

Untitled Bulletin!

Congregation Habonim's Monthly Bulletin - Special Inaugural Edition



INSIDE: *A message from Rabbi Gelber -
last month's events - coming soon at
Habonim - a thank you to our supporters*

Rabbi Gelber's Monthly Message

February 22, 2023/1 Adar 5783

Dear Friends,

Go into many of our local markets and bakeries and you'll already find shelves stocked with *hamentashen*, a traditional Purim treat. Called *oznei haman*/Haman's ears in Hebrew, they are pastry pockets, traditionally filled with *mohn*/poppy seeds. These days hamentashen contain anything from apricot or prune filling (our Sisterhood bakers' specialty) to pizza filling, marmalade or chocolate chips. Some associate this three cornered cookie with Haman's hat which supposedly had three corners. I like to imagine him strutting around singing - *my hat it has three corners, three corners has my hat. And had it not three corners, it would not be my hat.*



We often sing this song in Hebrew as well:

לְכֹבֵּעַ שְׁלִי שְׁלוֹשׁ פְּנוֹת
שְׁלוֹשׁ פְּנוֹת לְכֹבֵּעַ שְׁלִי
לִי־לֹא הָיָה לוֹ שְׁלוֹשׁ פְּנוֹת
לֹא הָיָה זֶה הַכֹּבֵּעַ שְׁלִי

Song lyrics aside, three cornered hats are not so prevalent. Instead, we wear *kippot*/yarmulkes. I love going through our kippah basket at home and remembering the gatherings and simhahs commemorated by the stamp on the inside and recalling those who crocheted kippot for special occasions. Many of you may do the same in your home and in shul where we have head coverings available on Shabbat and when people enter our building. Kippot

not only remind us of the sacred inside and our call to act in holy ways in the world, they can spark conversation and beautiful memories as well. *If you have an overabundance of kippot that are calling to be "re-homed," feel free to deliver them to Michelle in our office at Habonim and we'll include them in our regular kippah rotation. Make sure to sort through your offerings in advance and include only kippot in good condition.*

As the month of Adar begins, we pray *mishenichnas adar marbim v'simhah*. Let us infuse this new month with extra joy, awakening our memories and sharing them with others. Add to the simhah and **make time to hear the Megillah on Monday night, March 6/14 Adar at 6:30pm**. Arrive earlier for our community shpiel (check your email or habonim.net for specifics) or join us when we begin the reading at 6:30pm in the sanctuary at Habonim (Megillah reading available on Zoom at 6:30pm as well). Costumes encouraged for all. Three cornered hats, optional.

Hodesh Tov!

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Last Month at Habonim, We ...

Toured the Treasures Exhibit

One of Habonim's own treasures, our member Hilda Jaffe, led a tour of the Polonsky Exhibition of The New York Public Library's Treasures. Her insights and expertise made this tour even more fun and interesting! The



tour was so popular that we ran out of room for everyone who wanted to come—for that reason, we're happy to say there will be a repeat of the tour! Join us on Sunday, March 19th at 2:30pm at the New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman building at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. Check the website for registration info—space is limited!

Shared a Little Magic

We were delighted to welcome guest speaker Dr. Sharon Keller to deliver her lecture series, *Oracles, Omens & Execrations: Magic & Sorcery in the Bible*. The presentation—complete with slides—was a huge success, and attendees enjoyed learning about how magic was viewed in the ancient world, by the Jewish people and their neighbors. Plus, we got to nosh and had time for a Q&A afterwards!



Shared Our Baking Talents



For the first time since the pandemic, Sisterhood once again organized the members of Habonim to bake hamantaschen and pack mishloach manot boxes for Purim in person. Members from Pre-K through senior citizens came together over several Sundays to help with baking and packing. The Lomdim teens had their own night, but a few came to bake on Sundays as well (& earned service hours for high school!).

A huge thank you must go out to Sisterhood President Mindy Sickel, who organized the project and then did the shopping with fellow Sisterhood Board member Deena Ecker. We would also like to express our deepest thanks to the members who graciously made space in their freezers to keep the cookies until Purim. We are so grateful for Matvey's custodial staff, especially Freddie and Peter who set up the tables for us & cleaned up the flour-y messes on baking Sundays!

And of course, many thanks to our donors who underwrite this fundraiser each year! The majority of funds raised go to Habonim and the Sisterhood, with a percentage going to a charity chosen by the Religious School students.

Chag Purim sameach to all!

Amy Kargauer, on behalf of Sisterhood Board



Last Month at Habonim, We ...

Learned About Current Events

Our Adult Education Committee was delighted to bring back our annual Middle East update. Long time member Howard Stoffer brings a wealth of insight and experience to any discussion about this important part of the world. This year, we got an update on what Netanyahu's return as Prime Minister means for Israel and the entire region. This program was very well attended, and we were pleased to offer it.



As we return to in-person programming, we understand the importance of continuing to offer accessible digital experiences, and programs like this are an important part of making sure all our Habonim community can be included. Thank you again to Howard Stoffer for offering such an insightful discussion on the sociopolitical realities of the Middle East!


**Congregation
Habonim**

Passover Candy Sale

shop.misschocolate.com
Seller ID: 115639

40% of the profits raised from your purchases will go to support the Religious School, Youth and Family Programs of Habonim!
Order deadline March 10.

**Order deadline
extended!**



Sampled Israeli Wines

Our own Beth Bornstein, a professional wine educator, led a wine tasting that nearly thirty people attended. Attendees got the chance to sample 6 Israeli wines, sharing our reactions to the taste and aromatics of each. Thanks to Beth's expertise, we learned about the rich soil the grapes were grown in, grape growing technique, and how the wines were aged. After the tasting, we stayed for snacks, saw old friends, and made new ones!



Beth Bornstein began her journey into wine at age 15 as she tasted her way throughout France with her family (there's no such thing as an age limit in France!). This kindled a love-affair that has continued to grow, and she has now jumped head-first into Wine Education. She founded her own company, [West Side Grapes](https://www.westsidgrapes.com), where she leads wine tasting events for both private individuals and corporations, helping consumers find the grapes that inspire them.

Talked About Our Values

National Council of Jewish Women
**REPRO
 SHABBAT**
 FEBRUARY 17-18, 2023

ncjw.org/shabbat



We were proud to take part in the National Council of Jewish Women's annual Repro Shabbat. Rabbi Gelber spoke on Shabbat morning, delivering a sermon about reproductive rights — and how abortion access is a Jewish value. Our tradition not only permits the termination of pregnancy, but even requires it when the life of the pregnant person is at stake. Pikuach nefesh—saving lives — is a key

principle in our tradition, as is upholding human dignity—kavod habriyot — and working to make our society more safe and just for all. With abortion access under attack across the country, it's more important than ever that we stand up for the values our tradition instills in us.

Upcoming Events in March:

Tot Shabbat

Friday, March 3rd at 5:00pm
at Habonim

Hamentaschen Baking - Packing Mishloach Manot

Sunday, March 5th from 9:00am-
2:00pm
at Habonim

PurimPalooza

Monday, March 6th at 5:30pm
at Habonim (for adults and kids 8+)

Megillah Reading

Monday, March 6th at 6:30 pm
at Habonim

PurimPalooza Junior

Tuesday, March 7th at 5:00pm
*at Habonim (for families with children
7 & under)*

Bible Series with Dr. Sharon Keller:

Magic and Sorcery in the Bible - Zoom

Thursday, March 9th at 7:00pm
on Zoom

Bar Mitzvah of Henry Gray at Redeemer

Saturday, March 11th
150 W 83rd St

Torah Tots (age 5 and under) at Redeemer

Saturday, March 11th at 10:00am
150 W 83rd St

Junior Congregation at Redeemer

Shabbat, March 11th at 10:45am
150 W 83rd St

A Conversation with Rabbi Edward Feld

Sunday, March 12th at 5:00 pm
SAJ - 15 West 86th Street & on Zoom

Book Club

Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm
on Zoom

Women's Seder

Thursday, March 16th from 7-8:30pm
Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 E 51st St

**New York Public Library Tour
with Hilda Jaffe**

Sunday, March 19th at 2:30 pm
*Treasures Exhibit at the NYPL, Fifth
Avenue and 42nd Street*

**Bat Mitzvah of Arielle Kaufman
at Redeemer**

Saturday, April 1st
150 W 83rd St

**Kreplach, Knishes & Kneidlach:
Erwin Greenwald Fund Kickoff
Event for the Teens of Habonim**

Friday, March 24th
New York Historical Society's
Jewish Deli Exhibit Tour:
1:00pm at 170 Central Park West
Pastrami Queen Deli:
3:30 pm at 138 W 72nd St A

Find Out More

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

www.habonim.net

Thank you for your support!

from the Habonim Board of Trustees & Office Staff

COVID 19 has deeply impacted our synagogue and schools, creating a lasting financial strain. Through it all, we've done our best to be there for you - and you've been there for us. Without the support of our *kehillah kedosha* - holy community - it would have been difficult or impossible for us to be here, joining together for in person services again, hosting in-person and virtual events. Thanks to you, we've been able to retain our maintenance team, and brought on new office staff to help support our operations.

Without you, our schools couldn't have kept the doors open for in-person learning since September 2020. With you, we have found innovative ways to support our students' growth while spreading love and joy through our hallways.

To you, our Habonim members, we say: *Todah rabah!* Thank you! Below and in the following pages, we'd like to acknowledge donations from the start of the fiscal year through February 28, 2023.

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