



Vol. 60 | No. 3 | April - June 2013 (5773)

Mazal Tovs For Recent Simchas

Mazal Tov to Ellen Lesiuk & Michael Gottheil on the Bar Mitzvah of Isaac

Schedule Of Services And Events

Friday, April 26	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service /Oneg Shabbat – Cantor – Lisa Kent Special Presentation from 2013 March of the Living Students
Saturday, April 27	10:00am	Bar Mitzvah of Jorel Hoffert, son of Mei Lee and David Hoffert
Saturday, May 4	10:00am	Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Shrier, son of Harriet Wichin & Howard
Saturday, May 11	10:00am	Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Kertes, daughter of Eve Shea & Peter Kertes
Thursday, May 16	10:00am	Shavuot Yiskor Service Cantor – Lisa Kent
Saturday, May 25	10:00am	Bat Mitzvah of Martine Ariel Duffy, daughter of Jill Presser and John Duffy
Friday, May 31	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service/Oneg Shabbat Cantor – Aviva Rajskey
Sunday, June 2	9:30am	Habonim School end of year celebration and Graduation – All are welcome!
Wednesday, June 5	7:00pm	Annual General Meeting of Congregation Habonim – read President’s articles!
Thursday, June 6	10:00am	Bnai Mitzvah of Alex and Lauren Gnat daughters of Lisa and Jordan Gnat & Perry Albert, daughter of Julie and Kenny Albert
Friday, June 21	8:15pm	Shabbat Eve Service/Oneg Shabbat Cantors: Aviva Rajskey and Lisa Kent
Saturday, June 22	10:00am	Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Rakoff, daughter of Simon Rakoff and Suzy Zucker
Saturday, June 22	5:00pm	Bar Mitzvah of Tal Braverman, son of Hadas and Shaul Braverman



Join us for a special musical Shabbat service:

Sharing Our Strength

Friday April 26, 2013 - 8:15PM

Congregation Habonim

A Message from Lisa Kent, Cantor at Habonim

A number of people in my life and in the lives of friends and co-workers are struggling with illness. At our Friday April 26th Shabbat service we'd like to offer some words and music in support of those who are dealing with illness and those who are taking care of them.

I invite you to join Eli, Danny Greenspoon (on guitar), and me for what promises to be a warm and musical Shabbat service stitched together with humour, thoughtful words, familiar and soon-to-be familiar tunes. Feel free to invite anyone you know who this service may appeal to.

I love to discover and share old and new melodies. So let me offer you this link to a beautiful song we recorded called Shirat Ha'asavim (I sang it at our Shabbat service in February). The composer is Naomi Shemer (who also composed Yerushalayim Shel Zahav).

Have a listen: habonimeli.com/Shirat_HaAsavim.mp3

I hope we'll see you on April 26th.

Shabbat Shalom



GREAT JOURNALIST/WRITER OPPORTUNITY – BULLETIN EDITOR

Immediate opening to become the Editor of the Congregation Habonim Bulletin.

Candidate would be responsible for contributing, editing and compiling items for a roughly eight- to twelve-page Bulletin that is mailed to all members of the synagogue (approx. 350), six times a year. The Bulletin is also posted digitally on our website. You may be required to create some original content, but mostly you will be coordinating and editing contributions. This will require someone with the ability to edit for clarity and grammar without sacrificing

the integrity of the original writer's voice. You will also be responsible for ensuring that regular items such as services and event schedules, member donations, memorials etc. appear correctly. Experience with blogging, newspaper writing, or other journalistic endeavors are highly desirable, but not necessary. This position is an unpaid one that would allow the candidate to work from home and around his/her schedule while meeting publishing deadlines. You will work with the Religious Leader and the General Manager, and will have support from other volunteers as required.

Send résumé to: office@congregationhabonim.org



Notice Of Congregation Habonim Annual General Meeting Wed, June 5th At 7:00pm

These Annual General Meetings are an opportunity for all members to contribute to the management and running of your Synagogue.

It is a time for you to join the Synagogue Board and make a valuable, direct contribution to our congregation. If you are interested in nominating yourself to be on the slate of

Board Members for the coming year, please email Jeff Levy at

office@congregationhabonim.org

This must be done by May 31st.

Please be sure to attend this year's annual general meeting if you are interested in any of the following:

- Learning about where things stand with plans for the Habonim building and property
- Eli's Report on the year past and the year ahead.

- The financial state of Habonim
- Approval of new Board Members
- Habonim's new by-laws (these will be posted at: congregationhabonim.org by May 15th)
- How to get more involved with volunteering at Habonim
- Sharing your views and suggestions for Habonim
- Snacks and refreshments

The Annual Meeting will take place at the synagogue and likely run until about 8:30pm.

Your attendance at the Annual General Meeting is vitally important. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ted Rechtshaffen

President

Update From The Building Committee

The current Building Committee at Habonim includes Ted Rechtshaffen, Morry

Edelstein, Stephen Cole, and Eli Rubinstein.

We have had the pleasure of speaking with many knowledgeable members of the real estate community over the past year to help with the strategic plans of Congregation Habonim.

After looking at a wide range of options, we believe that we are down to two choices, with money being the driving force of which decision we go with.

Option one would be to build a new synagogue on the current location including the two adjacent houses. Among the goals of this new building would be:

- to allow for a variety of Simchas to be celebrated at Habonim
- to allow greater flexibility to expand the seating capacity of the sanctuary
- to rent Habonim to at least one "Monday to Friday" organization to allow for greater use of the facility and for rental revenue. This could be a day care facility, a Jewish charitable organization, a school, etc.
- to remain a low key, down to earth environment where

the experience is not about the building, but about the message and feeling

Option two would be to partner with a builder who would likely put some form of condominium on the property, with a new synagogue built as part of the ground floor (and possibly second floor) of the building.

The benefits of Option one would be that Congregation Habonim remains the owner of the land, has control over the building, and control over most of the decision making over time. The big drawback of Option one is that it is quite expensive (several million dollars) and would require some meaningful combination of donations and financing to make it happen.

The benefits of Option two would be that it requires significantly less money from Congregation Habonim for it to be a reality. A potential benefit might be that the tenants of the building would form some level of ongoing membership and potential rental opportunities for Habonim. The major drawbacks would be that Congregation Habonim would no longer own the land, and would have much less control over the property and the future state of the building. Our current work involves finalizing a detailed business case around option (*continued on pg4*)



Update From The Building Committee *(continued from pg3)*

one, and beginning discussions with potential donors and contributors to determine the viability of the project.

While we have done much of our work to date at little to no cost, the Habonim Board recently approved a \$25,000 expenditure aimed at helping to retain the proper zoning for Habonim and the two houses next door. This expenditure was important as it allowed us to make a submission prior to upcoming zoning law changes. It also represents a cost that likely would have had to be spent at some point in the next year or two assuming we move forward with any building project. As a synagogue we are determined to

create the best possible future for Congregation Habonim. This includes being financially responsible for today and the future.

Before any final decisions can be made, there must be a special meeting called inviting all members to vote. We likely remain several months away from any such meeting. We will keep you posted on our progress at each significant milestone.

Ted Rechtshaffen
President

Congregation Habonim Is Pleased To Announce The Hiring Of Kim Doron As Children's Choir Director & Music Leader At Habonim

In this capacity, Kim will lead several children's services throughout the year, including High Holidays, Chanukah, Purim, Simchat Torah, & Friday Night services, teach Jewish and Israeli music to the schoolchildren on selected Sundays at the Jewish Heritage School, as well as prepare and conduct a children's choir for the High Holidays.

Kim has been delighting audiences with her singing since the age of 10. Accompanying herself on the guitar, she has performed at numerous venues across the United States and Canada, and has participated in musical theatrical productions.

Kim also has many years of experience as a music teacher and children's choir director. She led music programs at

schools and day camps, and was the musical director on several March of the Living trips. Kim is currently conducting the junior and senior glee clubs at the Leo Baeck Day School.

Kim comes from a very musical family. She is the daughter of world renowned Cantor Paul Kowarsky, who served at Toronto's Beth Tzedec Synagogue for over 20 years. Cantor Kowarsky has composed and recorded numerous liturgical works, which are sung the world over.

Kim's brothers are singers, songwriters and producers Ryan and Dan Kowarsky of RyanDan. They are signed with Universal Music and are currently appearing with Shania Twain at her sold out show in Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

Those of you who have attended any of the children's holiday programs at Habonim, or the children's High Holiday services, have had the joy of observing Kim's ability to connect to children and to her audience with her unique musical gifts.

Congregation Habonim is thrilled to have Kim join our team of exceptionally talented vocalists, Cantors Aviva Rajskey & Lisa Kent, along with Cantor Emeritus Esther Ghan Firestone.

More information on the choir that Kim will be conducting and the rehearsal schedule will be forthcoming in a few weeks. (Kim can be reached at kimdoron@rogers.com)



Visiting the Elderly *By Avrum Rosensweig*

Stats Canada: Between 1981 and 2005, the number of seniors in Canada increased from 2.4 to 4.2 million. Their share of the total population increased from 9.6% to 13.1%. The aging of the population will accelerate over the next three decades, particularly as individuals from the Baby Boom years of 1946 to 1965 begin turning age 65. The number of seniors in Canada is projected to increase from 4.2 million to 9.8 million between 2005 and 2036, and seniors' share of the population is expected to *(continued on pg5)*



Visiting the Elderly *By Avrum Rosensweig (continued from pg4)*

almost double, increasing from 13.2% to 24.5%. Being senior today is not what it used to be when my grandparents were growing older in the 60's but it still means: it's tough to get around, and one can feel marginalized. Approaching our last decades also means we need visitors because nobody likes to be alone and, unless you're in a home for the aged

(which can be lonely too), you can feel isolated.

Thus, it's a good idea for everyone who is able to 'adopt a senior', if you don't have one or two in your family already, to begin visiting someone on a regular basis. The need is there and, truth be told, one day the tables will be turned and we'll be waiting for someone to visit us. Put out good energy and it will come back to you.

Let me tell you about two brothers I know. They are both in their late fifties and entrepreneurial in nature, running a couple of successful businesses. These two brothers, decided at some point that they would chose one of the 613 mitzvot to make their own. They determined it would be taking care of the elderly.

Perhaps their reasoning was that the Torah says that one gets 'lengthy days' for respecting their parents – kibud av v'em. This is one of two mitzvot in the Torah where the reward is actual-

ly stated. The Torah says, be vigilant of your parents' needs, even more so as they get older. So, by extension, it is clear that there is something virtuous and honorable about caring for the elderly. Perhaps it is because of this, that our two brothers accepted the mitzvah of helping older folks (by the way, their parents are still of this earth).

So the thing about the two brothers, they are just like we are: they are busy all day long trying to make their businesses profitable. Yet within their 16 hours of waking time they consistently find time to take their adopted senior to doctors' appointments and other such places.

Further, before Shabbat (often a difficult time, as one can get lonely, sensing that everyone else is with family), they will visit their 'friend' and ensure that all is well as they enter into a 25 hour blackout period.

These are but a couple of things the brothers do, but the list is longer. While I use the excuse a few times a day that I'm simply too busy to take on anything else, these two very good siblings have incorporated their mitzvah into their day. I haven't seen their daybook, but I presume lunches with company reps and staff meetings are right there next to 'take a senior to a

specialist'. 16.7% of Canadian Jews are 65 or older

There is nothing complex or mysterious about who these men are or what they do. They are a couple of guys, who come from fine stock with large families of their own. They are now zaidies with vibrant religious lives. Mostly, they are highly motivated, with a unique understanding of the importance of caring for our elderly.

Adopt a senior if your parents are no longer with you. Phone the Jewish Information Services at 416 635 5600 or Baycrest, or Circle of Care. There are lots of opportunities. Remember too that our community is honoured to have hundreds of 'Survivors' living among us, many of whom crave a visit and a friend.

The Torah describes Jacob as growing old. In his senior years he was forced to move to Egypt to escape a famine and to reunite with his son, Joseph. The patriarch's life was not easy but he was always surrounded by people who loved him and cared for him. Consider Jacob. Think about the two brothers and then ask yourself, what can I do to make an elderly person's life better? And what will this do for me and my family?

Visit a senior.

One day you will be old.

Avrum.rosensweig@veahavta.org

A Story *By Liane Odze-Silver*

My relationship with Judaism has been one of admiration, hope, peace and comfort, as well as one of uncertainty, and sometimes doubt. My quest to understand my spirituality has its roots in childhood, when I watched with confusion both my mother and father's ambivalence about their religion, after the Holocaust. My father was a German

Jew and had been interned in Britain and sent to a labour camp in New Brunswick. My mother's extended family, on the maternal side, had been murdered.

It is hard to capture, in my body, the nuance of feelings that were my legacy after my family's experiences. My father spoke very little about the camp, *(continued on pg6)*



A Story *By Liane Odze-Silver (continued from pg5)*

and my mother, even less, about her lost family. When I began to make art, in my career as an artist, my work was darkened by feelings that I did not understand. I have tried to give tradition to my children, and in doing so I have had to explore my own heritage. I have done this in little steps, looking with openness at the feelings that emerged, and trying to understand and give them context.

Today I am also a psychotherapist. (I work often with clients who have experienced trauma.) The strengths I gained from my family are sometimes hard to see. I know now that there was drive, hope, courage, and resilience, as well as grief, hurt, despair, anger and terror. I know that the wounds of their own childhoods, unhealed, were visited on me. I used to have a neighbour here in Toronto, who had been in concentration camp. Often I would sit with her to hear her story, from the beginning to the end. Perhaps the listening was a gift I could give – I don't know – I hope so. I have carried forward that gift in my work as a psychotherapist, trying to give back in a way that would have meaning for me. My struggle with my Judaism goes on. I feel comforted in synagogue, and yet sometimes the collective family grief is overwhelming. I believe, also, that as long as I am open with my children, and refuse to keep secrets, that they will learn that the journey, the self-reflection, the determination and the honesty are what matter more than the answers. They will learn that we are all

human, and that we can only hold ourselves responsible for hurt that we cause others.

I have had the good fortune to be able to do trainings, at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (where I work part-time when I am not in my private practice), on the systemic oppression and historical trauma that still to this day oppress our Aboriginal population. I discovered many felt-sense points of reference to my own history in these trainings, and benefitted from learning about how the sense of community is healing. We, Jews, we are not alone in our suffering – we are, unfortunately, one of many. I try to remember this when I latch on to the perils of being Jewish, and forget the joys. We must educate our children about all kinds of oppression and teach them social justice. We must point out that our suffering is not entirely special in the large scheme of things, lest we isolate ourselves in it and fail to see the ways in which the world as a whole can work towards becoming a community of spirits that practice kindness and compassion. We must be aware that victimhood does not give us an excuse to treat others without grace, or an excuse to cheapen our values and integrity.

I am grateful that the impact of what my family endured has not blunted my spirit. I am grateful to Congregation Habonim for letting me arrive in whatever state defines me on that day, and to continue to welcome me with open arms, confusion or not.

Donations

In loving memory of my mother

Minette Lebowitz —*Julie Libman*

In honour of Esther Ghan Firestone for leading services at the shiva for Sam Muskat —*Isaac Muskat*

In honour of Eli Rubenstein for leading services at the shiva for Sam Muskat —*Isaac Muskat*

To honour Adam Enkin on his Bar Mitzvah —*Grandpa, Larry Enkin*

In memory of Albert Morton —*Larry Enkin*

The Rosenberg Family with thanks to Eli Rubenstein

In memory of Lawrence Finkelstein —*Cliff and Joan Lax*

Judith Arbus, Dennis & Hazel Bader, Penny Balberman, Tony & Moira Cohen, David Dime & Elisa Nuyten, Neil & Marie Finkelstein, Sam Freeman & Deborah Bernstein, Richard Glatt & Jodi Lees, Don & Denyse Green, Neil Harris & Kathleen Taylor, Gabor Herczeg & Susan Liebel, Eric Hurowitz & Beth Warren, Neill Iscoe & Andrea Freedman, Martha James, Clifford & Joan Lax, Alice Lieberman, Shawn Nisenboim, Ted & Cathy Rechtshaffen, Marc Rosen & Bala Jaison-Rosen, Larry & Judy Tanenbaum, Jonathan & Amal Wolfe, Jay Wortsman & Hadassah Goldberg

In support of the annual

Ve'ahavta/Habonim Pesach Seder:

Larry and Judy Tanenbaum, The Ivan & Nancy Cohen family, Trish Orzech & Rafael Gomez, Paul Borins & Ronnie Beckoff-Borins, Nomi Winkler



Jahrzeiten – May, June 2013

Willy Ekstein	Iyar 22	May 2, 2013	Richard Moldauer	Sivan 24	Jun 2, 2013
Karl Placek	Iyar 23	May 3, 2013	Isaac Isaacson	Sivan 26	Jun 4, 2013
Lewis Finestone	Iyar 28	May 8, 2013	Samuel Lewkowicz	Sivan 26	Jun 4, 2013
Ethel Spector	Iyar 28	May 8, 2013	Otto Fleischer	Sivan 28	Jun 6, 2013
Isadore Haber	Iyar 28	May 8, 2013	Sally Egnal	Sivan 28	Jun 6, 2013
Hyman Charkow	Iyar 28	May 8, 2013	Nigel Walsh	Sivan 28	Jun 6, 2013
Giselle Pollak	Iyar 28	May 8, 2013	Sen. David Croll	Sivan 29	Jun 7, 2013
Edith Tarshis	Iyar 29	May 9, 2013	Saul A. Junger	Tammuz 1	Jun 9, 2013
Allan Lax	Iyar 29	May 9, 2013	Nellie Sperlinger	Tammuz 1	Jun 9, 2013
Lois H. Sufrin-Spigel	Iyar 29	May 9, 2013	Jack Jacobson	Tammuz 2	Jun 10, 2013
Guenther H. Orbach	Sivan 5	May 14, 2013	Dorothy Pecaut	Tammuz 2	Jun 10, 2013
Bela Erdos	Sivan 5	May 14, 2013	Celia Kofman	Tammuz 2	Jun 10, 2013
Jack Litvack	Sivan 6	May 15, 2013	Michael Szende	Tammuz 2	Jun 10, 2013
Zelda Stein	Sivan 9	May 18, 2013	Marie Schwartz	Tammuz 3	Jun 11, 2013
Abraham Schalmann	Sivan 9	May 18, 2013	John Pachner	Tammuz 5	Jun 13, 2013
Rita Lichtblau	Sivan 10	May 19, 2013	Stuart Allan Roebuck	Tammuz 7	Jun 15, 2013
Margit Weinberg	Sivan 10	May 19, 2013	Ben Levy	Tammuz 7	Jun 15, 2013
Tina Patton	Sivan 11	May 20, 2013	Miriam Burrows	Tammuz 8	Jun 16, 2013
Harry Chas. Gottlieb	Sivan 12	May 21, 2013	Rae Steuermann	Tammuz 9	Jun 17, 2013
Kay Fink	Sivan 12	May 21, 2013	Sam Cukier	Tammuz 10	Jun 18, 2013
Sima Muskat	Sivan 13	May 22, 2013	Margot Cige	Tammuz 11	Jun 19, 2013
Adolph Weiss	Sivan 13	May 22, 2013	Feri Knapp	Tammuz 12	Jun 20, 2013
Alice Engel	Sivan 14	May 23, 2013	Leo Lowenthal	Tammuz 12	Jun 20, 2013
Gary Rosen	Sivan 14	May 23, 2013	Franz Joseph Weiner	Tammuz 12	Jun 20, 2013
Bella Isaak	Sivan 14	May 23, 2013	Gabriela Sara Kacer	Tammuz 13	Jun 21, 2013
Irene and			Mendle Yazer	Tammuz 15	Jun 23, 2013
Leopold Stamberger	Sivan 14	May 23, 2013	Louis M. Schwartz	Tammuz 15	Jun 23, 2013
George Spitz	Sivan 15	May 24, 2013	Edward Harris	Tammuz 16	Jun 24, 2013
Emerich Sperlinger	Sivan 15	May 24, 2013	Elise Marx	Tammuz 16	Jun 24, 2013
Lola Fleischer	Sivan 15	May 24, 2013	George Bernard Sion	Tammuz 17	Jun 25, 2013
Abraham Nochomovitz	Sivan 17	May 26, 2013	Alan Wayne	Tammuz 18	Jun 26, 2013
Matthew Emas	Sivan 17	May 26, 2013	Ruth Libman	Tammuz 18	Jun 26, 2013
Moses Goldberg	Sivan 17	May 26, 2013	Matthew John Silver	Tammuz 18	Jun 26, 2013
George Lednar	Sivan 18	May 27, 2013	Fannie Saslove	Tammuz 18	Jun 26, 2013
John Goldstein	Sivan 18	May 27, 2013	Sadie Scudwick	Tammuz 18	Jun 26, 2013
Rebecca Persiko	Sivan 19	May 28, 2013	Joseph Lees	Tammuz 19	Jun 27, 2013
Eric Parieser	Sivan 19	May 28, 2013	Mendel Bain	Tammuz 19	Jun 27, 2013
Anne Levy	Sivan 19	May 28, 2013	Joseph Lees	Tammuz 19	Jun 27, 2013
Irving J. Halperin	Sivan 20	May 29, 2013	Milton Alexander Cadsby	Tammuz 19	Jun 27, 2013
Yolande Jakabb	Sivan 21	May 30, 2013	Joseph Blum	Tammuz 19	Jun 27, 2013
Fancia Gottlieb	Sivan 21	May 30, 2013	Esther Storm	Tammuz 21	Jun 29, 2013
Ludwig Neubieser	Sivan 22	May 31, 2013	Harry Mendell	Tammuz 22	Jun 30, 2013
David Jakabb	Sivan 23	Jun 1, 2013			



Left to Right: Zach Smith, Chelsea Scott, Benjamin Kettner, Eli Rubenstein, Morgan Simon, & Dana Galler-Tough

These students, all of whom celebrated their Bar & Bat Mitzvahs at Habonim, took part in the 2013 March of the Living. They are pictured on the last day of the trip, Israeli Independence Day, in Jerusalem, with Eli Rubenstein. Come hear them share their experiences at the Friday Evening Service, April 26th at 8:15pm.

In Memoriam:

Mourning those who passed away in the last year:

- Pesia Zimmerman**
- Fred Rose**
- Mary Mactinger**
- Albert Morton**
- Andrea Vogel**
- David Rakoff**
- Margit Lednar**
- Minette Lebowitz**
- Sam Muskat**
- Alvin Rosenberg**
- Bernice Goldberg**
- Lawrence Finkelstein**

Information and contributions to THE BULLETIN?

Call Erika Erdos at:

Tel: 416-787-0527 or **Email:** eerdos1@rogers.com

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

www.congregationhabonim.org

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: www.jewishheritageschool.com

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,
PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL?**

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Lisa Kent, Aviva Rajskey

Cantor Emeritus

Esther Ghan Firestone