



CONGREGATION HABONIM OF TORONTO
BULLETIN

5 Glen Park Avenue · Toronto · Ontario · M6B 4J2

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Schedule of Services and Events

Mon May 21	10:00 am	Shavuot Yizkor Services - Leo Baeck Day School. We will be hearing from several Habonim students and adults from the 2018 March of the Living.
Sat June 2	10:00 am	Bat Mitzvah of Maya Lewis, daughter of Shiphra Ginsburg and Stuart Lewis - Leo Baeck Day School
Wed June 13	7:30 pm	Annual General Meeting – Leo Baeck Day School

All congregants are welcome to attend Shabbat morning services when there is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.



This year, we had a record breaking number of Habonim members participate in the March of the Living. We wish to welcome these members back home and will be looking to set up opportunities for them to share their experiences with the rest of the congregation. Welcome back student members Danielle Roth, Judah Cooper, Olivia Stein, Skylar Banks, Tali Katz, Amir Doron, Zachary Levy, Charolte Rechtshaffen, Emily Blackstein, Amanda Graff, and Julie Grammer, and adult members Marilyn & David Gotfrid, Eynat & Arny Katz, Debra & Joel Kwinter, Geraldine Rendon, Adele & Mark Rosenblatt, Susan & Nathan Roth along with Eli Rubenstien and Kim Doron.

Habonim Building Update

The Habonim building committee under the guidance of Jordan Slatt, has been working overtime to keep the project on time and within a workable budget. All major decisions are discussed within the committee and recommendations are presented to the board for approval. Once again, I need to stress how fortunate we are to have a select group of experienced individuals who are volunteering their time and dedication to the benefit of the whole congregation.

A cost consultant was hired in the late fall and it was acknowledged that the plans we were working from were somewhat beyond our reach. Consequently, the committee met with our architect, Guela Solow Ruda and our project manager, Nick Zouravloff to determine avenues to value engineer, reduce costs and maintain the integrity of the design and construction. One costly element that needed to be addressed was the glass curtain wall that created the exterior facade on all four sides of the building. It was decided that there was an alternate method of reaching a similar, if not more unique design. The new facade will be wrapped with a perforated screen which will diffuse light and, like a tallis, both separate and connect the building with the outside world (See images to the right).

Once the plans were tightened up, the committee interviewed 3 different companies and the decision was made to engage Traugott Building Contractors as our construction manager. (Check out their website here: <http://www.traugott.com>). Traugott has a 50 year history in the construction business and prior experience building synagogues and churches. They are confident with the time schedule and will work with us throughout the course of the project to make choices that are cost efficient. An additional advantage to us is that Traugott has a long standing business relationship with one of the construction committee members.

At the time of writing this article, demolition permits have been issued and the 2 houses next to the synagogue have already come down. Traugott is in the process of tendering the project to sub trades and is expected to begin construction by the beginning of June.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Joanie Smith

President
Congregation Habonim Board of Directors



Programming Update by Cheryl Grammer

Thank you to all who attended our Demolition Party on Sunday March 4, 2018. Over 70 congregants of all ages joined Joanie, Eli, Robin, Patsy, Silvio and the team for a joyous and sentimental farewell to our building. Long-time Habonim leaders, such as Roger de Freitas shared cookies and memories with some of our youngest members and all were treated to the sweet and soulful sounds of Aviva, Tom and the house band. Our gratitude to everyone for making the day so special.

As well, thank you to all of you who took the time to participate in our congregational survey. We will share the findings and insights with you in the coming months and expect this valuable data to inform our programming plans moving forward.

Unfortunately the showing of "Disobedience" that we had planned for May 27th was cancelled by TIFF. We apologize for any inconvenience this caused, and are working on plans for another film event. Stay tuned for updates!



Notes from the Habonim Office

Membership: A friendly reminder to those who have not yet paid their 2018 membership. Please contact the office if you would like a login link to pay online, or send cheques to 5 Glen Park Ave.

Mail: During construction there will be a mailbox onsite at 5 Glen Park for regular mail or drop offs.

Planning a Bar / Bat mitzvah? Please remember to book early so you can ensure your chosen date & the availability of clergy.

Questions? Comments? Please contact Robin at the Office at officel@congregationhabonim.org or 416-782-7125

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The 2018 AGM For Congregation Habonim will be held on June 13, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Leo Baeck Day School , 501 Arlington Ave. near the Cedarvale Ravine.

The Board is always looking for new additions to join the Board and/or Board Committees. Currently, the Board is hoping to find candidates with skills related to accounting and finance. Younger members of the Congregation should not hesitate to volunteer and are encouraged to do so. The by-laws state the preference to have one director who is under 35 years old and one director who is under 30. If you are interested in learning more or discussing the opportunity, please contact Stephen Halperin, Chair of the Governance Committee, at shalperin@goodmans.ca or at 416-597-4115.

CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS

In addition to director nominations proposed by the Governance Committee, members may also nominate candidates for the Board of Directors. Any member may nominate himself or herself or other members. Each nomination should be submitted to Joanie Smith, president, at smithje1958@gmail.com by no later than May 30, 2017. Nominations should include a short biography of the person nominated.

Nominations by members may be made at least three days before the AGM by acquiring the signatures of five other members and notifying the president in writing. The Board will approve a slate of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected at that AGM, which could include any nominees proposed by members and any nominees proposed by the Governance Committee. At the AGM, members will vote on the slate of candidates, including any nominees who are not on the Board-approved slate. If there are more nominees than available positions, the nominees receiving the most votes for the number of available positions will be elected. (For example, if there are three vacancies, the nominees receiving the three highest number of votes will be elected.)

Subject to confirmation by the new Board of Directors in June following the AGM, the current executive will remain in place for another term as follows; Joanie Smith, President, Joel Kwinter, Vice President, Lauren Black, Vice President, and Rick Glatt, Treasurer. Alexis Slatt, currently in the second of her first term, has kindly agreed to serve in the position of Secretary.

We are very grateful to all the members of the Board and Board Committees who volunteer their time and dedicate themselves to serve in these important functions. We are especially grateful to Dianne Erdos Rush who will be stepping down from the Board and her role of Board secretary after an extraordinary 14 years of committed service on the Board and to the Congregation. Thank you, Dianne.

VOTING BY PROXY

Do you wish to vote at the AGM but cannot attend? If you cannot make the meeting, you can vote by proxy. A proxy form and instructions will be available on our website, or contact Robin in the office at 416-782-7125 office1@congregationhabonim.org

March of the Living 30th Anniversary Gala



On May 8, 2018, the UJA hosted the March of the Living 30th Anniversary Gala to celebrate the success of the March and secure the viability of Holocaust education travel programs for years to come. All Holocaust survivors who have travelled on the March of the Living since 1988 were honoured for their extraordinary contributions to Holocaust education on the March.

At this special event, our very own Eli Rubenstein was also presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment and unceasing dedication to promoting and enhancing the March of the Living program.

Noted as a driving force and visionary leader, Eli is the only person who has been involved in every March since its inception in Canada in 1988.

In attendance at the Gala was the Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who spoke to the attendees and had this to say specifically about Eli:

“ I want to commend the incredible leadership and dedication of Eli Rubenstein, who has led this March since its inception in 1988. Through education and advocacy, he has reminded us of our collective responsibility – as Jews and as friends of the Jewish community – to ensure that NEVER AGAIN is never forgotten. So thank you, Eli for all that you have done especially to educate our youth. ”

Mazel tov, Eli. You are an inspiration and we are so very proud of you.



Photo Credits: Ron Csillag



Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger, dances with the Prime Minister.



Photo Credits: Ondrej Mihal

Eli Rubenstein, Eli's mother; Esther Rubenstein, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Mazal Tov on Recent Simchas

- ❖ Beth & Mark Litwin on Russell's Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Ari & Charissa Levy on Erynn's Bat Mizvah
- ❖ Karen & Peter Spence on Norah's Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Kenny & Jennifer Tanenbaum on Dylan's Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Rebecca and Michael Soberman on Jordyn's Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Mazel Tov to Eileen Rakovitch upon being named the 2018 recipient of the Israel Cancer Research Fund's Wendy Lak Women of Action Scientific Award.
- ❖ Jonathan & Natasha Finkelstein on the birth of their son Jacob.
- ❖ Alison & Robert Frank on Nicole's Bat Mitzvah

מזל טוב!



Jordyn Soberman celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Jerusalem. Celebrating with her were her two sets of grandparents, her parents, her younger brother, as well as aunts, uncles and cousins who all travelled to Israel together on a very special 2 week trip across the country. Jordyn beautifully chanted the parsha Vayechi from a torah that originated from Poland and was saved during the Holocaust.



Bris of Jacob Neil, son of Jonathan & Natasha Finkelstein,
Grandparents Marie & Neil Finkelstein

Jewish Heritage School Update by Suzanne Hersh

Whatever it may have been doing outside these last few months, inside our Sunday mornings at The Jewish Heritage School there has been much light and warmth. In January we celebrated Tu B'Shvat, tasting different fruits, using our hands to combine earth and seeds, and increasing our knowledge and appreciation of trees. In February, the students and their families had great fun at our Purim party which culminated in the presentation of skits by all the kids and adults to tell the story of the Megillah.

In March we celebrated Pesach, making matzah, practicing some of the songs and creating placemats that depict the order of the seder. April invited us to develop our curiosity about and connection to Israel as we marked Yom HaAtzmaut, using the English alphabet to learn 26 different things about the State of Israel, doing Israeli line-dancing and enjoying Cathy's homemade falafel and kadorei shokolad. Check out the recipe below; such a yummy treat and they're fun and easy to make with kids.

In May comes the beautiful holiday of Shavuot and then our end-of-school-year family celebration in June. It's already time to start thinking about registering (or re-registering) for next year. We're considering offering a Thursday after-school option if there's enough interest.

Be sure to get in touch if you have questions: habonimschool@gmail.com

Come celebrate learning, and learn to celebrate the Jewish year with us!

<https://forward.com/food/145673/kadorei-shokolad-israels-favorite-dessert/?gamp>



The Tailor Project



In late 1947 and early 1948, representatives of the Canadian garment industry organized what became known as the Tailor Project, a plan to select more than 2,200 skilled tailors from the displaced person camps of Europe and give them jobs and housing in Canada. The project also spurred the formation in 1947 of the Jewish Vocational Service of Toronto, the original purpose of which was to help survivors of World War II find employment.

Those working on the Tailor Project now are interested in obtaining the names of individual Jewish tailors who arrived under the original project, or those of their children. The goal is to interview them and in some manner record their information so that the Jewish community and Canadian society at large may appreciate the benefits of immigration, through the many contributions these individuals have made and to honour their history for posterity through Jewish and Holocaust archives. Larry Enkin, who is working on this aspect of the project has a very personal connection to it as his father, Max Enkin, led the team that went to the DP camps and did the interviews at that time.



If you know anyone and/or wish to submit the names of any individuals to be interviewed, please contact Larry Enkin at larryenkin@gmail.com or Paul Klein at paul@impaktcorp.com

For more information with respect to The Tailor Project please visit

<http://www.cjnews.com/news/canada/tailor-project-brought-displaced-persons-canada>

In Memoriam:

Mourning those who passed away in the last year:

Barbara Nash Fenton
Leone Paula Beth Bodner
Dorothy Friedman Riegelhaupt
Tilya Helfield
Sheilah Silverberg
Dora Posluns
Esther Lynne Burnett

Magdolna Hercz
Catherine Anne Courtney
Helen Sharp Shapiro
Alice Schmid
Marie Sanders
Barry and Honey Sherman
John Thomas (Jack) Taylor
Miriam Ostrow

Moya Mandel
Mark Silver
Jonathan Wolfe
Ethel Cole
Denise Altman
Janis Roth
Veronica Livia Herczeg

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit reminders are now being sent out. To receive your reminder please update your family Yahrzeits by logging onto your account on our website. If you would like any assistance please contact Robin in 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 1/2" \$180 donation

Please contact the office for more information.

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN.

Contact: Lauren Black, laurenblack@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS 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

www.congregationhabonim.org

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Cantors

Cantor: Aviva Rajskey

Contact: avivar@rogers.com

Associate Cantor: Kim Doron

Contact: kimdoron@rogers.com

Volunteer Director of School Operations

Cathy Rechtshaffen

Contact: habonimschool@gmail.com