



CONGREGATION HABONIM OF TORONTO  
**BULLETIN**

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

*Vol. 64 | No. 4 | September 2017 / Elul 5777*

**THIS IS THE 2017/5778 HIGH HOLIDAY BULLETIN**

Except for High Holidays or otherwise specified, all events will take place at Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave.

Sat. Sept. 16	5:30 pm	Bat Mitzvah of Lily Growe daughter of Adam & Julie Bays
<b>SEE HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ON PAGE 2</b>		
Thurs Oct 5	10:00 am	Sukkot service - Bat Mitzvah of Elle Godfrey daughter of Rob & Melinn Godfrey
Thurs Oct 12	10:00 am	Sukkot/Shmini Atzeret Yizkor service B'nai Mitzvah of Ethan and Noah Karabanow sons of Elana Liberman & Jeffrey Karabanow
Thurs Oct 12	7:00 pm	Simchat Torah service
Sat Oct 14	(offsite)	Bat Mitzvah of Sage Cooper daughter of Robert Cooper & Debbie Zinman
Fri. Oct 20	8:15 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat
Sat Oct 21	(offsite)	Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Shawn son of Lili Shalev-Shawn & Morris Shawn
Sun Nov 5	10:00 am	Holocaust Education Week - Witnessing the trial of the bookkeeper of Auschwitz (See Page 10)
Sun Nov 5	8:00 pm	Holocaust Education Week - Without Words (see page 10)
Sat Nov 11	(offsite)	Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Haid son of Susan & Phillip Haid
Fri. Nov 24	8:15 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat
Sat. Dec 2	(offsite)	Bat Mitzvah of Sami Morris, daughter of Jill Cohen and Danny Morris
Sat Dec 9	am(offsite)	Bar Mitzvah of Justin Banks son of Jordan & Faith Banks
Sat Dec 9	pm TBC	Bar Mitzvah of Aubrey Engel son of Annette Faynwachs & Eric Engel
Fri Dec 15	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat & Chanukah Potluck

## Bulletin Update

The results of our recent survey are in and... the Habonim Bulletin is moving to a paperless distribution! Unless you specifically request receipt of a hardcopy, the Bulletin will now be sent to you by email. It will also be posted and available for viewing on the Habonim website. Should you wish to receive a hard copy bulletin by regular mail, please contact Robin in the office at 416-782-7125 or by email at [office1@congregationhabonim.org](mailto:office1@congregationhabonim.org)

If you wish to add information or contributions to the bulletin, please contact Lauren Black at [laurenblack@gmail.com](mailto:laurenblack@gmail.com).

## High Holidays

This year, high holidays will be held at our temporary location at the Leo Baeck Day School at the edge of the Cedarvale Ravine.

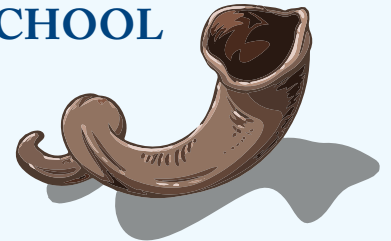
An eblast will be sent to you on September 5, 2017 asking you to submit your selection for early or late services. Please be sure to respond by no later than September 11, 2017. Those without internet access should call Robin in the office at 416-782-7125. Note: ticket selections are processed on a first come first served basis.

On September 15, 2017, high holiday tickets will be sent to you via email. All family members will be included on one ticket so if your family is planning to arrive separately, please be sure to print enough tickets for each group arriving. Those unable to print tickets may check-in with an usher at the door.

Please see the map for information on how to get to services at the Leo Baeck Day School and where to park. Adult Services will be held in the School Sanctuary accessible through the south courtyard chapel entrance, which is located near a blue canoe display. The Children’s Services will be held in the upstairs lobby accessible through the main entrance.

## HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES AT LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL 501 Arlington Ave

**Religious Leaders:** Eli Rubenstein, Rabbi Noam Katz  
**Cantor & Choir Director:** Aviva Rajskey  
**Associate Cantor & Children’s Service Leader:** Kim Doron



Date	Service	Early Service		Late Service
Wed. Sept. 20	Erev Rosh Hashana		6:00pm*	
Thurs. Sept. 21	Rosh Hashana (first Day)	8:15am		11:00am
Thurs. Sept. 21	Children’s Service	9:15am-10:15am		11:15am-12:15pm
Fri. Sept. 22	Rosh Hashana (Second Day)		10:00am*	
Fri. Sept 29	Kol Nidre (Erev Yom Kippur)	6:00pm		8:30pm
Sat Sept 30	Yom Kippur	8:15am		11:00am
Sat Sept 30	Children’s Service	9:15am-10:15am		11:15am-12:15pm
Sat Sept 30	Tashlich (at Alexander Muir Park)		4:00pm*	
Sat Sept 30	Ne’ilah (service resumes)		5:15pm*	

\*One service only, start time as indicated

## Children's Services:

Habonim will also hold children's services at Leo Baeck day school. Services will be held on the first day of Rosh Hashana and on Yom Kippur. There will be two service times for each day. Please enter by the main entrance. The services are very participatory and hands-on. They are geared towards elementary school-aged children. Some older children might find the service engaging, while others will prefer the regular service. They are welcome to attend either. Note that children should not be left unsupervised at the children's service. At least one adult is expected to attend the service with a child or group of children. Your High Holiday tickets may be used for admission to any of the children's services.

### CONGREGATION HABONIM DIRECTIONS and PARKING The Leo Baeck Day School – 501 Arlington Avenue



**CHILDREN'S SERVICE  
 ENTER AT  
 MAIN ENTRANCE**

**FOR SERVICES, ENTER  
 VIA COURTYARD at  
 South end of building  
 behind the canoe**

**X = No Entry  
 Additional Parking at Phil White Arena**

### PARKING SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ Parking Lot behind School
- ❖ Marked areas in Phil White Arena Parking Lot
- ❖ Winnett Avenue
- ❖ Atlas Avenue
- ❖ Arlington Avenue and Durham Avenue (some restrictions)

**DO NOT PARK in Loading Zone near trash containers at South West door.**

## Mazal Tov on Recent Simchas

- ❖ Asher & Amanda Weinerman on Joseph's Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Susan Abramovitch & Michael Bryant on Louie's Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Liane & Neale Ginsburg on Abby & Sarah's B'not Mitzvah
- ❖ Anne Shin & Neil Spiegel on Zara's Bat Mitzvah

# מזל טוב!

### B'not Mitzvah of Abby & Sarah Ginsberg



### Bar Mitzvah of Louie Bryant



## SCHOOL UPDATE

### Shalom and thank you to Yodfat Snir Mandil

Saying goodbye is never easy, and this is no exception. The combined communities of Congregation Habonim and The Jewish Heritage School would like to extend their immense gratitude to Yodfat Snir Mandil in her role as Principal of The Jewish Heritage School. Yodfat's tireless work ethic and genuine enthusiasm for teaching and learning during her more than six years as Principal turned The Jewish Heritage School into the growing community it is today. Since Yodfat joined the school, we have grown from 20 to more than 75 students, and have extended our program to include students in SK, Grade 1 and Grade 2. Her creativity, musicality and leadership will be greatly missed, but her legacy will live on for years to come. Thank you Yodfat for your incredible dedication. We wish you and your family all the best!

The Jewish Heritage School is pleased to announce that Suzanne Hersh will be stepping in as our new Principal. Many of you will know Suzanne as the always positive and energetic Drama teacher. She was also the Grade 4 teacher this past year. Suzanne is truly the ideal individual for this position. Her extensive teaching experience both with our school and Bialik Hebrew Day School, will make for a seamless transition. We are thrilled to welcome Suzanne and are excited for the new school year.

by Cathy Rechtshaffen, Volunteer Director of School Operations

### A message from the new Principal - Suzanne Hersh

*Only the lesson which is enjoyed can be learned well.* - Judah HaNasi (135 - 219 CE) Talmud

Welcome to a very exciting new year for our school! I'm thrilled to begin my first year as principal of the Jewish Heritage School. We will be located at the Leo Baeck Day School beside the scenic Cedarvale Ravine. I know we're going to enjoy Leo Baeck's terrific facilities while we anticipate the new synagogue being built by the congregation. Wherever we are, our school has a warm environment defined by a sense of adventure, creativity, curiosity and community.

To inquire and inspire; that's what teachers and students at our school set out to do together each Sunday morning. This year we are looking forward to the addition of morning Shacharit services one Sunday a month, some ask a Rabbi sessions, and electives. During Hebrew time we are increasing the emphasis on the skill of reading which is so important for participation in many Jewish communal or congregational experiences. And our Judaic studies program continues to offer students a meaningful and engaging way to connect to Torah, our history, tradition, Israel and more.

There are different ways to be involved in our wonderful school. At the time of writing this, there are spaces available in all grades, SK - 6. Also, if you're a high school student with an interest in education and the ability to read Hebrew, consider volunteering with us on Sunday mornings. And if you're an experienced teacher and would like to be on our supply list, let us know. To find out more, email our School Registrar, Cathy Rechtshaffen, or myself at [habonimschool@gmail.com](mailto:habonimschool@gmail.com).

I look forward to a great year of joyful Jewish discovery and progress!

Shanah Tovah U'metukah,

Suzanne Hersh, Principal, Jewish Heritage School

*Thank You Ted! - Eli Rubenstein*

**(Remarks below are excerpted from Eli Rubenstein’s speech at the 2017 Habonim AGM.)**

I would just like to say a few words about Ted at this, his last AGM as President.

In life you often come across 2 types of people

A) The Dreamers – these are the inspired people who come up with great ideas, but do not have the practical ability to make them a reality.

B) The Practical Ones – They know how to get from A to B, they just have no idea or conception of what B should be.

In Ted, we had a President who combined both of those attributes in one. Ted had exceptional vision, but also the chops, the acumen, the stamina, to make his vision – our vision - a reality. See the fundraising chart to the right – just a few short years ago, we started at zero and we’re close to \$9.2 million, closing in on our initial goal of \$9.5 million.

They say, “Success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan”. We would be no where near that number if not for Ted’s vision, his determination and his wise direction every step of the way.

Allow me to make two final observations about Ted:

The first is regarding his time commitment to Habonim. Being President of Habonim consumes an enormous amount of time – addressing issues related to cemetery, High Holidays, new building campaign, Jewish Heritage School, managing an old building, Bnei Mitzvah, overseeing employees, budgetary supervision, member queries etc.

To my knowledge, in the last 6 years of Ted’s presidency, it was rare that a day went by that Ted did not spend hours on Habonim related matters. If Ted was a single man with no family commitments, no business to run – then I might say, Ted I see where you found the time to do this. But, really, Ted, you’re a husband, a father, CEO of a thriving business – and also the President of Habonim for 6 years during an unprecedented period of growth. How did you do it???? I guess the question ranks right up there with “how do they get the chocolate into the Cadbury bar.” But somehow Ted, you tirelessly steered our ship with exemplary deftness, skill and courage, attesting to the old adage: “You want something done? Give it to a busy person.”

One last point:

I want you to know that all of what Ted has done over the last few years has been done “Lishma”, for the right reasons.

Never once, did I ever feel that Ted was doing anything at Habonim for any other reason than the good of the synagogue and the larger Jewish community. Not once!

Ted, you are a model of what a Jewish leader – and for that matter any leader – should be.

**Habonim New Building Campaign 2015-2017**



Habonim has been so fortunate to have you as our President for the last half a decade, and your contributions, which are evident to all of us here, will be felt for generations to come. So once again, Mazal Tov, on an outstanding job!!

*Welcome Joanie Smith – Eli Rubenstein*

Our new President, Joanie Smith assumed the position in June, but was already very active as incoming President for a number of months before that. Prior to serving as President, Joanie was a long time Habonim board member, always volunteering for any task that needed to be done, including the time consuming yearly job of allocating High Holiday honors. Joanie also brings a wealth of volunteer and Jewish communal experience with her including involvement with the Israel Cancer Research Fund, the Ride to Conquer Cancer, the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, along with chairing various school committees when her children were younger.

In the few short months of her Presidency, Joanie has demonstrated very positive leadership skills, as we move forward at a critical juncture of our development. I feel very confident in saying the future of Habonim is in good hands under Joanie’s leadership and the guidance of our new board of directors.

**2017-2018 Habonim Board of Directors**

Joanie Smith - President  
Joel Kwinter - Vice President  
Lauren Black - Vice President  
Rick Glatt - Treasurer  
Dianne Erdos-Rush - Secretary

Alexis Slatt - Director  
Brett Saitowitz - Director  
Charissa Levy - Director  
Cheryl Grammer - Director  
Daniel Libman - Director

Melissa Muskat - Director  
Sonny Goldstein - Director  
Stephen Halperin - Director  
Susan Liebel - Director

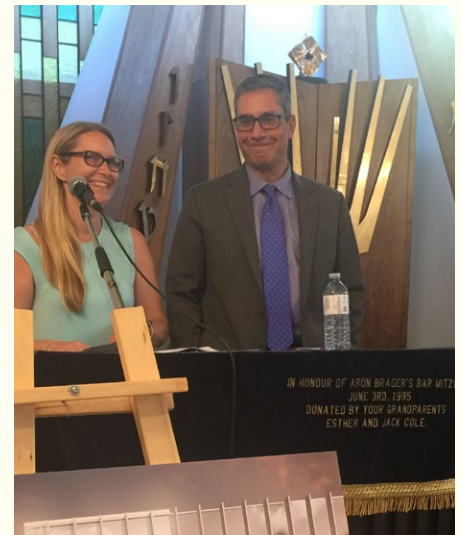
Should you wish to discuss any congregational matters, please feel free to contact a member of the Board of Directors at any time. Alternatively, you can email [office1@congregationhabonim.org](mailto:office1@congregationhabonim.org). We look forward to your feedback!



Ted Rechtshaffen receiving an award for his years of service



Ted Rechtshaffen & Joanie Smith



Cathy & Ted Rechtshaffen

## Donations Update – September 2017

We wish to thank everyone who has made a donation toward the Habonim building campaign. We are very pleased to report that current pledges are sitting at close to \$9,200,000 and represent contributions from approximately 70% of our membership. Your participation and generosity are greatly appreciated!

### Instalment Schedule – Five Year Pledges

Most congregants who are donating towards the new building have done so by way of a five year pledge. We want to remind congregants that the next instalment of their five year pledge should be made by no later than December 31, 2017. This timing not only will reduce a donor's 2017 income taxes but will provide Habonim with much needed funding during the demolition and building mode in 2018.

As we have not yet met our goal of 100% member participation, we are still looking forward to hearing from members. If you have not yet made a pledge or wish to increase your pledge, please contact Robin in the office at 416-782-7125 or [office1@congregationhabonim.org](mailto:office1@congregationhabonim.org).

## CEMETERY NEWS

As you may know, Toronto Hebrew Memorial Parks, which runs the Pardes Shalom and Pardes Chaim cemeteries, does not allow non-Jews to be buried within their cemeteries. This means that a non-Jewish spouse cannot be buried with their Jewish spouse at either of these cemetery locations. For the many mixed marriages in our congregation, this is an important issue and one that Habonim takes very seriously.

Following the results of a 2014 survey to determine the wishes of Habonim members regarding alternative cemetery plots, the Board of Directors has been addressing this issue by looking at alternative burial locations. A current proposed solution is to provide Habonim members with an option to be buried at the Mount Zion Garden "Synagogue Section" within the Highland Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery, located at Woodbine & Stouffville Road. If you are interested in the Mount Zion option, it is very important that you read and respond to this article.

Mount Zion is run by Arbor Memorial ("Arbor") <https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/> and has recently established a Jewish section designed to address the needs of mixed marriages. Congregation Habonim is planning to purchase a group of plots at Mount Zion and needs to know how many of our members are interested in having a plots in this cemetery. Habonim members who joined the synagogue prior to 2000 are entitled to a burial plot as part of their membership. Those who joined later are not. This means that pre-2000 members will not have to pay for their plots assuming that they maintain membership throughout their lives. For post-2000 members, the current cost of a plot at Mount Zion is \$3,200 plus HST, some of which may be financeable for a short period of time.

If you are interested in securing one or more plots at Mount Zion, please email Joel Kwinter at [jkwinter@sympatico.ca](mailto:jkwinter@sympatico.ca). on or before September 30, 2017. Please be sure to include in your email how many plots you are interested in and whether you are a pre-2000 or post-2000 member. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call Joel at 416-925-5501.



## Habonim Building Update – September 2017

We are pleased to report that Habonim has completed a deal with Leo Baeck Day School (LBDS) to use their building as Habonim's temporary home during our construction period. LBDS has a beautiful renovated school in Cedarvale, which boasts a lovely, large auditorium, and modern, bright classrooms for our day school.

Another great development is that Habonim has now entered into a 15 year License Agreement with Brightpath Learning Centres. Brightpath will operate a day care on the second floor of our new building, during weekdays when we will not be using the space. This License agreement will provide Habonim with much needed income to help cover operating costs, as well as staffing and programming expenses.

On July 10th, 2017, the synagogue hosted an open forum for members to express their opinions regarding the design of the new building. Our architect, Guela Solow-Ruda of ARK Design and her colleague Robert Boyd walked everyone through the proposed floor plan and showed renderings of various elevations. These drawings are also available on the website [www.congregationhabonim.org](http://www.congregationhabonim.org). A lively discussion ensued with members bringing forward questions and suggestions about accessibility, acoustics, technology and more. The Design and Construction committees are working diligently to incorporate these comments from the members.

There are many individuals in the congregation with expertise in the construction field and a few strong candidates have stepped up to lead us through the process. Jordan Slatt will be chairing the Construction Committee going forward. He, along with a sub-committee, went through a rigorous search to hire a project manager as our representative in dealings with both the architect and the general contractor. They selected Nick Zouravlioff, an engineer with many years of experience in this area. Nick's most recent project was to manage the construction of the new Alpine Ski Chalet, which came in on time and under budget.

As we move into the fall, the architects will be working towards preparing the plans for permit submission by year end and Nick will be pre-qualifying general contractors. The plans will go to tender at the beginning of 2018 with the anticipation of March 1, 2018 as the start date and June/July 2019 as the completion date.

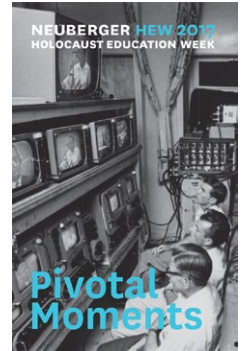
If you have any questions, please feel free to call or drop a note.

Joanie Smith,  
President, Habonim  
416-833-1232  
[smithje1958@gmail.com](mailto:smithje1958@gmail.com)

Joel Kwinter  
Vice-President, Habonim  
416-925-5501  
[jkwinter@sympatico.ca](mailto:jkwinter@sympatico.ca)

## *Come to Programs at Habonim for Holocaust Education Week*

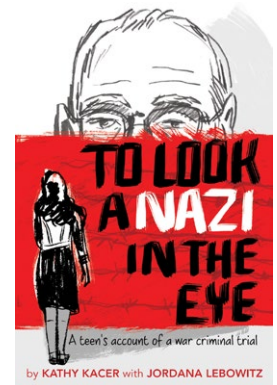
The 37th Annual Holocaust Education Week will run from November 2-9, 2017. This year's theme of Pivotal Moments will explore the post-Holocaust period, and the specific events that have shaped our understanding of the Holocaust. These events stand out as moments of such magnitude that they have dramatically altered the way in which we conceptualise, depict and even talk about the Holocaust. They cross a multitude of disciplines such as cultural productions, cinema and film, literature, history and many others. Please see below for a list of events taking place at Habonim. For more information and a list of all events, please visit <http://www.holocaustcentre.com/HEW>.



### ***To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen's Account of a War Criminal Trial***

Kathy Kacer's latest book focuses on the one of the most recent judicial attempts to bring Nazi war criminals to justice. It is told from the perspective of Jordana Lebowitz, a nineteen-year-old Torontonion, March of the Living alumna, and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors. Jordana travelled to Germany to witness the trial first-hand of the Bookkeeper of Auschwitz, Oskar Gröning. Kacer will be joined by survivors who will share their experience of testifying.

Co-presented by Second Story Press  
Sunday, 5 November | 11:00 AM  
Congregation Habonim  
5 Glen Park Avenue | Toronto  
416-782-7125



### ***Without Words: Examining the Holocaust and the Experience of First Nations in Canada***

Without Words is a short film focusing on a Holocaust survivor, Pinchas Gutter, and a residential school survivor, Rita Okimawinninew, who cross paths sparking a journey of healing. Cree director, Jules Koostachin (Rita's daughter) participated in the 2010 March of Remembrance and Hope, an educational trip to Germany and Poland, designed to teach students of different backgrounds about the dangers of intolerance through the study of the Holocaust. Panel discussion on the distinctiveness and parallels between the Holocaust and other genocides includes Holocaust survivors, members of the First Nations, and past participants in the March of Remembrance and Hope program.

Film & Discussion

Co-presented by Congregation Habonim, March of Remembrance and Hope, and March of the Living & Ve'ahavta.  
Sunday, 5 November | 8:00 PM



## In Memoriam:

Mourning those who passed away in the last year:

Roszi Wittman  
 Marjorie Rosenfield  
 Maurice Kaufman  
 Allan Schaffran  
 Stanley Flomen  
 Tamara Ashley Levine  
 Jean London  
 Evy Carnat  
 Deena Freeman

Rose Wolfe  
 Bernice Linder  
 Walter Steuerman  
 Beryl Gibson  
 Eva Sokolowski  
 David Kettner  
 Phyl Shevil  
 Clara Szende  
 Isaac Zimmerman

Hart Levine  
 Barbara Nash Fenton  
 Leone Paula Beth Bodner  
 Dorothy Friedman Riegelhaupt  
 Tilya Helfield  
 Sheilah Silverberg  
 Dora Posluns  
 Esther Lynne Burnett

## 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](mailto: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: Lauren Black, [laurenblack@gmail.com](mailto:laurenblack@gmail.com)

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[www.congregationhabonim.org](http://www.congregationhabonim.org)

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

[www.jewishheritageschool.org](http://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](mailto:office1@congregationhabonim.org)

### President

Joanie Smith, 416-833-1232

Email: [smithje1958@gmail.com](mailto:smithje1958@gmail.com)

### Habonim Office

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Email: [office1@congregationhabonim.org](mailto:office1@congregationhabonim.org)

### Religious Leader

Eli Rubenstein, 416-398-2615

Email: [elir@bell.net](mailto:elir@bell.net)

### Cantors

Cantor: Aviva Rajskey

Contact: [avivar@rogers.com](mailto:avivar@rogers.com)

Associate Cantor: Kim Doron

Contact: [kimdoron@rogers.com](mailto:kimdoron@rogers.com)

### Volunteer Director of School Operations

Cathy Rechtshaffen

Contact: [habonimschool@gmail.com](mailto:habonimschool@gmail.com)