



**The Family Shul Wishes You Shabbat Shalom!**

Weekly Schedule			
Friday, December 5	Shabbat (Saturday), December 6		Sunday, December 7
6:30 am Maamer Moment 6:40 am Early Minyan 7:00 am Regular Minyan <b>4:32 pm</b> Mincha, Sefer HaMitzvot Express <i>and</i> Parsha Highlights are followed by <b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b>	8:45 am The Chassidic Reader – <i>Torah Ohr</i> 9:15 am <b>Main Shacharit Services</b> 9:30 am Parents n' Kid's Youth Minyan 10:30 am All Youth Programs <b>4:00 pm</b> Mincha, Seuda Shlisheet, Ma'ariv; followed by screening of <i>Living Torah with The Rebbe</i> <b>Kiddush Honours:</b> <i>Lionel and Saryl Spector</i> <b>Seudat Shlisheet Honours:</b> <i>Sponsorship available!</i>		8:00 am Early Minyan 8:30 am <b>Tanya Teachings</b> 9:15 am Regular Minyan 4:30 pm Mincha <i>and</i> Sefer HaMitzvot Express 4:55 pm Ma'ariv <b>7:30 pm Report from Jerusalem!</b>
<b>Women's Mikvah:</b> <i>by appt. only</i>	<b>Women's Mikvah:</b> 8:00 - 10:00 pm		<b>Women's Mikvah:</b> 8:00 - 10:00 pm
Monday, December 8	Tuesday, December 9	Wednesday, December 10	Thursday, December 11
6:30 am Parsha Perspectives 6:35 am Early Minyan 7:00 am Regular Minyan <b>10:00 am Laws of Shabbat</b> <b>10:30 am Redemption Songs</b> 4:30 pm Mincha <i>and</i> Sefer HaMitzvot Express 4:55 pm Ma'ariv	6:30 am Parsha Perspectives 6:40 am Early Minyan 7:00 am Regular Minyan 4:30 pm Mincha <i>and</i> Sefer HaMitzvot Express 4:55 pm Ma'ariv <b>8:00 pm Parsha Curiosities</b>	6:30 am Parsha Perspectives 6:40 am Early Minyan 7:00 am Regular Minyan 4:30 pm Mincha <i>and</i> Sefer HaMitzvot Express 4:55 pm Ma'ariv <b>8:00 pm 19 Kislev Farbrengen</b>	6:30 am Parsha Perspectives 6:35 am Early Minyan 7:00 am Regular Minyan 4:30 pm Mincha <i>and</i> Sefer HaMitzvot Express 4:55 pm Ma'ariv 7:30 pm <b>Men's Chavruta</b> 8:30 pm <b>Talmud Class</b>
<b>Women's Mikvah</b> 8:00 - 10:00 pm	<b>Women's Mikvah</b> 8:00 - 10:00 pm	<b>Women's Mikvah</b> 8:00 - 10:00 pm	<b>Women's Mikvah</b> 8:00 - 10:00 pm

**Change Into Winter** – According to our Torah tradition, winter made its official debut last night (Thursday, December 4), and we welcomed the new season with a “prayer change”, replacing *v'ten bracha* with *v'ten tal u'matter l'vracha* in the 9<sup>th</sup> blessing (*Bareich Alienu*) in the *Amida* service. So, remember to adjust your weekday prayers accordingly. Acknowledging the winter season in our prayers does not mean we hope for enough snow for skiing and snowmobiling! Rather, we pray for abundant precipitation because it's good for the bountiful crops and agriculture in the Holy Land of Eretz Yisrael. That is why we change our inner prayers, along with our outer clothes!

**Are You Up For A Challenge?** Although only one family has taken the Kiddush Challenge so far, our generous *Kiddush-Challenge* sponsors have come forward to pre-sponsor **all** of the *Shabbat Mevarchim Kiddushim* for the next 12 months (excluding *Tishrei*). They're **challenging** others to join them in bringing the Shabbat morning Kiddushim back to their good old enhanced sit-down style. Please consider commemorating an upcoming *Yahrzeit* or celebrating a lifecycle milestone - even if it's months away. The entire congregation appreciates your generosity, and we are especially grateful to our anonymous challenging sponsors for ‘paying it forward’ and leading the way!

**Say Hello to Our NEW Youth Rabbi!** This Shabbat morning, all of our parents and kids should show up at the Youth Minyan so they can welcome **Rabbi Avrumi Cagen** who will, from now on, be leading the services as **our new Youth Rabbi!** The dynamic intergenerational davening will begin at 9:30 am, followed by a delicious Kiddush for participating parents and kids. Under Rabbi Avrumi's fresh leadership, the focus will shift exclusively to the children who will participate in **Parsha Games** and learning before joining the others downstairs. Our teens are also welcome. Rabbi Avrumi will be creating exciting learning opportunities, as well as an innovative rewards program with details to be revealed in the weeks ahead!

**Wrestling with Angels** – Our exciting *Shabbat Morning Youth Program* kicks off at 10:30 am with davening, Parsha-related stories and games, and, of course, delicious nosh! The weekly Parsha *Vayishlach* begins with the story of our father Jacob's long-awaited return to the land of Canaan (aka, Israel) and his surprising reunion with Eisav. Yaakov sends angels to Eisav in the hope of reconciliation. They return with an ominous report: Eisav is accompanied by 400 men armed to the teeth and is preparing for a bloody confrontation. Yaakov has to prepare for war, but **davens** to Hashem, and then sends a series of large gifts to Eisav hoping to change his heart and avoid violence. The night before, Yaakov encounters a fearsome creature - whom he discovers is an angel - possessing Eisav's spirit. Wrestling until daybreak, Jacob neutralizes his adversary, and forces that angel to **bless** him, thusly earning the name “Yisroel” – *he who prevails and overcomes*. Finally, the brothers embrace and agree to part ways amicably. Younger children will learn all about these amazing stories through games like *Angel May We Cross Your Yabok River* and *Shevatim Concentration*, while the older children will play a more sophisticated game called *Cross the River Belts*. Mazal Tov to last week's Shabbat mensch – **Manu Tobias!**

**From Jerusalem to Thornhill** – This Sunday evening, we'll be hosting the **Israel Land Fund** and its dynamic founder, Jerusalem City Councilman **Arieh King**, who is an expert on Jerusalem current affairs with more than 20 years of professional experience. The deteriorating security in Israel's capital makes it important to know what's happening, why it's happening and where we're all headed. Discover the truth and get a clearer understanding of the present situation in Jerusalem from a man who lives and works right in the midst of it all. **The Fund** thanks our community for hosting this event and invites the broader Jewish community across the GTA to join them here at our Shul on **December 7 @ 7:30pm**. Living on the Mt. of Olives on the eastern side of Jerusalem, Arieh will give us a look **behind the headlines** about how the terrorist campaign tries to affect daily life in Jerusalem.



**Put a Smile on a Child** – We’ve also partnered with **Chai Lifeline** to put smiles on the faces of as many sick children as possible this Chanukah. So, please participate by donating brand new toys, games, books or electronics to bring joy to these children’s lives that have been deeply affected by serious illness. Simply drop off your new, unwrapped, Chanukah gift for a boy or girl, infants through teens, before **December 19<sup>th</sup>** at the special giant **Chai Lifeline** Bin which is in the Shul foyer right near the south entrance.

**From Shabbat to Redemption** – For the past 17 years, **Rabbi Kaplan** has been leading a ladies-only Monday morning Torah study session. Last week, things got more interesting as **Rebbetzin Faygie** began teaching a new class before this regular lecture. All ladies are invited to attend this from 10 to 10:30 am to study the **Laws of Shabbat** taught by the **Rebbetzin**, and then stay on for the Rabbi’s regular **Redemption Songs - Tehillim** class.

**A Coat of Many Colours** – Rabbi Kaplan’s new **Tuesday Night Weekly Parsha Class** is on fire! It’s presented in the newly minted framework of **Parsha Curiosities**, and we’ve been attracting new faces, and a growing online audience. In fact, **Chabad.org** is recording and featuring this new class in its weekly Torah studies magazine! Last week’s fascinating lecture focused on **Kevel Rachel** and the amazing details that surround the very first Jewish tombstone. You too can visit us online to watch and be inspired, but we encourage you to join us live in person this **Tuesday, December 9 at 8 pm**. Learn about the mystical secrets of the colourful robe that Jacob gave to his favourite son, Joseph. Discover how and why a seemingly insignificant garment was able to tear Jacob’s family apart and **change world history**. More importantly, learn how its lesson is still relevant today!

**Meet the World’s Most Worldly Rabbi** – This Wednesday, **December 10 (Yud Tes Kislev)** at 8 pm, we’ll be hosting a **Grand Celebratory Men’s Farbrengen** honouring **Rosh Hashana L’Chassidut**, which is observed by Chassidim. These spirited Farbrengens inspire rededication to the teachings, warmth and beliefs of Chassidus. **Rabbi Velvel Butman** will be our guest Farbrenger. He is a well-known motivational speaker; beginning in the mid 1980s, he served in a series of successive Shlichut internships in Venezuela, Russia and West Africa before being appointed to direct Lubavitch activities in Westchester County, New York. There he has served with distinction since 1993, **founding 11 outreach centers** during the course of the last 20 years! Rabbi Butman is a direct descendant of the founder of Chabad Chassidism, Rabbi Schneur Zalmen of Liadi, known as the Alter Rebbe. His father, Rabbi Shmuel, heads Lubavitch Youth Organization of New York as well as an international organization for descendants of the Alter Rebbe. The special Farbrengen is being hosted by our dear Shul members **Calev and Michelle Glass** as a **Chanukat HaBayit** of their new home at 100 Rosedale Heights Drive. Note: There’s no charge to attend, however timely **RSVPs** are required for planning. Please email or call Shterni soon!

**Circle this Celebration Date** – The 33rd annual cycle of **Daily Rambam Study** concludes next Sunday, the 22 day of Kislev (**December 14**). Please join us on **Motzai Shabbat, Parshat Vayeshev, December 13**, for our yearly **Grand Siyum HaRambam Celebration** honouring the ideal of commitment to the daily Torah study of Mishna Torah and Sefer HaMitzvot, as well as the life and times of one of the greatest Jewish leaders: **Rabainu Moshe ben Maimon HaSephardi (Maimonides)**. Led by their spiritual leader, **Rabbi Mendel Bernstein**, the Chabad Romano community will join with us to celebrate this special occasion. **Rabbi Ovadia Haboucha**, the spiritual leader of Thornhill’s **Kol Torah Sephardic** congregation, will be our special guest speaker. The program is open to the entire Jewish community, so we look forward to seeing you there!

**Going “Above and Beyond”** – In 1948, just three years after the Holocaust, a group of Jewish American and Canadian pilots answered the call for help. In secret - and at great risk, they smuggled planes out of the U.S., trained in Czechoslovakia, and turned the tide of the war with great sacrifice and renewed Jewish pride. **Above and Beyond** is the first major feature-length documentary film that tells the story of these brave airmen of the ‘48 War of Independence, and presents the heart, heroism and chutzpah of their amazing experiences. On the first night of Chanukah, **Tuesday, December 16**, as we again celebrate the ancient heroism of our brave Maccabees and their miraculous deliverance, we’ll be screening this fascinating film **for free!** After the film, Rabbi Kaplan will conduct a live interview with **IDF Corporal Ruben David Bloom**, one of the Canadians who participated, and who is joining us from Montréal especially for this event! Join our **Festival of Lights** as we kindle our giant Menorah, and then enjoy this remarkable story of these **modern-day Maccabees!** Visit our website for more information and watch the trailer of the film.

**Lights. Candles. Action!** In keeping with the Rebbe’s call to hold **public menorah lighting** ceremonies during our cherished Jewish Festival of Lights, we’re proud to be the driving force behind the annual event to be held at the **Vaughan Civic Centre** (our City Hall) as well as the first-ever inaugural Chanukah event at the brand new **York Regional Police HQ’s**. Help ignite Jewish pride by showing our appreciation for the inclusivity being displayed by these governmental and public institutions. **It’s very important that we have a large crowd in attendance!** Join us **Tuesday December 16, 3:30 pm**, at Vaughan City Hall, and/or the next day, **Wednesday, December 17, 5:30 pm** at YRP Regional Headquarters (located in Aurora). Participate and celebrate Chanukah proudly and publicly, and help “spread the light”!

**Chanukah at the Woodbine Center?** That’s not a fantasy, it’s at **Fantasy Fair!** The entire Jewish community is invited to join us for an **Epic Family Chanukah Event** for Motzai Shabbat, the 5<sup>th</sup> Eve of **Chanukah** (Saturday night, **December 20**)! Thanks to a generous donation from **Richard and Melanie Bogoroch**, for the first time ever in the GTA, this famous indoor amusement park, **Fantasy Fair at the Woodbine Centre**, will be morphed into a **Chanukah Wonderland**. **Fantasy Fair** will, *b’ezrat Hashem*, be filled with happy Jewish children listening to exciting Chanukah music, enjoying kosher food, and having a great time! The *entire* fairgrounds will be exclusively dedicated to the general Jewish community for two full hours from 7:00 to 9 pm, and will include a **Grand Menorah Lighting** and special holiday gifts for the first 300 children arriving. ALL rides are included for one low fee of only \$5 per child (in advance), \$8 at the door. Special family rates will also be available. Call our office and book your tickets today!

**Family Shul Members Bulletin: Heartfelt condolences are extended to our dear Shul Members:**

- **Sarah Ilutowicz** upon the passing of her dear husband, our beloved Shul member, Harry Ilutowicz
- **Donna Beker** upon the passing of her dear mother

**Shabbat Sponsors:** This week’s **Kiddush** has been sponsored by **Lionel and Saryl Spector** in honour of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

**The Seudat Shlisheet** honour is **still available**. To commemorate or celebrate a lifecycle event, or for any **special personal reason** to thank Hashem for his blessings, please contact **Rabbi Yossi!**

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