

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday, Feb 24 4:30pm Readings from the Creative Writing Contest for the Homeless

Friday, Feb 28 8:15pm Shabbat Eve Service and Oneg Shabbat

Friday, March 21 10:00am Habonim Family Purim Program

Friday, March 28 7:00-7:45 pm Habonim Family Service with Eli Shabbat Stories, Songs and Discussion

Friday, March 28 8:15pm Habonim Congregational Service And Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, March 29 10:00am Shabbat Service and Bar Mitzvah of Aki, son of Ayako and Lorne Erenberg

Wednesday, April 2 8:00 pm Telling the Lost Stories - A German-Canadian Storytelling Exchange

HABONIM FAMILY PURIM PROGRAM

Friday, March 21 at 10 am

This year Purim falls on Good Friday, so there will be no school that day.

Come to celebrate Purim with us. There will be Purim stories, songs and lots of hamentashen!!!

Come in your Best Purim Costume!

NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Fred Rose, 87 years old, is a Holocaust Survivor. He was incarcerated in Germany's Nazi concentration camp, Sachsenhausen, at the young age of 17. His four sisters, Herta, Alisa, Gene, and Vera, ranging in age from 80 to 92, are still living in Norway, Israel, and Canada. It was their fervent wish to have a memorial created in memory of their parents, Esther and Abraham Rose, both killed in concentration camps.

He is a long time friend of May Marx who designed the

Bema and Candelabra that have long graced our sanctuary.

Four years ago, I was part of a committee to choose a stained glass artist for the design of the North windows. Jerry Tooke's approach was selected from 3 proposals. In addition to his extensive accomplishments in the field his comprehension of Jewish symbolism in the context of contemporary expression, was pivotal. It was without question that he be re-engaged to carry out the Esther and Abraham Rose Memorial Windows which were installed on the South wall on January 11, 2008, following which Jerry wrote:

"When one is continuing a series, as in the Habonim Congregation sanctuary, the additional problem presented is the creation not only of a fresh image but also of a different sameness. It was important that the new window be opposite the first one in order to establish a balance. Different yet complementary symbols have been interesting to select for each set of windows. It was important that all were well-designed objects, easily recognized as historical (Jewish) objects and also attractive in a contemporary graphic design sense. Colour is part of the mystique of stained glass. It is both a unifying element, and an element of continual change as the glass responds to external and internal sources of light."

So the gentle radiance of memory, like the coloured glass responding to ever-dancing light, will celebrate and commemorate the lives of Esther and Abraham Rose.

Morton Katz

FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER / SERVICE
WAS GREAT.

It was a great success thanks to Avrum, Eli, and Tom Bellman's Wailing Walls guitar group - with honorable mention of Elizabeth, the cooking wizard - as well as many wonderful salads and deserts brought by the guests. Once again our spiritual leaders managed to turn this event into a tangibly relevant evening. Sorry to those who missed it.

MEMBERSHIP DUES IMPORTANT
INFORMATION:

You will by now have received your membership dues remittance form. There are some important points I need to clarify with the congregation:

- 1) **ANNUAL DUES COVER JANUARY 31ST TO DECEMBER 31ST OF A CALENDAR YEAR** - many members assume it is from March through March or from High holidays to High Holidays. **DUES COVER THE CALENDAR YEAR**
- 2) **YOUR DUES ARE REQUIRED IN FULL ASAP** - our dues are extremely low and only cover our annual costs. We need your payment as soon as possible to be able to pay our bills in a timely manner
- 3) **\$50 LATE REMITTANCE FEE** - a \$50 late fee will be charged for all payments received after March 31, 2008. Many members have not been remitting their membership dues until the High Holidays which is 9 months late and unacceptable!! Please ensure a timely payment - we require all funds to keep the synagogue running.
- 4) **DUE DATE WILL BE CHANGING FOR NEXT YEAR** - you will be receiving your 2009 Membership Remittance letter in November of 2008. The due date will be changing to January 30th, 2009.
- 5) **DUE INCREASE IN 2009** - we will be increasing the dues for 2009. Our costs increase annually and we will be required to increase the dues for next year. Further details to follow.

- 6) **DONATIONS** - our donations are down considerably. We rely on donations throughout the year to help us make ends meet. Please remember that an income tax receipt will be issued for your dues AND any donations received throughout the year

Please remit your membership dues ASAP - sooner rather than later would help our cash flow.

Thank you,
Samantha

FIFTIES: THE YOUTH OF AGE

by Avrum Rosensweig

The Patriarch Yitzchak (Isaac) prefaced his desire to give blessings to his children with the words, "*behold, now I am old and I do not know the days of my death.*" (Genesis 27:2) Yitzchak was 123 years old at the time. He lived until 180, or 57 more years. Hafetz Chaim, a great Jewish sage, suggests that since our normal life span is about 70 years (according to a formula in Psalms 90:10), then about two thirds of the way to 70, around the age of 50, we should be thinking quite seriously about the blessings and the legacy we bequeath to our children.

I have watched as some friends hit fifty years of age, and noticed a change in them, a sort of maturity that I hadn't seen before. There was a sadness that my friends seemed to harbor and I didn't quite understand why. However, Hafetz Chaim has helped me identify where their melancholy state, albeit a short one, stemmed from. It is said that fifty is the youth of age, despite the fact that our life expectancy is now about eighty.

We arrive at that chronological threshold and discover we are no longer girls and boys and we recognize that it is senseless to wait for things to happen. The kid at the cash register has been calling us 'sir' for a long time now. Fifty arrives, and we realize that we are the people in charge, and things happen only if we make them do so.

Virginia Wolf said, "*One of the signs of passing youth is the birth of a sense of fellowship with other human beings, as we take our place among them.*" Indeed that is what fifty appears to be. A time in life when one accepts, through their children and often grandchildren, that life is far greater than our little island, and we are richer if we are part of a community, more satisfied if we are not alone.

Every decade of life seems to define us in a distinctive way and carry with it a message as to where we are positioned in life. In our twenties, we are confused and free. The world is large, but never too vast for us, because our dreams protect us and come with wings attached, so we can soar high and then higher, like Jonathan Livingston Seagull.

In our thirties our hair begins to recede and a wisp of white reveals itself. Remember that grotesque physical surprise, the very first sign of mortality? In our thirties we can still fly, but are becoming more comfortable below

the clouds as life settles in, as family and career begin to take shape. Forty knocks at our window, then the fifties, the decade referred to as the age of youth. A mystical richness seeps in. One day, sometime during that decade, it occurs to us that, as much as we have learned, we really know very little. Life has become precious and flying is less of a game and more of a pursuit.

Fifty is established. We are grandparents. It is the preamble to our sixties when the questions we ask ourselves are dramatically different. The things that stymie us are, what of the coming twenty or thirty years? Mick Jagger is sixty so we're still okay with bouncing around the squash court. We continue to work, all the time recognizing that the desert is behind us, that we are arriving at the Promised Land. Shul is far more important than ever and the fact that we haven't talked to our sister in twenty years seems ridiculous. "Life", we recognize, "is too short." And we give her a call.

Seventy! I can't believe I'm my grandfather's age. I don't look it, or feel what I thought he felt, or how I remember him. Of course seventy was different then. Life was practical at best. Now it is more purposeful. Seventy year olds seem proud of their arrival at three score and ten.

Eighty is here. I asked a woman who attended my services a number of years ago at Lifestyles Home for the Aged, what was the best thing about being in her eighties. She said, "*honey, you can tell anyone to go to hell and get away with it, and not feel badly about it.*"

"*Old age: A great sense of calm and freedom. When the passions have relaxed their hold, you may have escaped, not from one master but from many.*" (Plato)

Whether you are fifty or older, follow in Yitzchak's steps. Consider the legacy you will bequeath your children. You wish to impart a sense of spirit and the ability to live life to its utmost, learning and growing daily. Recently, I met a man of 38 who is dying, who will never be old. He will not have a chance to consider his legacy as Yitzchak did, and for this I am saddened. However, we who are well, and should be always, ought to think long and hard about what we have planted throughout our days, and how it might grow for those who follow in our steps.

Live long and prosper. "*May you live all the days of your life.*" (Jonathan Swift)

Please consider a legacy gift or an endowment to Congregation Habonim. It has served you and your family well.

DONATIONS

Dr. Tibor Juda
Ro & Robert Cook in honour of Benjamin Gutman's
Bar Mitzvah

In Memoriam:

In loving memory of Irving Dennis - Joan and Clifford Lax
Gale Wakeam - in memory of her father Ernest Avrith
Ro and Robert Cook - in loving memory of Siegmund
Koch, Dora Koch, Franz Koch and Moses Vijeveno
Remembering, with love, my dear husband, Charles -
Phyllis Mint

Greetings:

Honouring Ro Cook on the occasion of her 80th
birthday - Kitty and Hans Schafer

OUR WEBSITE:

www.congregationhabonim.org

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

office@congregationhabonim.org

To **SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT** call
Saundra Levy at (416) 665-5595

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 Miriam Ostrow at (416) 661-0949
Leaf \$175

QUESTIONS OR NOTICES RE JAHRZEITEN?

Call Linda Brager at (416) 488-0282

JAHRZEITEN

To be read at the March 2008 Services

Jacob Ader	Adar 24	March 1
Esther Burstyn	Adar 25	March 2
Joseph Sufrin	Adar 25	March 2
Harry Cherm	Adar 25	March 2
Dennis Urstein	Adar 25	March 2
Alfred Jakabb	Adar 27	March 4
Percy Fishman	Adar 27	March 4
Shaindl Balberman	Adar 28	March 5
William Klein	Adar 29	March 6
Reuben Buium	Adar 29	March 6
Morris Hyman		
Nathanson	Adar* 1	March 8
Sarah Ostrow	Adar* 4	March 11
Mary Harris	Adar* 7	March 14
Joseph and Klara		
Fluxgold	Adar* 8	March 15
Jack Lees	Adar* 11	March 18
Aron Shuster	Adar* 11	March 18
Les Braun	Adar* 14	March 21
Werner Rappoport	Adar* 14	March 21
Gretta Han	Adar* 15	March 22
Sophie Sion	Adar* 15	March 22
Marinka Goldberger	Adar* 15	March 22
Paul H. Massareck	Adar* 17	March 24
Hilda Perlmutter	Adar* 19	March 26
Joseph Krongold	Adar* 20	March 27
Gerda Jackson	Adar* 20	March 27
William Binder	Adar* 24	March 31

In mourning:

Louis Libman, Marcus Goldberg, Miriam Burrows,
Darran Soskin, Otto Fleisher, Jack Jacobson, Rachel
Stern, George Lednar, Richard Morton

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN?
call Erika Erdos at 416-787-0527, fax 416-787-9640
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Deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin:
Wednesday, March 12, 2008

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