

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday, March 26	8.15pm	Shabbat Eve Service and Oneg Shabbat
Sunday, March 28	10:00am	Breakfast Club: Prof. Hugh Innis <i>Reason vs. Faith in Humanism</i>
Friday, April 2	7:00pm	Family Shabbat Service, Bring your children!
Saturday, April 3	10:00am	Bat Mitzvah of Zenna Zerker, Daughter of Joan Fisher and Steven Zerker
Saturday, April 3	p.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Jaclyn Kanitz, Daughter of Linda and Jon Kanitz
Tuesday, April 6	7:30PM	Community Seder
Tuesday, April 13	10:00am	Pesach Yiskor Service
Friday, April 30	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service and Oneg Shabbat

BREAKFAST CLUB

As promised, Steve has prepared an interesting and thought provoking program for our meeting on March 28. Our guest, **Hugh R. Innis** is a distinguished professor, author, as well as a well known and loved speaker, radio and TV commentator. His topic is: ***What is the Place of Religion in an Age of Humanism?***

“Greek and early Christian humanists believed that greater attention should be paid to everyday human lives here on earth. As humanism has evolved, it has come to see religion as a barrier to the full realization of our human potential. The humanism of reason is set against religions of faith. What can we guess about the future as this long debate continues to unfold?”

Sunday, March 28, 10a.m. Breakfast and lecture still only \$6.

HABONIM & VE AHAVTA'S
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER

"All Who Are Hungry Let Them Enter and Eat"

The Passover Hagadah

If you do not have plans for the second night of Passover, please join us for a very special Seder.

For those of you who haven't been to a Habonim seder before, it's a really festive and celebratory event!

The Seder is filled with singing and storytelling/discussion around the theme of physical and/or spiritual freedom - and of course enjoyment of traditional Passover delicacies. So arrive hungry, in good singing voice, and with some personal thoughts on the meaning of freedom to you!

As we celebrate our holidays, our tradition asks that we include those less fortunate than ourselves. The Passover Seder at Habonim will also include members of Toronto's homeless population.

The Seder is to be led by Avrum Rosensweig (of Ve_ahavta), and Congregation Habonim's Eli Rubenstein, and is held in co-operation with Ve_ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee.

Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2004 (2nd night of Passover)

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Congregation Habonim, 5 Glen Park Avenue

Cost to Members: \$35.00 per person.

To reserve your space, please call 416-782-7125, and leave a message for Elizabeth.

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ADULT HEBREW EDUCATION

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If interested please call:
Blima Firestone 905-738-3592

THE PURIM STORY (2004 VERSION)

As told by Eli Rubenstein

King Ahashverosh ruled over 127 provinces from Oshawa to Oshkosh

He sat on his throne in the city of Shushan. One year he threw a party for 180 days, which is about half as long as a typical Canadian winter. And they drank in vessels of gold and silver. They drank wine and beer and champagne. And of course plenty of Tim Horton's coffee.

King Ahashverosh then commanded his queen, Vashti, to show herself to the palace guests. But, when she failed to appear, he went into her dressing room and found her alone with Justin Timberlake in, shall we say, a compromising state. "I was just having a wardrobe malfunction, really, nothing was going on!!", Janet, I mean, Vashti protested...

King Ahashverosh was enraged. "We will banish her from the palace, he bellowed, and issue an edict that all women must obey their husbands" (but somehow the order got confused in the translation, and the command went out that all men should obey their wives... And that explains a lot doesn't it.)

King Ahashverosh, became lonely and started looking for a new bride. He watched Survivor, but, somehow, none of the contestants seemed right to be the first lady. He watched American Idol, but Simon Cowell ruined his opinion of every one of them with caustic assessments of their singing ability.

And then flipping through the channels, the king finds the woman of his dreams..... She's smart, she's famous, she's a woman of means, she has impeccable style and taste, she knows just how to furnish a hundred palaces, design a gourmet meal for thousands in her sleep, and how to plant the loveliest of gardens... The King is in love! But then he switches channels, only to find that Martha Stewart has been convicted of obstruction of justice and will be in prison for the foreseeable future, not to mention that her personal fortune has also just tumbled.

So King Ahashverosh keeps channel surfing...
And then he really finds the girl of his dreams.
She's funny, she's famous, she is even richer than he is... But when he turns to the next channel, his hopes are dashed, and not just temporarily, but forever. You see the woman's name was Rosie O'Donell, and the TV station was showing her in San Francisco getting married to someone not exactly of King Ahashverosh's gender.

So they held a nationwide beauty contest. And they hired this firm from Quebec to do the advertising, but after transferring millions of dinars to them, nothing was produced.

The King demanded to know why there were no results. The response was incredulous: "You mean you want us to actually produce something for you? We only do real work when people hire us. Don't you understand the way government works? These are just taxpayers dollars, it's not real money anyway!!!"

Meanwhile. Mordechai son of Yair son of Shimi son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin was raising his cousin the beautiful Esther as his own daughter. Now, as it happens, Esther was chosen to be in the group of women who the king would see. But she did not reveal her religion.

When King Ahashverosh saw Esther he was smitten, because she was beautiful and smart and charming, and all of that. But the actual truth is that the king had noticed Esther on JDate a long time before the contest.

And so King Ahashverosh made Esther his queen, but only after his lawyers drew up an extensive pre-nuptial agreement.

Meanwhile, two evil fellows, Bigtan and Teresh, guards of the king, were upset about something or other, and plotted to assassinate the king.

Mordechai found out and asked Esther to tell the king, in his name.

The two plotters were hung on a tree and the deed was written in the king's royal book of good deeds, where to this day it is still known as "palacegate".

King Ahashverosh gave a promotion to Haman after which Haman demanded that every one bow down to him. Mordechai refused, on the orders of his chiropractor. Haman burned with anger and plotted his revenge.

Haman casts lots, and the lot fell on: Adar. And the wicked Haman said to himself: "The month of Adar! This is the month when I will destroy all of the Jews in Persia."

Haman said to King Ahashverosh: "There are certain people who are scattered among thy Kingdom. They are different from us, different clothes, language, customs, Let me do away with them."

"Which people are these?", asked King Ahashverosh. "The Jews," replied Haman. "Remind me who they are, again?" asked the King. "Did you see the Passion of the Christ?", Haman asked. "Oh those nasty people," replied King Ahashverosh. "Exactly!", pronounced Haman triumphantly, "let me destroy them!" And the King said, "But isn't that against the constitution?" "No problem, George, I mean King Ahashverosh, we'll just make a Constitutional Amendment", replied Haman confidently. So the King agreed and issued his royal decree.

When the news reached the Jews of Shushan, they all began to mourn. Mordechai dressed in ashes and torn clothing. He told Esther the bad news and asked her to approach the King. Esther replied: "But if he hasn't called me, I could be punished. I could end up sharing a prison cell with Martha Stewart or be sentenced to death - though I am not sure which is worse. Let us wait until the King summons me. Mordechai said: "We cannot wait, else all of the Jews will be destroyed, yourself included."

The Jews of Shushan fasted and prayed for three days. Esther and her maidens did the same in order to implore the heavens for mercy. "I may also be able to fit into my wedding gown again when I go to see King Ahashverosh." Esther added.

Esther chose the right moment to enter the king's royal palace and approach his throne. King Ahashverosh looked at her then raised his golden scepter, showing he was happy at her appearance. "Why are you here?" he asked. Esther replied: "I am throwing a party, please come, and bring your trusted advisor Haman." Haman was thrilled to be invited to the party, but still upset by Mordechai. He instructed his wife Zeresh to prepare a gallows for Mordechai to be hung on!

One night, the King couldn't sleep. He watched a few episodes of the Home Shopping Network, then turned to his book of good deeds and came across the life saving act of Mordechai.

"What has been done for this man?" asked the king. "Nothing", replied his servants.

The next day, King Ahashverosh asked Haman: "What should be done for the man the king delights in?" Haman, thinking the king meant him, replied: " He should be led through the streets on a beautiful white horse by someone who is close to the king, and he should be wearing the finest of clothes." Then King Ahashverosh ordered Haman to lead Mordechai through the streets of Shushan in the exact manner Haman had suggested.

As Esther's party began with King Ahashverosh and Haman in attendance, she approached the king: "I have a request of you my King." King Ahashverosh replied: "Ask anything you want of me, my queen." "All I want is my life, my liege." "Who wants to take your life?" Asked the king. "It is this wicked man Haman, sire", replied Esther.

King Ahashverosh became very angry and ordered Haman to be put to death. And Haman was hung on the very gallows he prepared for Mordechai.

King Ahashverosh then sent out a new decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves. This was the 14th day of Adar, the same day that Haman had planned to destroy them.

And so the Jews defended themselves on the 14th day of Adar, and have been celebrating their victory on that day ever since!

PERSONALIA

We wish to express our sympathy to the family of **Rose Kopelman** who passed away in Miami, Florida, on January 23, 2004. Rose was the beloved mother, and mother in law of Felicia and Sam Cukier, Ruth and Basil Ballon as well as devoted grandmother and great grandmother.

We are sorry to hear that our spiritual leader, **Eli Rubenstein** is not well. We wish you a very speedy and complete recovery, Eli. We need you!

Many thanks to **Loretta Grammer** from Forest Hill Real Estate who helped us to rent the 15 Glen Park Avenue property.

DONATIONS

Greetings:

Speedy recovery to Rae Steuermann –
Edith Rosen and Tina Patton

In memoriam:

Deepest sympathy to Eva and Robert Baxter on the death of their daughter,
Susan Waitmain –
Gisele Braun, Edith Rosen, Tina Patton, Gerda Gottlieb,
Erika and Steve Erdos

In loving memory of my dear mother, Annie Lams –

Toby Levy

Remembering my dear mother, Hetty Goldberg, with love –
Phyllis Mint

In loving memory of my dear mother, Hetty Goldberg –
Marcus Goldberg

In memory of Bobby Medline –
The Medline family

In memory of Werner M. Rappoport –
Eva Rappoport

In memory of my dear parents, Sophie and Bernard Sion –
Rhoda Sion

In loving memory of Hans Waldman –
Helene and Sid Diamant

In loving memory of my mother, Meta Baumann –
Ruth Linz

Kind thoughts and warmest wishes to Gangolf Herman –
Edith Rosen and Tina Patton

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of Erika and Steve Erdos

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QUESTIONS OR NOTICES RE JAHRZEITEN? Call Linda Braeger
at 416-488-0282

INFORMATION ABOUT BREAKFAST MEETINGS? Call Steve Erdos 416-787
0527

JAHRZEITEN, APRIL 2004

These names will be read at the Shabbat service on March 26, 2004.

Dr. Joseph Spitzer	Nisan	11	April 2
Julius Jekel	Nisan	11	April 2
Maurice Goodman	Nisan	12	April 3
Michael Herstatt	Nisan	12	April 3
Maria Paula Clavir	Nisan	13	April 4
Morris Buium	Nisan	14	April 5
Elvira Weiss	Nisan	14	April 5
Olga Spitzer	Nisan	15	April 6
Caspar Koffler	Nisan	15	April 6
Fillip, Lucia, and Tommy Gottlieb	Nisan	15	April 6
Lewis Bronstein	Nisan	16	April 7
Joan Blidner	Nisan	16	April 7
Lenkinski Jacob	Nisan	17	April 8
Helene Joy Grossman	Nisan	17	April 8
Hyman Ormsby	Nisan	17	April 8
Jerry Zweig	Nisan	17	April 8
Leon & Marie Urstein	Nisan	17	April 8
Evelyn Wilchesky	Nissan	18	April 9
Sarah Bell	Nisan	18	April 9
Gertrude Schneider	Nisan	18	April 9
Annie Hastofsky	Nisan	18	April 9
Leonard Vyner	Nisan	19	April 10
Samuel Shatz	Nisan	22	April 13
Morris Lams	Nisan	23	April 14
Fritz Heichelheim	Nisan	24	April 15
Earl Greenberg	Nisan	28	April 19
Eric Jackson	Nisan	29	April 19
Jack Van Der Hout	Iyar	1	April 22
Alfred Laufer	Iyar	1	April 22

Freda Ain	Iyar	1	April 22
Daniel Buim	Iyar	3	April 24
Willy Lobel	Iyar	5	April 26
Andrew Leufer	Iyar	9	April 30
Dennis Grant	Iyar	9	April 30

In Mourning: Gerda Jackson; John Patton; Norman Clavir; Emil Karp.

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Deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin:
Thursday, April 1, 2004