שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

בס״ד

OCTOBER 24, 2026 / 13 CHESHVAN 5787
PARASHAT LECH LECHA

SHABBAT MATTERS

Friday, October 23

6:03 pm Candle Lighting
Earliest 5:16 pm
6:10 pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat with a D'var Torah by Rabbi Michael Laitner

Please note:
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat will be in the Sisterhood Hall

Shabbat, October 24

7:30 am Hashkama Minyan: Beit Midrash
9:00 am Shacharit: Sanctuary - Rabbi Taylor with a Drasha by Rabbi Michael Laitner
9:00 am Shacharit: Sisterhood - Rabbi Diamond
9:30 am Shacharit: Beit Midrash
9:45 am Youth Programs: Classrooms
9:45 am Teen Minyan: Lower Level Social Hall A
10:22 am Latest time to say Shema
Kiddush* in the Banquet Hall
Shiur with Prof. David Novak 15 minutes after Kiddush starts
5:20 pm Pre-Mincha Shiur: Rabbi Michael Laitner
5:50 pm Mincha: Sanctuary
6:10 pm Seudah Shlishit** with a D'var Torah by Rabbi Michael Laitner
7:06 pm Shabbat Ends

**Meat*
***Pareve from Meat Kitchen*

Torah Reading:
Bereshit 12:1-17:27
Hertz P. 45
Stone P. 54

Haftorah:
Yishayahu 40:27-41:16
Hertz P. 60
Stone P. 1133

This Shabbat, we welcome Weinbaum Scholar in Residence, **Rabbi Michael Laitner**, Head of Research at the Rabbi Sacks Legacy and Director of Education for the United Synagogue of Great Britain. He will be speaking throughout Shabbat (see the flyer below). Thank you to the Weinbaum Family for sponsoring his visit.

SHABBAT OF ALIYAH

For Parashat Lech Lecha, Shaarei Shomayim is proud to join congregations across North America in celebrating Nefesh B'Nefesh's **Shabbat of Aliyah,** honouring those who have made Aliyah and recognizing its significance in Jewish life.

MAZEL TOV

Ralph Levine on his 80th birthday

TODAH RABAH TO OUR SPONSORS:

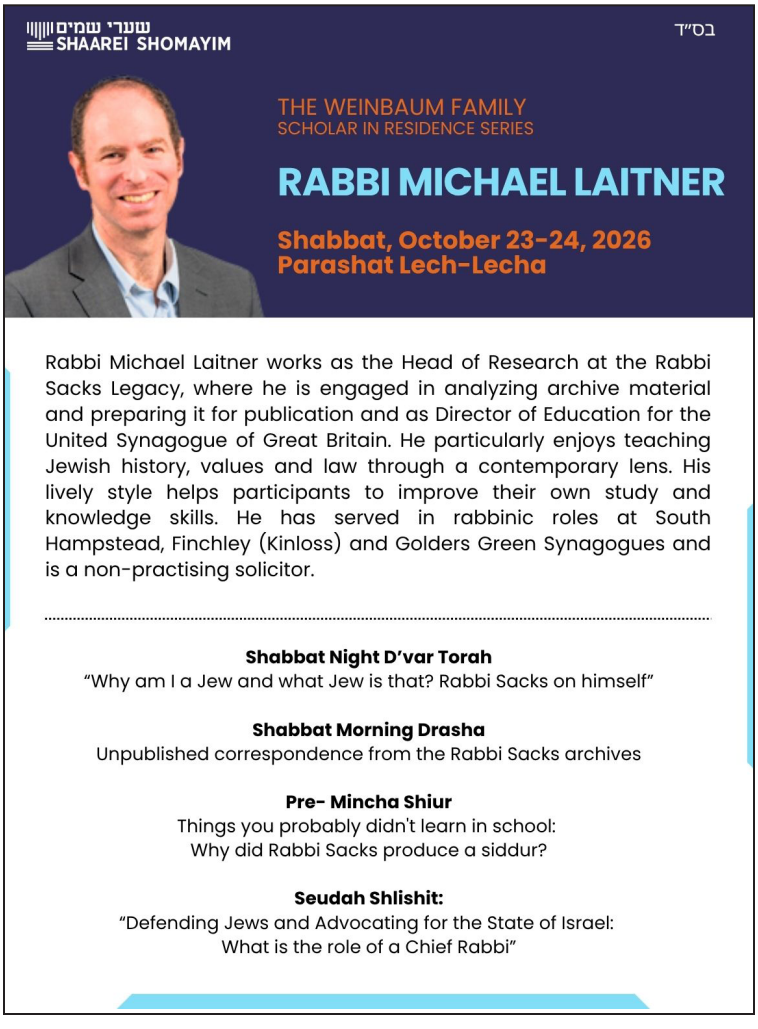
KIDDUSH
Platinum
Danielle & Stewart Turk and Donna & Alan Welman in honour of the birth of their granddaughter, Chana Mushka
Gold
The Weinbaum Family
Silver
Nefesh B'Nefesh in honour of Shabbat of Aliyah
Bronze
Myra Gasner Mechanic and Family & Brenda Gasner Lass and Family in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Myra & Brenda's mother, Cynthia Gasner z"l

KIDDUSH FUND
Queenie Nayman and Family in honour of Sol Nayman reading the Haftorah

YAHRZEIT COMMEMORATION
Elijah Samson in memory of his father, Aaron Samson z"l, and his mother, Ruth Samson z"l

MACHZORIM
Marlene Brudner & Family in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Marlene's husband, Jack Brudner z"l, her mother, Florence Shainhouse z"l, her father-in-law, Isadore H. Brudner z"l, and her sister-in-law, Molly (Micki) Brudner z"l

Remember to vote in the **Toronto Municipal Election** this Monday, October 26. Polls are open from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.



TORAH MATTERS

Sunday, October 25 / 14 Cheshvan	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	7:45 am	Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom)
Monday, October 26 / 15 Cheshvan	7:10 am 6:00 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am 9:30 am	Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom) Rabbi Taylor's Mishlei Shiur (Zoom)
Tuesday, October 27 / 16 Cheshvan	7:15 am 6:00 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am 8:00 pm	Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom) Rabbi Diamond's Parsha Shiur (Zoom)
Wednesday, October 28 / 17 Cheshvan	7:15 am 6:00 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am 9:00 pm	Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom) Rabbi Taylor's Mishna Berura Shiur (Beit Midrash)
Thursday, October 29 / 18 Cheshvan	7:10 am 6:00 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am	Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom)
Friday, October 30 / 19 Cheshvan	7:15 am 5:53 pm 6:00 pm	Shacharit Candle Lighting (earliest 5:02 pm) Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am	Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom)

Kriyat Shema should be repeated after 7:01 pm this week.

PARSHA MATTERS by RABBI SAM TAYLOR

One of the best-known stories about Avraham Avinu, is his miraculous salvation from Nimrod's fiery furnace in Ur Kasdim. Troubled by the idolatry that surrounded him, Avraham destroyed the idols in his father's store and was condemned to death by King Nimrod. Hashem miraculously rescued him, revealing His power and affirming the truth of His existence. Surprisingly, however, the Torah says nothing about this dramatic episode. Although the Torah often leaves out details of the lives of its central figures, one might expect an event of such magnitude to feature in its account of Avraham's life. Pirkei DeRabbi Eliezer describes how those who witnessed the miracle were utterly astonished, while Bereishit Rabba relates that the event occurred in the presence of Nimrod and his people. Why, then, does the Torah remain silent about this extraordinary experience and instead introduce Avraham through Hashem's command to journey to Eretz Canaan at the beginning of Parshat Lech Lecha?

Perhaps the Torah's omission reflects a deeper perspective on what truly defines Avraham and the mission he bequeathed to his descendants. Rabbi Yehonatan Eibshitz suggests a surprising possibility: that the Torah may be expressing criticism of Avraham for endangering his life by destroying the idols. Although his actions demonstrated tremendous conviction, they may also have involved a risk that was unnecessary. Even without accepting this explanation, we can appreciate the broader lesson. An event's drama and public impact do not necessarily determine its lasting importance. Avraham's miraculous survival may have captured the attention of the masses, but the Torah chooses to emphasise other aspects of his life, including his welcoming of three strangers and his pleading with Hashem to spare the people of Sodom. These episodes, rather than the spectacular miracle, provide enduring lessons for future generations.

This distinction remains relevant today. We live in a world that places enormous value on publicity, recognition, and appearances. It is easy to assume that achievements celebrated publicly are more meaningful than the quiet acts of kindness and integrity that go unnoticed. Yet our greatest contributions may take place far from the public eye, in the ordinary moments of daily life. This realisation should influence both how we view others and how we conduct ourselves. We cannot accurately measure another person's character by reputation or outward appearance alone. Similarly, we must be just as concerned with our private behavior as with the image we project to others. After all, the ultimate measure of character is not how impressive we appear, but how faithfully we uphold our values when nobody is watching.

YOUTH MATTERS

Parent Child Learning (PCL) will be starting back up for four weeks starting November 21st. There will be a winter break and then another four weeks of PCL resuming on January 16th.

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to **Benjamin Kessler!** We will be celebrating in youth groups this Shabbat!

Shabbat Shalom,
Sora

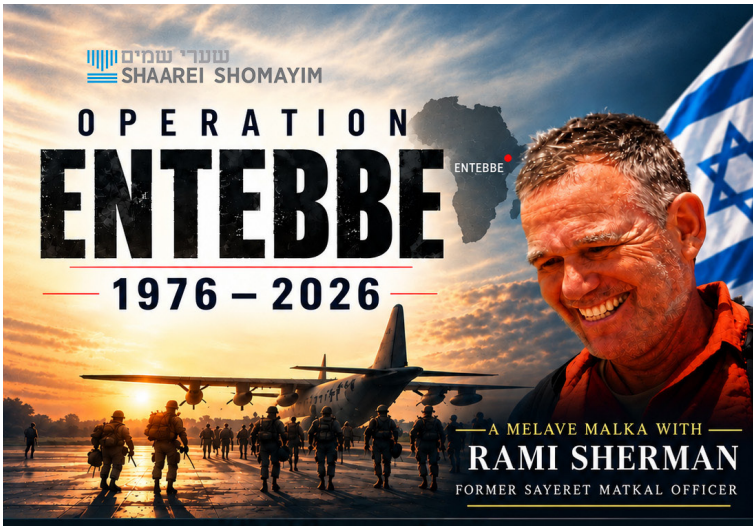
Schedule
9:45 am: Youth Groups
10:30 am: Davening, Kiddush and Parsha (Grades 1-6)
11:00 am: Circle Time - Stay N Play & JK/SK
11:30 am: Youth Groups Conclude

Rooms
Stay N Play: 101 | JK/SK: 102
Boys Hockey & Sports: Room 103
Boys Quiet Games: Room 106
Girls Grades 1-3: Room 105
Grades 4-6 Girls (Parsha Chat): Youth Lounge

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

OPERATION ENTEBBE

1976 – 2026



A MELAVE MALKA WITH
RAMI SHERMAN
FORMER SAYERET MATKAL OFFICER

50 Years Later, From Entebbe to October 7th,
LESSONS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

OCTOBER 31, 8:30 PM
Registrants will be notified of the location

Major Ret. Rami Sherman is a son of Holocaust survivors and a veteran of the elite Sayeret Matkal unit, which liberated Jewish hostages in the 1976 Entebbe raid. We will have a unique opportunity to hear his firsthand account of Operation Yonatan, as he reflects on its enduring lessons of courage, initiative, mutual responsibility and Jewish identity, 50 years since Entebbe.

shomayim.org/form/rami

PEACE OF MIND CANADA



Shabbat Luncheon

During the week of November 1-8, Shaarei Shomayim has the honour of hosting **Peace of Mind**, a unique program developed by the Israel Centre for the Treatment of Psycho-Trauma that provides therapy for discharged soldiers who are dealing with the aftermath of their combat experiences. We invite the community to participate and embrace the discharged soldiers by attending a very special Shabbat luncheon.

Shabbat November 7, 2026 | After services

Adults $60 | Non-Member $80
Children (3-11) $35 | Non-Member $45
Ages 2 and below - No Charge

shomayim.org/form/pom2026
Registration Deadline: Monday, November 2

שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

בס"ד

YOATZOT HALACHA
CYI CANADIAN YOATZOT INITIATIVE | MIZRACHI CANADA

WOMEN'S HEALTH & HALACHA DAY

Exploring contemporary health issues through a halachic lens with leading educators and medical professionals.



Sunday, November 1, 2026
9:00 AM - 1:45 PM
BAYT | 613 Clark Ave. W, Thornhill

Early Bird Price | $36
DEADLINE OCTOBER 25
Regular Price | $45
AFTER OCTOBER 25
Light lunch and refreshments provided

SPONSORED BY:

Sarena & David Koschitzky in memory of Mira Koschitzky z'l and Julia Koschitzky z'l

Marsha & Michael Lax in memory of Hania Sporer z'l and Lea Lax z'l

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
GLP1-RA: A NEW ERA IN WEIGHT LOSS MEDICATIONS

TOPICS INCLUDE

- How to Talk with Kids About Intimacy
- Women's Cancers
- Fertility & Egg Freezing
- Know Your Normal: Understanding Your Body
- Peri-Menopause & Menopause
- Pelvic Health
- Memory & Brain Health
- Healthy Food Relationships

FOR FULL SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTIONS VISIT YOATZOT.CA/HEALTH OR SCAN THE QR CODE

For more information on sponsorship opportunities yoatzot.ca/healthdonate

Partner Organizations

OR CHAIM MINYAN | שערי שמים SHAAREI SHOMAYIM | משכן אברהם | BAYT | Shaarei Tefillah | בית ציון Beit Tzion

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL



SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

Following October 7th, volunteers worldwide have united around a collective effort to fill gaps and provide support.

Volunteer in Israel is a unique 8-day opportunity for can-do travelers seeking to volunteer, reconnect, and renew together.

Shaarei Shomayim invites you to rally your support for the people of Israel, in the land of Israel, while the needs are greatest.

ELIGIBILITY
Youmust be18yearsor older to paricipate.

COST
ProgramFee: USD $1,300
Subsidized Flight Fee: USD $1,200

We are looking at two sets of dates for this trip:
- February 28 - March 8, 2027 **or**
- An eight day period between June 30 - July 12, 2027

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Volunteering Projects
- Local Medical Insurance
- Staff Escorts & Support
- Airport transfers for volunteers on the optional group flight
- Breakfast daily, Shabbat dinner & lunch, and select meals
- Volunteer in and visit the impacted border communities

THE EXPERIENCE

- Meaningful, hands-on volunteer opportunities
- Day trips to the Nova site and the Old City
- Forge deep connections with fellow volunteers
- Celebrating Shabbat in Jerusalem
- Free time to explore and visit your favourite spots!

Volunteering Trip
Led by:
Rabbi Sam Taylor
Jacob Rifkind

Email info@shomayim.org for more info

שערי שמים SHAAREI SHOMAYIM | TAGLIT BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL | Jewish Federations | ISRAEL OUTBOUND

YAHRZEITS

Shabbat, October 24	13 Cheshvan	Adele Faust, Mother of Fern Orzech Helen Shneer, Sister of Hal Kershen Jean Kiner, Mother of Myrna Lambert	Sophie Kates, Mother of Dorothy Cohen William Finkelstein, Father of Sheldon Finkelstein
Sunday, October 25	14 Cheshvan	Daniel Herbert, Brother of Paul Herbert Henry Robert Hecker, Father of Melissa Hecker Jack Brudner, Husband of Marlene Brudner	Larry Levenstein, Husband of Linda Levenstein Minka Smith, Mother of Henry Smith and Tobe Tweyman Vicky Levine, Sister of Frances Goldstein and Wife of Ralph Levine
Monday, October 26	15 Cheshvan	Cynthia Gasner, Mother of Myra Mechanic, Brenda Lass and Jon Gasner, Sister of Renee Solursh Aviva Heller, Mother of Hart Heller & Jay Heller	Oscar Ackerman, Father of Susanne Taran Rose Strauss, Mother of Gordon Strauss Sara Ruch, Mother of Esther (Stella) Katz
Tuesday, October 27	16 Cheshvan	Esther Leifer, Mother of Pearl Goldrich	Hans Heilbronn, Father of Michael Heilbronn
Wednesday, October 28	17 Cheshvan	Cecille Hattin, Mother of Adrienne Hattin	Irving Knopman, Husband of Sharon Knopman
Thursday, October 29	18 Cheshvan	Sam Frohlich, Father of Betty Charnaw	George Schmideg, Father of Anita Schmideg-Lichtblau
Friday, October 30	19 Cheshvan	Harry Kay, Father of Richard Kay	Tina Levine, Mother of Ralph Levine

YAHRZEITS

Cheryl Leyton in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her father, Norman Leyton ז"ל
Linda Levenstein in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her husband, Larry Levenstein ז"ל ,and her grandson Yonadav Raz Levenstein ת"ד
Michael & Rose Heilbronn to the Rabbi's Charity Fund in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Michael's father, Hans Heilbronn ז"ל

COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Canadian Jewish News (CJN) – Free Magazine & Newsletters
Sign up for free home delivery of The CJN magazine at thecjn.ca/subscribe/. To also receive news stories by email, select the "Newsletter" option when subscribing. Prefer email updates only? Sign up for The CJN newsletter at thecjn.ca/newsletter/.

November 1 | 7:30 pm | Carmei Gat information session
Join Hillel Krief, a Carmei Gat resident and local real estate agent, for a Toronto parlor meeting exploring life in Carmei Gat, Israel. Learn about the growing community, neighbourhoods, amenities and local real estate market. A light dinner will be provided. Register at beithillelhomes.com/signup.

November 5–26 | 8:00 pm | Great Debates in Jewish Philosophy
Join Rabbi Michael Skobac for a free four-part series exploring the fundamental debates that have shaped Jewish philosophy, including faith vs. reason, philosophy vs. Kabbalah, free will vs. divine providence and Torah vs. modernity. Location: Shaarei Shomayim Congregation and live on Zoom. Registration is required at jewsforjudaism.ca/debates26.

November 8 | 10:00–11:15 am | When Shanghai Said Yes: A Global Jewish–Chinese Virtual Experience
Join an international Zoom event commemorating Shanghai's remarkable role in providing refuge to 20,000 Jewish refugees during the Holocaust. Featuring Professor Xu Xin of Nanjing University and Annette Poizner, the program will explore the historic connections between Jewish and Chinese communities through presentations, dialogue and breakout discussions. Register at bit.ly/shanghai-said-yes.

Research Study | Jewish Teachers in Canadian Public Schools: Researchers from Simon Fraser University, Laurentian University, the University of British Columbia and York University are seeking Jewish teachers working in Canadian public K–12 schools to participate in a 15–20-minute survey about Jewish identity and experiences of antisemitism in schools. Register: tinyurl.com/mvwj3ksf

REFUAH SHLEIMAH

Arieh ben Yuliana, Sarah Rivka bat Mazal Yehudit, Leah bat Gila, Bracha bat Malka, Peruma Shana bat Elka Rachel. Naftali ben Miriam, Yaakov Yerachmiel ben Meira, Ketel ben Miriam, Sarah Chana bat Chaya, David ben Chasya, Michael Baruch ben Yehudit, Aharon Tzvi ben Raizel, Aviva bat Shoshanah Raizel, David ben Freida, Ronit Leah bat Rivka, Tikva ben Shoshanah, Yehuda Yoseif ben Miriam Yochevet, Mindel bat Rochel

Rabbi Sam Taylor, Senior Rabbi Rabbi Elliott Diamond, Rabbi, Rabbi Chaim Freund, Chazzan
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