

The Builders' Bulletin

Congregation Habonim's Monthly Bulletin—Your Community Guide!



INSIDE:

Upcoming Events — A Message from Rabbi Gelber— Recent Events— A Bar Mitzvah Student Profile — and more.

Upcoming Events:

Tot Shabbat

Friday, January 5th at 5:00pm

Torah With a Twist

Monday, January 8th at 4:50pm

Book Group

Monday, January 8th at 7:15pm

Torah Tots

Saturday, January 13th at 10:45am

Tacos & Tequila

Thursday, January 25th at 7:00pm

Celebration with the Newlyweds

Cantor Jessica & Brendon

Saturday, January 20th during Kiddush

New Member Shabbat

Saturday, January 27th at 9:30am

Junior Congregation

Saturday, January 27th at 10:15am

Torah Tots

Saturday, January 27th at 10:45am

Talk with Emmy Award Winning Comedy Writer Jay Katsir

Sunday, January 28th at 5:00pm

Building Bridges with Rabbi Gelber & Rabbi Uhrbach on Zoom

Tuesday, January 30th at 7:45pm

Find Out More

For up-to-date
information on all our
upcoming events, visit

www.habonim.net

Message from Rabbi Gelber

December 15, 2023/3 Tevet 5784

Dear Friends,

In eight days of Hanukkah, I lit candles several times a day, sang, danced, and taught about different aspects of Hanukkah, often highlighting the power we have to push light into the darkness. Most special was the opportunity to lead Torah with a Twist: Hanukkah Edition where we began with the invitation to put your body in a shape that represents you at fullest light. Below you'll find photos and statements illuminating some of our participants' light filled selves.

We know we are not always at full light. This is where the shamash, the candle designed to lift up our

individual light, serves as an important image for Hanukkah and for always. Especially as we clean the wax off of our Hanukkah menorahs and return them to our shelves and breakfronts, we must commit to live life as a shamash and notice the shamashim in our lives. Let us enter the Shabbat with commitment to notice our own light and the light of those in our orbit. May we nourish even our

smallest sparks that they may shine the path forward with sacred light.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Lisa Gelber

I chose to do Tree Pose from my yoga practices. I feel like I am my fullest light when I am grounded and also outreaching - tree pose expresses this as I find this pose and yoga in general for me gives me strength, balance, calmness, growth and the interconnectedness of everything around me which in turn gives me light.

I chose a heart because I hope that by spreading love to others, I can help them shine their light.





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>



Habonim Membership Presents:

Tacos & Tequila

Thursday, January 25 at 7:00pm

Join us for a tequila tasting led by our very own member and tequila connoisseur Alan Halperin. We'll learn about and sample a variety of the distilled spirits while noshing on tasty tacos. You won't want to miss this festive, delicious and engaging evening.

Bring your friends!



SCAN
ME! >>



[Or click here!](#)

Habonim Updates

Tales & Tasting of Iconic NY Jewish Foods

Thank you to June Hersh for coming to give a talk on iconic New York Jewish foods on Sunday, December 10th - and for sticking around to sign books during the tasting afterward! As our member Sandy Brod put it - this "extraordinary event was one of the highlights of the year!"

All of the books sold out, the food was delicious, and the stories were fascinating - a great time for all in attendance!



Torah With a Twist—with Rabbi Gelber!

Rabbi Gelber led Torah with a Twist in December, guiding participants in active thought & prayer—read all about it in her message on page 3 of this bulletin. Thank you to Noah Halperin for serving drinks!



Hanukkah Concert, Cocktails & Candlelighting!

Habonim was filled to the brim for our Hanukkah concert and candlelighting event on Thursday, December 7th! Thank you to Cantor Jessica, along with her friends and fellow musicians - soloist Sharon Litwinoff, violinist Leerone Kakami and pianist Shay Slusky - for putting on a beautiful show and leading us all in song. And a huge thank you to Noah Halperin for making the drinks!





Join us on **Sunday, January 28th at 5:00pm** for a talk with Emmy Award-winning comedy writer - and Habonim member! - Jay Katsir, head writer and supervising producer of *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*. Jay will share stories and insight about his career and his time writing for *The Colbert Report* and *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*.

Free for members and \$10 for non members.
Babysitting available.

Scan the QR code
or [click here to register!](#)



Hanukkah Community Shabbat Dinner

On Friday, December 15th we kept the light of Hanukkah going just a little bit longer with a special service led by our 6th & 7th grade Religious School students, followed by a community Shabbat dinner! It was another wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, support and encourage our youth, and enjoy good food and great company.

Guest Speaker

Lauren Leader

On Saturday, December 16th, we were joined after Shabbat morning services by author, activist & founder Lauren Leader, who gave a talk over Kiddush. Her talk, *Women, War and the Path to Progress After October 7th: Taking Stock of Women's Leadership and Power Through a Jewish Lens*, delivered timely insights. Since October 7th the world order

has been turned upside down and the path to stability, equality and peace seems murky. But for women, the atrocities committed by Hamas, the silence of the world community and the threat of further erosion of women's rights and leadership pose a continuing imminent danger. But all is not lost. Women's leadership is at a crossroads around the world and especially here at home. She discussed how Jewish women can and will be at the forefront of progress toward a more just and equal society in Israel and around the world.



Dave & Busters with the Lombim Teens!

Our Lombim teens had an awesome time socializing, eating, and playing games together at Dave & Busters, thanks to our Erwin Greenwald Fund for Youth and Teen Programming!



Mazel Tov to Sammy Bornstein!



On December 2nd, 2023, Sammy was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. He, and his entire family, led the service with immense confidence and poise. Sammy is an 8th grader at Horace Mann. He loves playing video games, reading as many books as he can get his hands on, and spending time with his family. Sammy also loves Fencing, Water Polo and Ultimate Frisbee, and spends his summers at Camp Modin.

Sammy's D'var Torah dove into the significance of a name, and how a name gives you a voice and an opportunity to make a lasting difference. His Mitzvah Project also aims to make a lasting difference, as he is planting saplings in Central Park to name and commemorate the people who have perished in the current war in Israel, to contribute to the ongoing rejuvenation of the land, and give the people of NYC a further connection to Israel. He has so far raised enough money to plant over 18 trees and counting. We are so proud of his efforts! The fundraiser is still open for a few more weeks—[donate here](#).

His family is also grateful to the community and all of their friends and family for celebrating this momentous milestone in Sammy's life. So many members of our community were present, as were many of Sammy's relatives and friends! His parents couldn't be prouder of Sammy and his wonderful accomplishment!





On Shabbat morning, January 27th, we will honor new and returning members with a special Shabbat service & Kiddush, and everyone's invited!

Welcome New Members:

Richard Allen & Maria Alvarino
 Farah Alvin & Dan Winerman
 Danielle and Adam Blauzvern
 Jason & Limor Bloom
 Adam Chazan and Marjorie Aaron
 Marina Chudnovsky
 Adam Cieply & Lisa Kattan
 Amy Cook
 Bijan Djafari & Shifra Leebhoff
 Carin Fox
 Jamie Freedman
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 Noah Halperin
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 Michael London & Michelle Koliskor
 Seth London & Edna Ishayik
 Shalini Mehan & Rajiv Joshi
 Danny & Dalia Panzer
 Anna Perelshteyn & Billy Zhao
 Michael and Kori Rehfield
 Ariela Rosenberg & Max Levy
 Jenna Rutchik & Randy Goldstein
 Jennifer Schanes & Joshua Mendelsohn
 Susan Schwam
 Marni Selman
 Megan Seltz
 Natalie Shkolnik
 Annette Steigelfest
 Howard Stoffer & Jane Rosenberg
 Gil & Leon Treger
 Nathan & Jerri Werksman
 Roberta Wohle



The Religious School at Habonim Presents:

JOIN IN JANUARY

Pre-K & Kindergarten

Your children will explore Judaism through song, dance, art, stories and holiday celebrations!

TUESDAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 16TH 3:15-4:30PM

At Congregation Habonim, 103 West End Avenue

Membership Required



For more information email:
religiousschool@habonim.net



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



HOLLYWOOD AT HABONIM



**DONATE & GET TICKETS
TO THE BENEFIT**

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

50 Riverside Blvd

Benefiting the Nursery School at Habonim



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

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Zachary & Beth Bornstein:

In appreciation of Cantor Jessica for all her help with Sammy's Bar Mitzvah

Debra Karlstein: *In honor of Jessica and Brendon - mazel tov on your wedding!*

Ellen Mendel: *Mazal Tov to Jessica and Brendon!*

GENERAL DONATIONS

Zachary & Beth Bornstein:

In appreciation of the entire Congregation Habonim clergy and staff. Thank you so much for making Sammy's Bar Mitzvah so special!

Hubert & Frances Brandt

Matthew & Felix Cohen

Scott Feinblum & Jamie Greenberg

Neil Goldstein: *In Honor of Ian*

Rauch's Bar Mitzvah

Neil Goldstein: *In honor of Samuel*

Bornstein's Bar Mitzvah

Josh Hanft & Claudia Chernov

Caroline Hirschfeld

Debra Karlstein

Stanley Lewin

Ellen Mendel: *In memory of Ada Becker*

Irene Pershep: *In memory of Seymour Altfield & Henny Pershep*

Joel & Lenore Raphael

Carol Rosen: *In memory of Frances Gottesman*

Susan Schwam: *In honor of New Member Shabbat*

Ernest Simon

Roberta Wohle

HOLLYWOOD AT HABONIM NURSERY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

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 Alan & Danielle Kaufman: *In memory of our Gigi*

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 Daniel & Melissa Paretsky

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Jessica Bindman: *In honor of Hailey Mellet's Baby Naming*
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 David & Robin Singer: *In appreciation of Rabbi Gelber*

THE ERWIN GREENWALD FUND FOR YOUTH AND TEEN PROGRAMMING

Barbara Gregory
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 Marc & Jill Mehl

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Brian King & Susan Grant
 Sherrill Mane
 Joshua & Jessica Zatulove

We strive to acknowledge all of our generous donors. If you think there has been an oversight, please contact our office at office@habonim.net



January 2

Michael Zecher

January 14

Marjorie Hirshfield
David Schiller

January 23

Harriet Unis

January 4

Talia Ofeck
Paul Cord

January 16

Elliot Brown

January 24

Rebecca Tenenbein

January 7

Michael Harwayne
Ben Siegel

January 17

Laura Zimmel

January 28

Rachel Levine
Susan Adler

January 8

Deborah Moelis
Guy Romano

January 19

Jeffrey Weinberg
Max Esh

January 29

Noah Halperin
Amy Zelcer

January 12

Dan Winerman

January 21

Jessica Zatulove

January 30

Theodore Dickson



January 11

Keith Gold and Stephanie Brownstein

January 24

Richard and Amy Kargauer



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

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