

THE WESTMOUNT WEEKLY

Friday, October 23 – Friday, October 30, 2026

FINAL EDITION | October 22, 2026

Parshas Lech Lecha 5787

FRIDAY MORNING | OCTOBER 23

6:49:10 AM	Earliest time for tallis and tefillin (10.2°)
6:30 AM	First Shacharis
7:25 AM	Kitzur Shulchan Aruch class
8:00 AM	Second Shacharis



EREV SHABBOS DRASH Who Measures Our Greatness?

CLICK TO WATCH ON TORAHANYTIME | 23 minutes

FRIDAY NIGHT | OCTOBER 23

5:38 PM	Shir HaShirim
6:03 PM	Mincha / Kabbalas Shabbos / Maariv • Candle lighting

SHABBOS LECH LECHA | OCTOBER 24

8:00 AM	Morning class with the Rav • What Are You Building—and Who Are You Becoming?
8:45 AM	Main Shul Shacharis
8:45 AM	Sephardi Shacharis • Sephardi Shul Room
8:50 AM	Repeat of 8:00 AM class • What Are You Building—and Who Are You Becoming?
9:30 AM	Moriah Room Shacharis • Dads' class with David Fihrer follows
10:30 AM	Youth Program
10:30 AM	Ladies' class with Orit Benjamin
11:15 AM	Congregational Kiddush • Drash: The Courage to Say I Was Wrong
5:35 PM	Mincha
6:05 PM	Shalosh Seudos • People Waiting Along Our Way
7:10 PM	Shabbos ends / Havdalah

Saturday sunset: 6:19:44 PM. Shabbos ends 50 minutes later, rounded up to 7:10 PM. Shalosh Seudos is 65 minutes before Shabbos ends; Mincha is 30 minutes before Shalosh Seudos. Toronto zmanim: MyZmanim.

CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

Janet and Peter Ruderfer and Lisa White

In memory of Janet and Lisa's mother, Ruth Lazarus, Rivka Freidal bas Yechiel Michal a"h, and Peter's father, Morris Ruderfer, Avraham Mordechai ben Dov Ber a"h, on their yahrzeits.

SHALOSH SEUDOS CO-SPONSORS

The Michalowicz family

On the yahrzeits of the Rebbetzin's mother, Gittel bas Tzvi a"h, and the Rabbi's mother, Sora Rivka bas Binyamin Mordechai a"h.

The Lasarow family

In memory of Tony's mother, Chana bas Meier HaCohen a"h (yahrzeit: 12 Cheshvan).

Michael and Dianne Rabin and Mark and Sue Lasarow

On the Yartzheit of Shmuel Yosef Ben Avraham a"h.

DAVENING & LEARNING

Sunday, October 25 – Friday, October 30, 2026

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	SUN 25	MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30
Earliest tallis & tefillin	6:51:32	6:52:44	6:53:55	6:55:06	6:56:18	6:57:29
First Shacharis	8:00	6:15	6:30	6:30	6:15	6:30
Kitzur class	—	7:25	7:25	7:25	7:25	7:25
Second Shacharis	—	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
Madreigas HaAdam	—	1:25	Canceled	Canceled	1:25	—
Mincha	2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00	5:53 PM
Maariv	9:15	9:15	9:15	9:15	9:15	—
Sefer Chareidim	8:45	9:30	9:30	9:30	—	—

Shacharis, tallis/tefillin and Kitzur times are AM. All other class and service times are PM.

Earliest times: MyZmanim, Toronto • tallis and tefillin 10.2° below the horizon.

EVENING CLASSES | OCTOBER 25-30

SUN 8:45 PM Sefer Chareidim

MON 8:00 PM Parsha HaShavua • Parshas Vayeira, Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz

MON 8:30 PM Mishnah Berurah • Mordy Michalowicz

TUE 8:15 PM Talmud: Maseches Megillah • Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz

TUE 8:30 PM Mishnah Berurah • Mordy Michalowicz

THU 8:00 PM Semichas Chaver • Hafrashas challah and terumos u'maasros

THU 9:30 PM Chassidus on the Parsha • Rabbi Tsvi Heber

EREV SHABBOS VAYEIRA | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

5:28 PM	Shir HaShirim
5:53 PM	Mincha / Kabbalas Shabbos / Maariv • Candle lighting

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Kiddush • Shalosh Seudos • Dads' Kiddush • A Torah class • A day of learning

To arrange a sponsorship and dedication: westmountshul.com/sponsor

Dads' Kiddush and learning sponsorships are available. Please contact the Rabbi to add your dedication.

TORAH AT WESTMOUNT

Parshas Lech Lecha • Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz

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Our Lech Lecha learning for the week

All five teachings are ready to read or print. Follow the links below for the complete materials.

Monday night: Lech Lecha — The Courage to Be a Jew

Monday, October 19 • 8:00 PM. [Spoken class and footnotes \(28 pages\)](#) • [Sources and notes \(6 pages\)](#) • [Hebrew-English Mi Sheberach \(1 page\)](#). Watch on TorahAnytime.

Erev Shabbos drush: Who Measures Our Greatness?

Friday, October 23. Read or print the complete drush (7 pages)

Shabbos morning class: What Are You Building—and Who Are You Becoming?

Shabbos, October 24 • 8:00 AM; repeated at 8:50 AM. How our deeds develop our character. Full transcript (13 pages) • Hebrew-English source sheet (1 page)

Main Shabbos drash: The Courage to Say I Was Wrong

Shabbos morning, October 24. Read or print the complete drash (13 pages)

Shalosh Seudos: People Waiting Along Our Way

Shabbos, October 24 • 6:05 PM. [Read or print the complete class and sources \(10 pages\)](#)

If you plan to attend a Shabbos teaching, please save its text until after you hear the Rav in shul.

Earlier Lech Lecha classes: [recent TorahAnytime recordings](#) • [complete Lech Lecha collection](#)

SEMICHAS CHAVER | THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM

Hafrashas challah and terumos u'maasros

Join us at the shul for our weekly learning. The current series flyer is included with this bulletin.

LOOKING AHEAD | MELAVE MALKA

How to Help Someone Choose Jewish Burial

Saturday, November 14, 2026 • 8:00 PM

A free practical workshop with Yael Davidowitz, sponsored by Ron and Carla Beker.

Registration closes Monday, November 9 at 11:59 PM, Toronto time.

Reserve your place: westmountshul.com/register

The full workshop flyer is included with this bulletin.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Share a mazal tov for the weekly bulletin by Wednesday at noon.

Send your good news: westmountshul.com/share-a-simcha

A Mother’s Heartfelt Thank You

Dearest Reeve and Caron,

Eli returned from Toronto, and I’m overcome with so many emotions.

I know that, with your own children here, you understand how isolating and lonely it can feel to be Israeli, to be a soldier, and a combat soldier at that, when outside of Israel.



Our hosts, Caron and Reeve

I was afraid for them. Would they be targets? Would they experience the hatred and lies infecting the world?

But you and your wonderful community were much like that knit hat you bought for them: protective, caring, and warm.

Please thank your beautiful community for being part of this wonderful initiative honoring our soldiers and creating a safe space for them to explore their feelings and experiences. You opened your homes and hearts and embraced them like extended family.

And kudos to everyone who organized all the fun bits, the NBA, outlet mall, Walmart, Wonderland, shul... What a perfectly balanced, jam packed week of adventure.

Thank you. Thank you. And thank you again. This trip was healing for both body and soul.

My heart is so full, knowing we are all part of the same tribe.

With gratitude.
Karen C.

Donating Has Never Been Easier

Visit westmountshul.com. On a desktop, click Donate at the far right of the homepage. Enter your amount and contact details, choose General Donation or a sponsorship, and tell us the purpose in ‘Reason or dedication.’ You may also enter a requested sponsorship date before completing payment.

Thank you for supporting the Torah, tefillah and community life of Westmount Shul.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship

General Donation - No Sponsorship

Full Kiddush \$2,000

Kiddush co-sponsor \$1,000

Kiddush in-part sponsor From \$400

Shalosh Seudos \$200

Dads Kiddush \$200

Reason or dedication (In honor /memory/support)

Requested sponsorship date



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worldwide
who are learning
the same
Halachos.



Semichas Chaver

REVOLUTIONIZE YOUR TORAH LEARNING!

Learn and remember
for years to come
the most common
halachos that arise daily.

New Zman New Topic!

Hafrashas Challah,
Terumah & Ma'aser

**SEMICHAS CHAVER AT WESTMOUNT SHUL
THURSDAY NIGHTS • 8:00 PM**

Westmount Shul & Learning Centre invites you to a

MELAVE MALKA A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP



How to Help Someone Choose Jewish Burial

Starting the conversation about cremation—with care, clarity and confidence.

A relative. A neighbour. A longtime friend.
Someone you know may be considering cremation.
Learn how to reach out before decisions are made.

THE CREMATION CRISIS IS REAL. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ABOUT 1 IN 2
American Jews are cremated.

EVERY 16 MINUTES
Another Jew is cremated in the U.S.

U.S. estimates reported by NASCK / End Cremation • endcremation.org

LEAVE WITH TOOLS TO START THE CONVERSATION

- Begin a sensitive conversation with warmth and respect.
- Respond to concerns about cost, convenience and the environment.
- Explain why Jewish burial matters—and help someone take the next step.



Workshop led by

Yael Davidowitz

Director of Outreach & Project Last Kindness, NASCK

A Columbia University-trained nurse and experienced Chevra Kadisha volunteer, Yael helps Jews of every background understand the meaning of Jewish burial.

Motzaei Shabbos • November 14, 2026 • 8:00 PM
Westmount Shul & Learning Centre • Thornhill, Ontario

Generously sponsored by Ron and Carla Beker



FREE OF CHARGE
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE
westmountshul.com/register
Registration closes Monday, November 9 at 11:59 PM
(Toronto local time)

One caring conversation can make an eternal difference.



He Is Not Invited

My family lived in Baltimore until we moved away two years ago. My cousin Daniel, who still lives there, had his bar mitzvah a few weeks ago, and we went back to Baltimore to join the *simchah*. I was so excited to see my old gang of friends at the bar mitzvah. There were five of us in our old gang—my cousin and

me, and our friends Moshe, Ari, and Reuven. Moshe was the first of the group to get there and he said that Ari was on his way. Then he said, “Reuven isn’t coming. I’m not sure why he wasn’t invited.” I really wanted to know why, but I thought it might end up being *loshon hora*, so I didn’t ask.

Was Moshe allowed to tell me that Reuven wasn’t invited?

—Zevy



What's the Psak?

Do you know the halachah?

A Yes.

Daniel is not obligated to invite the whole world.

B No.

It implies that Daniel or Reuven did something wrong.

C No.

Zevy's instinct is correct.

Nothing Good Will Come of It

Saying that someone is not invited to an event doesn't convey anything that is objectively negative, but such a statement gets the wheels turning in other people's minds. Was there a falling out between the boys? Between their families? Was Reuven no longer a part of the “gang”? If not, why not?

This kind of statement does not precisely qualify as *loshon hora*, but it tends to cause the speaker or others to speak *loshon hora*. These statements are known as *avak loshon hora*—literally, the dust of *loshon hora*. *Avak loshon hora* is forbidden because it can be expected to lead to *loshon hora* or because, without saying anything outright, it implies something negative.¹

There may be many innocent reasons why Daniel did not invite Reuven. It could be that in the two years since the boys were part of the “gang,” Reuven had developed a different circle of friends based on new interests. Nevertheless, Moshe's comment implies something negative. Furthermore, if there is

a juicy story behind Reuven's non-invitation, Moshe's comment will open the gates to let it all spill out. The result will likely be *loshon hora* about what Reuven did to Daniel or what Daniel did to Reuven.²

Zevy did the right thing by not reacting to Moshe's comment, and not asking anyone why Reuven wasn't invited. The rule against *avak loshon hora* teaches us to think a step ahead. Even if what we're saying is objectively innocent, where is it likely to lead? This, too, is our concern.

Answer: The halachah is B and C.

Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy

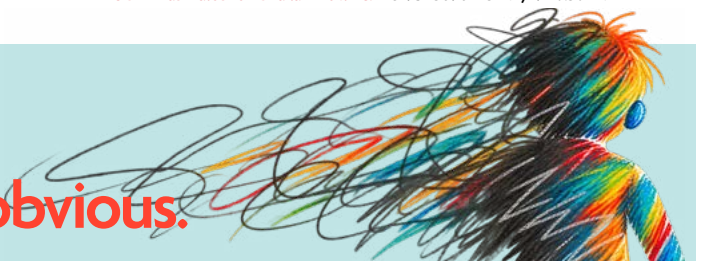
Rav Pam, zt”l, advised great caution when presenting halachic scenarios to the public, as each situation is unique. This *shailah* is for discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

The Shmiras Haloshon Shailah Hotline: 718-951-3696 2-3PM / 9-10:30 PM

1. Be'er Mayim Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 9:1; Addendum
2. Be'er Mayim Chaim, Hilchos Loshon Hora 9:2

We are an **אדרבה** family

We see the **good**, even when it's **not obvious**.



See the
good
in the
heart
of a Yid



Adapted from
**Quill of
the Heart,**
a CCHF
publication

A small crowd of people sat in Dr. Nachum Kook's waiting room, which was also his living room. The humble doctor, who lived in Yerushalayim many years ago, kept it simple. He had no assistants, no nurses, no office; it was just him and his patients, whom he saw in his house. When he finished examining one patient, the one who had arrived next would enter the examining room—a spare bedroom.

The patients went by the honor system. Nobody tried to cut in front of anyone else. There was only one person who was seen out of order: the Chevron Rosh Yeshivah, Rav Yechezkel Sarna. Dr. Kook gave him precedence because

of his stature as a Torah scholar and because he suffered from diabetes and visited the doctor often.

One day, Rav Sarna came in and took a seat. Soon, the previous patient walked out, followed by Dr. Kook. Rav Sarna got

up to enter the examining room, but Dr. Kook stopped him and whispered, "Please let this patient go first," indicating a woman who had come before the Rosh Yeshivah.

When Rav Sarna's turn came, he told Dr. Kook, "I'm sorry. I got up before my turn."

"Sorry?" Dr. Kook exclaimed. "You have nothing to apologize for. I should be apologizing to you! I always take you as soon as you come in."

He paused. "But this woman is very poor, and I don't charge her. I was afraid that if she saw me take someone else ahead of her, she might think it was because she doesn't pay."

His voice softened. "I couldn't let her feel that her poverty made her less important."



No Money? No Worries!

See the
good
What's the
Real
Story?

Shua loved his Friday visits to Aunt Temmi's old-fashioned apartment. Her old-fashioned oven baked the best chocolate chip cookies ever, and he could still taste them as he headed home for Shabbos. Best of all, he'd be riding home on his new bike,

which he had locked to the iron fence outside her building.

As Shua stepped outside, he spotted the bike's shiny blue fenders.

Then he stopped. A Jewish teenage boy was crouched beside it, holding Shua's padlock. It was open. Shua couldn't believe what he was seeing.

The boy looked quickly up and down the street. Then he grabbed the handlebars and began wheeling the bike away. Shua took off after him. "HEY! THAT'S MY BIKE!" The boy spun around, and Shua grabbed the handlebars.

Shua had seen the boy holding his open lock and wheeling away his bike. *Was he right about what he'd seen?*

He Caught the Bike Thief Red-Handed!

Can you **Crack** the case?

"Two guys were messing with your bike a few minutes ago," the boy explained. "When they saw me watching them, they ran." He handed Shua the lock. It had been cut.

"I was afraid they'd come back. Your bike wasn't locked anymore, so I was trying to keep it safe until I could find out who it belonged to."

Shua glanced behind the boy. The boy hadn't been taking the bike away. He'd been wheeling it toward the entrance, to bring it inside Aunt Temmi's building. The boy Shua had chased as a thief was the one who had saved his bike.



Adapted from a story submitted by an **Aderaba** participant

DEDICATIONS

לעיני בתשבע רחל ע"ה בת ר' שמעון יבלח"ט • לעיני חיים יחיאל מיכל בן רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל • לעיני יעקב זאב בן יהודה אריה ז"ל, לעיני רבקה בת יעקב יוסף ע"ה
L'ilui nishmas R' Dovid Yihuda ben Shmuel Aharon z"l and M' Divora bas HaRav Sholom a"h

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