

OUR MISSION

To combat assimilation and other internal threats facing the Jewish way of life, we provide a relaxed learning environment for all Jewish people regardless of age, background and level of commitment to:

- Upgrade Jewish knowledge and awareness.
- Stimulate questions, encourage dialogue and facilitate critical thinking.
- Respond to the challenging needs of our diverse Jewish community.

Executive Committee:

Karen Birer, *Entrepreneur*

Nancy Brenner, *Architectural Sales Representative*

Dr. E. Dov Dumbroff, *Distinguished Professor Emeritus*

Simone Glina, *Teacher*

Phil Halpern, *Marketing Guru*

Dr. Allan Kagal, *Rheumatologist, Lecturer, UofT*

Cindy Kagal, *Family Lawyer*

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan,

Spiritual Leader & Executive Director, Chabad @ Flamingo



The Litvak Memorial Fall Semester

This semester is generously sponsored by Moishe & Tanya Hutchens in loving memory of Tanya's grandparents Eda (Eida bat Shmuel Eliezer) and Efim (Efraim ben BenTzion) Litvak obm, beautiful Jewish neshamos (souls) who kept the flame of Yiddishkeit

burning even in the darkest hours of Soviet Russia. Despite all odds they succeeded in transmitting those ideals to their children and grandchildren, our sponsors.

The Dark Knight, this summer's blockbuster **BATMAN** movie, has been hailed by many as one of the best films in years; yet, despite its novel ring the title doesn't sound new. **The Dark Night** is the term our Sages have used for the last 2000 years to describe our **GALUT** (exile), a treacherous odyssey of deprivation and displacement, both physically and spiritually.

In the **movie**, Bruce Wayne and his alter-ego **Batman**, are locked in a dark and haunting struggle with **The Joker**. One seeks to restore law, order and peace to the world while the other attempts to inflict suffering, anarchy and chaos. In **real life**, you and your own alter-ego **Neshamah** (Jewish Soul) are locked in a similar ongoing struggle with your Yetzer Hara (Evil Inclination), who is interestingly also called **The Fool**.

In contrast to the dark, brooding and complex atmosphere of the movie, our Torah teachings are illuminating, inspirational and straightforward.

Batman is not super-human and has no magical abilities or powers. His superior strength and intelligence are the result of diligence and hard work. What you need to become a super Jew (like Hatman on the cover) does not require supernatural efforts or miraculous capabilities. Instead, all you need is the proper development of your Jewish heart, mind and soul.

Are you ready to transform yourself and reveal the powers you never knew you had? Do you want to discover how our Torah's timeless wisdom and insight will help you soar to new heights?

Join us this fall as we welcome the brand new Jewish Year of 5769 with a powerful semester packed with exciting learning opportunities. Reveal your own hidden powers and combat the dark night of bigotry, anti-Semitism and assimilation. Discover the meaning behind the seeming complexities of prayer and language, shed new light on the daunting struggle against evil and learn new strategies to help you deal with familial and personal relationships.

Start attending our ongoing classes and find out how you too can educate and empower yourself to become a modern day Super-Jew!

Davening Darkness Illuminated!

Learn the What, Why and How of our Prayerful Pathways...
with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

Making the Machzor* an Open Book – Part I

Discover the incredible code of “Majesty, Memory & Symphony” woven into the tapestry we call the Rosh Hashanah Service. Gain valuable and inspirational insight into the timeless meaning of Prayer Induced Renewal!

Tuesday, September 16, 8:00 pm

Making the Machzor* an Open Book – Part II

Reveal the power of ancient ritual, spirituality and mystical experiences as they are brought to life each year through the remarkable synergy and symmetry of the Yom Kippur Services!

Tuesday, October 7, 8:00 pm

Lively Q&A will follow each illuminating session.

* The High Holiday Prayer Book

The new Dynamic Duo: Hebrew & Yiddish*

Get two new Powers in one evening: Learn to read the Siddur and amaze your Bubby! Attend one or both segments of these Jewishly empowering classes.

Instructor: Mrs. Chanie Serebryanski

Part I – Siddur Hebrew 101

If you kinda sorta know the Aleph-Bet and still can't make heads nor tails of the Siddur on Shabbat morning, this class was made for you. Attend for seven short weeks and never feel lost in Shul again! No prior background in Hebrew reading required.

7:30 – 8:30 pm

Part II– YiddishTalk

Learn frequently used Yiddish terms, popular phrases and how to pepper your conversations with our mame loshen (mother tongue). Amaze your Bubby and discover why Yiddish continues to capture hearts and imagination, because some things are best expressed in our uniquely delicious Jewish language!

8:30 – 9:30 pm

* The Course is FREE, running on Mondays: November 3, 10, 17 & 24 • December 1, 8 & 15. Donations are welcome.

Spellbinding mystical sessions with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan will examine the relevance of the world's oldest spiritual wisdom in this "New Age". Gain access to the most powerful spiritual system ever known to humankind...

Kabbalah on Defeating Evil

A mystical take on the seemingly endless struggle of Light against Darkness!

The latest incarnations of the battle against evil, has been dubbed the War on Terror, but are the battle lines really black and white? And, if they are, will we have the moral fortitude and courage to persevere and win? This incredible lecture will put a fresh face on challenges that are as old as they are new, and provide you with a penetrating insight and clarity rarely found in this modern age of murky morality.

Tuesday, November 4, 8:00 pm

Truth, Justice and the Jewish Way

Should Law & Order be enforced at any cost? A Kabbalistic perspective.

The Bible ordains that we pursue justice relentlessly, but is there ever a price too big to pay? Are there times when concerns for human rights trump this lofty ideal? In addition to a legal and pragmatic perspective, this thought provoking lecture will reveal a deeper dimension of these axiomatic principals. Be sure to attend this Kabbalistic overview of one of today's burning issues.

Tuesday, December 2, 8:00 pm

*Names and details are altered to protect confidentiality. If you would like the Rabbi to address a specific topic or question, please send a confidential email to: rabbi@chabadflamingo.com.

SEMESTER FOCUS: "POWER PARENTING"

Discovering and developing your inner parent to transform your family dynamics!

Raising your Kids without Raising your Voice!

with Sara Chana Radcliffe

While it may seem obvious, it's a lofty goal that's usually difficult for parents to achieve, especially in families where criticism and anger shaped their upbringing. Even those parents who come from healthy family environments struggle to make the right decisions when caught in a parenting "moment".

This lecture will be filled with practical solutions to everyday dilemmas, and give penetrating insights into the larger parenting picture. Be sure to join us to hear a master practitioner of psychology, counselor, teacher and parent share valuable tools that will help you bring peace, harmony and happiness into your home!

Tuesday, November 11, 8:00 pm

Real Time on Real Parenting

with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

Taking a cue from Paramount's wildly successful TV Show "Dr. Phil", we are pleased to present another installment of the "Rabbi Mendel" series, this time with a specific focus on applying the Torah's ancient, yet timeless, advice to improving parenting.

Drawing on nearly 4,000 years of divinely inspired wisdom, Rabbi Mendel Kaplan will share some of the advice he has given for new parenting challenges facing families today. Presented in his signature "tells-it-like-it-is" dynamic and easy going style, the insights are culled from real life parenting situations and actual counseling experiences*.

Tuesday, November 18, 8:00 pm

**FALL SEMESTER
SCHEDULE 2008**

Ongoing Classes

Special Classes

Ongoing Classes

Special Classes

Up, Up and Oy Vey...

How Jewish History, Culture and Values Shaped the Comic Book Superhero!

The Jewish contribution to film, theater, music, and comedy has long been well documented, but the Jewish role in the creation of the North-American superhero has not — until recently when Simcha Weinstein, a comic book aficionado and associate of the British Film Commission wrote Up, Up, and Oy Vey!, a best selling book which chronicles the uncanny story behind the origins of the planet's most famous superheroes, from the birth of Krypton in Cleveland to the Incredible Hulk, Batman, Spider-Man, the X-Men and much more. The book made waves throughout the entertainment industry and was the winner of the 2006 Hollywood Book Festival!

It a Bird, it's a Plane, it's... the Comic Book Rabbi!

Some of Simcha Weinstein's earliest memories involve comic books, superheroes and (the now valuable) vintage Batman and Superman toys. His hobby inspired him to study film and eventually pursue a career in film production.

Following a life-altering paradigm shift, Simcha became a Torah observant Jew and was eventually ordained as a Rabbi. He is the founder of the downtown Brooklyn Jewish Student Foundation, and he serves as the Rabbi of the Pratt Institute and the Long Island College Hospital.

Rabbi Weinstein is a witty, entertaining and sought-after public speaker who has lectured across North America and has appeared on CNN, NPR and WNBC. Visit his web-site: www.rabbisimcha.com to learn more about him.

Join us on Tuesday, December 9, 8:00 p.m. for a fascinating public lecture followed by enlightening Q&A with the author, who will be on hand to meet, greet and sign copies of his bestseller!

Tuesday, December 9, 8:00 p.m.

Our Institute of Jewish Studies

Is pleased to welcome our Fall-Semester Scholar in Residence

Rabbi Tzvi Freeman

Komix & Kabbalah – a Match Made in Heaven?

Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.

This fascinating four-week audio-visual crash course in Jewish mysticism with the creator of KabbalahToons will be educational, inspirational and enjoyable. Discover how some of the Kabbalah's most amazing concepts can actually be found by careful analysis of the super-heroes and the art-style of comic strips and cartoons!

- Nov 5** **Tzadikim & Superheroes** To understand the true nature of real Tzadikim and the spiritual energies they embody, we analyze the psyche, character and persona of Superman and Batman.
- Nov 12** **Superheroes Are People Too.** Spiderman and the Incredible Hulk were created to bring the superhero ideal down to earth. What do they tell us about ourselves and how do they fit into the Jewish ideal?
- Nov 19** **Mind or Heart?** A penetrating new look at the eternal conflict of human intelligence and human emotions. Find the key to unlock your inner peace by analyzing the "Rabbi Infinity" cartoon series.
- Nov 26** **Letters of Light.** Discover the incredible Powers contained in the letters of the Aleph Bet and learn how they can help you overcome your own challenges using the comic format of KabbalahToons!

Daily, Monday – Friday

Parsha Perspectives

6:30 am, with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

Looking for a daily dose of inspiration and meaning in life? This class does just that! Based on the prolific teachings and writings of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, the Torah's timeless messages come to life in a topical and relevant manner. Each day brings a brand new lesson with a pertinent and timely message culled from the weekly Torah reading. At once mystical and pragmatic, these sessions elevate and refine your worldview.

Sundays

Windows to Your Soul

8:30 am, with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

Have you ever wondered what makes human beings tick? Do you want deeper insight into the human condition and our spiritual subconsciousness? Discover your soul on this fascinating journey into the deepest recesses of your psyche. Drawing on the ancient wisdom of the Kabbalah, as redacted in the text of the celebrated and seminal volume of Chassidic and Mystical teaching, "The Tanya", this weekly class will open horizons and vistas beyond anything you have ever read, studied or imagined.

Mondays

Above and Beyond...

10:30 am, with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

This exciting weekly session draws on the teachings of Mishna-Avot for an inspiring look into the heart and soul of Jewish ethics and morality. Each class is an exquisite tapestry of mystical, pragmatic and contemporary Jewish philosophy that goes beyond Judaism's legal requirements. You'll gain valuable insight and moral clarity by applying the Torah's timeless truths to solve the problems plaguing our modern society.

Tuesdays (excepting special lectures)

Kabbalah and the Bible

8:00 pm, with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

Discover the pragmatic and mystical messages encrypted into the Hebrew Scriptures at this intriguing weekly class. See how the Torah's ancient stories and doctrines are as relevant as stem cell research – in ways you might not have imagined. By carefully reading the original Hebrew text (with simultaneous English translation) through the prism of Rashi's classic commentary, this class lays bare some of the Torah's most fascinating secrets. With an added Kabbalistic twist, you get an hour of inspirational study that will forever change the way you think about life, spirituality and Judaism.

Thursdays

Talmud 101

8:30 pm, with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

This fascinating intellectual voyage navigates the "Sea of the Talmud." It will sharpen your wits and stimulate your analytic skills like nothing else! Enjoy the lively discussion that accompanies Talmudic study and relish grappling with the famous logic that has formed the core of Jewish scholarship for nearly 2000 years. We are currently studying the text of Tractate Berachot, which traces prayer and other basic Jewish observances back to their biblical sources and origins.



Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

Rabbi Kaplan is the founder, spiritual leader and executive director of Chabad @ Flamingo in Thornhill. Born in Norfolk Virginia, he was raised in various cities along the Atlantic Seaboard and spent his formative years immersed in Judaic studies at religious academies in close proximity to the internationally revered Lubavitcher Rebbe, of righteous memory. After graduating in 1990, he assumed a rabbinic internship in Los Angeles and subsequently held educational postings in Buenos Aires, Petersburg (Russia), Milwaukee, Detroit and Jerusalem. Rabbi Kaplan serves as a Chaplain of the York Regional Police with the added distinction of being one of only two Rabbis in the country to do so. The Rabbi is also an active member of Toronto's Vaad HaRabbanim, York Region's Advisory Committee of Community Links and on The Police Community Liaison Committee. He is a popular public speaker often called upon by the mass media and featured regularly on many local television and radio shows including a daily address on Toronto's multi-cultural Radio CHIN FM. Rabbi Kaplan is the proud father of six children and enjoys sketching and working with charcoal mediums when he has a free moment.



Sarah Chana Radcliffe

Sarah Chana Radcliffe is a registered member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario. She has a private practice in marriage, parenting and individual counseling. Mrs. Radcliffe is the author of the HarperCollins Publication Raise Your Kids without Raising Your Voice as well as five books published by Targum Press on Jewish family life and emotional well-being. She is a weekly columnist for Mishpacha Magazine and a free lance writer for many other print and on-line publications, including Chabad.org. Sarah Chana also has produced a bi-weekly parenting podcast presented on OUradio and she offers her own parenting support and education at her website, Parenting-Advice.Net. Mrs. Radcliffe lectures locally and internationally on subjects relating to parenting, marriage and personal development. Sarah Chana resides in Toronto with her husband and six children.



Rabbi Tzvi Freeman

Rabbi Freeman is the author of Bringing Heaven Down to Earth and Be Within, Stay Above, two collections of meditations based on the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, of righteous memory. He was born in Vancouver, where he became involved at an early age in Yoga, Tao and radical politics. In 1977 he left a career as a classical guitarist and composer to study Talmud and Jewish mysticism for nine years. He is a contributing editor of the Chabad Org Weekly magazine and a consultant for AskMoses.com. His web site, theRebbe.com was mentioned in Fortune Magazine by Silicon Valley guru Marc Benioff as "one of my favourite sites." Rabbi Freeman is also a published expert, consultant and lecturer in the field of educational technology, having held posts at the University of British Columbia and Digipen School of Computer Gaming. His award-winning CD ROM, "A to Zap!" was featured as "Hot Pick of the Year" on Good Morning America. Presently, he is on the advisory council of Knowledge Adventures, and CDO of SmartSoft, Inc. Tzvi resides in Toronto with his wife and their children.



Chanie Serebryanski

Mrs. Serebryanski was born and raised in the Yiddish speaking community of Crown Heights, New York. Her 'bilingual' Yiddish – resulted from a 'zayde' (grandfather) who spoke only Russian Yiddish and a 'mame' (mother) who spoke a Polish Yiddish. She regularly attended the Farbrengens of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, of righteous memory, which were all conducted exclusively in Yiddish. Chanie earned a Bachelor's degree in teaching from Beth Rivkah in NYC and has been teaching in the religious school system for more than 16 years. Currently a teacher at Toronto's Bais Chaya Mushka Elementary School for girls, her spare time is occupied as an otherwise busy 'balabuste' (homemaker) raising her six rambunctious boys, all 'zeese yingalach' (sweet boys).

PEOPLE ARE TALKING



Kim Swartz, Teacher

Nothing happens randomly or without reason. I was once a girl, but I am now a woman, an educator by profession. I came to Chabad Flamingo to enlighten my soul to what was intrinsically enlightened, but seeking meaning. Rabbi Kaplan had what it took, through his teaching, to provide the missing link that has brought meaning and understanding to what was once just knowledge. I thank Hashem for providing me with the 'fruit of knowledge' that I have gratefully received through Rabbi Kaplan's classes. He has the gift of

bringing to life the words that so many times remain a concept and not a reality. He is not only a teacher but a mentor.



Brandon Pal, Multimedia Producer

I have been attending services and classes at Flamingo for the past 5 years. Rabbi Kaplan's classes and lectures are always educational and inspirational, and you will never find the Rabbi speaking in language that is over your head, as he brings complex sublime concepts down to the everyday world so that everyone is able to grasp the lessons. Whether it will be one of the Rabbi's classes, or those of the other wonderful instructors, you will always feel welcome and at home within the walls of Chabad Flamingo.



Sam Buzaglo, Spa Manufacturer

Just as it is important to speak about mitzvot, Chabad Flamingo has taught me about the importance of studying the mitzvot. Chabad Flamingo is a friendly and welcoming synagogue and learning centre. I especially enjoy the guidance and explanations during prayer, making my experience there a fulfilling one. Until I joined Chabad Flamingo I was not truly into study; however with the dynamic atmosphere, friendly surroundings, and open classes, I have come to love it.

8001 Bathurst St., Thornhill, Ontario, L4J 8L5 Tel: 905.763.4040 Fax: 905.763.3470

www.chabadflamingo.com

THE
CHABAD
FLAMINGO
INSTITUTE OF JEWISH LEARNING

H A T M A N

I L L U M I N A T I N G
T H E D A R K N I G H T