שערי שמים
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM

בס״ד
OCTOBER 31, 2026 / 20 CHESHVAN 5787
PARASHAT VAYERA

SHABBAT MATTERS

Friday, October 30

5:53 pm Candle Lighting
Earliest 5:02 pm
6:00 pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat

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

Shabbat, October 31

7:30 am Hashkama Minyan: Beit Midrash
9:00 am Shacharit: Sanctuary - Rabbi Taylor with a Drasha by Yoetzet Halacha Rabbanit Atara Eis
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
10:26 am Latest time to say Shema
Kiddush* in the Banquet Hall
Shiur with Prof. David Novak 15 minutes after Kiddush starts
5:00 pm Pre-Mincha Shiur: Rabbi Ezer Diena
5:40 pm Mincha: Sanctuary
6:00 pm Seudah Shlishit** in the Sisterhood Hall with a Drasha by Yoetzet Halacha Rivka Sonenberg
6:56 pm Shabbat Ends
8:30 pm Melave Malka with Rami Sherman by registration only

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

Torah Reading:
Bereshit 18:1-22:24
Hertz P. 63
Stone P. 78

Haftorah:
II Melachim 4:1-37
Hertz P. 76
Stone P. 1134

This Shabbat, we welcome **Yoetzet Halacha Rabbanit Atara Eis** and **Yoetzet Halacha Rivka Sonenberg** for the Canadian Yoatzot Initiative's *Health & Halacha Shabbat.* Rabbanit Eis will give the Drasha after Mussaf and Rivka will speak at Seudah Shlishit.

TODAH RABAH TO OUR SPONSORS:

KIDDUSH
Bronze
Tyler & Dinah Pertman in honour of Audrey's 1st birthday
Rena & Dani Neufeld for welcoming their parents, Frank & Eva Mayer, to the community
Aimee & Jonathan Hass and Family for welcoming Aimee's mother, Susan Jurkowitz, to the community

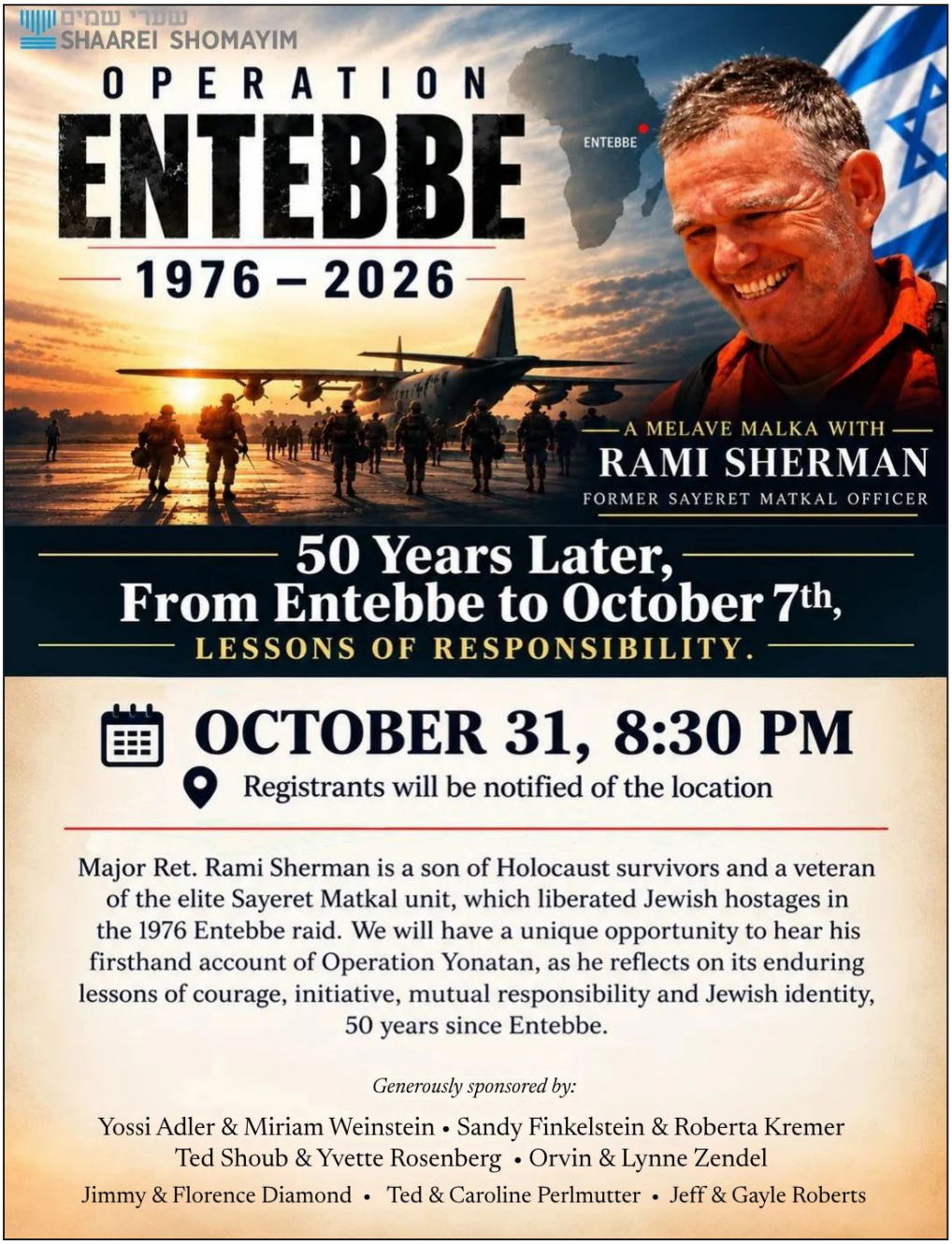
SHABBAT MATTERS
Stephen & Blima Dreezer in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Stephen's father, Harry Dreezer z"l

RABBI'S CHARITY FUND
Jerry & Tammy Balitsky in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Jerry's father, Philip Balitsky z"l
Brona Rosen and Family in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her husband, Carl Rosen z"l

CHESSED FUND
Leah & Mitchell Lerner in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Leah's mother, Tova Yanovski z"l

MACHZORIM
Myra Mechanic, Meyer Mechanic and Deborah Mechanic in commemoration of the yahrzeit of their husband and father, Nathan Mechanic z"l
Betty Charnaw & Family in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Betty's father, Sam Frohlich z"l

Daylight Saving Time Ending
Turn your clocks back one hour before Sunday morning.



TORAH MATTERS

Sunday, November 1 / 21 Cheshvan *Turn clocks back one hour*	8:30 am 4:50 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	7:45 am Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom)
Monday, November 2 / 22 Cheshvan	7:10 am 4:50 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom) 9:30 am Rabbi Taylor's Mishlei Shiur (Zoom)
Tuesday, November 3 / 23 Cheshvan	7:15 am 4:50 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom) 8:00 pm Rabbi Diamond's Parsha Shiur (Zoom)
Wednesday, November 4 / 24 Cheshvan	7:15 am 4:50 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom) 9:00 pm Rabbi Taylor's Mishna Berura Shiur (Beit Midrash)
Thursday, November 5 / 25 Cheshvan	7:10 am 4:50 pm	Shacharit Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom)
Friday, November 6 / 26 Cheshvan	7:15 am 4:43 pm 4:50 pm	Shacharit Candle Lighting Mincha/Maariv	6:30 am Daily Gemara Shiur - Sotah (Beit Midrash & Zoom)

Kriyat Shema should be repeated after 5:51 pm this week.

PARSHA MATTERS by RABBI SAM TAYLOR

The Akeidat Yitzchak, the binding of Isaac, stands as one of the Torah's most powerful examples of a nisayon, a spiritual test. Avraham's journey to Mount Moriah challenged him to demonstrate extraordinary faith and devotion to Hashem, even when faced with a command that seemed impossible to comprehend. Although the Torah's account is brief, Chazal expand upon it, offering insight into Avraham's struggles and teaching us how to navigate our own nisyonot.

The Midrash Tanchuma describes how the Satan attempted to discourage Avraham from fulfilling Hashem's command. Disguised as an old man, he asked Avraham where he was going. "To pray," Avraham replied. The Satan pointed out that Avraham carried a knife and materials to light a fire, hardly the usual tools for prayer. He then challenged him: "An old man like you would destroy the son granted to him at the age of one hundred?" Through this exchange, Chazal reveal the doubts that may have troubled Avraham throughout his three-day journey. How could such an act be considered service to Hashem? Why sacrifice the son who had been such a miraculous gift? Yet Avraham remained steadfast and continued onward.

The Midrash describes another obstacle when the Satan transformed himself into a mighty river blocking Avraham's path. Avraham continued forward until the water reached his neck, at which point he cried out to Hashem. Hashem caused the river to disappear, allowing him to proceed. What does this river represent? Nechama Leibowitz explains that the river symbolizes the practical obstacles that stand in the way of someone seeking to do what is right. These challenges may seem ordinary, yet they can be powerful. We tell ourselves that we lack the time, money, or resources to take the proper course of action. While these concerns may be genuine, they can also become convenient excuses to avoid meaningful commitments.

Avraham's experience teaches us to make every sincere effort before allowing difficulties to stop us. He did not turn back at the first sign of trouble but he continued until the obstacle became overwhelming. Our own journeys toward spiritual growth rarely follow a smooth path. Sometimes, our greatest tests are everyday decisions that demand patience, courage, and determination. Like Avraham, we must be willing to cross our own rivers and climb our own mountains, trusting that, when we do our utmost to fulfill Hashem's will, obstacles need not determine where our journey ends.

YOUTH MATTERS

We're excited to introduce a new initiative! Each month, we'll recognize a group leader who has gone above and beyond and shown exceptional dedication to our youth groups. We also welcome your feedback, both positive and constructive, about the youth groups. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Emily or me. We'd love to hear from you!

Parent-Child Learning (PCL) will resume for four weeks beginning November 21. Following a winter break, PCL will return for another four weeks beginning January 16. There will be two groups: one for the older kids, led by Rabbi Taylor and/or Jonathan Parker, and another for the younger kids, led by Emily.

Shabbat Shalom,
Sora

Schedule
9:45 am: Youth Groups Begin
9:45 am: Davening (Room 103)
10:30 am: Kiddush
11:00 am: Circle Time - Stay N Play & JK/SK
11:10 am: Parsha
11:30 am: Youth Groups Conclude

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

HEALTH & HALACHA SHABBAT

Parshat Vayera
October 31, 2026

A city-wide Shabbat of learning and conversation for men and women.

SOUTH

Yoetzet Halacha Rabbanit Atara Eis & Yoetzet Halacha Rifka Sonenberg



DRASHA AT SHAAREI SHOMAYIM
11:15 AM



SEUDA SHELISHIT AT SHAAREI SHOMAYIM
6:20PM

CENTRAL

Yoetzet Halacha Rabbanit Atara Eis & Yoetzet Halacha Rifka Sonenberg



SHIUR AFTER KIDDUSH AT OR CHAIM
11:20 AM



SHIUR AT CLANTON PARK
5:00 PM

NORTH

Rabbi Yuval Cherlow & Dr. Smadar Cherlow



SHIUR AFTER KIDDUSH AT AYIN L'TZION ZICHRON YISROEL
11:50 AM



SHIUR IN HEBREW AT AYIN L'TZION ZICHRON YISROEL
5:00 PM

LEADING INTO
WOMEN'S HEALTH & HALACHA DAY
FOR WOMEN ONLY
Sunday, November 1, 2026 • BAYT

Register for the Women's Health & Halacha Day at Yoatzot.ca/Health

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 show its support for these discharged soldiers by attending a very special Shabbat luncheon.

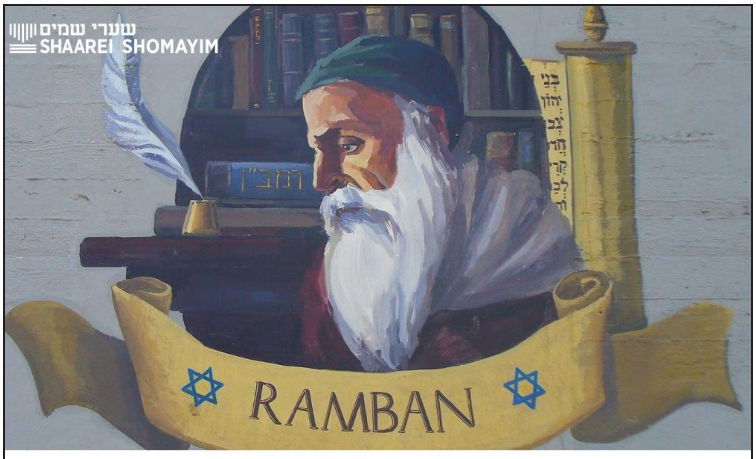
Shabbat November 7, 2026
After services

Adults $60 | Non-Members $80
Children (3–11) $35 | non-members $45
Ages 2 and below - No Charge
Youth activities during the program

shomayim.org/form/pom2026
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, November 3 at 2 pm

Peace of Mind program sponsored by:

David & Bernice Walerstein
Joey Berljawsky & Nathalie Gans Berljawsky
David Bronfman • The Dadouch Family
Adir & Dara Dishy • Yaakov & Deena Eizicovics
Cliff & Katy Korman • Gary & Judy Neinstein
Benny & Elaine Osher • Tyler & Dinah Pertman
Shimmy Posen & Shoshana Wortzman
Judy & Eli Roth • Harold Spring • Maryka Weisz
Barry & Nelly Zagdanski



An Introduction to

Ramban's Moral Thought

Exploring the moral interpretation of Rabbi Moses Nachmanides

Sunday Mornings After Shacharit (approx. 9:00 am)
November 22, 29 and December 6
Breakfast will be served

Join us for a three-part series examining central questions in Ramban's moral thought—human conscience, the Torah's demand for ethical conduct, and morality in times of war.

shomayim.org/event/ramban



CHANUKAH CHESSED Celebration

Families are invited to celebrate Chanukah with hands-on Chessed projects for local and Israeli causes, pizza, treats and an entertainer!



Sunday, November 29, 2026 at 4:00-6:00pm
Members: $10 per child with one canned good | $12 without
Non-nembers: $15 per child with one canned good | $18 without

Register: shomayim.org/form/chanukahchessed2026
Sponsorship opportunities welcome

PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING TO THE EVENT

- An additional non-perishable food for a local food bank
- Blankets and sleeping bags for Ve'ahavta
- Unwrapped toys for Chai Lifeline
- PJ Library books that your family no longer needs; as we'll be re-packaging them for kits to deliver to local public school

YAHRZEITS

Shabbat, October 31	20 Cheshvan	Izak Lefler, Father of Irving Lefler Moe Lesser, Father of Elaine Disenhouse Philip Balitsky, Father of Jerry Balitsky	Sophie Golda Parker, Mother of Sylvia Diament Ruth Grant, Mother of Terry Strauss Tova Yanovski, Mother of Leah Lerner
Sunday, November 1	21 Cheshvan	Ruth S. Berlove, Mother of Leila Libman Sarah Nizri, Mother of Helen Schwartz	Claire Tapiero, Mother of Estelle Kosoy
Monday, November 2	22 Cheshvan	Evan Berljawsky, Father of Joseph Berljawsky Jack Goldhar, Brother of Bernard Goldhar	Mel Simand, Father of Carol Seidman
Tuesday, November 3	23 Cheshvan	Henry Moos, Father of Tom Moos	Esther Woods, Mother of Sahri Baum and Brenda Woods
Wednesday, November 4	24 Cheshvan	Helen Eisenstat, Mother of Sholom Eisenstat Frances Friedman, Mother of Barbara Ouanounou	Carl Rosen, Husband of Brona Rosen Mildred Salb, Mother of Draisa Frischman
Thursday, November 5	25 Cheshvan	David Berger, Brother of Cecile Erlich Joelle Chilcott, Sister of Debby Goldman Mollie Halberstadt, Mother of Melech Halberstadt	Helen Maierovitz, Mother of Mendy Maierovitz Jacob Parker, Father of Sylvia Diament Joel Howard Starkman, Brother of Donna Starkman Shiff
Friday, November 6	26 Cheshvan	Harry Dreezer, Father of Stephen Dreezer Joel Markus, Brother of Laurie Markus Samuel Aaron Smith, Husband of Rose Smith Chaim Weisz, Husband of Maryka Weisz	Nathan Mechanic, Father of Meyer Mechanic and Deborah Mechanic, Husband of Myra Mechanic Sam (Shapsa) Smith, Father of Tobe Tweyman and Henry Smith

YAHRZEITS

- *Debby & Barry Goldman in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Debby's sister, Joelle Chilcott z"l*
- *Bernard Goldhar & Marlene Oilgisser in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Bernard's brother, Jack Goldhar z"l*
- *Estelle Kosoy to the Phillip Wintrob Youth Fund in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Claire Tapiero z"l*

COMMUNITY MATTERS

November 1 | 9:00 am–1:45 pm | Women's Health & Halacha Day
Join the Canadian Yoatzot Initiative at BAYT, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill, for a day exploring contemporary women's health issues through a halachic lens with leading educators and medical professionals. Topics include fertility, menopause, pelvic health, women's cancers, intimacy and brain health, with a keynote address on weight-loss medications. Light lunch and refreshments will be provided. The early bird rate of $36 has been extended! For the full schedule and registration, visit yoatzot.ca/health.

November 2–9 | Neuberger Holocaust Education Week (HEW)
Visit torontoholocaustmuseum.org/ for all event information.

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.

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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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