

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday, March 26	7:00 pm Family Shabbat Service with Eli
Friday, March 26	8:15 pm Shabbat Eve Service and Oneg Shabbat
Tuesday, March 30	6:00 pm Passover Seder for Congregation and Members of the Homeless Community
Tuesday, April 6	10:00 am Passover Yiskor Service
Saturday, April 17	10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Koch, son of Wendy Burstyn and Michael Koch

DEAR HABONIM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We, at Habonim School, have two exciting announcements for you:

1. Passover

Please join the Habonim Hebrew School for a special Passover Program!

Sunday March 28, 10 - 11 a.m. at Habonim

For Parents:

A Selection of Fascinating Stories and Insights For the Passover Seder, led by Eli Rubenstein.

At this session Eli will share some of his favourite stories and commentaries from the Passover Seder. The session will be interactive – and the goal will be for you to be able to spice up your Seder with fascinating stories, legends, midrashim - and a few Passover jokes too!

For Young People:

The Passover Holiday in all it's Glory, led by Jenna Greenbloom and Ya'el Friedlander. The story, the customs, the songs...all you want to know about Passover but were afraid to ask.

2. Summer

Camp Geshher has invited Habonim families to join them for Family Camp - a summer camp weekend experience for the whole family. Family Camp is free. It runs June 11-13 and is open to all. What a great way to spend the weekend together!

Flyer attached. For more information or to register, please contact Shaul Zobary, 416-633-2511, www.campgesher.com

We hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,

Sarah Margles
Principal

HABONIM AND VE'AHAVTA HOLD THEIR 11TH ANNUAL PASSOVER SEDER

On the second night of Passover, Congregation Habonim and Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian Relief Committee will again host the Ve'ahavta/Habonim Passover Seder for the Homeless. We would love to have you and your family join the celebration.

Our guests will have the opportunity to enjoy a warm spiritual evening full of good food, laughter and learning. As we celebrate the transition from slavery to freedom, we will also traverse the way between strangers and friends. The cost of the evening is \$36.00 and the date is

Tuesday, March 30, 6 pm.

Please contact Elizabeth at 416-782-7125 to make your reservation. The Seder will be led by Avrum Rosensweig and Eli Rubenstein.

PESACH: FREEDOM & SLAVERY

By Avrum Rosensweig

There is no sense in trying to hide from slavery. While Pesach encourages us to do so, or so we think, we are forever bound by the chains of our experiences to images and memories that keep us at the base of a pyramid, building it, lifting it, and sculpting it in stone.

When I look at a stack of old shoes I see Auschwitz. Therein lies my slavery. When I hear a shower running on a cold winter morning, I think of the long marches the Jewish people went on from camp to camp; the nakedness of our people, dying under the batons of taskmasters and freezing jets of water.

We are free, we dwellers in Canada. Mostly, the police and army do not scare us, and we harbor little fear of evil men and women rising up. That is our freedom, and so we thank God on Pesach, huddling together at our Seder and embracing the words: "Those who are hungry let them come and eat" - an invitation that can only be made by a free person. It is both an outward gesture and an inward one.

Yet within this freedom, those images - ones we actually saw or learned about - will never allow us to be free, like a child is, like a person whose life has been miraculously untainted or untouched by horror or deep strife.

Freedom ends when we are born, for it is then that we are forced to recognize the limitations put on us and the limitations that are innate. Slavery ends at the same time, for it is then that our thoughts become our own, as unaffected as we desire, so much so that gulags and prisons can never take that away from us.

Nathan Sharansky will tell you that. It is there, in the quiet and starkness of Perm 35, a Siberian labor camp, he played chess in his head, moving a pawn two positions forward to put his alter-player in check. Only a mind that was entirely his own and unassailable could have played such a match.

Pesach is a holiday that points out the reality of life - we are both enslaved and we are free. The two are juxtaposed, interconnected, and are often indistinguishable. We are told to drink red wine. Red and not white. Red represents blood, that free flowing liquid that ensures we live and our minds are nourished so that we can think, decide and be responsible - as free people are.

Yet blood can be spilled and has stained the ground of all of the world's 194 countries. When it is drained from a body it is brutish and the body is weakened and cannot act according to our own beliefs.

On Pesach, we eat matzah, the bread of affliction - the food of a slave, and we recline the way a King or Queen does - a position reserved for the free. Slavery/Freedom. Paradox in each viable spirit.

"Next Year in Jerusalem". This line found near the end of the Haggadah, is thought to represent total freedom. Jerusalem is the city of gold - a metal owned by rich men, by free men. 'Next Year' means we are planning ahead. Only free people plan. Slaves are planned for.

I think though that "Next Year in Jerusalem" really means that Jerusalem, indeed a shining city is always one year away. It exists and it breathes, and within that immanence we sense the freedom of our existence as Jews and human beings. How could a city shine so brightly? It can only represent freedom.

But alas, while some are living there, and most

are not, it will be one more year before that shine engulfs us and the rest of the world. And then next year we will say it again, and then again. That is slavery.

Jerusalem and its sheer holiness are always in the future, never to be completely touched and embraced until absolute sentient reasoned freedom is regained.

Pesach is upon us. If it were human you would see on its head a crown with masterfully cut gems, and you would see hands, soft and callused, handcuffed, unable and yet yearning still to caress and touch.

Pesach is us. We are both free and enslaved. Such is life.

Chag Samayach. Happy Pesach!

PERSONALIA

We wish to note the recent passing of a member of Habonim, David Pecaut, and to express our condolences to his wife Helen Burstyn and their children.

David Pecaut was Co-founder of the Toronto City Summit Alliance, and a host of other initiatives, David Pecaut has left an incredible legacy to Toronto and its citizens.

DONATIONS

Greetings:

To Paula Nussbaum - Thinking of you and all best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery - Edith Rosen

To Kitty Schafer - My thoughts are with you and I wish you a complete recovery in the very near future - Gerda Gottlieb

To Paula Nussbaum - Thinking of you and wishing you a speedy and complete recovery - Gerda Gottlieb

In memoriam:

Remembering with love and sadness our dear son and brother Richard Morton -

The Morton and Small families

In memory of our husband, father and Opa, Dr. Laci Vogel - Andrée, Peter, Elisabeth and Rachel.

OUR WEBSITE:

www.congregationhabonim.org

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

office@congregationhabonim.org

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

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 Victor Goldman at (416) 483 1277 or email at vicgoldman@symoatico.ca
Leaf \$175

QUESTIONS OR NOTICES RE JAHRZEITEN?

Call Linda Brager at (416) 488-0282

JAHRZEITEN MARCH 2010

To be read at the March 2010 services:

Gretta Han	Adar* 15	March 1
Sophie Sion	Adar* 15	March 1
Marinka Goldberger	Adar* 15	March 1
Rose Gibson	Adar 16	March 2
Alice Lobel	Adar 17	March 3
Irene Rachel Weiss	Adar 17	March 3
Paul H. Massareck	Adar* 17	March 3
Joseph Brager	Adar 19	March 5
David Kachuck	Adar* 19	March 5
Hilda Perlmutter	Adar* 19	March 5

Rachel Cohen	Adar 20	March 6	Stephen Kohn	Nisan 2	March 17
Meta Baumann	Adar 20	March 6	Marcus Goldberg	Nisan 3	March 18
Joseph Krongold	Adar* 20	March 6	Leon Kofman	Nisan 3	March 18
Gerda Jackson	Adar* 20	March 6	Moe Koffman	Nisan 4	March 19
May Marx	Adar* 21	March 7	Renee Goodis	Nisan 6	March 21
Phillip Gibson	Adar 21	March 7	Louis Libman	Nisan 7	March 22
Olga Beer	Adar 22	March 8	Hettie Goldberg	Nisan 8	March 23
Jacob Ader	Adar 24	March 10	Oskar Hastofsky	Nisan 8	March 23
William Binder	Adar* 24	March 10	H. Bob Medline	Nisan 9	March 24
Esther Burstyn	Adar 25	March 11	Dr. Joseph Spitzer	Nisan 11	March 26
Joseph Sufrin	Adar 25	March 11	Julius Jekel	Nisan 11	March 26
Harry Cherm	Adar 25	March 11	Maurice Goodman	Nisan 12	March 27
Dennis Urstein	Adar 25	March 11	Michael Herstatt	Nisan 12	March 27
Meyer Shapiro	Adar* 25	March 11	Maria Paula Clavir	Nisan 13	March 28
John Patton	Adar* 26	March 12	Morris Buium	Nisan 14	March 29
Alfred Jakabb	Adar 27	March 13	Nathan Ostrow	Nisan 14	March 29
Percy Fishman	Adar 27	March 13	Elvira Weiss	Nisan 14	March 29
Shaindl Balberman	Adar 28	March 14	Olga Spitzer	Nisan 15	March 30
Erika Litvack	Adar* 29	March 15	Fillip, Lucia, and Tommy Gottlieb		
William Klein	Adar 29	March 15		Nisan 15	March 30
Reuben Buium	Adar 29	March 15	Joan Blidner	Nisan 16	March 31

In mourning:

Dr. Ladislaus Vogel, Hillary Firestone, Lorretta Grammer, Edgar Wittekind, Paul Firestone, Nina Zlotkin, Rita Lichtblau, Edward Ruda, Irvin Green, David Pecaut

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN?
call Erika Erdos at 416-787-0527
e-mail eerdos@sympatico.ca

Deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin:
Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Beth Habonim	5 Glen Park Ave.	416-782-7125
	Toronto, ON M6B 4J2	
Religious leaders	Eli Rubenstein	416-398-2615
	Avrum Rosenzweig	416-964-7698
Cantor:	E. Ghan-Firestone	416-665-6927
Treasurer:	T. Rechtshaffen	416-322-0749
Editor:	E. Erdos	416-787-0527