

**MAZAL TOVS FOR RECENT SIMCHAS**

Mazal Tov to Michelle Persyko & Allan Newman on the Bat Mitzvah of Jessica  
Mazal Tov to Amy Sieger & Jason Smith on the bnei mitzvah of Jordan and Rachel  
Mazal Tov to Rebecca and Marc Enkin on the bar mitzvah of Adam  
Mazal Tov to Lori Barnes & Jim Gelcer on the bar mitzvah of Kai Nathaniel  
Mazal Tov to Dr. Karen Scherer & Alan Greenberg on the bar mitzvah of Ryan

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS**

Saturday, February 23 **6:15 pm**  
Fun and Festive Purim  
Program with light dinner  
and Hamantashen

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Saturday, March 2 **10:00 am**  
Shabbat Morning Service  
with Israeli Students

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Friday, March 22 **7:15 pm**  
Family Service with Eli,  
Aviva and Lisa  
**8:15 pm**  
Shabbat Eve Service with  
Eli, Aviva and Lisa

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Tuesday, March 26 **6:00 pm**  
Second Seder Night–  
Passover Seder for the  
Homeless with Ve'ahavta

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Saturday, March 30 **5:00 pm**  
Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Gottheil,  
son of Ellen Lesiuk and  
Michael Gottheil

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Tuesday, April 2 **10:00 am**  
Passover Yiskor Service

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**WISHING A NESIA TOVA TO THE  
STUDENTS WHO HAVE HAD THEIR  
BAR OR BAT MITZVAHS AT HABONIM  
AND ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE 2013  
MARCH OF THE LIVING**

**Dana Galler-Tough; Benjamin Kettner;  
Chelsea Scott; Morgan Simon; Zach Smith**



## CELEBRATE PURIM WITH THE JEWISH HERITAGE SCHOOL

Time: Saturday, February 23 at 6:15pm  
Place: Habonim

Hear a Purim Concert with Kim Doron and Josh Engel Aviva Rajsky, an abridged reading of the Megila and a Purim Play by the students of our Heritage School. There will be Face Painting, Arts and Crafts and a short Havdalah Service. To top it all off, there will be a light dinner and delicious hamantaschen prepared by Elizabeth!!! Come and bring your BEST PURIM COSTUME!

## SPECIAL SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE - WELCOME 3 YOUNG ISRAELI STUDENTS

Saturday, March 2, 2013, 10:00am

Meet Three Dynamic & Diverse Young Israeli University Students

Featuring a special presentation from a group of young Israelis representing diverse groups in Israel including Druze, Muslim-Bedouin, and Jewish Israelis, immigrants from North America, Europe and Australia/New Zealand. Please join us for an

exceptionally interesting morning of discussion and music.

The Shabbat morning service will be led by Eli Rubenstein & Aviva Rajsky, accompanied by Josh Engel. Light Kiddush to Follow.

WordSwap is a nonpartisan, public diplomacy project founded by Canadians Gerry Schwartz and Heather Reisman. In its current mission, 17 Israeli students participating in the program, originating from a diverse range of ethnic, religious, and ideological backgrounds, will make their way to Canada this February. Comprised of student volunteers, they are joined together by a motivation to promote a positive and accurate image of Israel, as well as serve as first-hand sources for others by way of engaging in student-to-student dialogue on campus.

The goals of the project are threefold: To show an authentic and diverse side of Israel and Israeli public opinion to a neutral crowd; To support and show gratitude for the pro-Israel students and community who dedicate themselves to this shared cause; To initiate and maintain contact with people in order to later serve as a resource for them when they are faced with dilemmas regarding Israel.

## HABONIM AND VE'AHAVTA HOLD THEIR 13TH ANNUAL PASSOVER SEDER

On the second night of Passover, Tuesday, March 26th, 6:00 pm, 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, laughter and learning. As we celebrate the

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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 Tuesday, March 26, at 6 pm. Please contact Jeff Levy at 416-782-7125 to make your reservation. The Seder will be led by Avrum Rosensweig and Eli Rubenstein.

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## THE CLEVER RICH & REPAIRING THE WORLD

By Avrum Rosensweig

According to this month's Economist the American dream has sleep apnea. In an article titled, "Repairing the Rungs on the Ladder" the writer states that America is heading down a Meritocratic road, in which the "clever rich are turning themselves into an entrenched elite". The writer states that the 'clever rich' – ("business-school educated elite versus 'the dark ages..and the dumb scions of the aristocracy") spend their money on Mandarin lessons and specialized education for their children. He argues that a disproportionate investment in wealthy children's education is creating a lack of economic fluidity and 'the paradox of virtuous meritocracy, which under-mines equality of opportunity".

The question I wonder about however, in all of this is: What is at the motivation behind the gargantuan efforts of the clever rich to make vast amounts of money in excess of their basic needs? While their position grows in American society and by extension in Canadian economic culture, is most of the 1% holding the majority of world's wealth driven by status or wealth for its own sake, and do many of the affluent consider the social responsibility that comes along with holding the planet's purse strings?

Consider something the Torah says about wealth and the wealthy. In Genesis, we watched as

Avraham purchased land for a gravesite for his wife, Sarah. A couple of generations later we are privy to the vast treasures owned by the patriarch Yaakov, who the Torah says owned maidservants and menservants and camels and donkeys (Genesis 30:43). The original Jewish leadership was anything but poor and the commentaries seemed to be fine with their prosperous households. Their wealth is seen as a Divine favor. This suggests that the Jewish point of view is that there is something positive about having a big herd, and as importantly, there is nothing lofty about poverty.

The question still remains: How should wealth be seen by its owner? What do our teachings say about being one of the 'clever rich'? The following Talmudic vignette might speak to our question.

Rebi Levi Bar Chama said in the name of Rebi Chama B'Rebi Chanina: "A strip of land jettied out from the territory of Yehuda and went into the section of Binyomin, and the righteous Binyomin was constantly bothered by it and wanted to possess it, as it says, "chofed alav kol hayom" For this reason Binyomin merited to be the host to the Holy One, blessed is he, as it says, "He shall dwell between his shoulders." (Zevachim 53b).

While no righteous person is perfect, the Talmud seems to be saying that, as the son of Jacob and the leader of one of the Tribes of Israel, Binyomin's fundamental intention in life was to make the world Godly, or in different terms, compassionate and loving. Binyomin argued with Yehuda to give up that strip of land so he (Binyamin) could include it in his tribal surface, not as an imperialist pursuing more wealth, but rather to have greater spiritual influence in life, and the ability to bring goodness through the Divine to the Jewish people and to the world.

It seems to me that the distribution of wealth has always reflected an enormous disparity

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between the haves and the have-nots. While such a reality feels unfair, isn't it logical to say that money does grow more robustly when shaped by the hands of the economically sophisticated – inevitably causing our standard of living and life expectancy to grow? Yet wouldn't it be something if the clever rich were compelled, like Binyomin, to build their stockpiles of gems and rubies for the sake of tikun olam - repairing the world?

Warren Buffet has proven this to be possible by committing most of his vast wealth to charity. While giving away most of one's affluence is not the only way to be more like Binyomin, imagine if at the core of the effort of the clever rich to secure more money, were to alleviate suffering of the less fortunate.

The challenge of the 'entrenched elite' is an enormous one. A solution to a more equitable world financial playing field, however, might start with a shared discussion about what wealth is, and how the 1% see themselves as the majority shareholders in our world and consider their motivation in acquiring more of it. At the same time, those whose membership falls within the 99% group, must have the opportunity to explain their role in the sculpting of the wealth which has an enormous effect on their lives -- all of this toward the beautification and Godliness of our shared existence.

Please comment at [Avrum.rosensweig@veahavta.org](mailto:Avrum.rosensweig@veahavta.org)

“There are two trials before the individuals, the test of wealth and the test of poverty. Both are difficult but the test of wealth is greater....”

– Kol Ben Levi

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## ADVENTURES IN KENYA BY SHELLY HABER

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” – Anne Frank

And so our journey began.....

This past November, Rick and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. For this monumental event, I received the most incredible gift; the opportunity to go on an Adult only Free the Children adventure in Kenya with my dear friend, Susan and 8 other people whom we had never met.

As we approached our trip we found ourselves excited and nervous about travelling to this foreign land that we knew so little about. The week prior to our departure to Nairobi I was invited to attend WE DAY at the Air Canada Centre. Surrounded by 20,000 children, ages 10 to 16 and an unbelievable array of guest speakers and performers from Al Gore, General Romeo D'Allaire, Jennifer Hudson and the list goes on and on. I was overcome by the energy and magic that filled the room. This set the stage for what I then knew would be an incredible journey with the ME to WE/Free the Children organization.

The first day of our excursion began with a kiss from a giraffe at the giraffe sanctuary and getting “up close and personal” with the baby elephants at the Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage. At the end of that day I thought to myself, “how are they ever going to beat this”?

On the second day, we flew to the magical Masai Mara, a large game reserve named after the Masai people who inhabit the land. Here the Masai people greeted us with song and dance. We also met the 4 Masai Warriors who would be our guides during our stay in the Mara.

Our home in the Mara, known as the Bogani Cottages and Tented Camp was designed specifically for guests of Free the Children. Think

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luxury camp. From the moment we arrived our days were filled with new and intimate experiences.

Every day was a highlight. I am hard pressed to say which experience was better than another. We spent our first day on the Mara at a junior school built by Free the Children. We sat inside the original class structure, a mud hut, to hear the story of how Craig Keilburger began his quest to create Free the Children and the history of the educational system in Kenya. We left the mud hut to see the new classes and meet the children of the school. An entire afternoon was spent with the kids, as they taught us to read Kswahili and sang and danced. These are children who walk miles to get to school each day and are immensely grateful for the opportunity.

Some of our other experiences included an African drum circle (which, by the way, I excel at), mixing cement by hand (back breaking work), spending quiet time with the Warriors to learn what it means to be a Masai and a Warrior, getting to know the Mama's as we sat in their homes to hear their stories and help them collect water from the river (half hour walk each way), participating in the welcoming ceremonies at an all girls high school funded by Free the Children, playing the Masai Warrior Games (it is not as easy as it looks), touring the newly built health/community centre that is also responsible for healthy farming practices, brick making and the building of externally vented chimney's in the Masai homes, and livestock management....truly an integrated health centre!

This list of our adventures is far from complete, but each day we were immersed in a new culture, learned about the educational barriers and opportunities, saw alternative income projects and health initiatives in action but most importantly made some really special new friends.

I felt honoured and privileged to have been part of this journey. Free the Children/Me to We

showed us that we can be The Change and help improve the world!



On November 11, 2012, Habonim held a special evening in honor of Eli, Esther and Larry honouring their many years of exceptional service to Habonim. A special edition of the bulletin is being prepared featuring photos and quotes from the evening, which you should be receiving shortly. Below is an article by Rabbi Chezi Zionce about the evening and the thank you note that Eli wrote to the Tribute Committee after the event.

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### REMEMBERING HABONIM'S GALA CELEBRATION

**“This is the day that God has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it.”**

**And rejoice we did.**

The Kabbalists teach that the lighting of candles (Shabbat and Holy Days) is a re-enactment of the 1st moment of creation, when God said,

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“Let there be light.” Our sages teach us that this primordial light was not a new creation. “Let there be” indicates that the light came from something else. But there was nothing else beforehand? Therefore, our sages concluded that this light must be nothing other than an emanation from God Himself. It was a special light, too intense for normal use. It was, therefore, put aside after the creation of the sun on the 4th day, for special future use.

Judaism is preoccupied with light. Besides Chanukah, every Shabbos and every Yom Tov is ushered in with lighting candles. In many communities, the bride and groom are brought under the chupa, accompanied by lit candles. When a Jew dies, the family lights a Shiva candle and every year on the anniversary a Yahrzeit candle, signifying that the light of the deceased in this world is extinguished. Jews look for any opportunity to bring more light into the world. Recently I had the privilege of chairing a Tribute Dinner committee for Eli, Esther and Larry. The three leaders of Habonim were being honored for their long years of service to your synagogue. Eli, Esther and Larry in their own ways all continued God's work in bringing more light into our imperfect world. It was now the community's task of acknowledging the `radiance` that they brought to your lives.

On behalf of the tribute committee and the multitudes of people who gathered on November 11th to honour Eli, Esther and Larry. We thank you for your participation. May Eli, Esther and Larry continue to bring more light to our world and may Congregation Habonim go from strength to strength.

B`Shalom,

Rabbi Chezi Zionce

## DEAR ESTEEMED DINNER COMMITTEE MEMBERS, SINGERS, MUSIC, PRODUCERS ET AL!

I just wanted to write you a brief note thanking you for last night's event. When I arrived at the Liberty Grand (despite all my advance intelligence!), I wasn't sure what to expect – I was completely mesmerized by what you were able to achieve.

Every aspect of the evening - the warm welcome at the door, the reception, the table settings, the room decor, the music, the speeches, the gifts, the program booklet (though Mickey's picture was missing from the cover (:), the slide-show and the tribute videos - everything meshed together so perfectly and smoothly.

More importantly, you managed to create magic - to create a feeling, an atmosphere of warmth, inclusivity, meaning, joy and community, which I felt the moment I walked into the Liberty Grand, and which stayed with me throughout the entire evening.

I am also very grateful we were able to honor Larry for his 43 years of service to Habonim, and Esther - especially Esther - for her musical gifts not just to Habonim, but for a career that has spanned 8 decades!

I want you all to know how much I appreciate all your efforts, and how thrilled I was with every aspect of the evening. I could not have asked for anything better, and I know that Esther and Larry feel the same. (My mother was especially happy, which I can't ever thank you enough for...)

This evening was certainly among the most moving and memorable milestones in my life. And, if in 25 years from now, you have the urge to plan another such tribute, I humbly suggest you reconsider the notion - you'll never be able to match the sheer magic, creativity and splendour you created last night!

With much love and gratitude, Eli

**FROM BERLIN TO POLAND:  
A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER**

One of our members, Cindy Berg, is inviting you to participate in a trip to Berlin and Poland in October of 2013. Cindy along with her partner Shari Silverstein are very experienced at running trips to Europe and Israel and this will surely be an unforgettable experience. Please see details below.

From Berlin to Poland: A Journey to Remember Oct. 2-11, 2013.

An in-depth and intimate journey through Berlin and Poland focused on Holocaust remembrance and understanding as well as an appreciation of the aftermath and current culture. A moving experience and a stimulating itinerary in the company of survivors, engaging guides and good friends – while enjoying delicious local cuisine and lovely boutique hotel accommodation.

There will be tears. There will be laughter. It will be a Journey to Remember.

For more information, please contact:  
Cindy Berg at cindy Berg <cindyberg@rogers.com>

**JAHRZEITEN MARCH & APRIL 2013**

Rachel Cohen	Adar 20	Mar 2, 2013
Meta Baumann	Adar 20	Mar 2, 2013
Joseph Krongold	Adar *20	Mar 2, 2013
Gerda Jackson	Adar *20	Mar 2, 2013
May Marx	Adar *20	Mar 3, 2013
Phillip Gibson	Adar 21	Mar 3, 2013
Olga Beer	Adar 22	Mar 4, 2013
Jacob Ader	Adar 24	Mar 6, 2013
Loretta Grammar	Adar 24	Mar 6, 2013
William Binder	Adar *24	Mar 6, 2013
Esther Burstyn	Adar 25	Mar 7, 2013
Joseph Sufryn	Adar 25	Mar 7, 2013
Harry Cherm	Adar 25	Mar 7, 2013

Dennis Urstein	Adar 25	Mar 7, 2013
Meyer Shapiro	Adar *25	Mar 7, 2013
John Patton	Adar *26	Mar 8, 2013
Alfred Jakabb	Adar 27	Mar 9, 2013
Percy Fishman	Adar 27	Mar 9, 2013
Shaindl Balberman	Adar 28	Mar 10, 2013
Erika Litvack	Adar *29	Mar 11, 2013
William Klein	Adar 29	Mar 11, 2013
Reuben Buium	Adar 29	Mar 11, 2013
Stephen Kohn	Nisan 2	Mar 13, 2013
Marcus Goldberg	Nisan 3	Mar 14, 2013
Leon Kofman	Nisan 3	Mar 14, 2013
Moe Koffman	Nisan 4	Mar 15, 2013
Edgar Wittekind	Nisan 6	Mar 17, 2013
Renee Goodis	Nisan 6	Mar 17, 2013
Louis Libman	Nisan 7	Mar 18, 2013
Hettie Goldberg	Nisan 8	Mar 19, 2013
Oskar Hastofsky	Nisan 8	Mar 19, 2013
H. Bo Medline	Nisan 9	Mar 20, 2013
Dr. Joseph Spitzer	Nisan 11	Mar 22, 2013
Juliu Jekel	Nisan 11	Mar 22, 2013
Maurice Goodman	Nisan 12	Mar 23, 2013
Michael Herstatt	Nisan 12	Mar 23, 2013
Maria Paula Clavir	Nisan 13	Mar 24, 2013
Morris Buium	Nisan 14	Mar 25, 2013
Nathan Ostrow	Nisan 14	Mar 25, 2013
Elvira Weiss	Nisan 14	Mar 25, 2013
Olga Spitzer	Nisan 15	Mar 26, 2013
Fillip, Lucia, & Tommy Gottlieb	Nisan 15	Mar 26, 2013
Joan Blidner	Nisan 16	Mar 27, 2013
Helene Joy Grossman	Nisan 17	Mar 28, 2013
Hyman Ormsby	Nisan 17	Mar 28, 2013
Jerry Zweig	Nisan 17	Mar 28, 2013
Leon & Marie Urstein	Nisan 17	Mar 28, 2013
Evelyn Wilchesky	Nisan 18	Mar 29, 2013
Sarah Bell	Nisan 18	Mar 29, 2013
Annie Hastofsky	Nisan 18	Mar 29, 2013
Leonard Vyner	Nisan 19	Mar 30, 2013
Samuel Shatz	Nisan 22	Apr 2, 2013

Morris Lams	Nisan 23	Apr 3, 2013
Fritz Heichelheim	Nisan 24	Apr 4, 2013
Paul Firestone	Nisan 25	Apr 5, 2013
Earl Greenberg	Nisan 28	Apr 8, 2013
Hyman Sandler	Nissan 30	April 10, 2013
Elizabeth Klein	Iyar 1	Apr 11, 2013
Jack Van Der Hout	Iyar 1	Apr 11, 2013
Alfred Laufer	Iyar 1	Apr 11, 2013
Freda Ain	Iyar 1	Apr 11, 2013
Daniel Buium	Iyar 3	Apr 13, 2013
Ken Kagan	Iyar 4	Apr 14, 2013
Willy Lobel	Iyar 5	Apr 15, 2013
Gangolf Herman	Iyar 7	Apr 17, 2013
Andrew Leufer	Iyar 9	Apr 19, 2013
Dennis Grant	Iyar 9	Apr 19, 2013
Richard Spitz	Iyar 11	Apr 21, 2013
Steve Jussem	Iyar 12	Apr 22, 2013
Erica Reider	Iyar 12	Apr 22, 2013
Selma Kohn	Iyar 13	Apr 23, 2013
Max Gottlieb	Iyar 14	Apr 24, 2013
Arthur Steuermann	Iyar 16	Apr 26, 2013
Judy Morton	Iyar 16	Apr 26, 2013
Rae Brager	Iyar 17	Apr 27, 2013
Jacob Goldman	Iyar 17	Apr 27, 2013

Irma Lobel	Iyar 17	Apr 27, 2013
Henry Ritter	Iyar 18	Apr 28, 2013
Nathan Saslove	Iyar 18	Apr 28, 2013
Samuel Ostrow	Iyar 18	Apr 28, 2013
Stanley H. Goldberg	Iyar 20	Apr 30, 2013

### In Memoriam:

In Memory of those who passed away in the last year:

Pesia Zimmerman; Fred Rose; Mary Mactinger; Albert Morton; Andrea Vogel; David Rakoff; Margit Lednar; Minette Lebowitz; Sam Muskat; Alvin Rosenberg

We apologize for not printing the entire Jahrzeit list from the beginning of the year as we usually do. We are in the process of researching a new database system for Habonim, which will more efficiently store membership information, including Jahrzeiten. Once the new system has been chosen and is in place, we will also have a better way of communicating Jahrzeit information.

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN?  
Call Erika Erdos at 416-787-0527 or Email: [eerdos1@rogers.com](mailto:eerdos1@rogers.com)

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[www.congregationhabonim.org](http://www.congregationhabonim.org)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: [www.jewishheritageschool.com](http://www.jewishheritageschool.com)

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  
Email: [dijer@sympatico.ca](mailto:dijer@sympatico.ca)

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Eli Rubenstein, 416-398-2615

#### **Associate Religious Leader**

Avrum Rosensweig

#### **Cantors**

Lisa Kent, Aviva Rajskey

#### **Cantor Emeritus**

Esther Ghan Firestone