

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday, February 25 7:15 pm
 Family Shabbat Service with
 Eli
 8:15 pm
 Shabbat Eve Service and
 Oneg Shabbat

Sunday, March 20 10:00 - 12:00 am
 Purim Program

Friday, March 25 7:15 pm
 Family Shabbat Service with
 Eli
 8:15 pm
 Shabbat Eve Service and
 Oneg Shabbat

Sunday, March 27 7:30 pm
 Doc. Film: Prom Night in
 Mississippi

CELEBRATE PURIM AT HABONIM!

The entire Congregation is invited to a joyous celebration of Purim at Habonim:

Date: March 20, 2011

Time: 10:00 - 12:00 am

Highlights:

- * Gregor Making Activity
- * Purim songs with Guest Musical Performer
- * Reading of the Megila (Abridged)
- * Purim Story by Eli

And of course, Elizabeth's delicious Hamantashen.

Dress Code: Shushan Apparel,
 circa 475 BCE

Please come and bring your best Purim costume!

This will also be an opportunity to come and meet our new principal Yodfat Snir Mandil.

PROM NIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI

Sunday Night, March 27, 7:30pm
Admission: Donation at Door

One town.

Two proms.

Until now.

In 1997, Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman offered to pay for the senior prom at Charleston High School in Mississippi under one condition: the prom had to be racially integrated. His offer was ignored.

In 2008, Freeman offered again. This time the school board accepted, and history was made. Charleston High School had its first-ever integrated prom - in 2008. Until then, blacks and whites had had separate proms even though their classrooms have been integrated for decades. Canadian filmmaker Paul Saltzman follows students, teachers and parents in the lead-up to the big day.

This seemingly inconsequential rite of passage suddenly becomes profound as the weight of history falls on teenage shoulders. We quickly learn that change does not come easily in this sleepy Delta town. Freeman's generosity fans the flames of racism - and racism in Charleston has a distinctly generational tinge.

Some white parents forbid their children to attend the integrated prom and hold a separate white-only dance. "Billy Joe," an enlightened white senior, appears on camera in shadow, fearing his racist parents will disown him if they know his true feelings. PROM NIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI captures a big moment in a small town, where hope finally blossoms in black, white and a whole lot of taffeta.

-David Courier, Sundance Film Festival

SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE TERRACES

On Sunday February 13th, I had the great pleasure to attend a reception at Baycrest Terraces to mark the end of the "Learning From Our Elders" program. In attendance were the 17 youth from Habonim's Bnei Mitzvah program, members of their families, and the 14 Baycrest residents who participated. The experience was both touching and delightful, and an event that I believe represents the very best of what our synagogue is about.

Over several weeks, each of our Bnei Mitzvah youth prepared for interviews with a Baycrest resident, conducted the interview, then together with the elder created a painting inspired by the life of the interviewee. At the reception, each "team" in turn talked about their experience, with the youngsters from Habonim beautifully relating the elders' life stories, and the elders very movingly and eloquently describing the work of art, and what had inspired it.

It was clear that some very special relationships had developed between the participants, even in the short span of the program.

Our youth leader Julie-Rae King, now in her second year running the Bnei Mitzvah program, deserves particular mention for her superb leadership and organization of the collaboration on our side. Julie-Rae is a wonderful asset to the Habonim community and we greatly appreciate her efforts. Special thanks to the organizers from Baycrest—Sari Shawn, program coordinator, and Bianca Stern, director of Community and Heritage—who did an outstanding job hosting the activities at Baycrest and welcoming our youth and their families. They invited artist Jennifer Polo to facilitate the artistic component, which was a big highlight of the project.

Copies of the art works will be on display in the synagogue, and with luck, viewable on our web site in the near future. It is hoped that the program will be a permanent part of the Bnei

Mitzvah program, along with several other excellent projects that the 12 and 13 year olds are involved with throughout the year.

Congratulations to the Bnei Mitzvah program participants for the caring and professional way you handled yourselves during the presentations and throughout the experience. You have done our shul very proud! And thanks to all the families for coming out to support your children and Habonim's next generation of leaders.

Tom Bellman

A NATIVE,
A SHTETL JEW
& HABONIM

By Avrum Rosensweig

Friday nights. Once a month.

On the last Friday night of every month, Congregation Habonim hosts a beautiful Friday night service. About 25 people attend. Eli leads the service. Sometimes I'll give a *d'var torah* (a message on the *Torah* portion). Recently, guest speaker and abolitionist activist, Joan Ruzsa, spoke about: Judaism, Justice & Alternatives to Incarceration.

We sit in a circle, so nobody is up on high. Two Habonim congregants light the Shabbat Candles and say the prayer in English and Hebrew. You know that feeling when you look at a flame, look past it, and see a part of your own soul and sometimes, the entire world, then and now -- that's what candle lighting is like.

Eli plays the guitar. He opens the evening with *Shalom Aleichem*, a tune you might know. *Peace unto you, ministering angels, messengers of the Most High, of the supreme King of kings, the Holy One,*

blessed be He.

Larry plays the piano. Esther joins in. She harmonizes.

Her voice is Shabbat.

Sometimes I look around and notice someone's eyes are closed as they welcome our *Shabbat*. The room is still, but vibrant. Although it's dark outside the stained glass windows smile light down on us.

We listen to stories. Eli weaves *Chassidic* tales, humanitarian thoughts, and personal anecdotes throughout the songs. We never fail to grow through the tribulations of the poor shtetl (village) Jew who traded his last worldly goods for Shabbat food. And we share in his family's joy as they sing *Lecha dodi likrat kalah, p'nei Shabbat nekablah*, Come my Beloved to greet the bride--the Sabbath presence let us welcome! -- a song composed by Rabbi Shlomo Halevy Alkabetz (1505-1584), one of the Kabbalists (mystics) of Safed, Israel.

Listen to these versions of Lecha Dodi on Youtube. One is eastern in sound. Another is a hip camp rendition. You can hear an Ud in one of them and a drum kit in the other. They used to play instruments in the *Bait Hamikdash* -- the Temple, as we do today on Friday nights at Habonim.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU_7ITYkRmw&feature=related

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBBvHyZYh8I

It takes a strong push and a lot of mindfulness to get me out the door on Friday nights to come to the service. It's much like going to the gym. It would be simpler to watch Law and Order, after lighting the candles. But once I'm there - and we begin to sing, and we listen to Eli's ideas about Judaism, Torah ideas and the complex world which we are only visiting, the group slowly gels so that a debate unfolds, or an intimate thought is generously shared about someone's memories of their Shabbat in South Africa or elsewhere. I'm

there. And there is no other place I'd rather be.

This is a pitch. Yes it is.

What we do on the last Friday night of every month at Habonim is yours. It is because you pay for it through your dues. And it is because it is carried over from the spirit that the Habonim walls hold from the High Holidays. On Friday night, at the end of the month, like all Jews it is said, were at Mt. Sinai when the Torah was given – so too are all Habonim congregants sitting together with us.

There is a fundamental difference in life when one exercises their soul, particularly on Shabbat. Think about the bonfire you sat close to at the cottage. Remember looking up at a sky full of stars by the side of a country road. It's like that. And we're growing the services.

Soon you'll hear more stirring voices leading us in prayer. We have invited Native Canadians to speak to us about their plight. We have asked animal activists to enlighten us about seeing-eye-dogs in Israel. We are discussing the idea of extending an invitation to anyone who is in need of a dinner, to come and share Friday night with us – an act of *tikun olam* (repairing the world).

If you like these ideas, or have others, and would like to help implement and/or sponsor them contact Eli at uiaeli@passport.ca or email me at avrum@vehavta.org.

Our shul is unique. There is no other like it. Our Friday night services have a forever quality. Think about this article for a moment longer than you normally would. Think about joining us and meeting the family from a *shtetl*, seeing a cover of stars in the sky, lighting the candles and listening to our Aboriginal brothers and sisters. That is Habonim....on Friday night.

Shalom Aleichem.

HABONIM NEWS

We wish to welcome **Yodfat Snir Mandil** as the new principal of the Jewish Heritage School at Habonim. Yodfat was the Youth Director and Hebrew and Music teacher at the Or Shalom Synagogue & Hebrew Day school in London, Ontario for the last 5 years, before recently moving to Toronto. We are very excited she has agreed to assume this position.

We extend our hearty welcome to **Aviva Rajskey** as the new Associate Cantor at Habonim, who will be assisting Esther throughout the year. Aviva will be doing a portion of the regular congregational services, as well as High Holidays and Bnai Mitzvot.

Please note that Lisa Kent (the current cantor at the Danforth Jewish Circle) will be performing some of the Bnai Mitzvot as well.

PERSONALIA

Mazaltov and hearties congratulations to Trish Orzech and Rafael Gomez on the birth of William Noah Gomez - a healthy, bouncing boy

Congratulations to Hans Schafer who was Director of the George Brown College Seniors' Association for 15 years. The College has decided to honor Hans by creating a "Hans Schafer Scholarship". A student from G.B. College in Finance and Business will be the first one to receive an award in April.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to our esteemed and loved Eli Rubenstein on the loss of his father Israel Rubenstein.

DONATIONS

Aliyot:

Sam and Anita Lieberman

In memoriam:

Remembering with love and sadness our dear son and brother Richard Morton – the Morton and Small families.

Our deepest sympathy to Eli Rubenstein and family on the passing of Israel Isadore Rubenstein – Maureen and Roger DeFreitas

My deepest sympathy to Ely Rubenstein and family on the passing of Israel Isadore Rubenstein

Our deepest sympathy to Eli Rubenstein and family on the passing of Israel Isadore Rubenstein - Vivian and Gina Rakoff.

In memory of Nathan Kahn – Sam and Anita Lieberman

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

office@congregationhabonim.org

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:

www.JewishHeritageSchool.com

To **SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT** call
Saundra Levy at (905) 780-9425

To **SEND GREETING CARDS and DONATIONS**

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QUESTIONS OR NOTICES RE JAHRZEITEN?

Call Linda Brager at (416) 488-0282

JAHRZEITEN MARCH 2011

<i>To be read at</i>	<i>Services</i>	
Esther Burstyn	Adar 25	Mar 1, 2011
Joseph Sufrin	Adar 25	Mar 1, 2011
Harry Cherm	Adar 25	Mar 1, 2011
Dennis Urstein	Adar 25	Mar 1, 2011
Alfred Jakabb	Adar 27	Mar 3, 2011
Percy Fishman	Adar 27	Mar 3, 2011
Shaindl Balberman	Adar 28	Mar 4, 2011
William Klein	Adar 29	Mar 5, 2011
Reuben Buium	Adar 29	Mar 5, 2011
Sydney Kuttner	Adar* 1	Mar 7, 2011
Morris Hyman		
Nathanson	Adar* 1	Mar 7, 2011

Naomi Wilson	Adar* 4	Mar 10, 2011
Sarah Ostrow	Adar* 4	Mar 10, 2011
Mary Harris	Adar* 7	Mar 13, 2011
Joseph and Klara		
Fluxgold	Adar* 8	Mar 14, 2011
Jack Lees	Adar* 11	Mar 17, 2011
Aron Shuster	Adar* 11	Mar 17, 2011
Les Braun	Adar* 14	Mar 20, 2011
Werner Rappoport	Adar* 14	Mar 20, 2011
Gretta Han	Adar* 15	Mar 21, 2011
Sophie Sion	Adar* 15	Mar 21, 2011
Marinka Goldberger	Adar* 15	Mar 21, 2011
Paul H. Massareck	Adar* 17	Mar 23, 2011
David Kachuck	Adar* 19	Mar 25, 2011
Hilda Perlmutter	Adar* 19	Mar 25, 2011
Joseph Krongold	Adar* 20	Mar 26, 2011
Gerda Jackson	Adar* 20	Mar 26, 2011
May Marx	Adar* 21	Mar 27, 2011
William Binder	Adar* 24	Mar 30, 2011
Meyer Shapiro	Adar* 25	Mar 31, 2011

In mourning:

Labol Levy, Robert Cook, Bernard Simon, Richard Goranson, Rosalyn Borins, Tamarah Buium, Nell Warren; Oscar Zuker; Israel Rubenstein

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 9, 2011

Beth Habonim	5 Glen Park Ave.	416-782-7125
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	Avrum Rosenzweig	416-964-7698
Cantor:	E. Ghan-Firestone	416-665-6927
Treasurer and	T. Rechtshaffen	416-322-0749
Co-president:	Tom Bellman	416-535 6664