

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday, April 27	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service and Oneg Shabbat	Saturday, May 19	10:00am	Bat Mitzvah of Katherine Fleshner, Daughter of Eileen Racovitch and Neil Fleshner
Saturday, April 28	10:00am	Bar Mitzvah of Lewis Glatt, Son of Jodi Lees and Richard Glatt	Tuesday, May 22	8:30pm	Shavuot Story Telling
Saturday, May 5	10:00am	Bar Mitzvah of Michael, son of Debbie and Irwin Kleinman	Saturday, May 26	10:00am	Bar Mitzvah of Andrew, son of Susan and Nathan Roth
Saturday, May 5	7:00pm	Bat Mitzvah of Stephanie, daughter of Debbie and Wayne Karp	Friday, June 1	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service and Oneg Shabbat
Friday, May 11	7:30pm	Family Shabbat Service			
Saturday, May 12	10:00am	B'nai Mitzvah of Stephanie and Danny, Children of Ruth and Len Biddell			

## SLAVES IN DOWNTOWN TORONTO

*By Avrum Rosensweig*

On Pesach we recited the Haggadah, and said, "We were slaves in Egypt....". The objective of this statement was not simply to remind us of the persecution perpetrated against the Jewish people but to teach us a valuable lesson.

Passover, we stated that our arms and legs were shackled and our children forced to do slave labour that we be aware of where we came from and the gift and responsibilities that come with our liberation and freedom.

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The Haggadah and this concept were mimicked by the late Martin Luther King who stated in his "I have a dream" speech, 'Let freedom ring, ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, so we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children - black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics - will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" '

Fellow Habonim members, we are free. In fact we are perhaps freer than any nation has ever been - able to express our way, our attitude; able to criticize those who manage our land, able to walk and talk where we please, when we please and mostly how we please.

But this year, a year in which the world will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, more than 12 million men, women and children remain shackled to the doorpost of slavery, grimly and gravely suffering like we did in Egypt.

The slaves we speak of are found in Sudan and Mauritania. Boys and girls, men and women are forced to slog in the rug loom sheds of Nepal, sell their bodies in the brothels of Rome, smash rocks in the pits of Pakistan, and fight wars in the jungles of Africa.

But these countries are far enough away on the face of the spinning globe to allow us the justification of 'see not'.

However, when we look in our own backyards, when we dig deeply behind the façade of our splendid city, we find sweatshops and parlours where women are objectified, turned into numbers and resources, and made to work long hours for minimal wages, money that they return to their 'task masters' as rent to live in dingy room.

This is a tough thing to know because it forces us to ask, 'if I were there, what would I have done'. The truth be told, we are 'there'.

'There' is moments away from the comfort of our

homes, where people are forced to do labour and perform sexually against their will; confined, detained and prevented from seeing their families and living freely as we do. They are only moments away!

As many as 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually. Sadly, articles were recently published on a slave trade in Israel, where up to 3,000 women have been smuggled into our Homeland and forced to prostitute themselves, and thousands of foreign workers subjugated to a life of slavery and humiliation.

The text of a United Nations resolution in late 2006 recognized "the slave trade and slavery as among the worst violations of human rights in the history of humanity, bearing in mind, particularly, the scale, duration and lingering impact." It documented that slavery is at the heart of "profound social and economic inequality, hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice."

We as Jewish Canadians therefore need to do the following:

- a) Recognize that slaves contributed to building this country. Do so by urging our government to clearly state our complete history and officially recognize the injustices we perpetrated through participation in slavery (In 1806, York legislator Peter Russell advertised in the York Gazette the sale of his slave Peggy and her son Jupiter.). This will help cleanse our national soul (read Dr. Afua Cooper's book *The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montréal*).
- b) Compel our mayor and city council to liberate all men, women and children working in sweatshops in the Greater Toronto Area, and by extension, throughout Canada;
- c) Challenge the State of Israel to use the full weight of the law to halt the ghastly practice of slavery and the suppression of the rights of migrant workers;
- d) Launch a Tikun Olam (Social Action) committee at

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Congregation Habonim dealing with this and other humanitarian issues. E-mail me at [HYPERLINK](mailto:HYPERLINK)  
"mailto: avrum@veahavta.org

What is a shul without active compassion for those who are suffering, for those who are slaves? It is a building with walls and song. At the centre of the Jewish soul, however, is the celebration of bravery and activism. We know this because we recognize with pride those who fight on behalf of the Jewish people and the State of Israel; those who battled in the Warsaw Uprising...we recognize courage and fighting 'a good fight' as important Jewish character traits.

Today, our brothers and sisters, there are slaves in downtown Toronto. As long as there are, as long as people are chained to one another like oxen in a field, the truth be told - we are slaves too. Fight the fight. It is Jewish.

( [HYPERLINK](http://avrumrosensweigideas.blogspot.com)  
"http://avrumrosensweigideas.blogspot.com"

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## DONATIONS

### Greetings:

Congratulations Howard Mammon and family on the birth of their daughter Aviva – Eve and Bob Baxter

### In Memoriam:

In memory of Jack Van Der Hout - Sylvia Van Der Hout

We remember with love, our dear mother, Judy Morton - Erica, Richard and Lawrence

In memory of Helene Joy Grossman - Love from Marie, Neil, Jonathan, Emily and Sara Finkelstein

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## ONEG SHABBAT SPONSORS

**Gail & Charles Milgrom** in honour of their daughter Michaela's Bat Mitzvah.

If you'd like to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat, following one of our regular end-of-month Friday evening services, other members of the Congregation would thank you for making it possible for them to enjoy Elizabeth's incredibly delicious baking. And you'll have the satisfaction of sponsoring an event to mark an important occasion for your family or the Congregation. Your sponsorship will be announced in the Bulletin and from the Bima immediately before the Oneg Shabbat. You can decide on the wording of the announcement. A sole, full Oneg sponsorship requires a minimum donation of \$180 to the Synagogue, but you can also make a smaller contribution if you'd like to pool your sponsorship with other members of the Congregation. Please call Sandra Levy at 416-665-5595

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### OUR WEBSITE:

[www.congregationhabonim.org](http://www.congregationhabonim.org)

### OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

[office@congregationhabonim.org](mailto:office@congregationhabonim.org)

To **SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT** call  
Sandra 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](mailto: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

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## JAHRZEITEN MARCH 2007

*To be read at the Service on May 25, 2007*

Selma Kohn	Iyar 13	May 1
Max Gottlieb	Iyar 14	May 2
Arthur Steuermann	Iyar 16	May 4
Judy Morton	Iyar 16	May 4
Jacob Goldman	Iyar 17	May 5
Irma Lobel	Iyar 17	May 5
Henry Ritter	Iyar 18	May 6
Nathan Saslove	Iyar 18	May 6
Samuel Ostrow	Iyar 18	May 6
Stanley H. Goldberg	Iyar 20	May 8
Willy Ekstein	Iyar 22	May 10
Karl Placek	Iyar 23	May 11
Lewis Finestone	Iyar 28	May 16
Ethel Spector	Iyar 28	May 16
Isadore Haber	Iyar 28	May 16
Hyman Charkow	Iyar 28	May 16
Giselle Pollak	Iyar 28	May 16
Edith Tarshis	Iyar 29	May 17
Allan Lax	Iyar 29	May 17
Lois H. Sufirin-Spigel	Iyar 29	May 17
Guenther H. Orbach	Sivan 5	May 22
Bela Erdos	Sivan 5	May 22
Zelda Stein	Sivan 9	May 26
Abraham Schalmann	Sivan 9	May 26
Margit Weinberg	Sivan 10	May 27
Tina Patton	Sivan 11	May 28
Harry Chas. Gottlieb	Sivan 12	May 29
Kay Fink	Sivan 12	May 29
Sima Muskat	Sivan 13	May 30
Adolph Weiss	Sivan 13	May 30
Alice Engel	Sivan 14	May 31
Gary Rosen	Sivan 14	May 31
Bella Isaak	Sivan 14	May 31
Irene and Leopold Stamberger	Sivan 14	May 31

### In mourning:

Gretta Hahn,  
Steve Erdos,  
Erwin Pollack,  
Sam Slavin,  
Samuel Sivitz,  
Frank Kohn,  
Sender Balberman,  
Joseph Brager,  
Philip Gibson

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN?  
call Erika Erdos at 416-787-0527, fax 416-787-9640  
e-mail eri.steve@rogers.com

Deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin:  
*Wednesday, May 16, 2007*

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