



CONGREGATION HABONIM OF TORONTO
BULLETIN

5 Glen Park Avenue · Toronto · Ontario · M6B 4J2

Vol. 62 | No. 2 | April to June 2015 / Nissan - Tammuz 5775

Schedule Of Services And Events

Sun. Mar 29	10 am	Jewish Heritage School's annual model Seder – The community is welcome! (See article page 12)
Sat. Apr 4	7:00 pm	Congregational Seder at Habonim on the Second Night of Passover at Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. – Reservations Required (see page 2 in this bulletin)
Sun. Apr 5	5:30 pm	Third Night Community Passover Seder at Holy Blossom Temple (see page 5)
Sat. Apr 11	10 am	Congregational Shabbat/Passover/Yizkor service BAT MITZVAH of Jaiden Turner, daughter of Poonam Puri & Elian Turner
Sat. Apr 18	10 am (offsite)	BAT MITZVAH of Hannah Monger, daughter of Odette Soriano and John Monger
Fri. Apr 24	8:15 pm	Congregational Kabbalat Shabbat
Sat. Apr 25	10 am	BAR MITZVAH of Benjamin Gorman, son of Elana & Jeff Gorman
Sat. May 2	10 am	BAT MITZVAH of Ruby Tennen, daughter of Michelle & Jason Tennen
Sat. May 2	5 pm	BAT MITZVAH of Lucy Wowk-Niman, daughter of Susan Wowk & Harold Niman
Fri. May 8	6 pm (offsite)	BAT MITZVAH of Jacqui Tishler, daughter of Alison Smith & William (Billy) Tishler
Fri. May 22	9 am - 4:30 pm	Bridge Fundraiser for Habonim, See Flyer pg 6
Fri. May 22	Dinner 6:30 pm Service 8:15 pm	Congregational Kabbalat Shabbat Potluck Dinner/Service/Jam Session Registration required for dinner - (e-blast flyer with details will be sent in May)
Mon. May 25	10:00 am	Congregational Shavuot/Yizkor service - dairy lunch to follow.
Fri. May 29	7:15 pm	BAT MITZVAH of Joelle Newman, daughter of Michelle Persyko & Allan Newman
Thu. Jun 11	8:30 am	BAR MITZVAH of Benjamin (Benjy) Albert, son of Julie & Kenny Albert
Sat. Jun 13	10 am	BAR MITZVAH of Jake Goodman, son of Penny & Scott Goodman
Sat. Jun 13	5 pm Havdalah	BAT & BAR MITZVAH of Sophia and Charles Sheiner, children of Liza Mauer & Andrew Sheiner
Fri. June 19	8:15 pm	Congregational Kabbalat Shabbat service - Last service before Summer
Sat. Jun 20	10 am	BAR MITZVAH of Zachary Erdman, son of Daryl & Derek Erdman
Sat. Jun 20	Havdalah	BAT MITZVAH of Sadie Bryant, daughter of Susan Abramovitch & Michael Bryant

Mazal Tavs on Recent Wedding

Eli Rubenstein & Aviv Rajsky officiated at the wedding of Julie Herczeg and Stephen Shedletzky. Children Susan Liebel & Gabor Herczeg and Abe & Cynthia Shedletzky

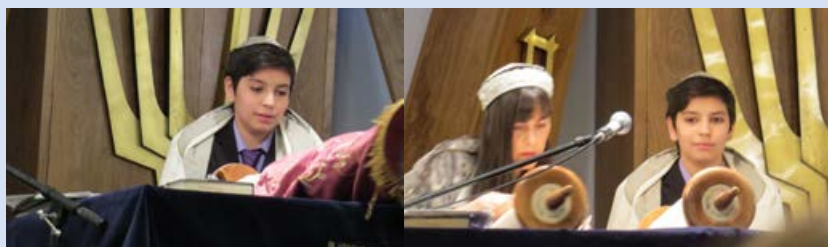




Mazal Tavs on Recent Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

מזל טוב!

- ❖ Stacey Whyne Berman & David Berman on the Bar Mitzvah of Olin (see photos)
- ❖ Joan Sternthal & Anthony Sigel on the Bat Mitzvah of Margot



**NEW IN 2015!!
CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER
SECOND NIGHT SEDER
MEMBERS PLEASE RSVP NOW!**



As many of you know, for almost 15 years Habonim & Ve'ahavta, on the Second night of Passover, have hosted a Seder that included members of Toronto's homeless community. **In 2015 things will change.** On the Second night of Passover, **Saturday, April 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm**, Congregation Habonim will host a Congregational and Community Seder for our Members, and Members of Toronto's Jewish community, who would like to participate in a Seder on the **Second Night of Passover.**

This Seder will be led by: Eli Rubenstein & Avrum Rosensweig.

Music will be provided by our talented staff and congregants.

As usual, Elizabeth and Patsy will take care of preparing and serving the food but a little volunteer help beforehand and to help serve the food would be nice.

To book a spot and/or to volunteer, please contact Jeff Levy by phone at: 416-782-7125 (leave voice mail), or by email at: office@congregationhabonim.org

There are no fees for the Seder, but voluntary donations are of course welcome and may be made by VISA or MasterCard online (preferred method) at: <https://payment.csfm.com/donations/habonim/index.php> or by cheque payable to "Congregation Habonim" and sent to: Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. Toronto ON M6B 4J2



From the Corner Office

by Jeff Levy, General Manager

Below are edited excerpts from a letter from Habonim President, Ted Rechtshaffen mailed and emailed to members in January 2015.

“... we have instituted a new Young Adult Membership for those aged 26 to 30. This is a single member fee of \$250. The current Family Membership covers children up to age 25. This new Young Adult Membership will allow an easier transition from being part of a Family Membership to becoming a full Single or Family Membership in their 30s. We ask parents to convey this to their adult children and encourage them to join now so they are guaranteed tickets for High Holiday services at Habonim in 2015.

... Habonim may not be able to offer Guest tickets for High Holidays this year. At the moment we have a small amount of room for new members, and based on our membership levels in late Summer 2015, we can make a decision regarding Guest tickets. We are letting you know so that you can plan accordingly. As I am sure you would agree, we need to give priority to members over guests for the long term stability of the Congregation.”

I am dedicating my space in this Bulletin to new membership especially YOUNG ADULT MEMBERSHIP. Keeping the above information in mind, if you and your young adult children (who are now between the ages of 26 and 30 years old), have “traditionally” attended High Holiday services at Habonim together, it’s now time to consider your options for 2015 High Holidays. As you will see from the list below, several parents and/or their children have “signed-up” under the new membership category and as 30-plus singles. If you wish to join please act now. Here’s how:

Step 1: Provide the following details by email to:

office@congregationhabonim.org - or mail to Att.: Jeff Levy, General Manager

- First and Last Name(s)
- Mailing Address
- Date(s) of Birth
- A “unique” phone number (cell or landline, or both must be distinct from other numbers we have on file)
- Email address(es)

Step 2: Go online to: www.congregationhabonim.org

Click on “PAYMENTS”- Complete the membership fees form and submit

Step 3: Enjoy your membership! Browse this Bulletin and our website for the calendar of services and events.

Watch for regular e-blasts!

Welcome To Our New Members

YOUNG ADULT MEMBERSHIP

Michelle Lieberman	Ryan Slavin
Zachary Lieberman	Erin Sanders
Ryan Mapa & Sandra Vadasz	Alanna Linder
Brandon Luft & Karen Vadasz Luft	Seth Zuk
Daniel Libman	Lauryn Zuk
Kayla Price	Pamela Glatt
Nadine Price	Laura (Laurie) Hochman
Elie Silver	Mark Hochman
Rachel Silver	Jamie Zuk
Alexander Levy	Matt Zuk & Melissa Reiter
Jaime Slavin	

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Magdolna Hercz
Shaun Rowe & Carly Libman
Stephen Shedletzky & Julie Herczeg
Brahm & Alexia Eiley
Michael Kurtz & Calen Freeman
Robert Greben
James & Sara Sugarman
Ron Philipp & Mirah Kirshner
Sydney & Noreen Bosloy
Allan & Beth Eckhaus
Joseph & Bernadette Starr

**If you do not see your name on this list and you joined Habonim recently, please accept our apology and contact Jeff Levy on his cell 416-802-1105*



70 Years Since the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau



On January 27, 2015, I was privileged to attend the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, by Soviet troops on Jan 27th, 1945. The Canadian delegation was composed of 5 Auschwitz survivors (joined by many other Auschwitz survivors from around the world), representatives of the World Jewish Congress (led by Vice President, Moshe Ronen), as well as second generation and other individuals interested in documenting this important commemoration.

The five Canadian Auschwitz Survivors - whose participation was facilitated by CIJA - were Mordechai Ronen, Howard Chandler & Martin Baranek, Angela Orosz (born in Auschwitz-Birkenau in December 1944, she is one of the very rare stories of survival under those conditions) & Miriam Ziegler Friedman. (Miriam Ziegler Friedman appears in one of the most famous liberation pictures in 1945, along with a number of prisoners, all showing their tattooed numbers on their arms from behind the barbed wire. Some of the same prisoners returned for the commemoration ceremony, and were re-photographed in the same pose.)

It was likely the last time a major anniversary will take place in Auschwitz-Birkenau with the active participation of the camp's survivors.

(The experience of the Canadian survivors on the trip was documented by a Canadian film crew through a grant to the March of the Living from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.)

Other Canadians on the trip included Paul, Brenda and David Hoffert, who are producing a documentary on Canadian Holocaust survivor, Leo Spellman, called, "The Lost Rhapsody of Leo Spellman", Canadian film executive and Habonim member, Michael Hirsh (DHX Media's Executive Chairman), son of Belgian survivors, whose own father was a prisoner in Auschwitz-Birkenau, and Steve Paiken who is writing a book on Mordechai Ronen's life story.

The ceremony in Auschwitz-Birkenau was exceptionally moving. They included powerful speeches from the President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski and Ronald Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress, along with a special documentary on Auschwitz-Birkenau, created by Stephen Spielberg and narrated by Meryl Streep. (See: <http://y2u.be/NIVUU-w05rQ>)

Three former inmates of the camp - all from Poland - were the only other speakers at the ceremony.

* Kazimierz Albin, who was in the first group of Polish political prisoners in the camp in 1940, said: "From the very first day, there was an ongoing struggle for biological survival, for delivering as many lives as possible from death, for preserving human dignity."



* Halina Birenbaum, a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and alumnus of the March recalled a touching memory from her days in Auschwitz: "I remember -there was this roll call. And I had this fleeting thought maybe one day I will burn in this crematoria - and I will never have experienced a true love's kiss....When you are 14 you have a different thoughts before you die."

* Survivor Roman Kent said, "We survivors do not want our past to be our children's future" & that "hate is never right and love is never wrong!"

Before the trip, March of the Living Canada created an 8 minute video: Auschwitz-Birkenau: 70 Years After Liberation: A Warning to Future Generations, that was shown at a ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Jan 27th marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, hosted by Jason Kenney, Minister for Multiculturalism.

In the video five Canadian Holocaust survivors who have participated in the March of the Living, shared their memories and reflections of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Their words are interspersed with images of these same survivors returning to Auschwitz-Birkenau in the last number of years, along with comments from leaders and students who accompanied them - including Habonim member Zach Lieberman who attended the program as a young adult.

The short film, which has over 6,000 views on Youtube, may be seen at <http://y2u.be/L-kDZ-Q9XcU>

The commemorative ceremony on January 27, 2015 held in Auschwitz-Birkenau was a joint project of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the World Jewish Congress and the USC Shoah Foundation.

Large Habonim Contingent Going on March of the Living

This April, the following members of Habonim, who are in grade 11, will be making the journey with Eli Rubenstein, Aviva Rajsky and Tom Bellman on March of the Living. This is the largest representation from the Congregation to date. They will be among 700 teenagers and adults from Canada who will be heading to Poland and then Israel to learn about the Holocaust. We wish them safe travels and look forward to hearing about their experiences.

Jamie Albert
Ellie Finkelstein

Sam Finkelstein
Emily Gnat

Samantha Kettner
Jedediah Kliger

Lexie Olin
Maddie Tanenbaum

Joshua Zweig

VE'AHAVTA CHANGES TO A "THIRD NIGHT" SEDER SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2015 AT HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE - 1950 BATHURST STREET

Please note that on the third night of Passover (Sunday, April 5), another Seder will be held at Holy Blossom Temple, in partnership with Ve'ahavta and Habonim, which will include members of Toronto's homeless community. Under Jewish and Aboriginal leadership, we will honour the spirit of Passover by welcoming all those who are hungry to our table. This inclusive Seder will explore themes of modern day oppression, and how we can move towards collective freedom. If you would like to reserve a seat (fees based on ability to pay are: \$50 for adults; \$18 for those under 35). Please register at www.holyblossom.org/passoverseder or contact Leah Silverman to register and/or volunteer: 416-964-7698 x 224, leah.silverman@veahavta.org



Duplicate Bridge Game & Silent Auction Fundraiser (in support of Congregation Habonim)

Friday, May 22, 2015 (12:15 pm)

Habonim (5 Glen Park Avenue, Toronto (Bathurst & Glencairn))

Director for Duplicate Game: Lee Daugharty

Refreshments & Lucky Draws

Silent Auction of valuable items

Tax receipts will be issued - minimum \$25

\$5 fee at the door to cover refreshments & miscellaneous expenses

Pre-registration required * - space is limited, so please sign up early

Event Co-ordinators: Enid Roitman, Lee Daugharty & Wayne Ruttan

*To Register (and/or Donate) online using VISA or MasterCard (preferred method) please go to: www.congregationhabonim.org & click on the button pictured below:

Duplicate Bridge Game & Silent Auction Fundraiser

For further information please contact: Enid Roitman - Email: enidr@sympatico.ca



Tarek Fatah is an author and a weekly columnist for the Toronto Sun. He hosts a weekly Sunday afternoon talk show on Toronto's CFRB NewsTalk 1010. His book "Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State" was runner-up for the prestigious Donner Prize in 2008 while his second book "The Jew is Not My Enemy" won the Helen and Stan Vine Award.

TAREK FATAH SPEAKS AT HABONIM FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

At the Kabbalat Shabbat service on January 30, 2015, Habonim hosted guest speaker Tarek Fatah, Toronto columnist, author, & radio commentator. The event was generously sponsored by Habonim members Dr. Hadassah Goldberg and Dr. Jay Wortsman

Mr. Fatah spoke on the topic: The Cartoons of Charlie Hebdo: To Run or Not to Run?

Should Canadian media have refused to run the cartoons of Charlie Hebdo, considering the sensitivity of its content and the hurt it could cause to some?

Or was it the media's responsibility to run the cartoons as part of its commitment to freedom of speech and its responsibility to tell the entire story?

Fatah, founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress, kept the attention of over 50 congregants and visitors with an animated and at times fiery presentation of his views on the topic.

He suggested that western society, and in particular Canadians and Torontonians, need to "wake up and smell the coffee" and challenge aggressively the spread of religious extremism in his community.



Haman's Diary *Original by Simon Rakoff*

Tevet 3

Picked up new robes today. Had to have the tailor beaten so they'd be ready in time for the big party KA is throwing at the palace. He's pulling out all the stops. Frankly, the man is an idiot but he does know how to throw a bash.

Tevet 10

My head is splitting! Who throws a party for seven days? If I never eat another camel stuffed with figs I'll be happy. Needless to say, the buzz in Shushan is all about QV being deposed. Stupid woman refused a command from her king/hubby. All he wanted was a dance. A woman should know better than to deny any man, let alone the king. So he's out and, in spite of my hangover, I'm due at the palace to meet about a replacement. I have been drawing up a list of likely candidates for new wife all morning. The king trusts me so I'm not worried it'll take long for him to pick from my list.

Tevet 11

So frustrated I could scream. KA says he can't choose a girl from illustrations. Now I get to spend my week gathering every unmarried girl in the city so he can personally inspect them and choose for himself. Like I have nothing better to do with my time. Some of us have to actually implement the "vision" he has for Persia. Sigh. No rest for the wicked LOL. I think part of the reason I'm so infuriated is the old palace gatekeeper's ignorance of protocol. When the king's main advisor passes, you bow. Simple politeness. Even other ministers and palace officials know to bow before Haman (sorry, but I need to use third person to express how I feel about the position I have clawed and scratched to attain). But this Mordecai (what kind of name is that anyway?) simply stands there as I go by. I even glared at him today and he stared at me as though uncomprehending. You know what? I have other things to occupy me. Still, it is an affront and I'll deal with it once I have a free moment.

Tevet 15

You know, this bride business is not as tiresome as I thought. It is a bit like a pageant watching all these gathered beauties primping and prepping to be displayed before the king. It is an incredible opportunity for any girl. There is one odd exception, a very pretty one named Esther (such a good, solid Persian name) seems to reject any suggestion to enhance her looks. Maybe she thinks natural is better but it almost feels like she doesn't want to be here. Go figure. I finally confronted the gatekeeper as I left the palace who told me his religion forbids him bowing to any man. Turns out he's a Jew! You'd think that would make him even lower in position and more likely to bow. I don't pretend to understand his faith but I do know that no invisible "God" has status greater than the number two man in Persia. I cannot believe how this insignificant insect has managed to get me so angry.

Tevet 17

Well cut off my hat's corners and call it a yarmulke I am amazed! Every gorgeous girl tarted up and KA chooses miss natural. Queen Esther. Who'd a thunk it? I just hope she does as he's told or she'll be out on her unadorned heinie.



Simon Rakoff is a Canadian comedian. He has appeared on numerous Canadian television shows and festivals, including the Winnipeg Comedy Festival and Just for Laughs. He is also a frequent guest on CBC Radio on *The Debaters* and *As It Happens*. Simon and his family are members of Habonim. He "performed" this original piece above at the recent Purim celebration. Enjoy!



Tevet 20

Worst morning ever! Summoned by KA. Seems he couldn't sleep last night and asked the scribe to read from the palace records. Heard a story of a foiled assassination plot and never rewarded the hero who revealed it and saved his life. Of course, I only find out this whole story too late. All I was asked was how to reward a man to whom the king owes his life. Naturally, after my years of practically running the kingdom for him, I assumed the king meant me to receive a reward. I suggested a tribute befitting a man of my stature. Then, after I present my idea, I find out it's for somebody else. Grrrrrrr! Now I have to find a white horse and musicians to lead this guy around town and shout his accomplishments through the public streets. Why do I have to lead him? Because I suggested it be someone highly placed. I really need to ask more questions before I make suggestions from now on.

Tevet 22

That's it! Now I am going to do something. Just spent the day on the king's gratitude errand. Who was the hero? Mordecai! Remember the Jewish gatekeeper? I almost swallowed my tongue when I saw him on that horse. Need a nap before I figure out an appropriate response.

Tevet 23

Done and done! Nobody is going to mess with me after this. Without mentioning anybody by name, I was able to convince the king to let me kill all the Jews in Shushan. He barely questioned my plan. I'll make sure to hang Mordecai publicly as a warning to anyone who might think of disrespecting me. I even made a game of it by letting the king choose the date for the mass executions. Finally! It feels like that itch is being scratched. Everything is coming up Haman.

Tevet 24

Life is so unfair! The perfect storm has crashed into my happy little ship of success. Turns out, the new queen is Mordecai's niece. That's right, she changed her name so we wouldn't know. Her uncle found out about my plan and convinced her to beg the king to call it off. She then went to the king. She wasn't summoned. She didn't make an appointment. She just went and found the king. Was he angry at her for disturbing her? Was she expelled from the palace for going to him unbidden? No! He listened to her make her case and told me the Jewish extermination is off. Unbelievable. I'd already arranged everything. I even picked the perfect tree to hang Mordecai from but now it's all... some guards are at the door. I'll fill it in later.

Tevet 25

Sigh. I'm in jail. Turns out you can go from the top to death row in a moment. Just waiting for the drawn date and I'll be hanging on the tree I selected for him. I'll be dead in Adar. I hate irony. Wait and see. The Jews will probably turn this into an annual holiday. Well, they can eat my hat.

A beautiful Queen Esther and a handsome "Shusan" fireman (and their mother) enjoying "bake-it-yourself" hamantashen at the Habonim Purim celebration.





Then I Took my Kippa off *By Avrum Rosensweig*

When I was a kid growing up in Kitchener I would run away from boys who were trying to beat me up because I was a Jew. I didn't stand my ground. I can remember to this day running through Shepherd Public School yard, as a little fellow, chased by a raving brute of perhaps ten years old, who was hurling anti-Semitic curses at me. I was terrified.

Like most people I know in Canada, violence always scared me and it still does. I always hoped I'd never get hit, and I prayed even more that I'd never have to hit someone else. When I studied the story of Ya'akov in the Torah, it resonated with me because indeed he expressed that sentiment. He was scared of hurting his brother Esau who was coming to visit, and he was fearful of being hurt by him.

I learned early on about anti-Semitism and it too scared the light out of me. One day I was walking home with a friend - Helmut. We were about eight years old and he turned to me, after we had purchased hamsters together, and he said, "Hitler should have finished the job." I was heartbroken. He was a good guy. The next day he apologized. I don't know where he heard such a thing but it must have been his parents who told him to say sorry. Where had he learned that?

My fears always seemed to catch up with me. When kindergarten was over I came home and told my father I'd no longer wear my kippa to school. He said that was fine. He was a Rabbi.

A year or two later I stopped wearing my kippa every time I left my house. I was never certain if my parents knew that or not. They never said anything.

I was scared of violence and still am.

Once I let a student knock me down in the yard of Courtland Avenue Senior Public School because I didn't want to embarrass him or hurt him. The memory is vivid. I can see his friends hovering over me and laughing. I knew I could have beaten that boy but the idea that I might cause him grief was too much to bear. While I'm thankful for that level of empathy, I am not certain it has served me well. I regret not fighting back.

I've been scared most of my life and it is for this reason I am often slow to involve myself in advocacy on behalf of the Jewish people and Israel, even though I know I have to and I should and eventually do.

In some ways my heart attacks gave me respite from such a responsibility.

Prior to my last heart attack in August 2014, I was heavily involved in Tweeting and Facebooking fundamentalist Muslims countering their lies and exaggerations during the war on Gaza. It was demanding. I'd wake up at 3 a.m., grab my i-phone and begin tweeting. I was maligned, called names and threatened. I was scared. But I did it. But once my heart gave out, I stopped. I needed to rest. I didn't have the gumption to get back into the ring.

I know now, six months later, that I'll have to put on the gloves again soon -- particularly because I have seen the level of jagged anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment at rallies.

How can I stand by knowing that hundreds of people yelled despicable things at our people, beat up some, and carried placards stating, "Jewish children back to the ovens"? I can't. I'll have to get out there and be prepared to hit and to be hit.



I'm scarred by violence and anti-Semitism. I don't want to be knocked down and trampled and I don't want to push a person into the dirt. We are not built like that here in Toronto, in Canada. However, the sad reality is things are changing and with that, we must as well.

I often wonder about the children in pre-Holocaust Europe who were maligned and beaten by Hitler Youth and others. How did they stand up to it? How did their parents let them out of their sight? How did they fight back against so much anger and violence, filled with their own fear and wishing so mightily it would go away?

avrum.rosensweig@veahavta.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INTEREST TO HABONIM MEMBERS*

Mazel Tov to Habonim member and President of the Board, Ted Rechtshaffen on being named one of the Top 50 Financial Advisors in Canada for 2015 by Wealth Professional magazine. Ted is also the President & CEO of TriDelta Financial. He writes a regular article in the Financial Post.

You can read current and past articles by going to the company's website: www.tridelta.ca

* We invite members of Habonim to submit ANNOUNCEMENTS that they would like to appear in the Bulletin. Please send submissions to our Bulletin Editor, Paula Schipper: pfschipper@gmail.com Note: The editor has the right to edit and/or not publish items, at her discretion.

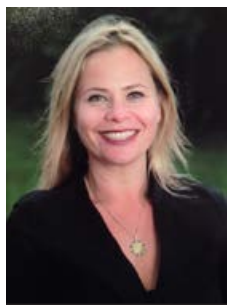
JEWISH HERITAGE SCHOOL AT HABONIM (Continued Pg 12 & 13) ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Weekday Hebrew School - The Jewish Heritage School will be opening a weekday Hebrew school for the 2015/2016 academic year. The program will be held on Thursday evenings from 4:30 - 6:00 PM. The program will be slightly different from the Sunday morning program, and will focus primarily on Judaic Studies and Hebrew Language. This program is open to SK - Grade 6. Cost for the weekday program will be \$650 for members of Congregation Habonim and \$750 for non-members. Students in the weekday program will be included in all school celebrations. For more information or to register, please contact Cathy Rechtshaffen, Volunteer Director of School Operations at habonimschool@gmail.com.

Ongoing enrollment for 2015/2016 academic year. There are still a limited number of places available in our Sunday morning program for the 2015/2016 year, with more room in the SK/Grade 1 class. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Rechtshaffen, Volunteer Director of School Operations at habonimschool@gmail.com as soon as possible.



JEWISH HERITAGE SCHOOL AT HABONIM



Yodfat Snir Mandil
Principal

From the Principal's desk

What an amazing first term! We've learned about Shabbat -- researching the laws and the customs of this holy day -- through art and music, stories and baking. While grades 3-5 focused on learning early Jewish history, learning about the first and second temple, and researching the reasons that led to the first Diaspora, grades 1-2 learned Bible stories, building the tower of Babel from Lego, making a dream-catcher when learning about Jacob's dreams and learning about relationships between brothers when reading stories about Able and Cain or Josef and his brothers.

Learning the Bible stories in a creative way enables the students to form personal connections between the Torah and their everyday life. The students in school were taught Parashat Hashavuah (the parsha of the week) during drama classes with Suzanne. They explored selected verses and learned key messages from each Parasha. In music classes with Josh, they've learned Shabbat blessings and songs and holiday blessing and songs. Further to our Hebrew lessons we've added a taste of Yiddish and learned about this beautiful language, adding some new vocabulary to our weekly conversations like Mentch and kvetch, shluff and nosh

Holiday activities are always a fun learning experience in our school! The kitchen was very busy before the holidays as we've learned how to make honey cakes for Rosh Hashanah, Chalot for Shabbat, Latkes for Chanukah and Hamen-tachen for Purim. Our Holiday parties (such as "pizza in the hut" for Sukkoth, Chanukah party, Purim party, etc) are family-oriented activities that are always well attended. Everyone loves the integrated fun activities which are always meaningful and educational. Our next couple of big events are the Purim pre-party on March 1st and our annual Model Seder that will take place on March 29th. Community members are ALWAYS welcome to attend our events and party. Please RSVP your participation at habonimschool@gmail.com.

The Jewish Heritage School strives to create a rich and vibrant learning environment in which we can nourish our children's growth towards their Jewish identities, to instil in our students an understanding of what it means to be a member of the Jewish community and to promote a sense of pride in their Jewish heritage. We believe the best way to convey the joy and beauty of being Jewish is to provide new and creative ways for children to explore Judaism at each stage of their development. This is the agenda that I and the devoted staff of the school are following and we are very proud of our students, their achievements and their growing connection to their roots and heritage.

On a final note, our amazing school is a success story: we doubled our numbers more than twice in the last four years. We are already fully booked for next year and our house is full with happy children and satisfied parents who say they wish they had a Sunday school like ours when they were kids. (At the moment, we are receiving a very modest amount of funding from UJA, though we are hopeful that will increase in the future.) Thus, I would like to approach you -- our dear community members -- to consider us as a recipient of your next donation. All donations are a worthy investment in the Jewish education of our next generation.



Why I like Hebrew School

By Maya Lewis

At first, I didn't even want to go to Hebrew school. On my first day of school I realized Hebrew school was really fun. First, we learned a New Hebrew letter then had snack. After snack we did art. In art we draw pictures on the holiday or event we learn about. Later my class did music. In music we have a really fun teacher who makes his own lyrics to pop songs about the Jewish holidays. Now I have been at Hebrew school long enough to make a life-long friend. I really like Hebrew school.

Why I Like Being Jewish

By Brady Hoffman

I like being Jewish because I think that being Jewish is fun and it also gives kids the chance to learn about the Jewish religion. Another reason I like being Jewish is that there are so many traditions in the Jewish culture that I love to celebrate, for example: Passover, Chanukah, Purim, and Rosh Hashana. All of these traditions only Jews celebrate; I think the Christians are missing out on some really good fun. A lot of kids like Chanukah and Christmas only because of the presents, I'm not saying I don't like presents but I am saying that learning about the Jewish religion can help you learn a lot about being a Jew and how it works. Trust me it's going to help you get farther in life. Some kids say being

Christina is better but I love being a Jew.

Thank you for your time and this is why I like being Jewish.



Learning about Shabbat at Habonim school



The Baking is always fun at Habonim School Celebrating Succot at Habonim School

Celebrating Chanuka at Habonim school



Donations

(We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please notify us at: email office@congregationhabonim.org or phone 416-782-7125)

In support of the Jewish Heritage School at Habonim

- ❖ Thanks to all who donated to our school while attending “The King Who Said No to Hitler” evening with “Prince” Hermann Friedrich Leiningen.

- ❖ Michael Bernstein & Jinous Hamidi

Memorial Plaques & a Leaf on the Tree of Life

- ❖ In Memory of his mother, Irene Fink – Peter Fink (& Shelley Fink & Family)

- ❖ In Memory of their parents, Aaron and Madzia Erlichman And John and Lyla Sears - Abby Sears & Stephen Erlichman

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Continued On Next Page

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- ❖ Steve Iscoe & Jan Walter and Neill Iscoe & Andrea Freedman

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- ❖ Gloria & Norton Medline

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Supporting Religious Leader's Discretionary Fund re: guest speaker - Hadassah Goldberg & Jay Wortsman
- ❖ Supporting Religious Leader's Discretionary Fund re: guest speaker - Paula Schipper & Joel Finkelstein
- ❖ Supporting Religious Leader's Discretionary Fund - Paul Borins & Ronnie Beckoff-Borins
- ❖ In honour of Eli Rubenstein - Felicia Cukier

In Memoriam:

Mourning those who passed away in the last year:

Lillian Harris	Gil-ad Shaar	Leah Lily Goodman	Max Gluskin
Rozanne Isen	Eyal Yifrah	Hans Schafer	Grace Hillman
Ernestine Justitz	David Azrieli	Hella Friedmann	Elaine Posluns
Beatrice Kuretzky	Ann Silver	Maureen DeFreitas	Jack Stein
Catherine Feuer	Harold Martin	Harry (Hush) Sherman	James Ruderman
Lauren Bottner	Faye Zionce	Harry Waisglass	Sam Iscoe
Naftali Fraenkel	Irene Fink	Rhona Goldstone	Mike Wolfish



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Yahrzeits

The complete *yahrzeit* list for all loved ones from Congregation Habonim who passed away since the Congregation was founded may now be found online at: www.congregationhabonim.org

Please click on the CALENDAR tab.

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Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN.

Contact: Paula Schipper, Editor - pfschipper@gmail.com

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Email: office@congregationhabonim.org

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