

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday, November 24 8:15pm Shabbat Eve Service and
Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, December 9 10:00am Bar Mitzvah of
Jeffrey Roebuck

Saturday, December 16 10 am Bar Mitzvah of
Max Goranson, Son of
Laura Otis

Sunday, December 17 10 am Chanukah Party

Friday, December 15 8:15pm Shabbat Eve Service and
Oneg Shabbat

Friday, January 12 7:00pm Family Shabbat Service

Friday, January 26 8:15pm Shabbat Eve Service and
Oneg Shabbat

PLEASE NOTE: The last service for 2006 has been moved to Dec. 15th (which is the first night of Chanukah) to accommodate families who will be away for the winter break."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2006 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK'S TWO EVENTS WITH ELI

by
Lisa-Catherine Cohen

What a richly filled, enlightening, and memorable day and evening it was! For my mother, Marcia, and me, the day began early.

A half an hour before start time, we headed into the Miles Nadal JCC for a morning of storytelling by our own, beloved Eli, and "others." A friendly man seated at our table, Meryl Arbing, turned out to be these aforementioned others. A generous spread of breakfast was laid out for us of orange juice, bagels — even whole wheat ones — ,healthy cream cheese and jam, and coffee. Delish! The cabaret- style room, set up with big, round tables, gave the room, filled with guests ranging from 10 to 90, a warm, family feel.

Eli began, prefacing his first story with the proviso that this morning's stories were going to focus on the themes of courage and redemption, because, as steeped as we all become during Holocaust Education Week in images of the unspeakable cruelty mankind is capable of, where we watch unrelenting violence on every continent on the globe every night on TV, it's paramount that we be reminded — and inspiring stories serve to remind us — that the world really is a good world, filled with good people who do good things.

Every story Eli and Meryl told so eloquently illumined exactly that. The first story — about a young Jewish girl on her bike with a broken light, and the policeman who saved her — is forever etched in my mind, because Eli, ever the wise teacher, taught us that if we repeat new things right away — or at least, as I have heard, within the first 24 hours — our retention rate is 80% higher than it is if we don't. This is important, he emphasized, because every day,

a thousand people who saw WWII firsthand die. Thus, the stewardship of these stories now belongs to us, the younger generations. It is we who must remember and become able to retell all these tales of the survivors and the rescuers' bravery and conviction, and bear witness to their suffering, lest it ever become purposeless.

I'd like to retell every one of Meryl and Eli's stories here, as they are truly miraculous, but suffice it to say that each story they recounted was even more amazing than the one preceding it!

The next tale was about a dog that saved a child's life! Eli really knows how to involve his audience. He gives everyone the opportunity to recall the details and contribute to the story's interpretation. This one contrasted the laws of man with the laws of God ending with a prayer that someday, people may rise to the humanity of that four-legged animal....

Then it was Meryl's turn. He told us a beautiful story from Yad Vashem about Jews in a forced-labour camp, who wanted to observe Yom Kippur, and the bad man who turned into a good one, who helped them. A rabbi, who was there and survived, recounts this story often, ending it thus: "Even an evil man has in him the seeds of goodness, like the many seeds in a pomegranate."

Meryl told another, shorter story, after which Eli closed the morning with an even more jaw-dropping tale he learned from his mentor, the late Alec Gelcer.

Every story we heard that Sunday was so moving and inspiring that the applause seemed to go on for ten minutes. Maybe it did....

The evening's event, beginning at eight p.m. was what the full-to-capacity room had come to Habonim to see: the screening of Fern Levitt and Arnie Zipursky's newest documentary, *My Opposition*. To set the tone, I was privileged to show the DVD of the premiere performance of *Remember*, the Holocaust song I co-wrote with my long-time collaborator, Chris Bennett, who also performs it, backed by 60 voices, during Holocaust Education Week 2003 — the Christian / Jewish Dialogue of Toronto's concert. It was my honour to be able to introduce the song with a quotation written about it by Michael Berenbaum: The medium of song, I paraphrase here, so

needed in today's world, can traverse every border, and connect us all with one another.

As the lights faded, and some dried their eyes, Eli called Taryn Beber, Molly Friedman, and Sarah Finkelstein, recent graduates of the powerful experience of *March of the Living*, to the bima. Each read their essays with such heart and power that we were riveted and deeply moved. Excerpted here:

TARYN

I would say that the most important lesson I learned on this trip was how important it is to find a connection and unity with the Jews all over the world. ...Having the chance to walk out of Majdanek on my own was truly empowering. ...We appreciate everything the *March of the Living* provided us with; what we experienced will never leave our hearts.

MOLLY

It was a trip that has not only had an enormous impact on me as a teenager, but will leave an everlasting footprint on how I view the world and humanity. ...I found personal reserves in myself I never knew I had.

SARA

I could now really feel the connection that I had to Jews everywhere...it didn't matter that they lived in another place, or that I couldn't tell you their names, because each of us felt the same way when we were walking through those camps, each of us shed the same tears over the six million murdered, each of us called the same land home, each of us sang the same songs on Shabbat, and after that night, each of us knew what it meant to be Jewish.

The images, all too alive still, so touchingly evident in the tear-filled eyes of Walter Steuerman, as he stood flanked by five other survivors, Anita Ekstein, Albert Morton, Ro Cook, Gerda Gottlieb and Fred Rose), who lit one candle each to the memory of one million, six in all, as Esther poured her anguished heart into the *El Malei Rachamim*. One of those amazing stories of chance meetings actually happened between two of the candle lighters/Holocaust survivors. Both the families of Albert Morton (a Habonim member) and Anita Ekstein (a former Habonim member and *March of the Living*

national chair) came from Stryj, Poland (now Ukraine), and all were murdered in the Holocaust. In a conversation before the ceremony, Albert realized that Anita's grandfather, Moshe Helfgot, was his Hebrew school teacher in Stryj! The candles flickered throughout the rest of the night.

Now it was time for the feature presentation. Arnie Zipursky and wife/ creative collaborator, Fern Levitt's reputation as brilliant and award-winning documentarists — Gorbachev's Revolution, for one — has obviously preceded them, because every chair Habonim has was filled! Fern was in Hamilton; so, their newest film was represented solely, and most ably, by Arnie. Although she had instructed Eli to introduce him as simply: "Fern's husband," Eli rhymed off an impressive list of Zipursky's achievements.

The house lights dimmed, and the miraculous, heart-rending, and deftly told story of political activist, Friedrich Kellner, who recorded and expressed disgust for the Nazi atrocities he witnessed, unfolded, while each of us sat glued to the screen. From the Internet:

My Opposition: The Diaries of Friedrich Kellner reveals the extraordinary diaries of Friedrich Kellner, a non-Jewish political activist, who tried desperately to stop the Nazis from obtaining power. Kellner's story is told through the eyes of his grandson, Robert Scott Kellner, who, despite a tragic childhood, has made it his life's mission to translate the diaries and bring them to the world's attention, to [fulfill] his grandfather's wish that genocide will never again take place.

It is, as all stories of survival are, heartening to learn that the grandson, Scott, a young man in the U.S. Navy, accepted this foot-high document from his long-lost grandfather, and with it the responsibility, now faithfully carried out, to preserve and share its contents. Today, the film's ending tells us, Scott has built a museum that archives and displays the story behind, and the pages of, this precious diary.

When the screening was over, Arnie fielded a barrage of questions triggering an intelligent discussion that, had time allowed, could easily have gone on for hours!

These were two important events in Toronto's 26th Holocaust Education Week, both choreographed beautifully — it was one of those days you feel grateful for being exactly where you are.

STEVE ERDOS:

THANK YOU FOR COMING OUR WAY

By Avrum Rosensweig

Shuls stand tall, and rarely sway in the wind, for a shul is not only a place composed of mortar and brick. That would simply be a structure like any other - like a warehouse or a cabin.

No, a shul stands tall and rarely sways when the wind blows sternly or gently because of the people it holds inside of its walls. It is the spirit of the voices and the souls that lends strength to that edifice; the will and resolve to bring holiness to it.

One of those voices, one of those souls will not be physically evident again in our shul, but its shadow and echo will be seen and heard forever. I am speaking of Steve Erdos, a longtime member and leader of Congregation Habonim, who left our world only a few weeks ago.

Steve Erdos was a husband, father, grandfather, friend and community man. Only those who had the benefit of living with him and spending familial time with him can know the beauty that lay within his heart, and the deep caring he had for those in his intimate circle. To them, to Erika especially, we wish you peace and only simchat (celebrations).

We, however, who knew Steve from shul, who had the chance to dance with him this past Simchat Torah, only a day before his passing...we knew the Habonim Steve - the shul Steve Erdos.

And on this we can comment. Steve Erdos was one in a million, a man deeply committed to the enhancement and betterment of our synagogue. How lucky we were that such a person existed among us and chose Congregation Habonim as his shul, the place where he would put his energies more than four decades ago.

Steve made our shul vibrant and let it shine. He made it sing. No other man in the last four decades has worked so hard to ensure a Sunday morning breakfast club with high profile speakers. No other person in the shul attended almost every service, program and meeting the way Steve did.

Steve Erdos was an outstanding human being and each one of us who walked through the front doors of 5 Glen Park Avenue, gleaned from his work. We did because the spirit of his work was based in a love of the Jewish people and Israel. It was done with a smile.

He challenged us. His work was tireless, and even at

82 years old he happily and gracefully went about his tasks.

We will miss him greatly but are deeply indebted for the time we had with him. Steve, well done! Great job. You lived life well! Rest in peace, our good friend...and thank you for coming our way!

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Because of the sad and untimely passing of Steve Erdos, the Habonim Board of Directors has a vacancy to fill for the year ending next June. Steve's daughter, Dianne Erdos-Rush, who was already serving on the Board, has agreed to take over Steve's role as Secretary. But the Board needs other volunteers willing to serve on the board and in other ways. If you're willing contribute some of your time and talent, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact our President, Samantha Goldman.

PERSONALIA

It is comforting to experience the tremendous outpouring of love and respect for my dear husband Steve that washed over me and our family from so many members and friends at Habonim. We want to express our deep gratitude for all your expressions of sympathy, cards, donations and words of encouragement.

Erika Erdos and family

DONATIONS

We would like to issue special thanks to Habonim members and filmmakers Fern Levitt & Arnie Zipursky, and to David Sutin, for their generous donations to Habonim which has enabled the synagogue to purchase a new LCD Projector.

With our permanent screen (purchased a few years ago) and LCD Projector, we hope to be able to show more movies in the coming years, now that Habonim is better equipped to handle these kinds of events.

Aliyot:

Laura, Jillian and Hilary Crangle; Bala Jaison; Ursula Leinung

Kudos:

In honour of Clifford Lax - Paul Pape

Greetings:

Speedy recovery to Nathan Kahn - Leon and Paula Nussbaum

Mazeltov to our grandson, Jeffrey Roebuck, on the occasion of his bar mitzvah - Loretta and Harold Grammer

Donations:

David Sutin in honour of Clifford Lax, QC

David and Patti Goldfarb in honour of the birth of their first grandchild, Ann Levitt in honour of the bat mitzvah of her grand-daughter

In Memoriam:

We remember with love our dear father, Ezra Goldberg - Marcus Goldberg and Phyllis Mint
Deepest sympathy to the Erdos family - David and Patti Goldfarb.

Sincere condolences to Michael James and family on the death of his mother Jean Langefeld - Erika Erdos and family.

ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR

November 24: Suzanne Keller and the family of the late Veronica (Ronie) Popper

December 15: Wayne and Susan Robbins in loving memory of Steve Erdos, a loving husband, father, grandpa and friend. He will be truly missed by all that had the pleasure of having him touch our lives."

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. The November and December Onegs are already sponsored, but we need sponsors for some of the Onegs in 2007. Please call Sandra Levy at 416-665-5595

OUR GET-ACQUAINTED POT-LUCK DINNER

On October 27, prior to the monthly Friday night service, the congregation held a potluck dinner. There were more than 100 people in attendance, and the dinner was a fantastic success. A wide variety of delicious homemade food provided a beautiful complement to Elizabeth's tasty chicken and rice.

During the meal people chatted and got to know each other. It was a great opportunity to talk with old friends and make new ones in our Habonim community. Avrum started us off with a personal Shabbat story from his own family, and we were treated to other experiences that people shared with us spontaneously. During the meal people participated in a community-building exercise where we charted countries of origin and where in the city we live. The results of these exercises are two community artifacts we hope to build on in the future.

The meal was followed by a beautiful Shabbat service with lots of music and singing, a wonderful finale to the evening. It was great to have so many members in attendance. The first half of the service was very upbeat, with singing and musical accompaniment. This was a lot of fun for all the kids in attendance, who were given permission in advance to leave before the sermon.

The evening was dedicated to Steve Erdos, whose passing the previous week is a tragic loss not only to his family, but to the entire congregation. Steve was an amazing contributor to the life of the synagogue, including 20 years running the Breakfast Club. The dinner was just the kind of evening he would have loved. He will be sorely missed. We hope that the Erdos family found comfort amidst the Habonim community.

We hope to hold Friday night potluck dinners three or four times a year, and the huge success of our first one bodes well for the future. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help organize the next dinner. If anyone else is interested in helping out, please contact me at tom@bellman.ca or 416-535-6664.

Stay tuned for announcements about the next potluck, sometime this coming winter.

OUR WEBSITE:

www.congregationhabonim.org

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

office@congregationhabonim.org

To **SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT** call
Saundra 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

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

JAHRZEITEN DECEMBER 2006

To be read at the service on December 15, 2006

Samuel Skudwick	Kislev 10	December 1
Feldman Albert	Kislev 10	December 1
Gunther Rosen	Kislev 12	December 3
Aldoph Cige	Kislev 12	December 3
Jehuda Lewkowicz	Kislev 14	December 5
Herman Weinlaub	Kislev 14	December 5
Rae Sandler	Kislev 16	December 7
Zacharias Gottlieb	Kislev 17	December 8
Julius(Israel) Weiss	Kislev 19	December 10

Leslie Adler	Kislev 20	December 11
Kurt Fleischer	Kislev 20	December 11
Nicholas Beer	Kislev 20	December 11
Jeanette Brucker	Kislev 20	December 11
Tillie Cherm	Kislev 21	December 12
Moses Vijevaro	Kislev 22	December 13
Joseph Finer	Kislev 25	December 16
Morton Lebowitz	Kislev 25	December 16
Walter Levy	Kislev 26	December 17
Henry Galler	Kislev 27	December 18
Isaac Wilinofsky	Kislev 27	December 18
Al London	Kislev 28	December 19
Louis Mactinger	Kislev 28	December 19
Sheilah Freedman	Kislev 29	December 20
Kurt Barnett	Kislev 29	December 20
Pearl Marcus	Kislev 29	December 20
Soloman Alexander		
Kohn	Kislev 29	December 20
Helen Lennhoff	Kislev 29	December 20
Harold Levy	Kislev 29	December 20
Philip Granovsky	Tevet 1	December 22
Evelyn Dennis	Tevet 3	December 24
Kaethe Levy-Weinlaub	Tevet 4	December 25
Edith Rogers	Tevet 5	December 26
Elsa Leinung	Tevet 5	December 26
Regina Bloch	Tevet 10	December 31
George J. Beer	Tevet 10	December 31
Myer Sugerman	Tevet 10	December 31

In mourning:

In Mourning: Claire Urstein, Tina Patton, Erwin Pollak,
Steve Erdos

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, January 3, 2007

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