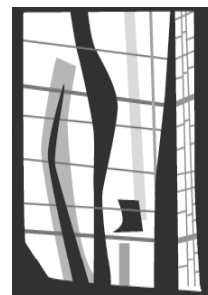


Congregation Habonim

a vibrant neighborhood synagogue

Bulletin



MAY 2009

Get ready...Get set...Tzedek Run is here!

Tzedek Run (formerly known as Mitzvah Day) is a Habonim wide initiative organized by the Religious School to perform acts of righteousness around NYC and Queens on Sunday, May 17th.

Events will take place on-site at Habonim as well as off-site.

Whether you have 2 hours or 15 minutes to give on this day, you can join in on the act of "doing righteousness!"

Closing celebration in Sheep Meadow from 2:30-4pm

HABONIM ON-SITE OPTIONS:

Collection Boxes-items can be dropped off beginning May 4th-May 17th. Drop off your new and used items at Habonim in the designated containers.

- Eyeglasses and hearing aids for Lion's Club and Hadassah (new/used)
- Cell Phones for a battered women's shelter (new/used)
- New make-up and toiletries for a local women's shelter (new only)
- Non-perishable items for City Harvest
- Children's books for Lincoln Square Neighborhood public school that is losing their library (new/used)
- Stuffed animals for Children's Hospital (new only)



Loving Animals: Friends of Animal Rescue

Time: 10:30am-12pm

Cost: Free

All ages welcome!

Come hear about no-kill animal shelters and fostering opportunities. Participants will have the opportunity to see live animals that are rescued and make a toy to donate to Friends of Animal Rescue.

Darot: Helping Seniors celebrate a Birthday!

Time: 10am-2pm

Cost: Free

All ages welcome!

Come and make a birthday gift for a senior! Picture frames, book marks and card making!

Cookie Baking Bonanza: Local Fire & Police Houses

Time: 12-2pm

Cost: Free

All ages welcome!

Come bake, decorate cookies and cookie containers and deliver them to local fire and police houses.

AIDS Walk NYC: Make Signs & Cheer on Walkers

Time: 10:30am-1pm

Cost: Free

All ages welcome!

Come and make signs for our walkers!

Sign making 10:30am-11:30am

11:30am-1pm: Cheer on walkers & pass out lollipops between 72nd and 74th St and CPW

CONGREGATION HABONIM

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Congregation Habonim
is a member of the
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SISTERHOOD MUSEUM TRIP

"BEYOND SWASTIKA TO JIM CROW"

JEWISH REFUGEE SCHOLARS AT BLACK COLLEGES"

Join Us For This Special Opportunity

Sign up now for a guided tour of a fascinating new exhibit about Jewish academics from Germany and Austria who were expelled from their teaching posts in the 1930's by the Nazi regime. Some who fled to America taught in historically black colleges and universities in the Jim Crow South. Their relationship with African-American students and the unique bond that grew between them is the subject of this powerful new exhibition. See artifacts, photographs and video testimony from both the professors and the students. Hear our own Eva Bergmann speak about her father's dismissal as a professor of physics at the University of Breslau. The tour will be guided by Dail Stolow, docent at the museum and a researcher for this exhibit. All congregants are welcome to participate in this Sisterhood-sponsored event.

Where: Museum of Jewish Heritage—
A Living Memorial to the Holocaust
36 Battery Place, New York, NY (646) 437-4200

When: Sunday, May 31st
Meet in the lobby at 2:45 p.m. for 3p.m. tour

Cost: \$18 per person

Reserve: Please reserve your space by sending your check
c/o Sisterhood-Congregation Habonim by May 22nd

Subway: No. 4/No. 5 to Bowling Green, walk west along Battery Place
W/R to Whitehall Street, walk west along Battery Place
No.1 to South Ferry, walk north along Battery Park/State
Street, then west on Battery Place
J/M/Z to Broad Street, walk one block west to Broadway,
then south to the corner of Battery Place and Bowling
Green. Walk west on Battery Place

Bus: M1, 6, 9, 15, 20 to Battery Park/Battery Park City

For more information, please contact Dail Stolow at (212) 496-5644
or dsny@verizon.net

SAVE THE DATE - SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

SHABBAT MORNING MAY 9TH

Please join us on May 9th to welcome Rabbi Shlomo and Bernice Balter back to Congregation Habonim. Rabbi Balter led Habonim during a transitional period prior to the arrival of Rabbi Samuels.

Our Sisterhood congregants will lead the Shabbat service, Bernice Balter will give the D'var Torah and following Kiddush lunch, Rabbi Balter will lead the Beit Midrash.

QUEENS COMMUNITY 2009

Shabbat Services

May 1 June 5

Adult Learning

May 13 June 10



Off-Site Options:

Create a Garden!

Time: 12-2:30pm

Cost: Free

A maximum of 50 people, aged 7 and older can sign-up for this event.

Contact: Rebecca at rellkus@habanim.net to reserve your spot. Please indicate the names of people attending in your reservation by Monday, May 12th.

Volunteers will be weeding out invasive species and planting native ground cover. Dress comfortably and be prepared to get dirty! Best to remove jewelry and wear closed toe shoes are required. Please do not bring additional bags as there is no place to store them.

Meeting location: 153rd and Riverside Drive. The Danenfeld's (Habanim family) will be there to greet you.

Smiles and BINGO: Jewish Home and Hospital

Time: 10:30am-12:30pm

Cost: Free

Contact: Rebecca at rellkus@habanim.net to reserve your spot. Please indicate the names of people attending in your reservation by Monday, May 12th.

Come sing songs, play BINGO and visit with resident at Jewish Home and Hospital.

Meeting location: 120th W. 106th St.-Habanim staff will be there to greet you!

Shop & Save: Families 4 Food

Time: 10:30am-1:30pm

Cost: \$20/per family unit

(purchase groceries at a local super market)

A maximum of 25 people, ages 9 and up can participate in this option.

Contact: Rebecca at rellkus@habanim.net to reserve your spot. Please indicate the names of people attending in your reservation by Monday, May 12th.

Participants will meet facilitator, Laurie Mendik (Habanim member) at Habanim at 10:30am to learn about hunger. Walk over together to Western Beef at 63rd St. and West End to purchase groceries for a family for a week. Purchases will be donated to City Harvest.

AIDS Walk NYC

Time: 6:45am-2:30pm

Sign up at <http://www.aidswalk.net/newyork/takeaction/volunteer.html>

Ages 16 and up

Questions regarding Tzedek Run?

Contact **Rebecca Elkus, RS Program Administrator** at rellkus@habanim.net or
212-787-5347x14 **OR**

Rabbi Laurie Phillips, Director of Education at rabbiphillips@habanim.net or
212-787-5347x15



**Yishar Koach to Tzedek Run co-chairs,
Rina Cohen Schwarz & Inga Ballin**

BRINGING MEANING TO YOM HA'ATZMAUT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

All over the world and in many different ways, Jewish people have just joyously celebrated *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, Israeli Independence Day. The significance of the founding of the modern Jewish state in 1948 was and remains profound for past generations, Jews everywhere today, and for generations to come.

However, it can be a challenge to make this deeply meaningful day understandable to children between the ages of two and a half and five, the age range of the children in the Nursery School at Habonim.

Every year in the Nursery School, we celebrate *Yom Ha'atzmaut*. Our children learn that the flag of Israel takes its inspiration from the colors and striped edges of a traditional *tal-lit* as they make their own Israeli flags and sometimes even headdresses made to look like the Israeli flag. We bake a super-sized cake that looks like the Israeli flag, and gather the entire school in the Social Hall for a parade and a party. We march to Israeli music, sing "*Yom Huledet Sameach*" to Israel just as we do at each child's in-school birthday celebration, and picnic together on birthday cake, Israeli salad, pita bread, and oranges grown in Israel. It is great fun, and of course, young children love to celebrate birthdays!

But this year, we really wanted to delve deeper into the meaning of *Yom Ha'atzmaut*. It is part of a long process, but we have begun an interesting journey of bringing Israel, and therefore the significance of this birthday, to life for some of the youngest members of Habonim!

The challenge has been to find pathways into understanding things about Israel to which young children can relate. During the nursery school years, children grapple with acquiring, understanding, using, and managing a rapidly growing wealth of knowledge and experience in all developmental domains—language, social and emotional, physical (gross and fine motor), and cognitive. As is the case with all aspects of our early childhood curriculum, we have employed a multidisciplinary approach to help our young, very concrete-thinkers begin to make connections that expand their understanding about Israel and *Yom Ha'atzmaut*. As a starting point, we made a list of familiar things that young children are interested in and then figured out ways to connect (or begin to connect) those things to Israel, based on both commonalities and contrasts with the children's own experience at this early stage of their lives. Some of those things are:

Children Young children are fascinated by other children. Even babies seem to possess an innate ability to distinguish children from adults and follow their every move. An important part of the study of each of the holidays or *chagim* this year has been to learn how children in Israel celebrate. To do this, we have downloaded wonderful books from an Israeli website that take us inside a school in Israel as the class prepares for and celebrates each holiday. We have poured over photographs of the children and noted many similarities between Israeli and American classrooms; Israeli and American celebrations; and

Israeli and American children. We learned that Israeli and American children learn about and celebrate the *chagim* in very similar ways. We also noted similarities and differences that we found in photographs of familiar places such as grocery stores, bookstores, the countryside, streets, cars and buses, etc. In our older classes, we created spaces that are found in Israel, i.e., the Western Wall. We studied photographs of the Wall, built a classroom model of the Western Wall in the block corner, and then incorporated our preliteracy mailbox curriculum by writing notes to stuff into the cracks and crevices in the "Wall."

Language Young children who are in the process of acquiring language enjoy playing with sound, and enjoy learning that some sounds that are unfamiliar have meaning to people who speak another language, in this case, Hebrew. A number of our children have parents or other relatives who are from different countries and who speak different languages, including Russian, Portuguese, French, and Spanish. The children are learning that the Jewish people share a common language—Hebrew—and that the same language that we learn when we say the *brachot* or sing songs with Rabbi Josh on Fridays during Tot Shabbat is the language that people speak in Israel, and that all Jewish people have in common.

Music Similarly, we have learned that much of the music that we sing on Shabbat and learn for the holidays is the same music that Jewish children in Israel and all over the world learn and sing—songs such as *Mah Yafeh Hayom*, *David Melech Yisrael*, *S'vivon*, *Chag Purim*, and *Dayeinu*.

Action and Activity Our children have enjoyed learning that just as they can swim, build sandcastles at the beach, hike, ski, ride a bicycle, go to the movies or to a zoo or a museum in America, they can do the same in Israel because Israel has beaches and mountains and swimming pools and zoos and movie theaters too—just as we do here at home.

Family In nursery schools everywhere, children learn about themselves and about their family. We teach our children that there are many different kinds of families, and that some family members live together, some live close by, and some live far away. Children understand the concept that their sibling who lives with them in the same home is part of their family and that their grandparent who lives in an apartment across town, in Florida, or in Israel is part of their family as well. This preliminary understanding in Nursery School sets the stage for later understanding of the abstract concept of *K'lal Yisrael* — that Jewish people who live all over the world in lots of different places close by and far away are part of one big family, the Jewish family, and that the home for that Jewish family is Israel, the Jewish nation.

Travel Children in Nursery School begin to learn about transportation and how we move from one place to another. A common starting point is to ask the question, "How do you come to school?" From there, it is a logical next step to discuss traveling to different places. When school is closed for a long weekend or for a vacation, we ask the children what they will be doing and

where they will be going. Our children plot the places where they will be on a map. Answers range from “at home” to “Florida” to “Israel” or, as was the case for one family at Passover, “Brazil!” Children begin to learn about relative distances as we discuss the difference between walking from home to school, driving somewhere not too far away by car, and flying somewhere a long way from home in a plane. In this manner, children begin to understand the concept that Israel is far away from here.

Weather Young children love to discuss the weather; it is a frequent and “hot” topic at daily class meetings. Although it is not easy to understand that the weather in Israel is as different as it is from the weather here, it becomes an interesting point of discussion, especially when we learn that holidays have a connection to Israeli seasons, agricultural cycles, and thus to weather. For example, we usually find ourselves in the depths of winter in New York City when we celebrate Tu B'Shvat and teach our children that while we are bundling up in warm clothes and maybe even playing in the

snow, children in Israel, where spring is in the air, are planting trees!

Food Children love to eat, and we know that for them, food is a highly effective vehicle for experiencing and gaining an understanding of the Jewish holidays. We use our knowledge of the linkage between the major holidays that we celebrate throughout the school year with the seven species or *sheva minim* mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:8 to help bring the holidays to life. The children learn that the fruits and grains that they are enjoying eating grow in Israel and traditionally are associated with specific holidays, including:

Pomegranates with *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, and *Sukkot*

Dates (and Date Honey) with *Rosh Hashanah* and *Sukkot*

Olives with *Chanukah* (This year, our oldest children learned how to press olives to make the oil needed to light a *chanukiah*!)

Figs with *Tu B'Shvat* (*Tu B'Shvat* is a holiday that richly connects us with Israel as we collect *Tzedakah* to plant trees in Israel and taste Israeli foods.)

Grapes (and vines) with *Purim*
Wheat and Barley with Passover and *Shavuot*

During the course of this school year, we have tasted, smelled, studied (inside and out), drawn, dried, planted, shopped for, and/or cooked these foods as part of our rich curricular exploration. Like them or not, children relate to these foods and learn so much from being food “explorers,” as we like to call them.

I once read a wonderful children’s book called *My Head is Full of Colors* by Catherine Friend. In this book a young girl tells her mother about the many things that she imagines in her head—people in her life, animals, colors, and books. It is my hope that each year, when we celebrate *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, our children’s heads will be full of the many colors, tastes, smells, faces, places, and sounds of Israel – all of which will begin to form the basis of a lifelong love of and appreciation for all that Israel is and means to us all.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Sameach!

— Cindy Grebow

Director, Nursery School at Habonim

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

BLESSING YOUR CHILD ON SHABBAT

A simple and beautiful ritual to add to your family’s Jewish lives is the recitation of the blessing of your children on Shabbat. I first encountered this blessing, when I taught at Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan. Each Kabbalat Shabbat, the teachers would place their hands on each child’s head and recite this blessing. No matter how rowdy the child, no matter how chaotic the day, each child rose with their shoulders poised as they received his/her blessing. You could tell there was a sacred presence developing between the child and the teacher in each encounter. My husband and I have been carrying on this tradition of blessing our daughter each week from even before she was born! Now that she’s a busy toddler it’s a beautiful way to still ourselves for a moment and remind one another of our Jewish souls and connection. Even at her young age, Annika bows her head each time we recite the blessing, sensing its importance. We finish with our enthusiastic Shabbat Shalom song and are ready to celebrate Shabbat.

For more information, I recommend: http://judaism.about.com/od/sabbathdayshabb2/qt/bless_children.htm

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. 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!

THE HABONIM SHABBAT BEIT MIDRASH

TOPICS FOR MAY 2009

Please join us for the Shabbat Beit Midrash following Shabbat morning services and kiddush lunch.

May 2 Fran DeLott, "Crypto-Judaism in the American Southwest"

May 9 Rabbi Shlomo Balter, The Torah: "Did God Write It" or "Did God Not Write It"?

May 16 Rabbi Katzan, "Mesmerized by Mussar"

May 23 NO BEIT MIDRASH

May 30 NO BEIT MIDRASH

ROSH CHODESH WITH RABBI LAURIE PHILLIPS

MAY 20 AND JUNE 23

Join the women of Congregation Habonim for conversation, dinner and learning as we celebrate the new month. Rabbi Laurie Phillips, Habonim's Education Director, leads the discussion. If you are interested in joining or want additional information please contact co-chairs:

Ellie Schaffer (elschaffer@gmail.com)

or Elizabeth Bernhardt (bernhare@yahoo.com).

Next meeting dates: May 20 (Sivan), June 23 (Tammuz). All meetings begin at 7:00pm. Locations vary -- check your email for the location.

"FORGOTTEN REFUGEES" FILM

A BIG HIT!

Following the morning minyan on April 5, an enthusiastic crowd stayed to watch a special screening of the award-winning documentary, *The Forgotten Refugees*. The screening was co-sponsored by the Sisterhood, Brotherhood and Israel Committee, their first joint venture. The *Forgotten Refugees* features personal testimony from Jews who fled Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, Morocco and Iran, and explores the rich heritage and destruction of the Middle East's age-old Jewish communities. In 1945, up to one million Jews lived in the Middle East outside of the Palestine Mandate. Within a few years, only a few thousand remained. After the screening, Peggy Sarlin led a discussion which lasted almost an hour, thanks to everyone's interest and emotional engagement with the film. The consensus was that *Forgotten Refugees* beautifully tells a little-known, but major chapter in Jewish history.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Vicki Brown
Andrew Genn
Claude Ballin
Linda Goldstein
Eva Herzfeld
Mrs. Leslie Fenchel
Robert Witkoff
David Singer
Hans S. Witsenhausen
Frances DeLott
Erik Siegel
Catherine W. Gildor
Charles Reich
Sarah Sokolic
Susan Memberg
Anne Rossmann
Robert Schaffer
Jean Helling
Lore Mayer
Fred Evan Chilkowitz

Stanley Mishkin
Mrs. Janet Pfeffer
Marylin Horowitz
Milton G. Grant
Jonathan Forstadt
Michael Massen
Leah Krauss
Hanna Lewin
Elaine Witkoff
Hella Hammelbacher
Timothy Murphy
Bob Sarlin
Steven Soll
Hans Wertheimer
Peter V. Norden
Richard Verner
Ms. Marianne Berel
Harvey Litt
Jonathan Baskin
Leonie Doernberg

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Peter Janovsky & Frances Schorr
Louis Peter & Emily Kirshen
David & Judith Singer
Robert & Elaine Witkoff
Robin & Brad Roberts
Steven & Katherine Soll
Stephen & Claire Lewin
Andrew & Louise Fay Bergman
Yael & Ehud Ben-Reuven
Stephen Kramer & Sheryl Goldstein
Jessica & Jeffrey Alton
Jillian & Larry Neubauer
Sarah & Jeremy Sokolic
Allison & Seth Zaslow
Lori & Fred Feldman

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The Board of Directors of the Sisterhood of Congregation Habonim gratefully acknowledges donations from the following individuals:

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Helen Dreyfus	Elaine Witkoff
Marianne Falkenstein	Suzanne Spindler in honor
Diane Goldsmith	of her aunt, Marga Walter

THANK YOU

TO WILLIAM & JANET SCHWARTZ
FOR THEIR DONATION OF
20 LARGE-TYPE SIM SHALOM SIDURRIM

A HUGE THANKS TO MARY SANDERS

Sisterhood would like to acknowledge the Herculean labors of Mary Sanders, who initiated the Mischloach Manot project. Mary worked out all the organizational details, facilitated every aspect of the hamentaschen baking, and assembled and delivered the gift bags. Her dedication made this project such a fundraising success. Thank you, Mary!

— Peggy Sarlin

The Beginning of Genesis: Scenes in Word and Picture A Four Session Course taught by Rabbi Lewis Warshauer

Four Wednesdays @7:15 - 8:30pm
May 20, May 27, June 10 and June 15
Sponsored by Sisterhood

MAZEL TOV

Jane Rosenberg, Howard Stoffer and Hannah Rose-Jing Stoffer on Hannah becoming Bat Mitzvah.
Lori, Robert and Lucy Rubin on the birth of their new son and brother born on Friday, March 20.
Stacy, Eric, Madelyn and Alexandra on the birth of their daughter and sister born on March 25.
Robin, Brad and Romy Robers on the birth of their daughter and sister born on April 22.

THE GABRIELE AND ERICH GRUNEBAUM FUND

Background:

Gabriele and Erich Grunebaum who were long-term members of the Congregation established this Fund as a restricted endowment in 1974.

Purpose of Fund:

The Fund was established to provide scholarships to encourage study in Israel by youngsters of Habonim. It was originally targeted to those who had never previously visited Israel. Congregation Habonim will use the Fund for the following purposes:

- To provide scholarships to children of members of the Congregation (or its clergy/staff) who have never previously visited Israel to study in Israel or for an educational visit. An educational visit is one under the auspices of an established Jewish youth organization as well as any trip sponsored by the Congregation.

- To provide scholarships to encourage students who are children of members of the Congregation (or its clergy/staff) who have previously visited Israel to study there for a semester as a full time student in a recognized program and for an educational visit. An educational visit is one under the auspices of a recognized program such as USY or Camp Ramah as well as any trip sponsored by the Congregation.

- All scholarships from the Fund will be need based. The determination of need will be made by the Committee based on submission of prior year's tax return.

- To be eligible for a scholarship, a person must be a full time student and under the age of 22. The Committee can grant exceptions to the full time student status.

Grants:

All recipients of Grunebaum Fund scholarships are expected to provide a report to the Congregation about their experiences in Israel upon their return. The nature and timing of this presentation will be decided by the Rabbi in conjunction with the recipient but is expected to be within 3 months of the return from Israel.

Applications will be reviewed by a Committee consisting of the Executive Director, the Rabbi, the Cantor and the Education Director (except if one of them has an interest as an applicant) plus one member of the Board and will include a review of the purpose of the visit and an assessment of need. They will submit their recommendations to the Executive Committee for approval.

We thank the Grunebaum family for their kindness. If anyone is interested in applying for a scholarship please send something in writing to Yolanda Potasinski, Executive Director at ypotasinski@habonim.net.