

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday, February 24 8:15 pm
Shabbat Eve Service and
Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, February 25 10:00 am
Bar Mitzvah of Max
Tanenbaum, son of
Jodi and Andrew
Tanenbaum

Sunday, March 4 10:00 am
Purim Party with Kim
Doron

Saturday, March 10 pm
Bat Mitzvah of Lauren
Fleshner

Friday, March 30 8:15 pm
Shabbat Eve Service and
Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, April 7 10:00 am
Passover Seder for the
homeless

DEAR MEMBERS

Recently you would have received your annual invoice for Congregation Habonim membership.

This letter should have accompanied the invoice.

As you may have noticed, there was a small increase in membership fees for 2012. Family memberships are now \$925 and single memberships are now \$500.

The volunteer Board of the Congregation is mindful of everyone's expenses and tries hard to keep fees reasonable and increase fees only as necessary.

While we have made changes to increase rental revenue, our building upkeep and repair costs remain significant. As a result, we need to spend to ensure that the building remains safe, comfortable, and in good working order - with the result being a small membership increase.

Payment Options

1) The easiest payment option for many is by credit card. To pay by credit card, simply go to this link and follow the instructions online.

<http://www.congregationhabonim.org/> and clicking the "Pay Fees Here" button on the top of the page.

2) You can still pay by cheque to "Congregation Habonim", and mail the cheque to Attn: Sandra

Levy, 5 Glen Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6B 4J2.

Keep in mind that all membership fees and any additional donations are fully tax deductible.

Tax Receipts for 2011 and 2012

If you pay online, you should immediately receive a tax receipt.

For 2011 there were some issues with online receipts.

For 2011, to cover off any missing receipts, we will be mailing tax receipts to you before the end of February - whether you paid online or by cheque. You should receive this by the end of February. Please ensure that you only claim one tax receipt for membership fees in 2011.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Congregation Habonim, we thank you for your membership and look forward to seeing you in the year ahead.

Ted Rechtshaffen
President, Congregation Habonim

HABONIM WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATE CANTOR LISA KENT

Habonim is blessed with truly wonderful music gifts. For the past 3 decades we have been fortunate to enjoy the beautiful singing of Esther Ghan-Firestone and the organ playing of Larry Clements. This past year, they were joined on the bimah by the exceptionally talented Associate Cantor Aviva Rajskey, accompanied by our own very talented Tom Bellman on guitar. Now this year, we are thrilled to welcome our second associate Cantor Lisa Kent - please see her bio below. Lisa will be appearing for the first time in her new role as associate cantor at Habonim on Friday, Feb. 24th, and will be

accompanied by her husband Danny Greenspoon, well known Juno award-winning guitarist and record producer.

With the combined talents of Esther, Aviva and Lisa, and their respective accompanists, on the bima, Habonim is quickly gaining a name for itself as one of the most exciting Jewish musical venues in the city!

Please join us at this service to welcome Lisa on what is sure to be a magical evening.

Lisa Kent

Lisa is an Honours graduate from Berklee College of Music in Boston, where she lived and worked in schools and theatre before returning home to Toronto. She has 20 years of teaching experience in both public and private schools, including The Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto. Presently she is teaching at The Creative Preschool of East Toronto. Lisa is a founding member of The Danforth Jewish Circle and has been the Cantor and Choir Director there for 15 years. She is also a freelance service leader, guiding families through the process of creating meaningful Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies and baby namings, as well as singing at weddings and funerals. She has worked with Eli Rubenstein over the past four years both at Congregation Habonim and in other venues. She is married to musician and music producer Danny Greenspoon, who often accompanies her in services. Together they have two teenage sons and have recently returned from a family trip to Israel.

SCHOOL UPDATE FROM THE REGISTRAR CATHY RECHTSHAFFEN

On Sunday, February 5th, we will be having a special day to celebrate Tu b'Shvat. There will be dried and fresh fruits, red and white grape

juice, and the students will be doing some planting. We will be singing songs and talking about the meaning of the holiday.

On Sunday, February 26th, the students will have an opportunity to make their own Hamentaschen in anticipation of Purim.

On Sunday, March 4th, we will be having a special day to celebrate Purim. Everyone is welcome to join us as we make crafts, eat yummy Hamentaschen, and sing songs with Kim Doron who performed at our Chanukah party. We are also hoping to have the students perform a small Purim play. We encourage everyone to dress up in the spirit of the holiday!!

FAREWELL TO ELIZABETH

Eli's Remarks

In the Torah portion of Chaye Sarah we learn about Eliezer's search for a mate for his master Abraham's son Isaac. He comes across Rebecca who, according to the text, not only gives him water, but also gives his thirsty camels water to drink. Eliezer then knows that Rebecca is the right person for Isaac.

So you are probably wondering what Rebecca's treatment of Eliezer's camels has to do with Elizabeth...

Well in the first place, not only did Elizabeth treat me very well (like Rebecca treated my partial namesake Eliezer) but she positively spoiled my dog Mickey, whenever he came to the synagogue, with morsels of mouth watering cookies, assorted treats, and leftover Chalah.

And those of you who have met Mickey, you will all remember that he has a camel colored coat.

But the larger connection is this: Eliezer was

looking for someone who was the package deal, the real thing, who wasn't just good in one area, but who took care of everything.

And that's exactly the kind of person Elizabeth has been for us.

I look around the synagogue.... My eyes fall upon the ark, the torahs, the mantles, the bima covers, the carpets, the floors, the chairs, the tables, the kitchen, the classrooms upstairs, the parking lot – and I think of the endless demands from families who were making simchas here, the film nights, the lectures, the Seders for the Homeless.

Over the years, and over the transmission of 1000s of demands on Elizabeth's time - I never once heard Elizabeth say "that's too much" or "I'm too busy" or "let someone else do it" or "that's not my job."

As you all know, we have been searching for a replacement for Elizabeth for some time now, and we all know that we will never find one person who can possibly fill all the roles that you so admirably undertook. My hope is that the 2 or 3 people we end up finding, will be able to fill your shoes....if we are lucky!

Anyway, we know you are leaving Habonim because you want to spend more time with your family, especially your grandchildren. While our loss is your family's gain, we are very happy for you and your family.

So let me close by thanking you from the bottom of all of our hearts for all the dedicated years of service, for all the years of spoiling our congregation, and we wish you many happy years of spoiling your grandchildren!

From Esther

Elizabeth, I regret that I am unable to attend your tribute - a tribute so well deserved not only

for the very special touch you've brought to so many simchas at Habonim these many years, but for who you are as a person - a very warm, compassionate person with a big heart. During these last two very painful years, you were the one whose shoulder was always there for me to cry on, to give me a hug and just be there.

To be able to talk to you so openly about my feelings, and sometimes my frustrations, was a great comfort to me, and I bless you for that. Habonim will not be the same without you, Elizabeth-- you will be sorely missed.

I wish you everything you wish for yourself. Have a wonderful life, enjoy your family, and let your husband do the cooking.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The new year brings with it exciting new ideas in our efforts to renew and refurbish our aging facilities. The Building Committee, under the leadership of Morry Edelstein and Ted Rechtshaffen, has helped to initiate an innovative collaboration between Habonim and Ark Kehilla to provide affordable housing for Jewish working people and renovate our premises.

Guela Solow is spearheading Ark's approach to create affordable housing and she has now obtained seed money from the CHMC to review zoning and other factors to determine how this project can best proceed in partnership with Habonim.

Ark is an experienced developer and has done many other similar projects. In this case, in exchange for our building site we will receive the benefit of these experienced builders as we seek to create a new sanctuary, social hall, offices, kitchen and classrooms. Habonim will be located at the

ground and second floors on the west end of the development, and a low-rise condominium will be constructed at the east end.

We are very excited about the project. By embarking on this joint venture we will not only renovate Habonim but at the same time make home ownership a possibility for those who would not otherwise be able to gain a toehold in Toronto's housing market. In making the Bathurst area affordable for low income families we will be putting into practice our synagogue's core values and commitment to Tikkun Haolam.

HABONIM AND VE'AHAVTA HOLD THEIR 12TH ANNUAL PASSOVER SEDER

On the second night of Passover Congregation Habonim and Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian Relief Committee, will again host the Ve'ahavta/Habonim Passover Seder for the Homeless. We would love to have you and your family join the celebration.

Our guests will have the opportunity to enjoy a warm spiritual evening full of good food, great music, and lots of laughter and learning. As we celebrate the transition from slavery to freedom, we will also traverse the way between strangers and friends.

The cost of the evening is \$36.00 and the date is Saturday, April 7, 6 pm.

Please leave a message at Habonim, tel. 416-782-7125 to make your reservation. The Seder will be led by Avrum Rosensweig and Eli Rubenstein.

My Children Shouldn't Know We Are Poor

By Avrum Rosensweig

The Talmud (Nedarim 64b) says A'ni k'mait that 'a poor person is like a dead person'.

Poor people are like dead people, from my experiences, because they have little hope for the future. They live day-to-day. They live minute-to-minute. It must be deadening to not know how you will feed yourself today. You must feel as if your soul has vanished when you worry about how you will feed your children, meal to meal. Being poor is like being dead, but without the eulogy.

I asked my friend, Theresa, who grew up poor in Halifax, how poor was poor? She responded that in her teen years, after her father passed away, her mother received \$750 a month, of which \$181 was earmarked for rent (which was subsidized), and the balance was for food, utilities, clothing and basic needs.

Between the ages of 13 – 18 she did not eat three meals a day. Theresa went without breakfast and told her teachers and friends, when asked, that she was not a breakfast person. She woke up late so she wouldn't be hungry for longer than she had to.

I then asked Theresa what it felt like to be poor. Her answer was not simple. "I felt destitute. Even when I was eating I was stressed out about how we would pay the bills. It took a lot of time and mental energy looking for pennies in a bottle to pay the grocer."

"I felt degraded", the former prostitute said, "having to go into food banks and the welfare office. I felt as if someone had a thumb over us thinking we'll never be as good as they are."

I asked Theresa what she feels like today, now that she is working, has a decent job and a pretty good salary.

She said, "The money is important. Now I pull in 2600 a month and put out 2400 in bills. I live a simpler life. I have a lot more and I have cash flow. "I'm still watching every dollar, but life is better. Today I feel rich"

"But, you know what," she continued, "a lot of people, who walked with me on my journey as a poor person, resent me today because I am employed and they are not."

The mother of a little boy, 5, concluded by saying that being poor affects one's ability to focus, to have confidence, love and compassion. "Can you imagine being a mom with two kids, say 7 and 9 and it's before Christmas and you get your (welfare) cheque; the last one before the end of January. You don't want your kids to know they are poor so you spend too much. Then the middle of January comes and you're skipping meals," she said.

While Theresa is feeling pretty damn fine about her better world, the one she spearheaded, she is still scarred by the poverty and remains somewhat envious of the 'haves'

"I know a lot of people who are poor. Not too many rich people in my life. Sometimes I'll see an 18 year old kid in my office driving dad's car, going off to the best university. That sucks, because I have an amazing brain. Imagine that I had the chance to get my Masters' in social work. If I wanted to do it, it would take me ten years. "

Help the poor if you are able to. Consider that there are many people in Toronto and across Canada who cannot, do not, feed their children three meals a day. That is a painful reality. If you have ideas, share them. If you want to assist a family, a child or an individual, let me know.

A'ni k'mait. A poor person is like a dead person.

Comment at avrum@veahavta.org

DONATIONS

We joyfully announce the engagement of our son Jonathan Berman to Leora Raphael on Thursday, January 5, 2012.

Jonathan is the son of **Bob and Jayne Berman** of Toronto. Leora is the daughter of Irwin and Maxine Raphael of Edmonton.

A gift to Habonim by **Steven & Janice Slavin & Family**

Michael Neray made a donation in memory of Ruth Binfeld Neray

Remembering with love and sadness our dear son and brother, Richard Morton -
The Morton and Small families

My sincere sympathy to Paula Nussbaum on the passing of her beloved husband,
Leon - **Gerda Gottlieb**

PERSONALIA

Our heartfelt condolences to Paula Nussbaum on the death of her husband Leon Nussbaum.

We regret the passing of **Ethel Nochomovitz** and extend our sympathy to her family and friends

OUR WEBSITE:

www.congregationhabonim.org

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

office@congregationhabonim.org

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:

www.JewishHeritageSchool.com

To **SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT** call

Sandra Levy at (905) 237-4924

To SEND GREETING CARDS and DONATIONS

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

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

Call Dianne Erdos-Rush at (416) 630-7921
or e-mail to: dijer@sympatico.ca

TO BUY A LEAF FOR EITZ CHAIM

for any occasion call Sandra Levy at
(905) 237-4924 or email at
saundrlevy@sympatico.ca
Leaf \$175

QUESTIONS OR NOTICES RE JAHRZEITEN?

Call Linda Brager at (416) 488-0282

JAHRZEITEN FEBRUARY – MARCH 2012

Samuel Persiko	Shevat 10	Feb 3, 2012
Bernie Slomen	Shevat 11	Feb 4, 2012
Esther Glucklick	Shevat 11	Feb 4, 2012
Charles Gross	Shevat 12	Feb 5, 2012
Maury Harris	Shevat 13	Feb 6, 2012
Edward Isadore Harris		
	Shevat 13	Feb 6, 2012
Jessie Kahl	Shevat 13	Feb 6, 2012
Jack Cole	Shevat 14	Feb 7, 2012
Annie Lams	Shevat 15	Feb 8, 2012

Nathan Burrows	Shevat 15	Feb 8, 2012	Morris Hyman Nathanson		
Hillary Firestone	Shevat 16	Feb 9, 2012		Adar* 1	Feb 24, 2012
Malka Wakeam	Shevat 16	Feb 9, 2012	Joseph Rosen	Adar 2	Feb 25, 2012
Elizabeth Schwartz	Shevat 16	Feb 9, 2012	Jack Lees	Adar 2	Feb 25, 2012
Dr. Abraham Skudwick			May Klegon	Adar 3	Feb 26, 2012
	Shevat 17	Feb 10, 2012	Naomi Wilson	Adar* 4	Feb 27, 2012
David Brown	Shevat 18	Feb 11, 2012	David Cupchik	Adar 4	Feb 27, 2012
Flora Kohn	Shevat 18	Feb 11, 2012	Siegmund Koch	Adar 4	Feb 27, 2012
Rebecca Van Der Hout			Isador Joseph Isaak	Adar 4	Feb 27, 2012
	Shevat 19	Feb 12, 2012	Henry Shanoff	Adar 4	Feb 27, 2012
Percy Weinstein	Shevat 19	Feb 12, 2012	Sarah Ostrow	Adar* 4	Feb 27, 2012
Josef Burstyn	Shevat 20	Feb 13, 2012	Antonia Kimerling	Adar 6	Feb 29, 2012
Mary Milgrom	Shevat 21	Feb 14, 2012	Blanche Haber	Adar 7	Mar 1, 2012
Margarete Weinlaub	Shevat 21	Feb 14, 2012	Miriam Erdos	Adar 7	Mar 1, 2012
Louis Marcovitch	Shevat 21	Feb 14, 2012	Adolf (Aron) Hammerfeld		
Paul Freund	Shevat 23	Feb 16, 2012		Adar 7	Mar 1, 2012
Herman Seifer	Shevat 24	Feb 17, 2012	Mary Harris	Adar* 7	Mar 1, 2012
Clara Bierman	Shevat 24	Feb 17, 2012	Sender Balberman	Adar 8	Mar 2, 2012
Tiberiu Hercz	Shevat 26	Feb 19, 2012	Joseph and Klara Fluxgold		
Rudolf Aaron Eisinger				Adar* 8	Mar 2, 2012
	Shevat 26	Feb 19, 2012	Hans Waldman	Adar 10	Mar 4, 2012
Samuel Schwartz	Shevat 26	Feb 19, 2012	Herman Lennhoff	Adar 10	Mar 4, 2012
Ladislaus Vogel	Shevat 27	Feb 20, 2012	Sylvia Shanoff	Adar 10	Mar 4, 2012
Aaron Kendall	Shevat 27	Feb 20, 2012	Len Slan	Adar 11	Mar 5, 2012
Franz Koch	Shevat 27	Feb 20, 2012	Esther Goldstein	Adar 11	Mar 5, 2012
Irving Dennis	Shevat 28	Feb 21, 2012	Jack Lees	Adar* 11	Mar 5, 2012
Aaron Goldberg	Shevat 28	Feb 21, 2012	Aron Shuster	Adar* 11	Mar 5, 2012
Hilda Weiss	Shevat 30	Feb 23, 2012	Syrel Greene	Adar 12	Mar 6, 2012
Sydney Kuttner	Adar* 1	Feb 24, 2012	Samuel Jacob Gibson	Adar 12	Mar 6, 2012

Les Braun	Adar* 14	Mar 8, 2012	Esther Burstyn	Adar 25	Mar 19, 2012
Werner Rappoport	Adar* 14	Mar 8, 2012	Joseph Sufrin	Adar 25	Mar 19, 2012
Gretta Han	Adar* 15	Mar 9, 2012	Harry Cherm	Adar 25	Mar 19, 2012
Sophie Sion	Adar* 15	Mar 9, 2012	Dennis Urstein	Adar 25	Mar 19, 2012
Marinka Goldberger	Adar* 15	Mar 9, 2012	Meyer Shapiro	Adar* 25	Mar 19, 2012
Rose Gibson	Adar 16	Mar 10, 2012	John Patton	Adar* 26	Mar 20, 2012
Alice Lobel	Adar 17	Mar 11, 2012	Alfred Jakabb	Adar 27	Mar 21, 2012
Irene Rachel Weiss	Adar 17	Mar 11, 2012	Percy Fishman	Adar 27	Mar 21, 2012
Paul H. Massareck	Adar* 17	Mar 11, 2012	Shaindl Balberman	Adar 28	Mar 22, 2012
Joseph Brager	Adar 19	Mar 13, 2012	Erika Litvack	Adar* 29	Mar 23, 2012
David Kachuck	Adar* 19	Mar 13, 2012	William Klein	Adar 29	Mar 23, 2012
Hilda Perlmutter	Adar* 19	Mar 13, 2012	Reuben Buium	Adar 29	Mar 23, 2012
Rachel Cohen	Adar 20	Mar 14, 2012	Stephen Kohn	Nisan 2	Mar 25, 2012
Meta Baumann	Adar 20	Mar 14, 2012	Marcus Goldberg	Nisan 3	Mar 26, 2012
Joseph Krongold	Adar* 20	Mar 14, 2012	Leon Kofman	Nisan 3	Mar 26, 2012
Gerda Jackson	Adar* 20	Mar 14, 2012	Moe Koffman	Nisan 4	Mar 27, 2012
May Marx	Adar* 21	Mar 15, 2012	Edgar Wittekind	Nisan 6	Mar 29, 2012
Phillip Gibson	Adar 21	Mar 15, 2012	Renee Goodis	Nisan 6	Mar 29, 2012
Olga Beer	Adar 22	Mar 16, 2012	Louis Libman	Nisan 7	Mar 30, 2012
Jacob Ader	Adar 24	Mar 18, 2012	Hettie Goldberg	Nisan 8	Mar 31, 2012
Loretta Grammar	Adar 24	Mar 18, 2012	Oskar Hastofsky	Nisan 8	Mar 31, 2012
William Binder	Adar* 24	Mar 18, 2012			

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN?
 call Erika Erdos at 416-787-0527
 e-mail eerdos1@rogers.com

Deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin:
Wednesday, March 14, 2012

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