinic Conversation: The New Anti-Semitism
MAR 11	Daylight Saving Time begins
MAR 11	Cavalcade of Stars
MAR 12	Legal Ethics – <i>Facing Self-Represented Litigants</i>
MAR 24	Shabbat Hagadol
MAR 30	Erev Pesach
MAR 31 - APR 1	Pesach I and II
APR 2 - 5	Chol HaMoed Pesach
APR 6 - 7	Pesach VII and VIII
APR 12	Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day
APR 18	Yom HaZikaron
APR 19	Yom HaAtzmaut
APR 28	Yu Beit Midrash Shabbaton
MAY 6 - 13	Peace of Mind 2018