Schedule of Services and Events

Fri Mar 1 8:15 pm  Kabbalat Shabbat
Fri Mar 29 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat & Potluck with David Goldstein and Alley-oop to Aliya
Sat Mar 30 evening offsite Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Eckhaus son of Beth and Allan Eckhaus
Sat Apr 6 evening offsite Bat Mitzvah of Grace Tanenbaum daughter of Kim and Dan Tanenbaum
Sat Apr 13 10:00 am Shabbat morning service and B’not Mitzvah of Amaris and Shiloh Terner daughters of Elian Terner and Poonam Puri
Sat Apr 27 10:00 am Passover Yizkor service

All services take place at Leo Baeck Day School, 501 Arlington Avenue unless otherwise noted

Come Join Us!

Shabbat Services
Each time we have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah service, people tell us that if their synagogue were like this, they’d actually go to services. Well, your synagogue is like this, and we invite you to join us any time we have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Habonim. Shabbat morning services run from 10:00 am -12 pm. Services are led by Eli and Aviva or Kim, accompanied on guitar by Tom or Josh. Take advantage of your membership, and come enjoy a service. Check the bulletin or the website for our calendar.
Mazal Tov on Recent Simchas

❖ Eli Rubenstein on his 60th birthday
❖ Erika Erdos on her 90th birthday
❖ Lisa Nemiroff and Wesley Roitman on Emily’s Bat Mitzvah
❖ Audrey Fried & Jeremy Grushcow on Daniel’s Bar Mitzvah
❖ Amanda Rosenthal and Jeff Kassel on Levi’s Bar Mitzvah
❖ Rachel Greenbaum and Hal Niedzviecki on Elly’s Bat Mitzvah
❖ Mirah Kirshner and Ron Philipp on Clara’s Bat Mitzvah
❖ Stacy Rosen and Jonathan Hausman on Sonya’s Bat Mitzvah
❖ Derek Sigel and Shannon O’hearn on Norah’s Bat Mitzvah
❖ Jamie Metrick and Heather Black on the Babynaming of their daughter Zena Matlida Zeisel
❖ Daniel and Kim Libman and grandparents Rick & Julie Libman on the Babynaming of their daughter Hazel Mara Libman

дол biệt!
Notes from the Habonim Office

Membership renewals were sent out in January. Please pay your dues by March 15th to avoid a late fee. All 2018 tax receipts will be sent out by the end of February.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Bookings

We are now booking into 2022. Please be sure to contact the office to secure your preferred date. Send an email or call us: officel@congregationhabonim.org or 416-782-7125.

Recent Simcha Photos

Bat Mitzvah of Emily Roitman  
Bat Mitzvah of Clara Philipp Kirchner
Habonim Building Update

2019 is off to a great start for Habonim. As you can see from the pictures below, the building is well underway. We now have a strong foundation and steel structure on which to build the exterior walls and roof. In February, the building will be completely enclosed and the interior work can begin. The interior design work being developed is going to be gorgeous, maintaining the values that Habonim cherishes, paying homage to our past, in a clean, elegant and contemporary style.

As always, we are very grateful to those of you who have supported this ambitious endeavour. With over $12 million raised, we edge closer to our mortgage-free goal, but our fundraising work has to continue.

With over 70% participation in the campaign, one could say this is a great success rate. I am still aiming for 100% participation. So to those of you who have yet to contribute, please consider a donation at whatever your level of comfort. To those of you who have made your pledges, again, we thank you. I do ask you to please consider adding a sixth year to your five year schedule. If everyone did this, we could easily close the remaining gap.

And to those of you who are new to the Habonim Family, we hope that you are beginning to feel the “Magic” of our congregation and will help us to build our future. There are still a number of excellent naming opportunities available and I encourage you to speak to Eli, Aviva or Ted Rechtshaffen regarding these options.

There is one last important message I would like to address, the timing of your 2019 donation. Because most pledges are being paid over 5 years, it is necessary to take out financing to complete the project. The construction will be complete by the end of July, at which point, we will be at our maximum debt load. Consequently, we encourage everyone to consider making their 2019 pledge earlier in the year rather than December as per usual. It is such an exciting time for us as we watch our future unfold.

Remember to check in on YouTube for live streaming of the construction process, the link is available on the Habonim homepage

https://www.congregationhabonim.org/

Joanie Smith
President
Congregation Habonim Board of Directors
Fall Programming Review

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE PITTSBURGH SHOOTING

A very special Shabbat service was held on Friday November 2nd in memory of the victims of the Pittsburgh shooting. Eli and Bernie Farber inspired the congregation with their heartfelt reflections - an excerpt of their comments follows. Rev. Majed El Shafie had been invited to this service to speak about his work rescuing victims of ISIS persecution, and a summary of his powerful remarks follows as well.

Eli Rubenstein told the story of one of the victims, Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, who was a pioneer in the treatment of HIV patients. Back when most people were terrified of HIV patients, Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz held their hands without gloves and gave them a big hug when they left his office. Rabinowitz became known in Pittsburgh as the "one to go to" for HIV care because he treated everyone with dignity and respect, former patient Michael Kerr said.

When gunfire erupted, Rabinowitz was not in the basement where the congregation was gathered but outside the room, his nephew said. "Why? Because when he heard shots he ran outside to try and see if anyone was hurt and needed a doctor. That was Uncle Jerry. That’s just what he did."

Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz & his wife Miri had very close friends in Toronto including current Habonim members Julie and Rick Libman, and also Mary and Paul Lindsay, whose children celebrated their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs at Habonim, with Dr. Rabinowitz & his wife Miri in attendance.

Bernie Farber spoke eloquently about each of the victims:


He concluded his speech, in part, with the following words:

"This could have been any synagogue, anywhere in the world. It could have been any Jew, anywhere. And yet, out of the darkness, and pain, and disbelief, we do see points of light… In a refreshing change from the norm, Canadian Muslims, in a gesture similar to what Canadian Jews undertook after the fatal Quebec mosque shootings, pledged to gather in various shuls across Toronto, enveloping them in circles of peace. It’s a great start, but it must not be the finishing point. It should be the beginning."

Bernie concluded the tribute with the reminder to think of our loved ones and reach out to them, and consider the hardships that are wrought by hatred. But most of all this evening, he reminded us to remember those who attended a Tree of Life shabbat service last Saturday never realizing it would be their very last day on earth.
Fall Programming Review (cont.)

Rev Majed El Shafie: Rescuing Yazidi victims from ISIS persecution

On Nov. 2, 2018, Habonim hosted Rev. Majed El Shafie, founder of One Free World International, and advocate for the plight of Yazidi victims of ISIS persecution. Two courageous women, Adeba and Shiri, both victims of ISIS terror joined him. Below are excerpts from their remarks which took place right after the tragic events in Pittsburgh.

First of all, allow me to present my condolences on behalf of myself and my community. However, this is a reminder of the great evil we are facing, and the great hatred we are facing every day, but also a reminder of how strong you can be, and how important is our work together….It doesn’t matter if you are Christian or Jewish…whatever religion you are, a human being is a human being. The moment we stop fighting for each other, we lose our humanity.

I'm standing here among you as an Egyptian, Christian, and only Egyptian Zionist you will ever meet in your life.

You have to understand that anti-semitism has changed. The old anti-semitism was: Hate the Jews, kill the Jews. Now it’s different. Now anti-semitism is wearing a mask. …They are giving the same speech that Hitler used to give. It’s the same exact words, but instead of saying Jewish, they say Israel.

This is the new anti-semitism that we are facing today. And let me be clear, it's not wrong to criticize Israel. I lived in Israel for 3 years; there's nobody who criticizes Israel more than the Israelis. You can criticize Israel as you wish. But you cannot take from Israel its right to exist and its right to defend itself.

Four years ago, when Isis entered villages, they kidnapped Yazidi women and used them as sex slaves.

We have to do something. Our organization, the next day, was on the ground, 4 years ago. Today as we stand in front of you, our organization was able to rescue more than 600 Yazidi girls from Isis territory. Two of them are sitting over there.

Four years ago, while the world was silent about this genocide that took place, yes we saw the darkest side of humanity, but we also, in the midst of this darkness, saw the light. When human beings came together, from the Jewish community, from the Muslim community, from the Christian community, from the Hindu community, and they came to support the Yazidis and say “never again”, not just for us and what’s happened to our ancestors, but also for any other human being.

The Jewish community understood a very simple lesson, that our world is dark based, it is an unfair place. Not because of the people who are doing evil, but because of the people who are silent. In the absence of light, darkness prevails.

I’m Jewish when I'm fighting anti-semitism. I’m a Shia when I’m fighting for the Ismaili community. I’m a Bahai when I’m fighting for the minorities in Iraq. I’m a Uyghur, Falun Gong, Tibetan when I’m fighting for the minorities in China. And I’m Ahmedia when fighting for minorities in Pakistan. I’m a Sunni when I’m fighting for the Rohingya in Burma. I’m a woman when I’m fighting for equality. And I’m gay when I’m fighting against the killing of the homosexual people in Iran and in Russia.

And now I would like you to hear from one of the victims. I like to hear them because they have a voice.
Fall Programming Review (cont.)

Rev Majed El Shafie: Rescuing Yazidi victims from ISIS persecution (cont.)

This is Adeba and this is Shirin. They are my heroes.

My name is Adeba and I’m Yazidi. In 2014 Isis attacked the Yazidi community. They killed all the men, and they took all the women. The hardest thing is when they take your brother in front of you, and tie his hands, and shoot him in front of you.

For the last 4 years, Isis has been selling the Yazidi girls. They torture them, they rape them, they sell them. The Yazidi children are on the same page, like these children [motions to assembled], and they give them poison in their food to kill them. They took the old men and burned them in an oven.

This is the condition in the Yazidi community for the last 4 years at the hands of Isis. We’re asking the whole world to help the Yazidi. Why they kill us? It’s been 74 massacres happen to the Yazidi community.

We are thankful to brother El Shafie for helping us for the last 4 years. He goes and helps refugee communities in camps. He works at freeing the Yazidi victims from the hands of Isis. The conditions of the refugees in the camps is very hard. The Yazidi community needs your help. Our kids grow up in the refugee camps without a future. We want to live like the rest of the world. Thank you.

I want to thank you all for inviting us here and being part of this. Once again, please accept our sympathy.

We stand with the Jewish community, we stand with the Christian community, we stand with the Yazidi community. We stand together because this is our salvation.

You can kill the dreamer, but no one can kill the dream.

Thank you for having me.

- Rev. Majed El Shafie
Fall Programming Review (cont.)

**THE ST LOUIS & NONE IS TOO MANY**

On Wed. Nov 7, 2018, PM Justin Trudeau, joined by all the leaders of the opposition parties, apologized for Canada’s turning away of the St. Louis some 70 years ago, and for Canada’s inhumane “None is Too Many” policies.

Habonim has an important connection to this development, inasmuch as we are the first synagogue in Canada founded by Holocaust survivors. Further, the entire family of Habonim’s first President, George Spitz, were among those turned away on board the St. Louis. Finally, Habonim member Kenny Albert, was instrumental in making the apology happen, inspired to do so as a result of his own experience on the March of the Living. Below are my remarks at the event.

As I said following the apology, “I was never more ashamed to be a Canadian, than when I first read “None is Too Many” as a student attending York University in the early 1980s. But I was never prouder to be a Canadian, when our government issued its apology for this historic wrong.”

— Eli Rubenstein

**Michael Levitt Introduction:**

Thank you so much to the Gordon family for being here and sharing your thoughts with us. The generational nature of what we’ve achieved here cannot be overlooked, and it’s very much at the core of what our next guest, Eli Rubenstein, does as the national director of The March of the Living. The March of the Living is an absolutely inspirational program, and has at its root, Holocaust education through the experience of returning to Auschwitz. Every year, hundreds of Jewish students travel with mentors, with survivors, back to Poland, back to Auschwitz. I just want to acknowledge the efforts that Eli Rubenstein has done in growing this program. And the absolute significance it has in teaching our next generation the importance and understanding that what has happened in our past shapes our future. Ladies and gentlemen, Eli Rubenstein.

Just before I came into this room, I asked a survivor I knew from Toronto what today was like for him. He said that, “this was the most wonderful gesture a government could ever express”, and this was echoed by a number of other survivors I spoke to. What a mitzvah, what a good deed was done here today by our government!

Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, once said: Many people die twice. Once when they die, and once again when they are forgotten. So thank you, dear Prime Minister, and indeed all our political leaders, for making sure that the over 250 victims of the St Louis, many who perished in Auschwitz/Birkenau, Sobibor, and other places, are never forgotten, that they don’t die a second death. And thank you to all of you here today who took part in this truly historic moment. I would now like you all to rise and join me in chanting the Mourner’s Kaddish for the victims of the St Louis, and so many other victims. And after we conclude the Kaddish, please join me in singing the last line of the Kaddish, Oseh Shalom, the classic Jewish request in prayer, for peace.

— Eli Rubenstein.
Fall Programming Review (cont.)

A NIGHT AT THE THEATRE

On November 22nd, more than 20 members of Habonim attended a fantastic sold-out performance of The Bar Mitzvah Boy at The Greenwin Theatre. Those in attendance had front row seats, and an opportunity to meet the very talented cast after the performance. The performance was both heartwarming and heartbreaking, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

UPCOMING HABONIM EVENTS: Mark your calendars...

Book talk with David Goldstein Author of: Alley-Oop to Aliyah: African American Hoopsters in the Holy Land

FRIDAY MARCH 29th at 6:15pm – Friday night service at Leo Baeck - FREE

Every season, dozens of African American basketball players pack up their sneakers to play and live in Israel. Some players are both Black and Jewish by birth, others choose to convert to Judaism while residing in Israel. Some go so far as to obtain Israeli citizenship, enlist in the Israeli Army, marry Israeli women, and stay long after their playing careers end. Alley-Oop to Aliyah not only deals with basketball and its impact on Israel, but it delves into emotion-laden issues of race, religion, identity, and politics, primarily through the eyes of the players themselves.

Film night at Hot Docs or Toronto Jewish Film Festival

TJFF - MAY 2-12th – Various theatres
Hot Docs Festival - APRIL 25-MAY 5th – Ted Rogers Cinema

Other films under consideration include ON THE MAP, which tells the against-all-odds story of Maccabi Tel Aviv’s 1977 European Championship, which took place at a time when the Middle East was still reeling from the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the 1972 Olympic massacre at Munich, and the 1976 hijacking of an Air France flight from Tel Aviv. Through the of lens of sports, ON THE MAP presents a much broader story of how one team captured the heart of a nation amid domestic turmoil and the global machinations of the Cold War.
Our very first day of school this past September was a blast! That’s because, with Rosh Hashanah imminent, Rabbi Noam Katz delighted us with stories, songs, discussion and the sound of the shofar. On a typical Sunday, the children show up at 9:30, eager to sign up for an elective with which to begin their morning: a range of fun and engaging activities are offered by our terrific teaching staff, from ancient history and storytelling to crafts and theatre games.

Electives are followed by Hebrew classes where reading is the priority but not the sole focus. It’s always a thrill to hear a younger child sound out their first words and to see an older child’s confidence grow with more practice. Recess is not only a time to schmooze but to enjoy the amazing home baked cookies that Cathy Rechtshaffen, Habonim’s Volunteer Director of School Operations, makes each week. Following recess we have Jewish Studies, and then to conclude, everyone comes together for singing, discussion and stories.

As of this year, Adi Barel has been leading her B’nei Mitzvah program on Sunday mornings instead of afternoons. She encourages her students to mentor the elementary children and this has led to some enriching collaboration between the two groups. At our Hanukkah party, for example, the B’nei Mitzvah kids created and ran games for the younger kids which really enhanced the celebration. This party took place on Dec. 9, one day before the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and so we considered the connection between Hanukkah and human rights. Recently at school we celebrated Tu B’Shvat with planting, art and stories. This holiday has become especially meaningful in the 21st century. When the children were gathered together I proposed a simple exercise: stand, say your name and tell us something about trees. I was so impressed by the response, by the way so many of them stood up to express a thought, a fact, a memory or a feeling about trees. I’m looking forward to sharing more moments of wonder, curiosity and Jewish connection with our students as the year progresses.

Cemetary Note To Pre-2000 Members:

Please note that any pre-2000 member that wishes to put up a double stone monument is required to pay for the cost of the adjoining plot to secure the reservation. This deposit is not transferable but is fully refundable to the estate once the plot is used.
Yahrzeits

To receive a Yahrzeit reminder, please ensure the information is correct on your Habonim account. If you would like any assistance please contact 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 ½“ $180 donation

Please contact the office for more information.

In Memoriam:
Mourning those who passed away in the last year:

Jonathan Wolfe
Ethel Cole
Denise Altman
Janis Roth
Veronica Livia Herczeg
John Thomas (Jack) Taylor
Anne Laist
Karen Liberman
Neil Finkelstein

Gerda Gottlieb
Georgina Fleischer
Rabbi Chezi Zionce
Barrie Rose
J. Michael Sigel
Joseph Yungur
Sylvia Goldstein
Ella Wolfish
Lodja Edelstein

Jack Kuretzky
John Freeman
Frances Sussman
Toby Kadish
Rae Zucker
David Smith
Lillian Gossin
Gary Lengyel

Stanley Mostyn
Mildred Leiter
Shelley Nimchonok
Peggy (Piroska) Pachner
Albert Kruger
Kitty Schafer
Dorthy Dash
Jacob Schwartz

May the families be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN.
Contact: Lauren Black, laurenbblack@gmail.com

RELGIOUS 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

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
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