



CONGREGATION HABONIM OF TORONTO
BULLETIN

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

Vol. 64 | No. 3 | June 2017 / Sivan 5777

Schedule of Services and Events

Sat June 10	10 am	Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Weinerman, son of Asher & Amanda Weinerman
Tues June 13	7:30 pm	Annual General Meeting
Fri June 16	6:30 pm	Potluck Kabbalat Shabbat with participants of March of the Living To register, click here: https://goo.gl/nOpaAF
Sat June 17	10:00 am	Bar Mitzvah of Louie Bryant, son of Susan Abramovitch & Michael Bryant
Sat June 24	10:00 am	B'not Mitzvah of Abby & Sarah Ginsburg, daughters of Liane & Neale Ginsburg
Sat June 24	4:30 pm	Bat Mitzvah of Zara Spiegel, daughter of Anne Shin & Neil Spiegel

All congregants are welcome to attend Shabbat morning and afternoon services when there is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov on Recent Simchas

- ❖ Noah Blackstein & Wendy Geller on Samantha's Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Leah Lepofsky & Michael Schipper on Ethan's Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Ruth & Stuart Kruger on Lyle's Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Dawna & Rich Treibicz on Raya's Bat Mitzvah

מזל טוב!



Raya Treibicz
Bat Mitzvah in Israel

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 (AGM)

For Congregation Habonim
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 7:30 pm
5 Glen Park Avenue

With gratitude:

After ten years serving as a director including six years as president, Ted Rechtshaffen will be retiring from the board after the AGM. We thank Ted heartily for the countless hours that he has dedicated to Habonim. Ted's contribution has been invaluable in leading our successful building campaign and planning the construction of the new synagogue. Fortunately for the Congregation, he will stay involved as a member of the Building Committee.

For all their time and efforts, we'd also like to thank David Gotfrid, Shelly Haber, Eynat Katz and Paula Schipper who will be stepping down from the board.

Our future leadership:

Subject to confirmation by the new board of directors in June following the AGM, the Governance Committee is very pleased to announce its nomination of Joanie Smith as Habonim's new president and Lauren Black and Joel Kwinter as vice presidents. We are very grateful for their willingness to serve in these important positions.

Proposed directors for election:

As nominated by the Governance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, the following board candidates will be proposed for election by members at the AGM: Cheryl Grammer, Charissa Levy, Daniel Libman, Melissa Muskat, and Alexis Slatt. The following directors will be proposed for re-election for a two-year term: Rick Glatt, Joel Kwinter, Susan Liebel, and Joanie Smith. If elected, they will be joining Lauren Black, Dianne Erdos-Rush, Sonny Goldstein, Stephen Halperin, and Brett Saitowitz who are midway through their terms as directors.

By-Law changes:

The Board has approved the following by-law amendments to be presented to members at the AGM for confirmation, which will only come into effect (if confirmed) following the AGM:

- ❖ Instead of one vice president, one or more vice presidents may be appointed by the board, and if there are more than one vice president, one of them will be designated by the board to replace the president if he or she is unable to serve.
- ❖ The board may appoint a board member to fill the vacancy of an officer.
- ❖ By resolution, the board may waive the 8-year-term limit of a director each year that the term limit is exceeded.
- ❖ The process will change for members to nominate themselves or other members as directors. At least 14 days before the AGM, a notice calling for nominations will be published. Nominations by members may be made at least three days before the AGM by acquiring the signatures of five other members and notifying the President in writing. The board will approve a slate of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected at that AGM, which could include any nominees proposed by members and any nominees proposed by the Governance Committee. At the AGM, members will vote on the slate of candidates, including any nominees who are not on the board-approved slate. If there are more nominees than available positions, the nominees receiving the most votes for the number of available positions will be elected. (For example, if there are three vacancies, the nominees receiving the three highest number of votes will be elected.)

Do you wish to vote at the annual meeting but cannot attend?

If you cannot make the annual meeting, you can vote by proxy. A proxy form and instructions will be available on our website, or contact Robin in the office at 416-782-7125 office1@congregationhabonim.org.

Dianne Erdos-Rush

Dianne Erdos-Rush

Board Secretary

Habonim Building Update – June 2017 MAJOR PROGRESS ON THE NEW BUILDING

Committee of Adjustment approval and campaign tops \$9 million!

I wanted to share some great news with the Congregation.

Earlier this month, our new building was unanimously approved at the Committee of Adjustment.

This key step initially faced some challenges from neighbours and on parking issues over the past year. It took a long time to work through these items, but with this unanimous approval, we can finally move to the next major steps on building. These include putting together full building plans (until all adjustments were approved it was not cost effective to move forward on building plans), hiring a project manager, getting building plans approved by the City, selecting a construction firm and beginning construction.

The other great news is that just recently one of our members increased their gift to the building Campaign from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 and another member doubled their commitment from \$200,000 to \$400,000!

With these gifts, our fundraising now stands at \$9.1 million – just \$400,000 from reaching our target of \$9.5 million and a debt-free new building. We have been blessed with generosity from a wide range of members, with each gift playing an important part in helping fund our new building. We are now at 96% of the way to our goal, with 75% of our members having made a donation.

If you have not already given your support, or you would like to increase your donation, our target is in reach. Every pledge at every level gets us that much closer. To give online, please visit: <https://www.congregationhabonim.org/payment.php>. With the Congregation's tremendous support, things are moving in the right direction.

As for timing, our current forecast would be to have the new building open by March 2020.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 416-807-6222 or send me a note at tedr@tridelta.ca.

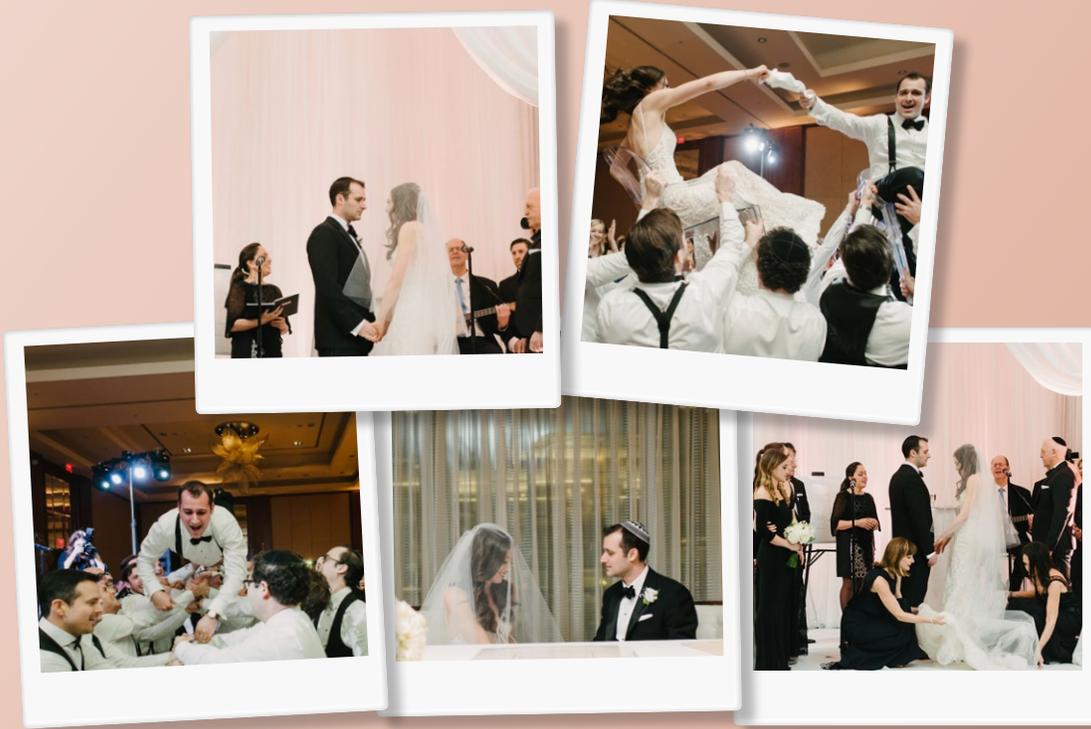
With appreciation,

Ted Rechtshaffen

President, Habonim

Mazel tov to Jonathan and Natasha Finkelstein on their recent wedding.

Jonathan is the son of members Neil and Marie Finkelstein.



Mazel tov to Emily Gluckman, daughter of Liz Goldstein and Gary Gluckman, who celebrated her bat mitzvah in January.



Jewish Heritage School says goodbye to Principal Yodfat Snir Mandil and plans for new school year

by Cathy Rechtschaffen, Volunteer Director of School Operations

I am sad to announce the departure of our Principal Yodfat Snir Mandil. After more than six years at the Jewish Heritage School, Yodfat has decided to step down as principal to spend more time with her family.

Yodfat joined our school in February 2011 and since then has worked tirelessly to make it the school that our children enjoy today. We have grown from 20 students to over 75 students, extending our program from a grade 3 start to an SK start, and even to a weekday class. Yodfat's creativity, enthusiasm, musicality and leadership will be missed. We wish her well and thank her for her hard work.

Please note that we are already in negotiations with a strong replacement and hope to make an announcement prior to the end of this academic year.

Registration for 2017/2018

Registration is open for the 2017/2018 Academic Year! We are currently accepting students to the Jewish Heritage School for Senior Kindergarten through Grade 6. To register, please use this link: <https://goo.gl/UKVyQx>

School fees are \$950 for non-members and \$850 for members. A \$200 non-refundable deposit is required upon registration. Should you have any questions about the school, please contact Cathy Rechtschaffen at habonimschool@gmail.com.

March of the Living



March of the Living 2017 participants from Habonim: Simon Grammer, Jack Tanenbaum, Perry Albert, Alex Gnat, Lauren Gnat, and Cole Tishler. Absent: Theadora Draper and Carly Greene.



Theadora Draper with survivor Anita Ekstein

Theadora Draper with survivor Nate Leipziger

A Spirited Debate between Left and Right

On May 28th, Habonim hosted a spirited debate between J.J. Goldberg and Jonathan Tobin, who offered divergent views from the left and the right on the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. The event was introduced by our incoming president Joanie Smith, moderated by Eli Rubenstein, and included a moving rendition of Jerusalem of Gold sung by Aviva Rajskey.

Please see a few excerpts from the event below.

J.J. Goldberg

We are not that different. They saw awful things about us: mainly, that we don't want peace, we want to drive them out. They misrepresent the intentions of the Jews and of Israel. And we say they don't want peace, they only want to destroy us, they're addicted to terror, and so on and so on. They hear the things that we say and they have the same reaction we have to their words. We don't pay attention to the consequences of the things that we do. The Palestinians have their reasons for wishing Israel didn't exist. They believe that the entire country is theirs. And when they came in Oslo, and accepted 22% as their maximum goal, that is the West Bank and Gaza, they were making a gigantic concession. Israel has made concessions, too. But Israel is under the impression that only it makes concessions.



J.J. Goldberg (left), Eli Rubenstein (centre) and Jonathan Tobin (right)

Jonathan Tobin

Both Americans and Canadians are living in what we increasingly... in what I would call a bifurcated society. What do I mean by that? I mean, we live in a time when people read, watch and listen to two completely different sets of media. Why did social media make it worse? Because we all know... Americans and Canadians are getting most of their news from their Facebook feeds, from social media. And, what do we know about Facebook? We know that you can create your own virtual reality. You can completely insulate yourself from anybody and anything that doesn't confirm your pre-existing prejudices and opinions. What do most people do when they see an opinion that they don't like, an article that offends them, or that they disagree with? They hit delete. What do they do to the person who posted it? They hit de-friend. We live in our cocoons where nobody else is allowed to walk in. We have forgotten how to live and to listen with people who disagree with us.



What have you just done? You have spent the last two hours listening to two people who disagree passionately about a lot of things, but there was no name calling, there was no de-legitimizing, we didn't de-friend each other in the middle of this.

So, what do we need to do? We need to listen to each other... Learn. Think. Read the left, read the right. Force yourself to confront ideas you disagree with. You'll get bigger from it. You'll learn more. And, more importantly, you'll be able to understand your fellow citizens and fellow community members. If you do that, when we get reminded of something that we all know in our hearts, but which we deny with our actions, and accept those things that unite us are still stronger than the things that divide us. That's true for us as Jews, it's true for us as citizens of our nations. When we remember that, we will have done something to repair the damage that has been done.

In Memoriam:

Mourning those who passed away in the last year:

Rosa Cook	Stanley Flomen	Bernice Linder	Clara Szende
Valerie Good	Tamara Ashley Levine	Walter Steuerman	Isaac Zimmerman
Roszi Wittman	Jean London	Beryl Gibson	Hart Levine
Marjorie Rosenfield	Evy Carnat	Eva Sokolowski	Barbara Nash Fenton
Maurice Kaufman	Deena Freeman	David Kettner	
Allan Schaffran	Rose Wolfe	Phyl Shevil	

Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit reminders are now being sent out. To receive your reminder please update your family Yahrzeits by logging onto your account on our website. If you would like any assistance please contact Robin in the office at 416-782-7125 or office1@congregationhabonim.org

Honour the memory of your loved one with memorial plaque or a leaf on our Eitz Chaim Tree

Oval Shaped leaf 4"x 2 1/2" \$180 donation

Brass Plaque 9"x 2" \$360 donation.

Please contact the office for more information.

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN.

Contact: Paula Schipper, pfschipper@gmail.com

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

www.congregationhabonim.org

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

www.jewishheritageschool.org

**To SEND TRIBUTE & CONDOLENCE CARDS
and to MAKE A DONATION:**

Contact the Habonim Office as set out below.

**Are you MOVING, CHANGING your ADDRESS,
PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL?**

Call the Habonim office:

Tel: 416-782-7125 or

Email: office1@congregationhabonim.org

President

Ted Rechtshaffen, 416-322-0749

Habonim Office

Robin Zionce-Garber - General Manager
office: 416-782-7125

Email: office1@congregationhabonim.org

Religious Leader

Eli Rubenstein, 416-398-2615

Email: elir@bell.net

Cantors

Cantor: Aviva Rajskey

Contact: avivar@rogers.com

Associate Cantor: Kim Doron

Contact: kimdoron@rogers.com

Volunteer Director of School Operations

Cathy Rechtshaffen

Contact: habonimschool@gmail.com