

VOL.49

APRIL 2005 - ADAR II, NISAN 5765

NO.7

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday, March 25	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service and Oneg Shabbat
Sunday, April 3	10:00am	Breakfast Club: Prof. Ed Morgan Anti-Semitism in Canada
Saturday, April 9	10:00am	Bat and Bar Mitzvah of Molly and Harry, children of Karen Weinstein and Jason Hanson
Saturday, April 16	10:00am	Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy, son of Jayne and Stuart Schipper
Saturday, April 16	p.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Molly Goodis, daughter of Susan Sheffman and Lyle Goodis
Sunday, April 24	6:30pm	Habonim's Communal Seder
Friday, April 29	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service And Oneg Shabbat

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have tentatively set the date for the next General Meeting: Sunday, May 29, 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

We need a returning officer to conduct the elections. Also, anyone who is interested in helping to lead the community of Habonim by serving on the Board of Directors should contact me.

Needless to say this is an opportunity for each and every one of us to demonstrate to our children that the best part of our lives is in giving of our time.

There are various committees that require chairpersons. One such committee that needs a chairperson is THE BURIAL COMMITTEE.

It is unfair to ask the small number of volunteers to continue giving of their time year after year. Please, please help.

Roger

BREAKFAST CLUB

For our next meeting on April 3 I have been able to get Professor Ed Morgan, from the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto.

Prof. Morgan's topic: *Anti-Semitism in Canada* is a subject that touches us all. He will examine its legal implications, its presence at Canadian universities and other institutions. He will also offer educated suggestions on how to counteract it.

I have been consistently getting guest speakers of high quality to come to our Breakfast Club meetings. They are people who normally get much higher remuneration than I can offer, but I manage to persuade them to come to us, therefore it saddens and frustrates me that so few of our members, except for the small number of our regular guests, take part in these fine events. I don't know what else I can do to get a wider attendance.

Read the Bulletin, check the website, come to our breakfast meetings. They only happen once a month.

Steve Erdos

HABONIM & VE'HAVTA'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER

"All Who Are Hungry Let Them Enter and Eat" The Passover Hagadah.

If you do not have plans for the second night of Passover, please join us for a very special Seder.

For those of you haven't been to a Habonim Seder before, it's a really festive and celebratory event!

The Seder is filled with singing and storytelling/ discussion around the theme of physical and/or spiritual freedom - and of course enjoying the traditional Passover delicacies. So arrive hungry, in good singing voice, and with some personal thoughts on the meaning of freedom to you!

As we celebrate our holidays, our tradition asks that we include those less fortunate than ourselves. The Passover Seder at Habonim will also include members of Toronto's homeless population.

The Seder will be led by Avrum Rosensweig and Eli Rubenstein, and is held in in co-operation with Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee.

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2005 (2nd night of Passover)
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Congregation Habonim, 5 Glen Park Avenue
Cost to Members: \$25.00 per person.

To reserve your space, please call 416-782-7125, and leave a message for Elizabeth.

"OPERATION LAST CHANCE"

On February 17th, Congregation Habonim was privileged to host Dr. Efraim Zuroff, Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in Jerusalem, and Coordinator of its Nazi War Crimes Research arm.

A world renowned speaker and advocate for justice for the victims of the Shoah, Dr. Zuroff spellbound his audience as he detailed his extraordinary efforts to expose and prosecute Nazi war criminals.

"We have an obligation to the victims," Dr. Zuroff noted. "Every victim was someone's mother or father, brother or sister, aunt or uncle."

Some people maintain, Dr. Zuroff noted, that these crimes happened a long time ago, and that the perpetrators

are elderly and frail, and deserve our sympathy not judicial scrutiny.

To this Dr. Zuroff has a simple and morally clear response: "Someone who committed mass murder and eluded justice for half a century does not suddenly become a 'righteous gentile'. The passage of time in no way diminishes the culpability of the perpetrators."

As for sympathy, Zuroff noted, "That's what I call the misplaced sympathy syndrome. Who deserves our sympathy? These killers who had no sympathy for their victims?"

Dr. Zuroff spoke at length about Operation Last Chance, a program he launched recently which has resulted in new investigations of hundreds of suspected Nazi war criminals from Eastern Europe.

Dr. Zuroff outlined a number of important reasons for his mission to prosecute Nazi war criminals including: justice for the victims, educating the public about the evils of the Holocaust and the dangers of anti-Semitism, ensuring historical accuracy concerning the Shoah, and the message it sends to all past and potential genocide perpetrators about their fate.

"If we choose to ignore Nazi war criminals, we are sending a message to the killers of the Jewish people, and to all mass murderers, saying, You can get away with it!"

Dr. Zuroff concluded his lecture by saying that those who survived the Shoah, and those born after the Shoah, need to be able to make one important statement to the victims of the Holocaust:

"We did not forget you."

Dr. Zuroff, through his exemplary work, is making sure that we will never forget our six million murdered ancestors.

Other Aspects of Evening

In addition to the lecture by Dr. Zuroff, there were a number of other interesting aspects to the evening including moving remarks by Ben Barth, a past participant in the March of the Living, the always enchanting singing of Elisa Goldman, and the appearance of singer Tera Tova and pianist John Alcorn, who beautifully performed "Remember", a song about the Holocaust, written by Lisa Catherine Cohen.

One of the most touching moments took place when Lawrence Morton thanked Dr. Zuroff following his lecture. Lawrence, whose father Albert Morton is a member of Habonim and generously helped sponsor the lecture, spoke movingly about the overwhelming impact of the Holocaust on his family. An excerpt of his remarks appears below:

Lawrence Morton's Thank You to Dr. Zuroff (excerpt):

"As the son of Holocaust survivors, I have perhaps a better understanding and appreciation of the work you and the centre do than some people. For some, the non-deniers, that is, the Holocaust was a horrific unimaginable event that happened long ago, in another time, another place. But for people like my father, who sponsored tonight's talk, the Holocaust never ended. Losing your little sister — not to mention other members of your family and your friends — at an age when you're still so young and innocent that you can't even pronounce the word anti-Semitism, let alone know what it means, is something you never forget.

My father lives the Holocaust every day. And in some ways, I suppose I do, too. I can't see it, I can't hear it, I can't touch it, and I can't taste it, and yet it's there, as much as a part of my life as my brown eyes or slightly graying hair.

That said, the Holocaust is subject that my father and I rarely talk about. We can't. We did at one point, we must have since I have a vague understanding of what happened to him, how in the course of a few weeks his whole life was irrevocably turned upside down, shattered. But we don't talk about it anymore. Or rather we don't talk about it in quite the same way.

The dialogue broke off years ago. And the reason is simple. It was just too painful. Too painful for him to remember, too painful for me not to forget.

My mother, who came to Canada after the war as an orphan, died of cancer last May. And like a lot of Holocaust survivors, my dad is now reaching the twilight years of his life. When he goes, his story will go with him.

Dr. Zuroff, I want to thank you for helping to keep his story alive. But I also want to thank you for keeping alive the story of all of the people who are not here today. People like my father's beloved sister, Erica, and the millions of other innocent victims whose voices, through no fault of their own, were silenced long before their prime and never had a chance to share their stories with us."

Pictures from the event may viewed on line:

http://homepage.mac.com/uiaeli/HABONIM_EVENTS/PhotoAlbum226.html

DONATIONS

Greetings:

Best wishes to Ernie Hurst on your special birthday - Eve and Bob Baxter

In Memoriam:

In memory of Helene Joy Grossman - With love from Marie, Neil, Jonathan, Emily and Sara Finkelstein

In loving memory of John Patton - Tina Patton

In loving memory of Julius Jekel - Toby Levy

Remembering with love my dear husband, Charles Mint - Phyllis Mint

In loving memory of my dear parents, Sophie and Bernard Sion - Rhoda Sion

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Steve and Erika Erdos to celebrate their wedding anniversary

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QUESTIONS OR NOTICES RE JAHRZEITEN? Call
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INFORMATION ON BREAKFAST MEETINGS? Call
Steve Erdos 416-787 0527

JAHRZEITEN

To be read at the service on April 29, 2005

Samuel Shatz	Nisan	22	May 1
Morris Lams	Nisan	23	May 2
Fritz Heichelheim	Nisan	24	May 3
Earl Greenberg	Nisan	28	May 7
Elizabeth Klein	Iyar	1	May 10
Jack Van Der Hout	Iyar	1	May 10
Alfred Laufer	Iyar	1	May 10
Freda Ain	Iyar	1	May 10
Daniel Buium	Iyar	3	May 12

Willy Lobel	Iyar	5	May 14
Gangolf Herman	Iyar	7	May 16
Andrew Leufer	Iyar	9	May 18
Dennis Grant	Iyar	9	May 18
Richard Spitz	Iyar	11	May 20
Steve Jussem	Iyar	12	May 21
Erica Reider	Iyar	12	May 21
Selma Kohn	Iyar	13	May 22
Max Gottlieb	Iyar	14	May 23
Judy Morton	Iyar	16	May 25
Jacob Goldman	Iyar	17	May 26
Irma Lobel	Iyar	17	May 26
Henry Ritter	Iyar	18	May 27
Nathan Saslove	Iyar	18	May 27
Samuel Ostrow	Iyar	18	May 27

In Mourning: Charles Mint, Esther Storm, Ilsa Haim,
Jacob Hirsh, Louis Fischhoff

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN?
Call Erika Erdos at 416-787-0527, fax 416-787-9640
e-mail eri.steve@rogers.com

Deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin:
Monday, April 4, 2004.

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