

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday March 28	7-7:45pm	Habonim Family Service with Eli, Shabbat stories, songs and discussion	Friday, April 25	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service and Oneg Shabbat
Friday March 28	8:15 pm	Habonim Congressional Service & Oneg Shabbat	Sunday, April 27	10:00am	Passover Yiskor Service
Saturday, March 29	10:00 am	Shabbat Service and Bar Mitzvah of Aki, Son of Ayako & Lorne Erenberg	<p><u>STORYTELLING IN A HAUNTED LAND</u></p> <p>Featuring Three Celebrated Storytellers from Germany:</p> <p>Gidon Horowitz, Martin Ellrodt & Regina Sommer</p> <p><i>Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 8:00 pm</i></p> <p>Congregation Habonim, 5 Glen Park Avenue</p> <p>Three founders of the contemporary German storytelling movement - Gidon Horowitz, Regina Sommer, and Martin Ellrodt - are featured tellers at the 2008 Toronto Festival of Storytelling. In a special evening of storytelling and discussion, these "Grimms' Erben" - modern storytelling heirs of the famous brothers Grimm - share stories from their multicultural repertoires and discuss their experiences as storytellers in modern Germany, dealing with the ghosts of the Nazi era. All three share a passion for the power of storytelling to help their fellow-citizens respond meaningfully to their history, and a belief in the redemptive quality of cross-cultural</p>		
Wednesday, April 2	8:00 pm	Storytelling in a Haunted Land			
Saturday, April 5	p.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Rachel, daughter of Ellen Sokoloff and Ken Gerry			
Sunday, April 20	6:00pm	Passover Seder for Congregation and members of the homeless community			

storytelling. They will be joined by award winning Canadian storyteller, Dan Yashinsky, and by Habonim's Eli Rubenstein. This program is produced by the festival in collaboration with the Goethe Institute, the Koffler Centre of the Arts, the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, the Jewish Public Library and Congregation Habonim.

Telling the Lost Stories is a German-Canadian storytelling exchange featuring three celebrated storytellers from Germany - Gidon Horowitz, Martin Ellrodt & Regina Sommer. These three founders of the contemporary German storytelling movement will share stories from their multicultural repertoires, and discuss their experiences as storytellers in modern Germany, using stories to build new cultural awareness, spark wisdom and help their fellow-citizens to ask difficult questions about German history.

They will be hosted by Toronto storyteller Dan Yashinsky and by Eli Rubenstein.

PASSOVER SEDER

Please join for a special Passover Seder on Sunday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m sponsored by Congregation Habonim and Ve'ahvata, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian Relief Organization. The Seder is for Habonim members, for those in the Jewish community who have no place to go for the Seder, for those looking for an interesting Seder experience, and, of course, for members of Toronto's homeless community.

To reserve a place, please call Elizabeth at 416-782-7125.

It is \$30 per person, but of course you are welcome to donate more. To volunteer with Ve'ahavta, please call Katie Stemeroff at: 416-964-7698 ext. 20.

DONATION OF NEW HABONIM STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

*Speech given by Vera Rose-Bernstein
Sunday, January 27th, 2008*

I talk today on behalf of my brother Fred who, because of a stroke affecting his speech, is unable to express himself.

Fred Rose, my brother, spent a great deal of time chronicling the background history of not only our family but that also of the Jews of Germany during and following the period of the Holocaust.

He had the fervent wish to have a memorial created in memory of our parents, Esther and Abraham Rose, who with some 6 millions other Jews were victims of the Holocaust.

Fred has always admired the beautiful stained glass window on the north wall of this sanctuary and felt that a new window on the opposite side creating a balance and depicting Jewish symbols in a contemporary fashion would be a fitting memorial.

May Marx, his long time friend, and also her family, who are here today, have been supporters of the idea and have been of great help.

Mr. Morton Katz, Architect, was part of the committee who chose Mr. Jerry Tooke, a renowned stained glass artist, who has designed the windows on the opposite side, to create the Esther and Abraham Rose Memorial Windows.

Today we have a small gathering to celebrate the installment of Fred's gift to this Congregation, and on behalf of Fred and our family, I thank all of you who have been of help in achieving its completion.

I would like to say a few words about the lives of Esther and Abraham Rose.

Abraham Rose, our father, married Esther Farber in Leipzig, Germany in 1914. He had found his first job at age 17 at the local branch of the Mercedes Shoe Company and in 8 years had worked his way up to become its manager. Newly married

and enterprising of spirit, he decided to open his own business and did so in the small town of Borna, 30 km south of Leipzig, where he opened his own shoe store in the spring of that same year.

A few weeks after the opening date, WWI broke out and he was called up to serve in the German army, which in those days did not discriminate on racial grounds, and in fact included field rabbis to look after the spiritual needs of German soldiers of Jewish faith. Our father was wounded towards the end of the war but recovered, and when the war was over he returned to Borna, where Esther subsequently bore him 2 daughters, Herta and Alice, over a period of 6 years.

He opened the store which he renamed Kaufhaus Britannia, and he added men's and boys wear. The immediate post years were very hard as Germany struggled to get economically on its feet as the so-called Weimar Republic. Eventually the small store allowed our father to move his family – which meanwhile had increased by a son Fred and two further daughters, Gene and Vera – to Leipzig so that his now 5 children would have a chance to get a better education, and he commuted daily from there to his business in Borna.

With his larger home and his children in good schools, the prospects for a normal, happy family life looked good. Then in, 1933, Adolph Hitler was voted chancellor, and his National Socialist or Nazi Party, took power, and declared white Aryan supremacy and racial discrimination into law. Jews were first considered second-class citizens, and then were persecuted with increasing severity in all sectors of their existence.

Jewish businesses were slowly destroyed by government ordered boycott and later by defacement of store windows, vandalism and harassment of the owners and operators. With a family of 7 to feed, clothe and educate Abraham Rose's existence was being strangled, as were other Jewish businesses in Hitler's Germany. With no relatives abroad the prospects of emigration for a large family were bleak.

Then in November 1938, in the action to

become known as Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass), his store was torched by Nazi storm troopers and totally burnt out. Abraham and his son were arrested and taken to separate concentration camps, Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen, where at that time the later camp commandant of Auschwitz was second in command.

Father and son had to sign that they had set fire to the store themselves, so that the complete cost of rebuilding the burnt out store for subsequent forced sale could be confiscated out of the remaining assets of the family. The family home in Leipzig was also forcibly sold, and also at a price well below the real value. What was left over was impounded toward the collective fine the Nazi regime imposed on all the Jews of Germany.

Meanwhile, in the spring of 1939, a non-Jewish group, known as the Quakers in England who had become aware of the plight of the Jews in Germany, collected enough funds to guarantee the immigration of what they considered to be the most urgent cases. They sent an emissary to Germany to negotiate with the Commandants of Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen concentration camps which resulted in the release of 14 of the youngest inmates, which included the then 17 year old son Fred Rose, who was thus able to escape to England. His 4 sisters were subsequently able to leave Germany in the summer of 1939.

Unfortunately the outbreak of WWII on September 3rd, 1939, prevented the rescue of their parents Abraham and Esther Rose who by then were forced to live in the cramped quarters of a so-called Judenhaus (Jews House), reserved in various inconvenient locations for second class citizens, with reduced food ration and increasing deprivations, culminating in their deportation in September 1942, to Ghetto Theresienstadt in the then occupied Czechoslovakia, a German Protectorate.

Esther Rose died there in February 1943 of hunger typhus. Three months later Abraham Rose was deported from Theresienstadt to the extermination camp of Auschwitz with a trainload of older Jews no longer fit for forced labor and he was

killed in the gas chamber on arrival.

Our parents, Abraham and Esther Rose, gave us the strength, both mental and physical, to withstand the difficult times we grew up with, in Leipzig, Germany.

My sisters, Frederick and I, are still in regular communication with each other, Herta in Bergen, Norway, Alisa and Gene in Jerusalem, and Frederick and I here in Toronto. They or other members of their families hope to come see this memorial glass window on a future occasion.

This beautiful stained glass window in the south wall of the sanctuary commemorates the lives of our parents, Abraham and Esther Rose.

CIRCUMCISION & KASSAM MISSILES

By Avrum Rosensweig

The following is a short, and very touching version of a letter Habonim member, Erika Erdos, received from Ralph Lewinsohn, on Kibbutz Kfar Azza (January 2008). It highlights the tribulations Israelis go through living in the Western Negev and other such places where missiles launched from Gaza, fall.

In the early morning news, we hear the almost daily announcement "5 Kassam missiles landed in the Western Negev, no injuries, no damage". Everything seems to go on as normal. Does it really? When the loudspeakers announce the warning code preceding an incoming missile, "Tzeva Adom, Tzeva Adom" (Red Color, Red Color), everybody knows that they have a maximum of 20 seconds to find some sort of cover to lessen the chance of being killed by a Kassam missile. In the streets of the kibbutz, there is a frantic scrambling to get into a fortified bus shelter or a temporary shelter built out of pre-cast concrete slabs, or even to an entrance hall of a building affording some minimal protection. Then there is the ear shattering explosion, the smoke, and the fear that

somebody has been hit. Everybody tries to resume their routine until the next time, which could be in 5 minutes or ten hours, nobody knows.

What is the normal routine? When I leave my house { which has no bomb proof room, as do most new Israeli houses }, the first thing I do is change my favorite clogs for good shoes so that I can run for shelter if the alarm sounds. It is difficult to run in clogs. When I drive to our local supermarket in Sderot, I always leave the window partly open and the radio on low volume , so that I can hear the alarm if it is sounds, which does not always happen. When I do hear the alarm, I stop the vehicle, wait for the missile to land, and then drive on. The logic is, better be in a stationary vehicle than in a moving vehicle, if a missile lands nearby, less chance of the shrapnel and blast causing you to crash the car as well. How do I choose which supermarket to do the shopping? Not the price, not the selection, but in which building it is situated. I choose the one, where the parking is underground, with a solid concrete floor above the parking lot, and several floors built above the supermarket itself, less chance of being hit by a missile.

Going home I hear an orchestra of sounds. Any local kid is already an expert, while a Tel Aviv kid would not know what they are talking about.

First, they can tell the difference between the bang of a Kassam and a mortar, the difference between an explosion near the security fence and outgoing tank fire, the difference between a drone and a helicopter, recognize the sound of light arms fire or heavy machine gun fire, the launch of airborne missiles and even distinguish when the gas cannons fire, to scare off the birds that cause damage to the young carrot crop.

What about being surprised with a missile warning when in the dentist chair, in the shower, in the toilet? Just hold your breath and wait for the bang.

Maybe an example of trying to cope with the reality was the recent invitation to a Brit Mila celebration on my kibbutz. Among the normal info given on the invitation, was the promise that the

party would be held in a club room, underground, sheltered from rockets, hopefully to encourage guests from Tel Aviv to take the plunge and come.

There is a local story about a Bren carrier, which is an armored personal carrier, used by the British for desert warfare in the Second World War having been sold to the Egyptians after the war, and then the Egyptians using it to invade Israel in 1948. It was captured by Israel, and ended up in the local kindergarten as a place where the kids played. About 15 years ago, it was towed to the edge of the kibbutz, to the viewpoint overlooking Gaza. The Bren carrier was filled with sand and turned into a huge pot plant with an olive tree growing in it. Why?

Isaiah 2:4 "They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."

The tree has grown and thrived over these years, but the peace which it symbolizes, has not. Maybe, we can still see hope in this olive tree, by the fact that it is still alive and growing!!!

God bless Israel and our brave Israeli family.

Erika's note: Ralph Lewinsohn was our guide while touring Israel recently. He befriended us and took us to Kfar Azza to his home, in a lovely kibutz. The olive tree in the Bren carrier has grown to full size.

DONATIONS

In Memoriam:

In loving memory of Meta Baumann - Ruth Linz

Deepest sympathy to the Morton family on their recent loss - The Rakoff family

PERSONALIA

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Paul Kuttner and family on the loss of his father Sydney Kuttner.

Our condolences go out to Shawn Nissenboim and family on the loss of his wife Naomi Wilson.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Earl Bales Community Day Camp is a fun-filled, Full-Day Camp for 4 to 10 year olds. The camp is a non-profit co-operative between volunteer parent committee and Toronto Department of Parks, Forestry & Recreation and runs out of the beautiful Earl Bales Park at Bathurst & Sheppard.

The Camp program includes arts and crafts, music and drama, cookouts, swimming, group games, nature hikes, gymnastics, sports, science and technology, theme days, water play, parents' night performances (always fun) and special events. Visit www.earlbalesdaycamp.ca for session dates, fees or download a registration form.

OUR WEBSITE:

www.congregationhabonim.org

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

office@congregationhabonim.org

To **SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT** call Sandra Levy at (416) 665-5595

To **SEND GREETING CARDS and DONATIONS**

call Rhoda Sion at (416) 782-9663 or write to 716 - 660 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto M5N 1C3

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or e-mail to: dijer@sympatico.ca

TO BUY A LEAF FOR EITZ CHAIM for any
occasion call Miriam Ostrow at (416) 661-0949
Leaf \$175

QUESTIONS OR NOTICES RE JAHRZEITEN?
Call Linda Brager at (416) 488-0282

JAHRZEITEN

To be read at the services in April, 2008

Meyer Shapiro	Adar* 25	April 1
John Patton	Adar* 26	April 3
Erika Litvack	Adar* 29	April 5
Stephen Kohn	Nisan 2	April 7
Leon Kofman	Nisan 3	April 8
Moe Koffman	Nisan 4	April 9
Renee Goodis	Nisan 6	April 11
Louis Libman	Nisan 7	April 12
Hettie Goldberg	Nisan 8	April 13
Oskar Hastofsky	Nisan 8	April 13
H. Bob Medline	Nisan 9	April 14
Dr. Joseph Spitzer	Nisan 11	April 16

Julius Jekel	Nisan 11	April 16
Maurice Goodman	Nisan 12	April 17
Michael Herstatt	Nisan 12	April 17
Maria Paula Clavir	Nisan 13	April 18
Morris Buium	Nisan 14	April 19
Nathan Ostrow	Nisan 14	April 19
Elvira Weiss	Nisan 14	April 19
Olga Spitzer	Nisan 15	April 20
Fillip, Lucia, and Tommy Gottlieb	Nisan 15	April 20
Joan Blidner	Nisan 16	April 21
Helene Joy Grossman	Nisan 17	April 22
Hyman Ormsby	Nisan 17	April 22
Jerry Zweig Leon & Marie	Nisan 17	April 22
Urstein	Nisan 17	April 22
Evelyn Wilchesky	Nisan 18	April 23
Sarah Bell	Nisan 18	April 23
Annie Hastofsky	Nisan 18	April 23
Leonard Vyner	Nisan 19	April 24
Samuel Shatz	Nisan 22	April 27
Morris Lams	Nisan 23	April 28
Fritz Heichelheim	Nisan 24	April 29

In mourning:

Jack Jacobson, Miriam Burrows, Darran Soskin,
Otto Fleisher, Rachel Stern, Richard Morton, Percy
Weinstein, Sydney Kuttner, Naomi Wilson

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN?
call Erika Erdos at 416-787-0527
e-mail eerdos@sympatico.ca

Deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin:
Wednesday, April 9, 2008

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