

The Builders' Bulletin

Congregation Habonim's Monthly Bulletin—Your Community Guide!



INSIDE: Upcoming Events — A Message from Rabbi Gelber— Recent Events— and more.

Upcoming Events:

Hollywood at Habonim Benefit at 50 Riverside

Thursday, February 8th at 6:30pm

Shabbat Dinner and Israel & the Middle East Update with Howard Stoffer

Friday, February 9th after 6:00pm
Shabbat services

Torah Tots

Saturday, February 10th at 10:45am

Family Havdalah & Movie Night

Saturday, February 10th at 6:00pm

ADL Speaker David White: Campus Antisemitism

Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30pm

Junior Congregation

Saturday, February 24th at 10:15am

Hamantaschen Baking Begins!

Sunday, February 25th at 9:00am

Kol HaNeshama Singing Group

Monday, February 26th at 4:45pm

Book Group

Wednesday, February 28th at 7:15pm

Find Out More

For up-to-date information on all our
upcoming events, visit [**www.habonim.net**](http://www.habonim.net)

Message from Rabbi Gelber

January 12, 2023/2 Shevat 5784

Dear Friends,

What a gift to return to the new semester in our Nursery School at Habonim earlier this week with Havdalah in two of our classrooms! This weekly ritual returns our focus to the work of the week, learning, praying, eating, playing, all opportunities for growth. We cannot underestimate the seeds we plant in our daily interactions and ritual observances.

While running an errand later that day, I ran into an NS mom who shared the story of her young child playing with a toy and remarking how much it looked like a havdalah candle. Continuing my walk, I heard a religious school student calling, "hi! hi! will I see you today?!" as I passed her school playground. The friend with whom she was playing asked, "who is that?" Our student responded, "that's my rabbi!" What's a rabbi," her friend asked? "I'll tell you more about it later" and off they went to enjoy the rest of their recess. Our interactions and experiences provide food for

learning and relationships that extend throughout time. Small seeds turn us into educators and connectors, bringing light and learning into a world that benefits from appreciation, awareness, curiosity and connection.

I encourage you to stop and ask yourself in what ways you are growing. Have you learned a new skill or made it through uncomfortable times? Have you made a new friend or tried a new food? Are you taller (for our younger community members!) or standing taller these days? Think back to your preparation for the new year 5784 and the invitation to create a To Be list in place of a To Do list. What seeds are you planting to nurture who and how you want to be? Where do you notice blossoms that support your To Be dreams?

Shabbat Shalom and Hodesh Tov.

Rabbi Lisa Gelber

HOLLYWOOD AT HABONIM



**DONATE & GET TICKETS
TO THE BENEFIT**

***Thursday, February 8th
6:30 PM***

50 Riverside Blvd

Benefiting the Nursery School at Habonim

Habonim Updates

Tacos & Tequila

What a night! Habonim hosted a full house of 60 registrants, including many non-members, for an informative, tasty and fun night. Our very own tequila connoisseur Alan Halperin taught us about the nuances of this spirit and led us in sampling four delicious varieties. Festive shot glasses, created by Wendy Halperin, enhanced each pour and sip. Our tasty taco bar was catered by MexiKosher. As one attendee said— “So much fun, and so tasty too!”





Plaques

Purchase a memorial plaque in memory of a loved one to be displayed outside the Sanctuary.

Tree of Life Leaves

Commemorate special occasions or honor someone special with a leaf displayed on our entrance wall!

Cemetery Plots

Plots are available at Cedar Park Cemetery in Paramus, NJ. Contact the office for more information.

Facilities Rental

Host your party or special celebration at Habonim! We also rent our space to weekly or monthly programs when available.

Kiddush Sponsorships

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat for any occasion - to honor a loved one's yahrzeit, to celebrate a birthday, or just because!

Prayer Book Dedications

Book plate dedications are perfect for any occasion.

Make your donation or payment online at www.habonim.net/support.html

or by check, made payable to:

Congregation Habonim
c/o Kesef Accounting Services
PO Box 159
Montvale, NJ 07645-0159

Do You Have Ideas for the Bulletin?

Please email all articles, photos and suggestions for future bulletin content to communications@habonim.net

Torah With a Twist!

On January 8th, Cantor Jessica and Noah Halperin hosted a fabulous session of Torah With A Twist! We sang, shmoozed, and studied together. This is a monthly session, held during 3rd-5th grade religious school from 4:50-5:30pm, and is open to ALL members. Next session: February 5th!



New Member Shabbat

We came together for New Member Shabbat on Saturday, January 27th, where we honored new and returning Habonim members, welcoming them to our community and building connections and friendships. After services, we socialized over a fabulous Kiddush lunch spread together.

Kol HaNeshama Singing Group

The first session of the Kol HaNeshama singing group was a lovely time—we came together to lift up our voices and one another. This group is led by Cantor Jessica, and our next session will be on Monday, February 26th at 4:45pm.



BAKE HAMANTASCHEN WITH US!

**SUNDAYS AT 9:00AM
FEBRUARY 25TH - MARCH 10TH
PACKING ON MARCH 17TH**

[Sign up here](#)

Live with Jay Katsir, Head Writer of The Late Show With Stephen Colbert

On Sunday, January 28th, we were joined by Habonim member and Emmy award winning writer Jay Katsir as he delivered a talk about his career as head writer for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and *The Colbert Report*! We had a full house at this sold out and successful event. One attendee called it “amazing!”



#PeloTorah with Rabbi Gelber

On Monday, January 29th, Rabbi Gelber got us moving with #PeloTorah! We connected over Zoom and had a conversation about recentering ourselves and seeing the world through a Jewish lens, using a Peloton class to inspire us to build the connective muscles of mind, heart, and body.





What movies are we watching after Havdalah?

It's up to you! Please vote ONCE. The two winners will be shown immediately following the short 6pm service.

Here are the choices. Please scan the QR code to vote:

Freaky Friday

Inside Out

Looney Tunes-Center Stage

Shark Tale

Snow Dogs

Toy Story 3

Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

Scan the QR code to vote or click [this link](#).





Congregation
Habonim

ON PURIM DAY!

PURIM CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 FROM 11AM-1PM
103 WEST END AVE

**COME IN COSTUME!
AGES 0-9**

**GAMES
BOUNCY SHUSHAN PALACE
PHOTO BOOTH
ARTS AND CRAFTS
PRIZES
PIZZA & SNACKS
...AND MUCH MORE!**



SIGN UP HERE!

**EARLY BIRD PRICING
THROUGH MARCH
12TH!**

Nursery School News for February

Following months of planning and preparation on the part of the Parents Association, the Nursery School will enjoy a wonderful night of fun and festivities as we gather to celebrate together. We will have a fantastic evening on February 8th at 50 Riverside BLVD in the Function Room (special thanks to Elissa Wachs) with creative design by Matthew Cohen at 6:30 pm. We will celebrate with Nursery School parents and teachers, our clergy - Rabbi Gelber and Cantor Jessica and our Religious School Director, Karen Sachs, Habonim Synagogue President, Susan Grant, Board members, and other members of the Habonim community. We will toast to the support of our Habonim Community, enjoy delicious food, socialize with friends, bid on great silent and live auction items, and raise additional funds to support the Nursery School's Clara Zeitlin Fund and many initiatives. Special thanks to all of our parents who are generously giving their time, all of whose efforts will contribute greatly to the evening's success.

February will also be the month in which we will complete all of our new admissions visits. It is very helpful to prospective parents to have the opportunity to speak with current parents during the one-on-one interview process, allowing them to experience, on a personal level, the warm and welcoming community here at Habonim that embraces our children and the entire family! For our final event of this admissions season, we will be hosting an Open House for our parents of children accepted to our school for the coming year.

We are delighted with the success of our Early Explorers and Toddler Time Programs for our youngest learners and happy to report lots of interest this year. Please email Associate Director, Ann Obsatz (aobsatz@habonim.net) for more information about upcoming programming for the 2024-2025.

February also marked the beginning of preparations for Purim! Get ready for groggers, noisemakers, lots of jesters, Queen Esthers, and other festive costumes, which will culminate in a Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 24th at 11 am. Looking forward to continued joy and excitement.

Warmly,
Tina and Ann

Religious School Update

The Religious School has been working all year with Shir Beno, who is a "Shinshin", an emissary from Israel spending her gap year between high school and the Israeli Army in a number of schools on the Upper West Side. Shir is with our Gimmel-Dalet and Hei classes on Mondays and our Aleph and Bet classes on Tuesdays to help with Hebrew learning, assist in our classes, spread the joy of Israeli culture and for all of us to get to know what our two worlds are about.



You may have seen her Tu B'Shevat projects around the building, where she worked with our classes to "green up" big maps of Israel, or the "Am Yisrael Chai" bracelets she made with our Hebrew classes. Shir will be in Israel with all of the Shinshinim from around the world on their annual break until February 24th. She is bringing notes and prayers from many of our students to leave at the Wall.

In her words, "I know we will have an amazing year together, and I can't wait to give you some of my personal Israeliness."



Programs & Events for Kids & Families

Tot Shabbat:

For children 5 & under with their grownups, Tot Shabbat offers an opportunity for kids to socialize and engage with other Jewish families. A great chance for non-members to get to know us! Fridays at 5:00 pm; followed by light dinner.

- January 5
- February 2
- March 1
- April 5
- May 3
- June 7

Torah Tots:

For children ages 5 and under with their grownups, we offer Torah Tots, a Shabbat morning experience that includes music, movement and interactive activities. Saturdays at 10:45am, followed by Kiddush lunch.

- January 13
- January 27
- February 10
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11
- June 15

Junior Congregation:

For children ages 5 & up. Family friendly Shabbat service with singing and activities beginning in the Sanctuary with an aliyah for the family. Saturdays at 10:15am, followed by Kiddush lunch.

- October 28
- December 16
- January 27
- February 24
- March 23
- April 20
- May 18
- June 22



**Congregation
Habonim**

Congregation Habonim 103 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10023 (212)787-5347





We have programs for children from PreK–12th grade!

Learn more and register here:

<https://www.habonim.net/religious-school-admissions.html>



Nursery School registration is open for the
2023-24 academic year!

Learn more and register here:

<https://www.habonim.net/Early-Childhood>

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 during January. *Todah rabah*—thank you—for keeping Habonim alive and thriving from generation to generation!

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HOLLYWOOD AT HABONIM NURSERY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

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 Joshua & Jessica Zatulove

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 of our generous donors. If
 you think there has been an
 oversight, please contact our
 office at office@habonim.net*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**February 1**

Alan Brown
Vladimir Kleyman

February 10

Vivien Newman

February 19

Adina Lemeshow

February 2

Loni Kraut

February 11

Tatyana Kleyman

February 20

Stefanie Tuder
Abigail Schlaff

February 3

Scott Feinblum
Abbie Marshall
Anna Resisi

February 12

Peter Janovsky

February 21

Robert Plancher

February 4

Rebecca Kasper

February 14

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February 27

Jerri Werksman
Hara Korenstein

February 8

Leonard Winters
Brian Rauch

February 15

Jason Abramson

February 17

Lois Baskin
Marjorie Aaron



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

February 2

Mindy and Jason Sickle

February 15

William Taubenfeld and Lois Baskin

February 3

Leonard and Amanda Winters

February 19

Jeremy Levine and Yael Taquu

February 14

Robert and Ellen Plancher

February 21

Theodore and Sandra Dickson

CLERGY

Rabbi

Lisa Gelber

Cantorial Soloist & Music Educator

Jessica Futran Scheinman

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And on Facebook:

[@CongregationHabonim](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationHabonim)



Our Collection of Resources:

In response to the ongoing conflict, we have gathered some resources that may be helpful to you & your family.

For events at Habonim and around the city or online, groups and charities you can support, mental health resources, resources for kids & families, and more, visit:

<https://www.habonim.net/war2023>

For Rabbi Gelber's ongoing responses and messages, visit:

<https://www.habonim.net/israel2023>

Call your representatives and the White House every day to advocate for the hostages. Let us be their light and their sustenance until they are safely home in the arms of their loved ones.

[Register for reminders to call here.](#)