

# *The Builders' Bulletin*

Congregation Habonim's Monthly Bulletin—Your Community Guide!



***INSIDE:*** A roundup of last month's events -  
A spotlight on our latest B'nai Mitzvah -  
Upcoming events — and more!

# *Last Month at Habonim, We ...*

## *Went to the Torah Fund Dinner!*



The Metronorth Region of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ) held its annual Torah Fund Dinner for the NYC Torah Fund Honorees on April 20th. Our Habonim honoree was Deborah Moelis (right), and Alison Fried gave her a beautiful tribute of an introduction!

It was a very well attended event, and Sisterhood is proud of the turnout from our members: 2 full tables!

Our Region President, Lisa Green, talked about region happenings and encouraged everyone to come to the convention in July. Region Torah Fund Vice President, Linda Klempner, spoke about Torah Fund and how our donations contribute to scholarships for the students. She also thanked all who collaborated to make this event happen. We had a fabulous guest speaker, Gabriella Kornsgold, who spoke about her journey to the Rabbinate.

Sandy Koppell (Congregation Or Olam, and the event co-chair) introduced each of the honorees. A person of their choice spoke about their accomplishments. The honoree then had a chance to speak. Torah Fund was the beneficiary of many—and very generous—donations. A big Todah Rabbah to Linda Klempner and Sandy Koppell, who put the entire event together!

And once again, congratulations to Deb!

Torah Fund Chair for Habonim, Amy Kargauer







# *Last Month at Habonim, We ...*

## *Took In a Comedy Night, Ate Ice Cream, & Celebrated Israel's 75<sup>th</sup>!*

Oh what a night for the teens of Habonim! We laughed, we schmoozed and we feasted on yummy gelato. Our Comedy & Cones event was a big success, thanks to the Erwin Greenwald Fund for teen programming.

We celebrated Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with two funny guys who made aliyah and are now doing stand up comedy all over the world. Benji Lovitt and Joel Chasnoff kept us all laughing throughout the show, and provided us with some amusing conversation topics to discuss over our ice cream cones. You can ask any attendee about the Broadway show now known to us as "King Kibbutz" - it's a favorite for many visiting Israelis as well as other tourists.



We all look forward to our next outing together!







# Lower East Side Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, May 7th, 10:30am

Spring is here, and it's time to get outside and explore the city! Join us on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am for a fun, social, and educational scavenger hunt of the Lower East Side.

See the most fascinating Jewish heritage locations before they disappear! Teams will answer tricky, fascinating questions about the places they discover, from Rivington Street to East Broadway, from Orchard Street to Essex Street. You'll see businesses hanging on against the onslaught of trendy cafés. You'll find barely noticeable signs of Jewish groups on the faces of old buildings. You'll see an active yeshiva and a synagogue that became a Buddhist temple. Your mouth will water at stores that still serve bialys, bagels, and kosher pickles.

Fun for all ages! No kids? No problem - bring your friends!

## **Ticket Prices:**

Individual Ticket (for adults and children age 7+): \$35

Family Ticket (3+ people): \$105

**REGISTER HERE:**

**[habonim.net/form/scavenger-hunt](http://habonim.net/form/scavenger-hunt)**

# *Last Month at Habonim, We ...*

## *Enjoyed Shabbat Dinner Together!*

On Friday, April 21st, members of the community came together to enjoy a delicious catered Shabbat dinner after services. It was a great way to relax and enjoy a pleasant meal after a joyful but hectic Passover, and wonderful as always to see fellow congregants as we welcomed Shabbat together!



## *Cleaned Up The Neighborhood!*

On Sunday, April 23rd, members of Congregation Habonim volunteered with One Block to clean up our neighborhood. Friends of all ages (from babies to grandparents) cleaned up our sidewalks from the 50s to 70s on the West Side. What a memorable and meaningful experience for all! There was an outpouring of appreciation from neighbors who walked by. You can read more about the wonderful work being done by One Block at [www.oneblockuws.org](http://www.oneblockuws.org), and, if you are so moved, they would appreciate your financial support to ensure their viability.

Support One Block here: <https://oneblockuws.org/donate.htm>







On the 27<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, Congregation Habonim came together to honor the memories of the martyrs and the heroes of the Holocaust. We first joined together in the Habonim Sanctuary for a service led by Rabbi Gelber, with participation from our Religious School students.

Later in the evening, we came together with other Upper West Side synagogues once again for the annual Reading of the Names. For over 20 years, the congregations of the Upper West Side have gathered to commemorate those who perished in the Shoah. This year's remembrance took place at Ansche Chesed from 10:00pm to 7:00am on April 17<sup>th</sup>, and at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

Other organizations that took part included: Congregation Ansche Chesed, The Jewish Center, The Carlebach Shul, SAJ - Judaism that Stands for All, Romemu, West End Synagogue, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Lincoln Square Synagogue, Kehilat Rayim Ahuvim, Darkhei Noam, Congregation Ramath Orah, Congregation Shearith Israel, Kehilat Hadar/Congregation Shaare Zedek, Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, and Congregation Ohab Zedek.



# *Celebrating Our B'nai Mitzvah*

## *Arielle Kaufman*

Arielle is a 7th grader at Booker T Middle school. She loves playing and watching soccer. Arielle loves playing percussion; whether it is a drum set, snare, marimba and most recently piano. She loves spending time with friends and her family. Arielle has spent her summers at Ramah Day Camp in Nyack and Crane Lake Camp; these summers have helped to shape her love for Judaism.



Arielle's Dvar Torah delved into sacrifice and gratitude as we were approaching the story of Pesach. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Arielle took her love for making matzah balls and her personal traditions surrounding that and combined it with her desire to help feed the hungry. Keeping this in mind, Arielle has been making containers of matzah ball soup and filling a local refrigerator so that anyone can take without questions asked.

Furthering the theme of sacrifice and gratitude, her family was very grateful for the sacrifice of time that friends and family made in celebrating Arielle's Bat Mitzvah. They had lifelong family friends, along with Arielle's camp, school and soccer friends, join them for her special day. Her family cannot wait to continue the celebration this summer as they go to Israel to celebrate Arielle.





# *Celebrating Our B'nai Mitzvah*

## *Benjamin Zaretsky*

On April 29, 2023 Benjamin Zaretsky was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Benjamin joined the Habonim community when he started in the Blue Room at Habonim's Nursery School. He is currently a 7th grader at Booker T. Washington Middle School.

Benjamin enjoys spending time with his friends and family, playing video games, and exploring New York City. He is always excited to travel.

Benjamin has lived in 303 West 66 Street since he was born. The building is one of the first Naturally Organizing Retirement Communities in NYC. The Lincoln House Outreach Office aims to bring together all generations in the 303 West 66th Street co-op building where it is located with a main focus on its senior residents. For Benjamin's Mitzvah Project he collaborated with the Outreach Office to plan an intergenerational mingle in the building's Community Room. Benjamin, his family and some of his friends spent an afternoon getting to know their neighbors of all ages in the building, doing art projects, playing games, chitchatting and reminiscing. The event was such a success that many members of the community requested that the Outreach Office do it again!







# *Upcoming Events in May:*

## **Casino Night: Habonim Is All In!**

Thursday, May 4th at 7:00pm  
150 W 83<sup>rd</sup> St

## **Tot Shabbat**

Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm  
At Habonim

## **Lower East Side Scavenger Hunt**

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am  
Meetup Location Provided to  
Registrants

## **Sisterhood Tour of the Jewish Museum**

Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm  
1109 5th Ave at 92nd St

## **Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Gutman at Redeemer**

Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am  
150 W 83<sup>rd</sup> St

## **Torah Tots at Redeemer**

Shabbat, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am  
150 W 83<sup>rd</sup> St

## **Junior Congregation at Redeemer**

Shabbat, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am  
150 W 83<sup>rd</sup> St

## **Bat Mitzvah of Ellie Merdinger**

Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am  
At Habonim

## ***No Book Club this month***

*Next meeting Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, on  
the book People Love Dead Jews by  
Dara Horn.*

## *Find Out More*

For up-to-date  
information on all our  
upcoming events,  
including registration  
links, visit:

**[www.habonim.net](http://www.habonim.net)**





## Casino Night: Habonim Is All In!

Thursday, May 4 at 7:00pm

*West Side Redeemer Loft (150 W 83rd St!)*

Sponsorship opportunities still available. Monetary donations in salute to our honorees welcome.

**Learn more and register at**

**[habonim.net/casinonight](https://habonim.net/casinonight)**

Limited ad space in the digital journal available on a case by case basis—contact [gala2023@habonim.net](mailto:gala2023@habonim.net) to learn more!



# ***Thank you for your support!***

*from the Habonim Board of Trustees & Office Staff*

In the following pages, we would like to acknowledge and thank our generous donors from April 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. *Todah rabah*—thank you—for keeping Habonim alive and thriving from generation to generation!

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**[office@habonim.net](mailto:office@habonim.net)**



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