



THE ROAD AHEAD

What an extraordinary year it has been at Habonim! You had a new Rabbi installed, hired a new Director of Education, and as a community were witness to the single worst economic crises since the Great Depression. With what can otherwise look like a recipe for breakdown and challenge has in fact become a launching pad for success. We have picked up and taken off without missing a beat. In all areas of our community our successes are palpable as our Nursery School is literally brimming with children, our Religious School enrollment is up to 130 for a congregation of approximately 380 families (which is proportionally stunning), our Adult Education programs are expanding and continue to bring stimulating and fresh learning to our members, and our various groups have been very active and successful. Our services in Queens have continued to be a success, and retain the flavor of Habonim's auspicious beginnings with the beautiful music of Lewendowski, and the rich Cantorial singing of Cantor Halev. Indeed, this has been a landmark year.

It is a great pleasure to announce that Rabbi Laurie Phillips has accepted an expanded position with Habonim as our Director of Education and Programming for the synagogue. It is under her capable direction that we have watched our children increase in their joy of learning, and we look forward to her successful development of our broader educational programs to include the new Teen programs, and to coordinate our adult programming as well. We are also thrilled to announce that we have hired Rebecca Elkus to the position of full time Assistant Director of Education. Rebecca has just earned her Masters in Jewish Education from the Davidson School of Jewish Education at JTS, and has been, and continues to be, a wonderful asset to our faculty.

I am also excited to announce that we have contracted Avi Fox-Rosen as a Music Specialist to work in our schools and with the congregation as a whole, expanding the many ways in which music can be a vehicle for expanding and enhancing our contact with Jewish service, sources, and celebration.

As we look ahead, we are working to create new opportunities to bring together and integrate our various constituencies into the larger sense of the "Habonim-whole." We are not only providing stimulating, warm, and happy educational experiences for our children, but we are looking to nourish and stimulate our parents as well. We are working to integrate our par-

ents into the workings of the broader synagogue program, and to develop more opportunities for our individuals and couples without children to participate, experience, and grow. We not only seek to provide a community experience at Habonim during holidays and Shabbat, but are planning, among other programs, a synagogue retreat next Spring, a series of Family programs and services, Saturday night Havdallah programs, the institution of our new "Teen Initiative" which will include a camping trip with the Rabbi, the development of a once-in-a-lifetime synagogue trip to Israel, an expansion of opportunities to spend time with the Rabbi both at the synagogue and outside, and a growing list of educational experiences for our adult members. And, as the song sings, "We've only just begun!"

This next year will be our 70th anniversary as a congregation. Habonim was founded by those who fled Germany and who survived the greatest trauma in human history, the Holocaust. As we have nourished ourselves on the fruits of their labors and their sacrifices, it is now our opportunity to plant the seeds for the next 70 years of success at Habonim. Our growing and expanded programming is the first stage in our long term plan for growth from within.

However, we are much more than just a resource of Jewish programming. Habonim has always been a "home" to its members. It is a place of sharing experience, of being present and supportive to each other in challenging times, and a place for shared celebration. In many ways, this is the most important thing we do as a community. Regardless of the ways in which we grow, creating a sense of family and shared experience is a fundamental of the Habonim community. Frankly, it is one of the most special attributes I have witnessed here since I began my tenure last August. Habonim is, indeed, a very special place.

As our sages teach us, "*Hayom Katar, v'hamelacha meruba.*" The day is short, yet the work is great." There is a never ending flow of opportunity and need for action. It has been an extraordinary first year at Habonim, and although we are still living in "interesting times," our ship is set on a course for growth, development, and success.

Have a healthy, safe, and rejuvenating summer. If you get the opportunity, please stop in and say hello.

— Rabbi Joshua Katzan

CONGREGATION HABONIM

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Congregation Habonim
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SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH:

MAEDA BLOOMBERG, AMY FOSTER, ROBIN SINGER, HABONIM CO-CHAIRS OF THE FAMILY DINNER COMMITTEE

It is with great appreciation that Habonim recognizes three outstanding congregants on their hard work and dedication to the families of Habonim over the past four years: Robin Singer, Maeda Bloomberg, and Amy Foster. Even though these three women balance careers with raising children, each one has dedicated the past four years of her life to reinventing the Habonim Family Dinner Series. Before they signed on to restructuring and organizing the dinners, the dinners were largely unattended and Rabbi Samuels often had to cancel them due to poor response. However, when they were held, the events were "chaotic," with no specific programming. It was at that point that these three women, along with Tracy Hattem (who was a co-leader in organizing the dinners for the first year), re-envisioned the dinners to be the wonderful events that they are today.

It all began when Robin was asked to join Rabbi Samuels for coffee. The Rabbi "asked what I thought of the synagogue. I had come from Steven Wise, which had an active family Shabbat service and I told her that I missed these events. So she suggested I start a Family Dinners committee, organize it, map out dates and do it! There was a need and Rabbi Samuels said we could fill it." Robin immediately contacted Tracy, Maeda, and Amy, her good friends.

They all had a similar vision of what they wanted. Amy shared with me that "we very much wanted a Shabbat service and evening that would offer an interesting, age appropriate and inviting atmosphere for families and one in which the kids would enjoy services and celebrating Shabbat." Above all, they each echoed, this would be a time for community-building.

When you attend a family dinner at Habonim today, you immediately notice the tight ship that these women run: assigned seats, organized turn-taking for food, informed staff who lead the multiple programs. When the children finish eating, they are divided into three age groups for various entertainment in the classrooms, enabling parents and adults (yes some adults come to the events even without children because they are so enjoyable!) to relax and delight in one another's company. These Family Dinners are so popular that they are sold out events with wait lists. They are so well enjoyed by people of all ages, that the teenagers who began attending as children, continue to attend and now are proud to sit at the teen table.

One of the nicest parts of interviewing these three women was listening to how they felt about one another, as Amy relayed: "For the last three years it has been just Robin Singer, Maeda Bloomberg and myself. It has been nothing short of terrific; we think alike, have talked through all ideas on how to tailor the evenings to celebrate specific holidays and festivals. We have accommodated each other's time schedules and have taken the tasks on that have fit best into our schedules." The other

continued on page 3

QUEENS COMMUNITY 2009

Shabbat Services June 5
Adult Learning June 10

L'DOR VADOR-FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

This year has been a particularly good year for our thirteen year olds – this year's *b'nei mitzvah*. As it comes to an end, I feel we really have to honor their achievements.

Times and styles have changed from the first days of our congregation, and it is hard to imagine what our earliest bar mitzvah ceremonies were like. But I was able to find the first entry made by our founding cantor, Erwin Hirsch, in the special book he kept of his bar mitzvah students: "*Maerz, 1940. Charles Adler, sohn v. Herman Victor Adler, 157 West 57th Street*" (March, 1940. Charles Adler, son of Herman Victor Adler). The handwriting has faded, and I don't know what rented place was used at that time for a synagogue before our building was constructed. Who was at the ceremony apart from Rabbi Hugo Hahn and Cantor Hirsch? It seems the parents were, though only the father's name was mentioned in the book. What we do know is that it was 1940, and the Second World War had just begun. How many members of the Adler family were here and how many were still in Europe? Some might have already perished. There must have been very deep emotions that day. What did they serve at the luncheon? I have no idea where Charles lives; I would love to contact him to ask him.

We will soon celebrate the 70th anniversary of our congregation, yet I find it important, and endlessly interesting, to look back at our founders and what they achieved. As I paged through Cantor Hirsch's book -- which chronicled all of the *b'nei mitzvahs* through 1980 -- I saw that the first Bat Mitzvah was Gail Tishshcoff on January 21, 1971. I actually met her once in the early 90's and discussed her ceremony with her. From then on, there were other *b'not mitzvah*, but it was a relatively rare event – only one in ten were girls for many years.

Rituals in our lives do mark significant changes, and they also serve as a vehicle for the transmission of values and beliefs. Rituals from many traditions carry religious and cultural meanings that have been passed on through the generations. Back In South Africa, where I grew up, I remember seeing African teenage boys covering their skins in white chalk and going off into the bush as part of their initiation into manhood. It was often quite a harrowing experience, but even today many who live in a completely modern world – in Johannesburg or Durban -- take time off from school to take part in this long-

lived ritual rite of passage. It is part of their identity, just as our Jewish "coming of age" ritual is for us.

The ceremony of *B'nei mitzvah* began in medieval times, and often only a blessing was said, or a father blessed his son. Now it is often an elaborate affair -- not merely another developmental milestone along the child's road to adulthood. Today's bar or bat mitzvah has become a major transitional event in the life of the entire family: the child, the parents, and the grandparents.

Rabbi Katzan and I are very lucky in that we have a wonderful vantage point facing the congregation at a Shabbat morning service during a bar/bat mitzvah. We can see the love on the faces of parents and the entire family as they watch their "baby" perform the ritual of reading from the Torah and addressing the congregation. In some cases, parents also find, even unwittingly, that this is a time of their own deepening interest in Judaism and the ceremony of their child sparks a new desire to learn. For our children, the privilege of becoming literate Jews is an opportunity to enter a new dimension of Judaism. And, importantly, for many of our children with learning differences, they are often able to surmount these differences and achieve their goals in a wonderful way that serves to build confidence and self-esteem.

As one of a team that prepares the children, I get a good sense of each child. I feel a bit like a combination of both cheer leader and stage manager... but I am always impressed at how the children begin to take ownership of the ceremony at a certain point, however nervous they might be. Through the years, I have heard from parents of college-age students that their *B'nei Mitzvah* was a turning point for many of them.

From Charles Adler in 1940 to today's young people who honor *Habonim* with their knowledge, their thoughtful ideas, and their proud families.... *L'dor Vador* - from Generation to Generation! The styles may have changed, but the message is the same.

May we all merit "*Ureh vanim l'vanecha; shalom ahl Yisrael*" – May you see the children of your children; peace upon the people Israel."

Mazel tov to this year's *b'nei mitzvah* families and children. Have a well-deserved and wonderful summer!

— Cantor Bruce Halev

SPOTLIGHT *continued from page 3*

women echoed the same sense of friendship and collegiality.

Even though they are moving on from the committee, as their children have largely aged out of the events, they plan on continuing their involvement as volunteers at *Habonim*. Robin is excited that Rabbi Laurie Phillips has initiated a new teen program, of which her children will be a part, which will meet twice per month to discuss relevant Jewish issues as well as take action and perform mitzvot around the community. The three women felt as though it was time to let the next generation of parents take the lead in organizing the family dinners. As Robin remarked, "We find *Habonim* a really wonderful place. We're proud to have been a part of this enterprise and we hope the dinners continue to grow for many years." They greatly appreciate the work of Rebecca Elkus in helping to organize the dinners and know that she and the Clergy at *Habonim* will help to smoothly transition our new Family Dinner leaders, Rebecca Handler and Joanne Tuckman.

We are grateful to Maeda, Amy, and Robin's vision and we are confident that Rebecca and Joanne will continue their success as well as add their own stamp on the family dinners.

SISTERHOOD UNDERWRITES NEW ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Habonim's Sisterhood has spearheaded an exciting new educational initiative, the "Restricted Adult Education Fund." We envision that this fund will significantly expand adult education programming for all congregants. The fund has been underwritten by a contribution from Sisterhood to the congregation. Fund guidelines allow assets to be carried over from year to year and additional contributions to be accepted from other sources. This will enable the fund to sponsor programs over a period of time and, hopefully, to generate additional assets to fund adult education.

To date, the Adult Education Fund has sponsored a four session course on Conservative Judaism given by Rabbi Lewis Warshauer where fourteen participants learned about the leaders in the formative period of Conservative Judaism and current leaders of the movement. The atmosphere in the class was informal and the discussion lively. Another four session course by Rabbi Warshauer, focusing on four classic bible stories and their depiction in Jewish art, begins on May 20th.

Sisterhood is now ready to begin processing fund requests for the upcoming program year. Congregants interested in learning more about the fund can e-mail Fran DeLott, at fbdelott@aol.com for further information.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

A new arrival to the Habonim Bulletin is: Teach Your Children Well, a feature that will offer parents ideas on how to infuse Judaism into your children's lives.

DOROT: Living L'Dor V'Dor

My family had the distinct pleasure of participating in DOROT's Passover Package Delivery this past April. Dorot, if you are not familiar with it, is an organization devoted to caring for our community's elderly, regardless of race or religion. According to the website, <http://www.dorotusa.org/>, "We understand that helping the elderly maintain independent lives in their own homes means alleviating their social, intellectual, and spiritual isolation as well." DOROT's volunteers—a pool of 10,000—make up the largest volunteer corps in the country serving the elderly. Volunteers include people of all ages from all walks of life: students, professionals, single adults, couples, families, and retirees.

During our volunteer experience, we had the honor of visiting a woman who was home-bound. Though we knew nothing of one another going in to the visit, we learned that she had been on the city planning committee to design the apartment complex in which we live. Her husband and son were professors at JTS, where I had studied, her son shared the same alma-mater as my husband, and she and I shared the same, uncommon maiden name. Above this, there were deeper commonalities: a dedication to Judaism, social-interaction, and a thirst for communication with other people.

My daughter, at one and three quarters, probably will not remember the event. But my husband and I will delight in sharing with her the story of her visit to the home of a famous Rabbinical family, how she examined their collection of Menorot, and how she played silly putty with our host, using our host's therapeutic hand putty. Even though the two ladies were decades apart, they could find common ground upon which to relate.

This year, our daughter may have no memory of it, but next year, and the years after that, she will and we are pleased to ground her childhood in understanding the value of learning from and being with people of all different generations.

If you and your family are interested in volunteering for DOROT, please visit this website: http://www.dorotusa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=vol_needs_you_D

Do you have a meaningful custom in your family that you'd like to share with the community? If so, please email Glenna Lee, glee1017@gmail.com with your suggestion!

FONDLY REMEMBERING EVA SALOMON

It is with great sadness that Congregation Habonim reports on the passing of long time congregant, Eva Salomon. Eva and Cantor Walter Salomon first began attending Congregation Habonim in 1940. As Walter documented, "the service at that time was what I wanted and needed, a continuation of the great liberal tradition I grew up with," as he had come from Manheim and she from Berlin. Cantor Salomon was in charge of the Queen's Shabbat morning service for many years. Eva would join him weekly, even though her Multiple Sclerosis made it difficult to get to one of the synagogue's basement services. Congregant Eva Bergmann often assisted her down the basement stairs. Eva remembered her fondly: "Eva was very warm, a wonderful woman, very outgoing. She was very much liked by everybody." Lotte Marshall, executive director of Congregation Habonim from 1943 - 1993, who grew up in Germany with Walter, recollected that Eva and Walter "were unusually good people. They were always helping others. She was in charge of delivering packages to poor people before the holidays, before she got sick twenty years ago. They loved Habonim." Eva Salomon will be missed. She is survived by her daughter, Linda.

ROSH CHODESH WITH RABBI LAURIE PHILLIPS

Conversation, dinner and learning

June 23 (Tammuz) at 7:00pm

Celebrate the new month with the women of Congregation Habonim. Rabbi Laurie Phillips leads the discussion. Interested in attending? Please contact co-chairs: Ellie Schaffer (elschaffer@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Bernhardt (bernhare@yahoo.com).

All meetings begin at 7:00pm. Locations vary -- check your email for the location.

THE HABONIM SHABBAT BEIT MIDRASH

Join us following Shabbat Morning Services.

On June 6, Fran DeLott will speak about "Conversos: From Spain and Portugal to New Spain and New Mexico"
June 13: Rabbi Katzan June 20: Howard Stoffer

HABONIM WELCOMES ASael AND ROCKY FROM TIKVOT

On May 9, Asael Shabo, 15, told his story to our congregation and many of us shed tears. Asael was home in Israel when a gunman burst in, killed his mother and three brothers, shot off Asael's leg and left him for dead. Asael was in the hospital for two years, and refused to speak for ten months.

But Asael was here visiting us not as a victim, but as a sports champion. Through the work of Tikvot, Habonim's official adopted charity in Israel, Asael began competing in swimming competitions, earning two gold medals.

And as Rocky Muravitz, Tikvot's Chairman told us, now that Asael has his prosthetic leg, he also participates in rollerblading, waterskiing and soccer.

Many people asked how to contribute to Tikvot, which provides sports rehabilitation to victims of terror, helping them to rebuild shattered lives through the challenge and community of sports.

Please make out a check to JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SAN DIEGO - TIKVOT and send the check to Habonim. We will send the checks to California, and you will receive a receipt for your tax donation from the JCF of SD.

You can visit Tikvot's website at: tikvot.org.za or go to Habonim's website which also has the link to Tikvot's website.

And you can contact ASael SHABO on Facebook to friend.

The Israel Committee invites your help in raising awareness of and funds for Tikvot. Please share with us your ideas for fundraising, so we can work together. Help us help victims of terror in Israel to rebuild their shattered lives!

Please contact Peggy Sarlin with your ideas at psarlin@aol.com

The Board of Directors of the Sisterhood of Congregation Habonim gratefully acknowledges these recent donations from the following people:

Jennifer Bank
Hilda Bondi
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MAZEL TOV

Stacey, Eric, Madelyn and Alexandra Tavel on the naming of their daughter and sister, Sydney Ariella.

Chana Gandal, Len, Dylan, Noah and Cliff Chenfeld on Noah becoming Bar Mitzvah.

Robin, Brad and Romy Roberts on the birth of their daughter and sister, Jaime Grace

CONDOLENCES

Congregation Habonim extends its heartfelt condolences to:

Cindy & Leo Asen on the death of Cindy's beloved father, Monroe Steiner.

Alison Fried, Michael, Benjamin and Zachary Harwayne on the death of Alison's beloved father, Herbert S. Fried.

Linda Salomon on the death of her mother Eva Salomon. Eva was a long time member of Habonim and the wife of Habonim's former Cantor, Walter Salomon.



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New York, NY 10040
Tel 212.781.7200
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4/7/09

Yolanda Potasinski, Executive Director
Congregation Habonim
44 West 66th Street
New York, New York 10023

Dear Ms. Potasinski:

On behalf of the Washington Heights Nazi Victims Program and our staff, please accept my deepest thanks for your congregation's continued support of our clients at Passover. We are deeply moved by the ongoing support provided to our clients.

Margot Keller and her dedicated group of volunteers continue to assemble these wonderful food packages for our clients. Please convey our thanks to the members of Congregation Habonim and particularly to Margot Keller for her continued commitment to this truly beautiful mitzvah.

The clients who received the packages this week, have little or no opportunity to celebrate Passover. The Temple's generosity and thoughtfulness will go a long way in helping them feel loved and cared for during Passover.

I send you and the congregation our warmest wishes for a very joyous and healthy Passover.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Adeena Horowitz, LMSW
Program Director

June / July 2009

Sivan / Tammuz 5769

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>May 31 8 Sivan 12:00 Israel Day Parade 3:00pm Sisterhood Tour at the Museum of Jewish Heritage</p>	<p>June 1 9 Sivan</p>	<p>June 2 10 Sivan 6:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:30pm Sisterhood Board Meeting (offsite)</p>	<p>June 3 11 Sivan 7:00pm Religious School B'nai Mitzvah (2010-2011) Prep Night</p>	<p>June 4 12 Sivan 9:00am Imahot Group</p>	<p>June 5 13 Sivan 5:00pm Tot Shabbat 6:30pm Lay-Leid Shabbat Service 8:05pm Candle lighting 8:30pm Shabbat Service in Queens</p>	<p>Parashat Nasso 9:30am Shabbat Morning Service 10:45am Torah for Tot / Mini-Minyan 12:30pm Beit Midrash: Fran DeLott 9:14pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>June 7 15 Sivan 9:30am Minyan</p>	<p>June 8 16 Sivan</p>	<p>June 9 17 Sivan NS: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - ORANGE ROOM 6:30pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>June 10 18 Sivan NS LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - Purple, Blue, Red, Yellow 11:30am Talmud Study with Rabbi Lewis Warshauer 7:15pm Adult Education led by Rabbi Lewis Warshauer 8:00pm Adult Learning in Queens with Rabbi Katzan</p>	<p>June 11 19 Sivan 9:00am Imahot Group</p>	<p>June 12 20 Sivan 6:30pm Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with choir and organ 8:09pm Candle lighting</p>	<p>June 13 21 Sivan Parashat Beha'alotcha 9:30am Shabbat Morning Service celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Jamieson O'Neill 10:45am Torah for Tot / Mini-Minyan 12:30pm Beit Midrash: Rabbi Katzan 9:18pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>June 14 22 Sivan 7:15pm Adult Education led by Rabbi Lewis Warshauer</p>	<p>June 15 23 Sivan 7:15pm Adult Education led by Rabbi Lewis Warshauer</p>	<p>June 16 24 Sivan</p>	<p>June 17 25 Sivan</p>	<p>June 18 26 Sivan 9:00am Imahot Group</p>	<p>June 19 27 Sivan 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:12pm Candle lighting</p>	<p>June 20 28 Sivan Parashat Sh'lach 9:30am Shabbat Morning Service 10:45am Torah for Tot / Mini-Minyan 12:30pm Beit Midrash: Howard Stoffer 9:20pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>June 21 29 Sivan Rosh Chodesh Tammuz</p>	<p>June 22 30 Sivan Rosh Chodesh Tammuz</p>	<p>June 23 1 Tammuz Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 7:00pm Rosh Chodesh Group (offsite)</p>	<p>June 24 2 Tammuz</p>	<p>June 25 3 Tammuz 9:00am Imahot Group</p>	<p>June 26 4 Tammuz 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:13pm Candle lighting</p>	<p>June 27 5 Tammuz Parashat Korach 9:30am Shabbat Morning Service 10:45am Torah for Tot / Mini-Minyan 12:30pm Beit Midrash: TBD 9:21pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>June 28 6 Tammuz</p>	<p>June 29 7 Tammuz</p>	<p>June 30 8 Tammuz</p>	<p>July 1 9 Tammuz</p>	<p>July 2 10 Tammuz</p>	<p>July 3 11 Tammuz OFFICE CLOSED - Independence Day 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:13pm Candle lighting</p>	<p>July 4 12 Tammuz Parashat Chukat-Balak 9:30am Shabbat Morning Service 9:21pm Shabbat ends</p>
<p>July 5 13 Tammuz 9:30am Minyan</p>	<p>July 6 14 Tammuz</p>	<p>July 7 15 Tammuz</p>	<p>July 8 16 Tammuz</p>	<p>July 9 17 Tammuz Tzom Tammuz</p>	<p>July 10 18 Tammuz 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:11pm Candle lighting</p>	<p>July 11 19 Tammuz Parashat Pinchas 9:30am Shabbat Morning Service 9:19pm Shabbat ends</p>