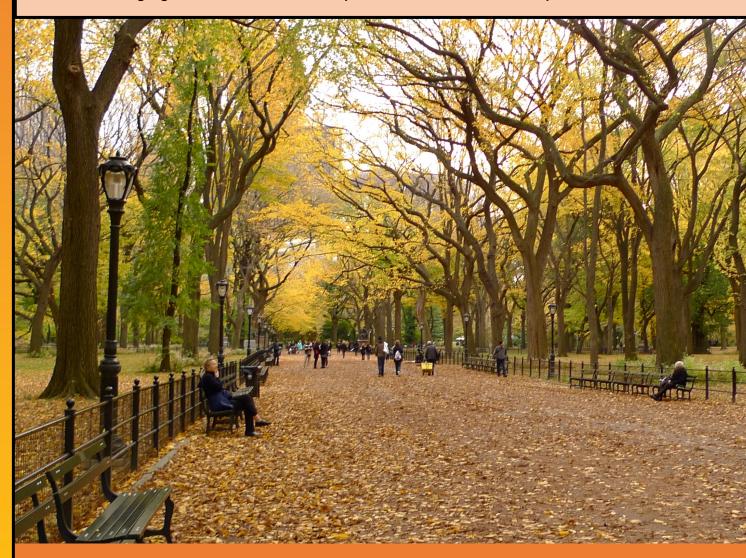
The Builders' Bulletin

Congregation Habonim's Monthly Bulletin—Your Community Guide!



INSIDE:

School updates —

Our responses to the crisis in Israel — A listing of Upcoming Events — and more.

Upcoming Events:

Tot Shabbat

Friday, November 3rd at 5:00pm

Torah Tots

Saturday, November 4th at 10:45am

Torah With a Twist

Monday, November 6th at 4:50pm

Kristallnacht Service

Thursday, November 9th at 6:30pm

Bat Mitzvah of Violet Schwartz

Saturday, November 11th at 9:30am At W83 (150 W 83rd St)

Book Group

Monday, November 13th at 7:15pm on Zoom and in person *The Thread Collectors* by Shauna J. Edwards & Alyson Richman

Tefilah & Tikvah

Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00pm

Bar Mitzvah of Ian Rauch

Saturday, November 18th at 9:30am At W83 (150 W 83rd St)

Taste of Torah: Thanksgiving Zoom Class

Sunday, November 19th at 8:00pm

Zoom4Israel with Rabbi Gelber

Tuesday, November 21st at noon

Building Bridges Zoom Class

Tuesday, November 28th at 7:45pm

Monthly Mussar In Person Class

Thursday, November 30th at 7:30pm

Find Out More

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

www.habonim.net

Message from Rabbi Gelber

October 30, 2023/15 Marheshvan 5784 Dear Friends,

Each morning, our liturgy provides this blessing to help place ourselves in space and time

Barukh atah adonai eloheinu melekh haolam matir asurim

Blessings to you holy one who guides the universe and releases the bound This bracha has added significance these days three+ weeks since civilians, men, women, children, the elderly, and babies were stolen into Gaza. Over 220 hostages remain in Gaza. We must call for their release, their unbinding, their their families and the return to family. Pidyon worldwide shvuyim/ freeing the captives remains one of our most significant mitzvot. Take part in fulfilling this mitzvah by calling your elected officials EVERY DAY and urging them to use their platform to push Hamas to let those people go. You can say something as simple as, It is day 24, I'm calling to remind you Hamas has almost 220 civilians in captivity. The hostages are still not home. I hope when I call tomorrow I will have better news. Thank you for doing all you can to bring these people home. We must keep this story in the forefront of our officials' minds. We must keep the plight of the hostages in the news. Find phone numbers for your officials **HERE** and join me in calling every day.

Yesterday, I joined a group on the UWS to tape up pictures of the hostages. At least a dozen individuals stopped to offer thanks. Others stopped to say they had no idea this was going on. While that may seem outrageous to those consumed with news from Israel, it reminds us we must keep this crisis front and center for all. Spread the word. Help fulfill that mitzvah of pidyon shvuyim. Access posters of the hostages here.

Last week, we took time to gather on zoom and in person, in prayer and in song. We turned our hearts and our bodies to the east, even as we remain in the west. We stood in solidarity with Israel and our people around the world. We benefited from the wisdom of our member Howard Stoffer who shared his perspective on where we are in this moment. We appreciated the gift of being together. Let us remember the gift of choosing to come together and commit ourselves to those who need our words and our actions to become free. When you feel stuck, take a moment and reach out to another. Let us remember we are not alone. And then, get back to work. b'yachad na'netzach Shavua Tov.

Rabbi Lisa Gelber



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

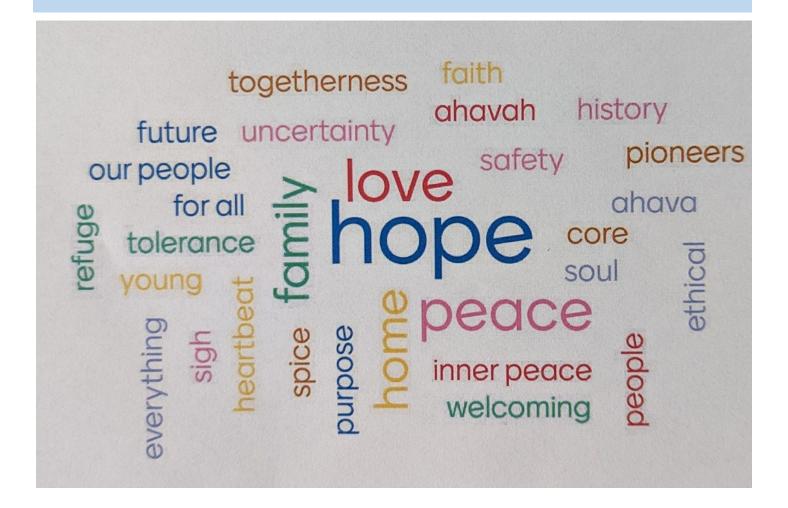
For Rabbi Gelber's ongoing responses and messages, visit:

https://www.habonim.net/israel2023

Habonim Updates

Zoom with Rabbi Gelber

On Tuesday, October 24th, members of the Habonim community gathered together with Rabbi Gelber for a Zoom to be together and process recent events, standing in solidarity with Israel. Participants discussed what Israel means to them, and put together a word cloud to gather their thoughts.



Tefilah & Tikvah with Cantor Jessica Futran

On Wednesday Oct 25th we came together as a community for a beautiful and powerful evening, to pray, sing, and talk about Israel. We had a brief maariv service, followed by a vigil, and then time for conversation where attendees shared their thoughts about the horror in Israel.

It was an opportunity for people who may not have space or a platform in their daily lives to discuss the war and Israel, to provide a safe space for them to do so. We had 30 people in attendance, with light-moderate refreshments.

Thank you so much to the membership committee for making this all happen with just a few days to prepare. A huge thank you to Jessica Boar who made sure there was childcare and dinner for those children in attendance!

Thank you to our Lomdim students, Arielle Kaufman and Benjamin Zaretsky who were our babysitters for the evening!

Our next Tefilah & Tikvah will be on Wednesday November 15th at 7pm. It will be a continuation of the program with more structured time for discussion and will run approximately one hour.

There will be light refreshments, and we will provide childcare and a light dinner for the children once again.

Hope to see you there so we may all support one another during these dark days. Am Yisrael Chai.





SOLIDARITY SHABBAT שבת אחדות

OCTOBER 26-29

WWW.MASORTISOLIDARITYSHABBAT.ORG

Solidarity Shabbat

Thank you to everyone who made <u>#SolidarityShabbat</u> such a meaningful time for togetherness, prayer and community as we stood in solidarity with the victims and hostages in Israel. Sisterhood had been planning a community dinner for months, and recent events made coming together all the more important.

On Shabbat morning, Member Howard Stoffer, a Middle East expert, came and delivered a talk over Kiddush, sharing his wealth of knowledge with all of us. Congregants enjoyed an Israeli-themed Kiddush lunch including blue and white cookies, bourekas, and hummus.

Sisterhood President Abigail Schlaff delivered a moving speech on Friday. We'd like to share part of her speech, excerpted below:

"Ours is a synagogue of refugees. You likely know that Habonim was founded by German Jews who fled the Holocaust, officially opening our congregation 1 year to the day after Pogrom Night. That's what the Germans call Kristallnacht today. You might also know that the Torah scroll outside the sanctuary was brought to the US by Rabbi Hahn when he left Essen. And if you look closely at the scroll, it is turned to Lech Lecha. This was the Parsha on Kristallnacht, so that scroll will always show these words... Because of this, I've always associated Lech Lecha with Habonim, as if that's "our" portion.

Our burned Torah scroll turned to Lech Lecha is a metaphor for our journey today as Jews. Just like Hamas tried on October 7th, the Nazis tried to erase us and burn our synagogues. But they failed to destroy our spirit and our faith. Our Torah survived the flames and became a source of inspiration.

Being together as Jews, for prayer, for meals, even just on Zoom looking at one another in our anxiety, has helped me feel less alone. Thank you for all your support and I hope we can all provide each other comfort."

Habonim Updates

Message from the Nursery School

Our classrooms are filled with children enjoying creative activities and playing cooperatively with friends. The teachers are continuing to dedicate their time getting to know the unique and wonderful qualities of each and every child.

Every year our calendar changes in the fall based on the Jewish Holidays and this year has been a great year for celebration in school. Children in the Orange, Purple, Blue and Red Rooms had an opportunity to decorate the sukkah, shake a lulav, smell an etrog and dip apples in honey. These are just a few of the special moments that we have shared thus far. Our After-School Program is now in full swing. This fall, children will have an opportunity to explore all kinds of activities. We look forward to many more exciting programs in the coming year.

Rock Shabbat is happening every Friday. The entire Nursery School gathers every Friday in the Sanctuary with Rabbi Gelber and the whole nursery school team. The children's enthusiasm grows with each week as they celebrate Shabbat in dance and song.

Our Early Explorers Program has begun, and this youngest group is actively engaged in exploring and learning. Our caring and knowledgeable teachers are thrilled to be guiding this program.

We are looking forward to sharing wonderful times ahead as we encourage our children to become engaged learners and help strengthen their Jewish identity.

Tina Lobel and Ann Obsatz

Community Sukkah Dinner

Our sold out community Sukkah Dinner was a huge success! Dinner was delicious, the weather was gorgeous, and—of course—it was a great time to celebrate Sukkot together while fulfilling a mitzvah! A huge thank you to the Marlene Meyerson JCC for letting us use their beautiful rooftop sukkah for the event and to Deborah Winokur for organizing and setting up & breaking down the table settings!

Staff Retreat & Celebrating Matvey

With the start of a new year, senior staff engaged in a retreat designed to get to know one another better, build connection, and strengthen work as a team. We joined with Nursery School staff to conclude the morning with a toast to the new year, a sweet treat and a celebration of our beloved Head of Facilities, Matvey Khazanov to mark his 25! years with Habonim.



Prayers & Repentance: Slichot

As a first stop on the journey to the High Holy Days, Rabbi Lisa Gelber, Cantorial Soloist Jessica Futran, and Cantor Emeritus Bruce Halev helped us reconnect and remember with S'lichot. We said goodbye to the week that was with Havdalah in the Sanctuary and opened up a new week of memory, opportunity, and potential with our S'lichot Program featuring the resonant melodies of the High Holy Days, along with the changing of the Torah Mantles to their High Holy Day finest. Those who attended in person enjoyed a wonderful Seuda Shlishit. Thank you to Ellen Mendel for sponsoring the collation!

Sisterhood Luncheon

The Sisterhood Luncheon on Sunday, September 10th was a great success! We were pleased to welcome guest speaker Leah Burke from the American Technion Society. The guest speaker was fantastic, and so happy to meet our member Deborah Moelis, the architect for the dormitory on the Roosevelt Island campus of The Technion-Cornell partnership! We had a great lunch and were happy to get together before the High Holy Days.



Book Group Meetings

For the first time since early 2020, the Habonim Book Group had an *in person* meeting on Monday October 2nd! So exciting! A small group met in the social hall, nibbled on fruit left from dinner in the sukkah, and discussed *Kantika* by Susan Graver. Another small group people joined in on Zoom.

After 3 years of missed and Zoom-only meetings, it felt SO GOOD to see whole people; to speak without raising hands; to share the experience more fully, while still welcoming participation from those who couldn't be there in person. We hope that as the year goes on, many more people will come to Habonim to experience the full meaning of community.

On Monday, November 13th at 7:15pm, we'll meet on site again to discuss *The Thread Collectors* by Sauna Edwards & Alyson Richman. Watch the weekly Habonim emails for info about the January meeting, when we'll be discussing *Outwitting History* by Aaron Lansky.

If you have not been getting Book Group emails, please send an email to habonimbookgroup@habonim.net to get on our list!

Fun in the Sukkah

Our Religious School students had fun in the sukkah! The older group came together for "Pizza in the Hut," while the five younger groups visited our portable outdoor sukkah and had tons of fun shaking the lulav and etrog! At these first Religious School sessions of the year, the kids got to reunite, meet new friends, and celebrate Sukkot together. Staff members Jessica, Karen, Sam & Barry joined them to facilitate!





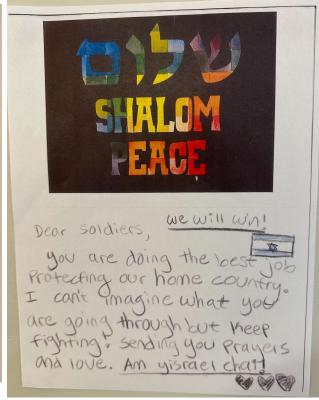


Cards for Israel

Students in Habonim's religious school gathered to make cards for Israelis, sending messages of hope and support.









Thank you to everyone who joined us for the High Holy Days this year - your presence and participation helped make it an amazing success! Whether you joined us in person or online, for one service or all of them—you, the community, help make the High Holy Days at Habonim so special and meaningful.

Thank you as well to our staff, clergy, and all of our volunteers who made it possible for us to offer such a wide variety of beautiful, resonant services and keep things running smoothly in person and online and at our youth services.

Mazel Tov to Max Moskowitz!

On the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 21st 2023, we're proud and delighted to wish Mazel Tov to Max, his parents Seth and Melissa, and the entire Moskowitz family!



Congregation Habonim presents ...



The Bible Players Hanukkah Comedy Show Sunday, December 3rd

Two Shows at 9:30am & 11:00am Early Bird pricing through November 21!





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.

- October 6
- November 3
- December 1
- 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.

- October 8 • February 10
- March 9 October 14
- November 4 April 13
- December 9 May 11
- June 15 January 13

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
- February 24
- May 18

- December 16
- March 23

- January 20
- April 20

June 22



Congregation

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

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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 from September 1st - October 31st. *Todah rabah*—thank you—for keeping Habonim alive and thriving from generation to generation!

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Alan & Danielle Kaufman: Mazal Tov to Jessica and Brandon on their engagement!

Ellen Mendel: Mazal Tov to Jessica on her Engagement!

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October 26

Michael Rehfield

October 27

Marni Selman Edna Ishayik

October 28

Judith Singer Richard Kargauer

October 30

Carol Rosen Irene Pershep



November 1

Sarah Kass

November 2

Heather Widensky

November 4

Blair Kaminsky

November 5

Nancy Gray

Mr Alexander Kleinhaus- Felix Cohen

Resisi

November 8

Sara Raff

November 9

Mary Sanders

November 10

Stanley Lewin Carin Fox

November 11

Jacqueline Bielory

November 12

Maya Levy Merdinger

November 13

November 14

Alissa Manocherian

Schwartz

November 15

Jamie Freedman

November 16

Alexander Waldman

David Feuerstein

November 17

Joel Raphael

Sharyn Ben Zvi

November 18

Dan Schwarz

November 25

Russell Rivera



October 2

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October 16

Timothy and Ruth Murphy

October 18

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October 19

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October 20

Bob and Vivien Newman

October 24

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November 1

David and Robin Singer

November 3

Joseph and Carol Teig

November 4

Elliot and Vicki Brown David and Stacey Nidus

November 5

Evan and Loni Kraut

November 13

David and Rachel Berger

November 17

Michael Harwayne and Alison Fried

November 18

Jeffrey and Caryn Weinberg

November 19

Roy and Jennifer Girtz

Dan Schwarz and Rina Cohen

Schwarz

November 25

Michael and Kori Rehfield



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