



Looking Back is Forward Looking

Rabbi Joshua Katzan

When we look at it carefully, there are some interesting similarities and stark differences between the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah, and the secular New Year on January 1st, and I'm not just talking about honey-cakes and champagne.

For both, there is a sense of renewal, attunement, and motivation to make this coming year better than the last. This can be a very personal experience as we contemplate ways in which we feel stuck, or as we evaluate the direction we've been headed in our personal and professional lives. For both Judaism and our secular world, these "new year" celebrations are contemplative opportunities to start over with a "clean slate" and to opt for positive and hopeful change in our lives.

But this is where the similarities end. Secular society and Judaism have deeply divergent understandings of the concept of renewal, and these differences can be instructive.

The secular New Year is a time of looking forward and dreaming. As Adam Duritz, the singer for the popular band Counting Crows, sings about the coming New Year, "It's been a long December, and there's reason to believe, maybe this year will be better than the last." It is instinctive that by the end of December we ritually focus on dreaming and visualizing the coming year to be a good one, and hopefully better than the previous year. The common practice is by making "resolutions" about how we're going to change our behavior for the better. We make resolutions to spend more time at the gym, to improve our eating habits, to try and be more responsive and responsible in our relationships, be more proactive in our professional efforts, our study habits, our study of various areas of interest, our health, or even hoping to responsibly put our ethical and financial affairs in order. It is no surprise that health clubs experience a sharp spike in both new memberships and former members walking through the door in January.

But there is a theme behind the ethic of the New Year's Resolutions: I resolve to make this coming year a better year for ME. I will make efforts to improve my own experience

in life. Although there are certainly ways in which people may also resolve to be better toward others, etc, I fear that our resolutions are overwhelmingly self-oriented. This is not necessarily a bad thing, for the more we improve ourselves in our interpersonal and moral obligations, the more others can benefit as well.

Nevertheless, the orientation of the secular New Year's Resolution appears to be, "how can I improve my own life going forward?"

Rosh Hashanah, on the other hand, is the opposite: We are really marking the end of the last year, not so much the beginning the next. Although this is the day where the new year begins in our calendar, it is meant to be the end of a reflective year-long process. The month prior to Rosh Hashanah, the month of Elul, is dedicated to reviewing ones past, and the impact we've had upon others. We take a look at our behavior, at our relationships, and our overall way of being in the world, and we attempt to take responsibility for our part in whatever was not exactly right. Judaism demands that we prepare for our New Year by looking backwards.

The work of this reflection is to focus on what we've done wrong and to fix it before looking ahead. It is as if there can be no future without looking first at the past, and actively working to change what we have caused to be wrong. In Judaism, we must look backwards before we can move forward in earnest.

This instinct of reflecting on the past made it into Mr. Duritz's Jewish consciousness, as further in his song he sings, "Drove up to hillside manor sometime after two a.m.

And talked a little while about the year." His Jewish Neshama appears to be coming through as he is suggesting that in order to move forward, one has to first look back.

The spiritual and ethical mandate of Rosh Hashanah is that we do T'shuvah, commonly translated as "repentance," or "returning." It is the practice of acknowledging our wrong-

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doing by confessing it out loud to ourselves, to God, and directly to the persons we have wronged. We then need to do whatever it takes to “fix” what we’ve wrought, be it returning stolen property, actively work to change ones behavior toward individuals, or at the very least own up to our part in the dysfunction of whatever system we have injured by our actions. As Maimonides teaches us, the process of T’shuvah is not complete until we find ourselves in similar circumstances where we committed the sin in the first place, and then don’t act the same destructive way. In other words, we look backwards as a prerequisite for being able to go forward, and then prove ourselves by acting differently the next time.

It is conspicuous that the Jewish tradition focuses on how we have had an impact on others, and the secular tradition has us, for the most part, focusing on what we will do better for ourselves.

I would argue that we in fact benefit from both New Years practices. If the secular concept of New Years is to start the year with a “clean slate,” Judaism teaches us that we must do the work to actually clean the slate first. Then, as we move forward, it is into a renewed reality, and not a desired fantasy, that we progress toward. Looking backwards will give us a clearer and more conscious way to navigate the road ahead.

May we all be inscribed for a year of healthy, happy, and invigorating life. Shannah Tovah!

Sisterhood Book Discussion

Amy Kargauer

Do you love to read? Sisterhood now has an up-and-running book discussion group, concentrating on books of Jewish interest, fiction or non-, as per members’ interests. New people (you do not have to be a member of Sisterhood!) are always welcome to read the books and participate in the discussions!

Our first meeting was in January, with People of the Book, by Geraldine Brooks, as our subject. We discussed The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit, a memoir by Lucette Lagnado, in March. That was followed by A Pigeon and a Boy, by Meir Shalev, in May, and July’s discussion was about A Day of Small Beginnings by Lisa Rosenbaum. Next up, slated for a meeting in the synagogue at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14th, is Turbulent Souls by Stephen Dubner. Every meeting we’ve had so far has been lively and informative!

Women’s League for Conservative Judaism (with which we are affiliated) circulates an email book list, keeping us in the loop of what’s being read by other groups with similar interests.

Please contact Amy Kargauer at karwalkers@gmail.com or (212)787-1516 if you need any more information. **Do join us!**

From Generation to Generation

Cantor Bruce Halev

As we approach the 70th anniversary of the synagogue and the 13th anniversary of our nursery school, it seems appropriate to look back at the people who brought our synagogue to this point in time. We really do stand on some very broad shoulders. As we come upon the first nursery school classroom we see the names of Max and Else Boehm. It was their son, Herman Boehm who, along with his two sisters, provided the major funding to start our nursery school 13 years ago.

Herman, who I am proud to say was a friend, was a man who didn't seek the limelight. He was born in Beuthen, in Upper Silesia, Germany. He later moved to Berlin and studied law at various universities, passing his examination in Breslau. He came to the United States in 1936, while his parents remained in Germany; later they were taken to Theresienstadt.

During the war he lost contact with them. Herman joined the American army and served in the American military government and, at the end of the war, helped set up military courts in the Rhineland, as he had been a judge in Germany. While stationed in Koblenz, he heard, through the American Red Cross, that his father had died in Theresienstadt -- the fate of his mother was unknown. His superior officer and friend, Capt. McKeever, suggested they go to the camp. As he was driving along, looking at the wretched creatures who had survived -- and who were now being treated and fed -- he saw a frail woman on the side of the street. He thought that he recognized her as someone he had once known, and suddenly realized that it was his mother, who was terribly emaciated and almost unrecognizable. She weighed only 89 lbs. He was able to save her life and bring her eventually to New York where she lived a long life.

When Joanie and I visited Theresienstadt in 2001 and walked along its streets, our thoughts were about his parents. We actually saw Max Boehm's name in the book of prisoners. I am pleased to say that Herman had a long and happy marriage to his first wife, Mimi, who died in 1989.

I had the great pleasure to stand under the Huppah when he was united with his second wife, Anna. They spent many years together and died in the early 2000s.

Herman and his first wife were not able to have children, so you might ask why he would want to be involved in starting a nursery school. He told me that he had had a very happy, warm and fulfilling childhood with his parents Max and Else, and two sisters in prewar Berlin. They lived a very cultured life among the Berlin intelligentsia, his father having been painted by the famous German painter Max Lieberman. I think he understood the value of a good and sound education for young children as being the basis for a healthy and fulfilling life.

He felt that the memory of his parents should be perpetuated through the youth of our congregation, and not just by a plaque. He had a desire to contribute to the lives of young people, and he had communicated that desire to me on several occasions. Specifically, he had spoken of his wish to see Habonim survive his generation -- to thrive into the next generation and beyond.

One other very special person was Irma Menkel, whose family, in her memory, donated funds for the children's playground, and for whom it is named. She was a remarkable woman who lived to over a hundred years. She was sent to Bergen Belsen towards the end of the war and actually was the head of the bunker where Anne Frank and her sister lived; she was with Anne at the end of her life. I remember being at her 100th birthday celebration with her large family. She was an elegant and highly intelligent person who was part of a wonderful family, some of whom were members of Habonim.

As our youngest children enter their very first schoolroom, let us remember the people who made it possible for the Habonim Nursery School to exist, and to be there for the crucial first steps in their educational life. The Boehm's and Menkel's lives were changed by the events in Europe and many members of their families' lives were cut short. As we move on into Habonim's future, may our children live in a peaceful, kinder world and be surrounded by people who love them. And may those lives who came before us continue to be remembered as a blessing.

HAVIERIM@HABONIM IS BACK!!!

Calling all 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th graders! Haveirim@Habonim youth group is back!

Haveirim means friends and friendships are what we create through our programming. Join us for sleepovers, scavenger hunts, ice skating, bowling, a Broadway show, a Yankees game and MORE!!! We will kick off the year with a SLEEPOVER AND SCAVENGER HUNT on Saturday, October 17th - Sunday, October 18th. Mark your calendars NOW and watch for an email for specific times. Haveirim@Habonim dates can also be found on the website.

Questions regarding Haveirim@Habonim programming???

Please contact Rebecca at relkus@habonim.net or 212-787-5347x14

NEW THIS YEAR: SATURDAY NIGHT TZ'IRIM/TEEN LOUNGE

Are you a Habonim teen and want to do something exciting on a Saturday night?!?!?

Join your other Habonim friends once-a-month at our Tz'irim/Teen lounge events from 7-10pm! We will meet both on-site at Habonim as well as plan events at off-site locations. Join us for cook-offs, game and movie nights, Battle of the Bands, Broadway shows and MORE!!! Mark your calendars for our first Saturday evening on October 31st!

If you are a teen in grades 8th-12th and are interested in becoming involved in our Tz'irim program, please contact Rebecca at relkus@habonim.net or 212-787-5347x14, SUBJ:Tz'irim

News from Sisterhood...

We're back from summer vacation and working on a full calendar of interesting events for the coming year!

Join us for one of our popular book club discussions; the next meeting of the book club will be on Wednesday, October 14th at 7:30 pm at Habonim. At that time, we'll discuss *Turbulent Souls* by Stephen Dubner. Also, save the date – Wednesday, December 2nd - for the following book club meeting. The book to be discussed at that meeting will be announced shortly. **For further information, contact Amy Kargauer at 212.787.1516 or karwalkers@gmail.com.**

Want to work on something that's fun (and delicious too)? Join us as we create a new Sisterhood cookbook in honor of Habonim's 70th Anniversary. **For more information, contact Janet Schwartz at 212.873.1086 or avischwa@aol.com or Mary Sanders at 212.362.9234 or maryhsanders@gmail.com.**

Our Sisterhood is affiliated with Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ), which is the umbrella organization for Conservative synagogue women's groups worldwide. Through our association with WLCJ, Habonim Sisterhood members can have access to educational, cultural and leadership development programs well beyond the walls of Habonim. Following is just a small sampling of the programs that we can enjoy by virtue of our membership in WLCJ:

- **WLCJ New York Institute - Every Monday, at the Jewish Theological Seminary, we have the opportunity to learn with the masters. This fall we're studying Modern Approaches to Biblical Criticism with Dr. Sharon Keller and Talmud with Dr. Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. In the spring, the Institute will continue with the same format. Topics and speakers will be announced at a later date. For further information, contact Rich or Harriet Unis (both are current Institute students) at 646.215.7594 or unis@rcn.com.**
- **On Sunday, 10/25 we'll go on an architectural tour of synagogues in Manhattan led by Dr. Vivian Mann, director of the Master's Program in Jewish Art and Visual Culture at The Jewish Theological Seminary.**
- **On Sunday, 11/8 we'll enjoy Theodore Bikel in "Shalom Aleichem: Laughter and Tears".**

Every few weeks there is something new and interesting for us to participate in along with our "sisters" from all over the Metropolitan Area and beyond. **For further information, contact Sisterhood Co-Presidents Amy Kargauer at 212.787.1516 or karwalkers@gmail.com and Fran DeLott at 212.362.9807 or Fbdelott@aol.com.**

Harvesting Our Relationships *Exploring Sukkot in a Different Way*

Rabbi Laurie Phillips

The air is brisk and, as we walk down through the streets of New York City, we see a rainbow of oranges, reds, and browns as the leaves shout out: "It's fall! It's fall!" Our tradition has a way of shouting out to us as well through our season of holidays. We move through the year observing rituals and reciting specific prayers to focus our attention to various teachings and ideas. The cycle of the year allows us to connect to our ancestors, our history and the larger Jewish community. The cycle of the year also allows us the opportunity and the privilege of connecting with each other.

We begin the year with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Both holidays offer time for reflection and growth. We put ourselves in the vulnerable position of asking for forgiveness from the people we love and from God. We are now on the eve of Sukkot - the harvest holiday. It is one of the times in the year when Jews would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and sacrifice the best of their crops and the best of their herds to God. The sacrifices were the only way people could communicate with God. Sukkot is also the holiday where we are instructed to build a booth and dwell in it for 8 days as a reminder of what it was like for the Israelites when they wandered through the desert. The Sukkot/booths also serve as a reminder that life is fragile. Our relationships are fragile and we need to DO A LOT to make sure they remain secure.

In our liturgy we pray to God "the one who spreads a sukkah (shelter) of peace". We are created in the image of God. If there is going to be a sukkah/shelter of peace between people we need to bring that peace.

This Sukkot - let's spend time thinking about our relationships. Are we tending to the needs of others in meaningful and significant ways? What are we doing in order to bring about peace in our home, in our community and in our world?

Mekor hachayim - source of life, as we celebrate the 8 days of Sukkot and recall the journey of our ancestors may we make room to explore our own relationship journeys. May we have the ability to identify the changes we must make in order to strengthen and sustain our relationships.

I'shalom,

Rabbi LP

PEOPLE NEEDED WITH DEVELOPMENT/FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE

If anyone has experience, professional or otherwise in development and would like to participate in Habonim's Development Committee, please contact: Yolanda Potasinski at ypotasinski@habonim.net or on 212-787-5347 x11.

YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!

B'nai Mitzvah @ Habonim

Glenna Lee

With the start of the new year, I am proud to announce the beginning of a new feature of the Habonim Bulletin: B'nai Mitzvah @ Habonim. Here, you can learn a bit about what each upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah has to say about his/her upcoming milestone.

I am proud to have Anne Rossman Weisz and Hannah Singer among our first to be profiled. Anne's journey has taken her from Europe to the United States, from French to English and Hebrew, and ultimately brought her to a new love for Jewish prayer in her adulthood. Hannah, on the other hand, has spent her childhood down the block from Habonim and we are pleased to have seen her grow up in the Aenne Hahn Religious School.

I hope you will find their stories of interest:

Anne Rossmann Weisz

The first thing that people usually notice is my accent. I was born in France, in the Paris region, and after finishing my studies I moved to London to start my first job. This was the first step that eventually led me to America. I loved having the opportunity to live in a foreign country, learn another language and discover a different culture. This was also the time that I discovered my interest in vocal music and took a few singing lessons after work. After a couple of years, I got into Stanford's MBA program and decided to move to California. By then I had to try New York, too! So after I graduated I packed again and moved to Manhattan, where I have lived since 2004. The following year I met Rob, who would become my husband, and I knew instantly at that point that New York was my home.

By then music was an important part of my life, so I joined Nashir, a Jewish chorus that performs Hebrew and Yiddish songs. A year later, I joined Dessoiff, a semi-professional chorus that sometimes is hired by big orchestras like the New York Philharmonic. I was getting settled and comfortable in New York, and Rob and I wanted to join a synagogue. So we started shul shopping.

One day we visited Habonim, and we loved it right away. Everyone was welcoming, and we liked the intimate setting of the service. In the Habonim lobby I ran into Amy Foster, whom I already knew from Dessoiff. Amy strongly recommended Habonim and had only great things to say about it. And so Rob and I decided that Habonim would be our shul.

Several months later, we started preparing our wedding ceremony and Auf Ruf with Cantor Halev. He suggested that I could learn to chant Torah for our Auf Ruf. I always wanted to learn but I was intimidated. Fortunately, the Cantor is a fantastic teacher, and I felt that I was making progress week after week. Eventually the day of the Auf Ruf came and I was able to chant one aliya! The following day we were surrounded by our friends and families as Cantor Halev married us. This is a fantastic memory!

In a few weeks I will be chanting Haftarah for the first time. Of course, I am a little nervous, but I also hope that this is only one more step forward and that I will keep learning more over time.

Hannah Singer

Hannah Singer will become a Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Habonim on Saturday, October 17, 2009. Her torah portion is B'reishit, the story of creation. Having commenced her Bat Mitzvah studies last winter, she is looking forward with great anticipation to this event.

Hannah completed the zayin year of the Religious School last June and is participating in the new Teen Program this year. Through Habonim, she has volunteered in the day care center of the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center, which she plans to continue this year. Hannah attends Columbia Preparatory School, where she is in the eighth grade. In her free time, she enjoys tennis, skiing, soccer, singing, and painting and drawing.

Nursery School News

Cindy Grebow

September was a brief, albeit exciting month in the Nursery School as children filled our classrooms once again after the summer vacation. Returning students and new students, "seasoned" Nursery School parents and first time Nursery School parents—along with the teachers and Nursery School staff—were swept up in the thrills, fears, laughter, and yes, some tears—that are part and parcel of the start of any school year.

It is very fitting that each year, as the Nursery School celebrates new beginnings—new children, new families, new teachers, new materials and equipment, a new school year—we gather as a school and congregation to celebrate Rosh Hashanah and observe the holidays that follow. Although Rosh Hashanah came and went quickly at the very start of this school year, each class had a shofar for the children to explore, and among a range of learning experiences, many of our classes dipped apples in

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honey, made New Year's cards, visited the Sanctuary to see the Torahs dressed in white, tasted pomegranates, read stories and learned Rosh Hashanah songs.

Now we are looking ahead with great anticipation to Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and the first class Kiddush sponsorship of this school year. Several notable occasions for Nursery School families during the month of October (detailed on the NS Calendar) include

the following: Congregation Habonim's Sukkah Decorating Party, Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Josh, Pizza Lunch in the Sukkah for NS children, NS Parents Breakfast in the Sukkah with Rabbi Josh, Purple Room Kiddush Sponsorship, and Curriculum Night for NS Parents.

I wish you all a shanah tovah umetukah as we in the Nursery School embark on a rich and exciting journey together this year.

Grilling the Rabbi

Glenna Lee

*Grilling the Rabbi, new to the Habonim Bulletin, will enable people to ask their questions to the Rabbi and get...well, some more questions (and maybe some answers too). It was inspired by a conversation I had with Rabbi Katzan last June. As the executive staff and I were walking to Rabbi Katzan's office, he was stopped by a congregant who said, "Rabbi do you have a moment, I have a question..." When he returned to our meeting five minutes later, I said to him, "you must get that a lot." He shared with me that he actually doesn't get that enough and that he wishes more people would come to him to discuss matters with him. It is out of this moment that Grilling the Rabbi was created. I hope this feature will provide a space for Rabbi Katzan to answer people's questions. **If you have a question that you're interested in learning more about, please contact me at glee1017@gmail.com***

The Formula for Raising a Jewish Child:

This topic began from a discussion we had on how to raise your child to be a Jewish adult. When I sat down with the Rabbi to discuss this, I was pleased to have the question answered instantaneously. Rabbi Katzan confidently responded: "More – Is – Better." Great, I thought, that's it? But then, in true Talmudic form, the Rabbi then offered me two questions: "So, what is more? And, what is better?" It then took 1 ½ hours to hash out what he was thinking.

First we had to clarify what it meant to be a Jewish adult. For Rabbi Katzan, it is someone who "is knowledgeable in Judaism, strongly identifies with Judaism independent from his family, has the self-esteem and tools to challenge what he doesn't understand and has the inherent values of a mensch."

Tall order, no? So what do we do, as parents and teachers, to lead our children on this path? "It starts with keva (form) and then the kavanah (intention/feeling) follows." The Rabbi related to me that young children need to learn the basics without first being bombarded with the quandaries with which adults struggle: "We don't need to accost children with historicity." What we do need is to provide children with knowledge and later on, they will love that they have the knowledge.

Going back to his first question, "What is more?" The Rabbi referred to a case I had just shared with him about a man with

whom I had recently met on the playground. The man was raised Orthodox and had it "shoved down his throat," so that now he is so removed from Judaism that he doesn't set foot in a synagogue, even on the high holidays. Rabbi Katzan told me, "this man didn't get more, this man got a lot of one thing." More, to Rabbi Katzan, implies diversity - Exposure to Jewish language, experiences, summer camp, going to Israel, making Judaism normal in your child's environment, and depending on your community to validate and encourage your child's Jewishness.

However, our direct role in ensuring our offsprings' Jewishness only takes our children so far. As they come of age, the B'nai Mitzvah have to struggle with Judaism on their own and find a way to come to terms with it and appreciate it. Our role is to create a strong foundation of knowledge and to provide our children with tools to examine their Jewishness and theological questions. Their role is to use their knowledge and tools to engage with what confuses them. As Rabbi Katzan shared, "they grow out of the garden and begin wondering...So, the more environment that is created, the more clarity and confidence they have growing up, the less anxiety they will experience later on."

However, Rabbi Katzan goes on to say that "anxiety describes maturity and that rebellion" is natural. Our children "grow by overcoming and staying with their questions." The hope is that they "stay within the fold and that they engage in the debate and care enough to question what doesn't make sense. We don't want them to believe in everything, we just want them to think through everything. The Rabbi went on to say that "belief is a child's question and that behavior is an adult's question." Jewish adults don't have to believe in all aspects of Judaism, but we do need to figure out how we want to deal with them. We, as parents, have done a good job when our children have grown up and realized that it's not all easy, but it is rewarding to tackle what's challenging.

With this in mind, we wish all of the B'nai Mitzvah this year the tools to inspect their Jewishness, to ask many questions, and to find a few answers.

Teach Your Children Well

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?

Sukkot begins on the eve of the 15th of Tishrei, or Friday, October 2 in this year's case, when the moon is full. It is one of the three pilgrimage holidays on the Jewish calendar (the other two are Passover and Shavuot) and a tangible one for children. Kids generally spend their days inventing, creating, and playing pretend – building houses out of blocks or blankets, playing grocery store and restaurant – and Sukkot is their opportunity to engage their parents in creating something: building and eating in a Sukkah.

It is a mitzvah to eat one's meals in a sukkah. But what happens to all of us city dwellers who may not have a space to build a sukkah (and terraces do not count as a Halakhic space)? For those of us fortunate to be members of Habonim, our synagogue provides us a space. But there are those in the larger Jewish community who may not have enough assets to enable them membership to a synagogue, or to live on their own, or to feed themselves.

It is for these people that a place like MASBIA exists. MASBIA is the only Kosher soup Kitchen in all of NYC. They provide Kosher meals to 120-150 people daily. However, what stands out as uniquely Jewish to me is not that MASBIA serves Kosher food, but that Masbia serves food to their clients in a Kosher fashion. Following the value of Hachnasat Orchim (making guests feel welcomed), MASBIA provides a restaurant-style environment where guests are served at a table and treated as dignified patrons. Furthermore, they are served well-balanced meals with fresh ingredients. On Sukkot, at a time when Jews come together to eat communally at

a Sukkah, MASBIA provides a Sukkah for their clientele. During the holiday, MASBIA receives and welcomes between 250-300 people each day and serves a "special Yantif meal" which includes beef and other festive foods. Through this organization, every Jew has the opportunity to perform the mitzvah of eating in a sukkah (though you don't have to be Jewish to eat at MASBIA).

The sukkah, according to Maimonides, reminds people to live modestly in order to keep our values in perspective. Moreover, the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim seems particularly relevant on this holiday. Even though people may build individual sukkot behind their houses, it is our goal to unite our community and invite one another in. Therefore, whether you have your own home or not is irrelevant on Sukkot. As long as you have your Jewish community, a meal and camaraderie will be provided. Regardless of whether or not the structure in which you're sitting is permanent, the community is.

As you take your children into your Sukkah this year, whether it's your own personal one, or your own communal one, remind them of the importance of community and of taking care of one another to make sure that everyone is provided for and included.

To learn more about MASBIA or to make a donation, please go to www.masbia.org or call 718-972-4446. (Please contact them for B'nai Mitzvah or Wedding Donations/service projects!)

Yad B'yad Programming

2009-2010/5770

Yad B'Yad means HAND-IN-HAND. Yad B'yad we offer the following parent-child programming opportunities for our families:

Shabbat Family Services

All family services will take place at First Church at 10 W. 68th Street at CPW. Services begin at 10:30am.

October 17, 2009
November 14, 2009
December 12, 2009
January 9, 2010
February 6, 2010
March 13, 2010
April 17, 2010
May 8, 2010

Questions about Yad B'yad programs???

Rabbi LP at rabbiphillips@habonim.net, 212-787-5347x15

Rebecca at reikus@habonim.net, 212-787-5347x14

www.habonim.net

Shabbat Family Dinners

Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6:30pm. Dinner, conversation & engaging programming for youth!

Dinner pricing:

0-5	\$12
6-12	\$15
13-18	\$20
Adult	\$36

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Mark your calendars now for these dinner dates....

October 23, 2009

December 11, 2009 Welcome new NS/RS families to the Habonim community

January 22, 2010

March 12, 2010

April 16, 2010

May 14, 2010

Program Events:

September 13, 2009 Kick-off in the Park

December 5, 2009 Havdalah for families with children ages 4 and up

January 23, 2010 Havdalah for families with children ages 6 and under

February 27, 2010 Family Megillah reading

February 28, 2010 Purim carnival

March 14, 2010 Matzah Paloozah

April 25, 2010 Spring Fling in the Park

May 14-15, 2010 Family retreat

May 22, 2010 RS staff Appreciation/2009-2010 B'nai Mitzvah Honors

May 23, 2010 Tzedek Run

Jews who Wine and Dine

Jordan Panaiotov

Aaaah – Indian Summer. These lazy days leave us with few options for entertainment. Fortunately, a glass of cold, refreshing white wine has always been an effective way to combat the last dog days of summer, and this instance is no exception. But what to drink? There are so many options - Sparklers, Rose, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, Torrontes, Verdejo... Enough to make you agonize over something as simple yet meaningful as having a glass of wine. Sometimes, less is more. Understated, elegant, eternally delightful and always well priced - Pinot Grigio to the rescue. One of the most classic and versatile of white wines, Pinot Gris (Grigio is the Italian name for it) has been celebrated for centuries in Italy and is now gaining prominence all over the world. Oregon, California, New Zealand, Austria, Germany, Hungary and even Switzerland have plantings of the wine, with noticeably different styles and price points. Thank God, you don't have to blow your budget to get a great bottle of wine these days. We've all realized the value of a dollar in the last few years.

Enter the Cantine Del Borgo Reale 2008 Delle Venezie Pinot Grigio. Priced around \$15, this is the perfect bottle of wine to cure the Inidan Summer lethargy that befalls us poor mortals. Invigorating, crisp, clean and focused, this is one Kosher wine that does not disappoint. With light flavors of apple, lemon and a delightful minerality, this wine is one I always return to as a safe bet. Its wide and constant availability add to the convenience, and now you can even get a discount on it! But, before we get to that, here is a simple, Kosher Halibut recipe that will perfectly compliment this wine and even enhance it's delicate flavors. Best of all, with a prep time of only 10 minutes, this chef inspired dish will leave your guests clamoring for more and leave you with enough time to make that fancy dessert you never get the chance to! **This wine is Mevushal, Kosher for Passover.*

Baked Halibut with Vegetables (Parve)

Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 40 minutes

Ingredients:

2 lbs. Halibut Steaks
1 onion, chopped
1 tomato, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced
1/2 cup dry white wine
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175 degrees Celsius). Spray a 12x8 inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.
2. Place fish in dish.
3. Mix vegetables together and spread over the fish.
4. Mix wine, lemon juice, parsley, salt and pepper together. Pour over fish and vegetables.
5. Cover. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175 degrees Celsius) for 30-45 minutes, or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

Cantine Del Borgo Reale 2008 Del Venezie Pinot Grigio is available at Ehrlichs Wines and Spirits, 222 Amsterdam Ave. At the corner of 70th and Amsterdam. Bring in this article to receive 10% off any two bottles of Kosher wine, 15% off any 6 bottles, and 20% off a case.

Jordan Panaiotov is in charge of marketing and sales at Ehrlichs Wines and Liquors, and has been working in the food and wine industry since 2003, getting his start at the critically acclaimed Zin American Bistro in Palm Springs, California."

And the Honor Goes To...

Honoring Four Dedicated Habonim Families on the eve of Seventy Years

Glenna Lee

On the evening of Saturday, November 14, 2009, members of Congregation Habonim will celebrate Habonim's 70th Anniversary at our Gala Dinner and Fundraiser. This event, taking place at the historic and elegant Puck Building, will honor four families who have honored us with their dedication to and enthusiasm for Congregation Habonim. Each family has at least one person currently on our Board. But in all cases, it is the family in its entirety that demonstrates its commitment to Habonim.

The honorees represent different periods of our history. Jay and Diane Goldsmith are senior members of our community and Jay is a member of our board. Peter and Reggie Mayer, born in Germany, are among our founding generation of Habonim Congregants. Peter, a board member, is the Vice President of our Queens Constituency and he, more or less, single-handedly keeps the services organized. Jillian and Larry Neubauer represent the younger generation of Habonim and Larry is also a member of the board. Last, we are honoring the entire Wertheimer Family, who represent four generations

at Habonim. Sara Wertheimer Rosand's grandparents, the Zeitlans, were among the founding members of Congregation Habonim. The Nursery School is proud of the Clara Zeitlan scholarship fund. Sara Rosand graciously participated as the gala chair of Habonim's 65th anniversary.

If you haven't already responded to your invitation in the mail, we hope you do so. There will be cocktails, dinner, dancing and an opportunity to recognize the honorees.

The year-long celebration of Habonim's 70th anniversary will officially begin on Shabbat, November 6, with evening, Kabbalat Shabbat services and lecture to follow. From November 9-15, Judith Margolis, our scholar in residence, will teach both children and adults. We are also planning a cookbook – renewing old favorites from past Habonim cookbooks and adding new. Students at our Religious School will spend the year interviewing and meeting with our founding generation of Habonim members; their experiences will culminate with a presentation of their choice. We hope that there will be something for everyone to celebrate!

Reggie and Peter Mayer

Glenna Lee

Reggie and Peter Mayer have spent the past sixty years of their lives with Congregation Habonim. They have attended Habonim ever since their daughter's baby naming; Rabbi Hahn had led such a beautiful and touching ceremony that they knew this was the synagogue and community for them. It has truly been a family affair – one that has lasted three generations at that. Peter's mother, Irma Mayer, and his father, Paul Mayer, were founding members of Habonim. Irma served as Sisterhood Chair and Paul as the Treasurer. Peter and Reggie's children, Nancy and Susan, were both raised at Habonim, participating in youth group and school leadership.

Peter and Reggie are truly leaders of Habonim: they both have held numerous positions at the synagogue. Currently, Peter has held the chair of the Queens Committee for a number of years where, Peter reports, "we have a wonderful group of seniors, just like a family." They also chaired our program for the blind for over a decade!

One of the most interesting clubs in which they were involved was the Mr. and Mrs. Club, some forty years ago. In reaction to not wanting to be a part of the brotherhood, since it was filled with "a bunch of old men," Reggie and Peter formed this new club for young couples in their 30s and 40s. The youngsters would get together at Habonim for dancing and lectures. They even put on plays! Peter remembers it fondly as a wonderful point in his life. Ironically, and coming full circle, Peter shared with me that he currently serves as the co chair of the Brotherhood. A group, he says, that is in dire need of some young blood and fresh ideas. They are looking for new, younger members, because "it's just a bunch of old men." No matter what his age, Peter is perpetually young at heart. We look forward to honoring them at Habonim's upcoming gala.

Four Generations of the Wertheimer Family

Hans Wertheimer

Since my mother was related to Rabbi Hugo Hahn, it was normal for him to come to our apartment on 110th Street after arriving in New York. It was 1939, soon after Rabbi Hahn witnessed the burning of his Essen synagogue during Kristallnacht, and he was understandably devastated. I still remember my father telling him, "Hugo, Macht Dir keine Sorgen, Du wirst bald wieder Deine Gemeinde haben." ("Hugo, don't worry. Soon you will have your own congregation again.")

My father was right and, soon thereafter, Rabbi Hahn did indeed start building his own congregation – Habonim. My father, Richard, became a founding member of Habonim, and my mother, Berta, together with other women in the community, founded the Sisterhood. One of the other founding members of Habonim's Sisterhood was Clara Zeitlin, who was later to become my mother-in-law. Nobody could have imagined then that Clara's daughter, a member of Habonim's 1952 Bat-Mitzvah class, would eventually become my wife!

Barbara and I – both second generation Habonimers – were married in Rabbi Hahn's study at Habonim in 1962. Although we lived in Paris, France, we always maintained a close relationship with Congregation Habonim. In fact, even though our three children grew up in Paris, we celebrated each of their Bar and Bat-Mitzvahs at Congregation Habonim in New York

(thanks to Cantor Hirsch's excellent tapes of their "parashas") and they consider themselves third-generation Habonimers.

Today, Rebecca, our oldest daughter, lives in Israel with her husband and three children. Our son Jonathan lives in Geneva, Switzerland with his wife and two young sons, and Sarah, our youngest, lives in New York with her husband and two small sons.

We were delighted when Sarah and her husband Eric chose to become members of Congregation Habonim. Sarah and Eric were married at Habonim, and Sarah served on the Board for a number of years and continues to participate in many of the congregation's committees.

Our family's fourth generation of Habonimers made its debut this September when Sam, Sarah's three-year old son, began attending the Nursery School at Habonim. Since Sam's great-grandmother, Clara Zeitlin, was one of the founders of his nursery school, I know she would have been delighted to know that our family's Habonim tradition continues.

Barbara and I are grateful to be part of Habonim's 70th Anniversary Gala celebrations, and thank you for honoring our family during what promises to be a memorable evening.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM METRO NORTH REGION

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A MOST INTERESTING EDUCATION EVENT

Sunday, October 25th, 11 am - 5 pm

Private Architectural Three-Synagogue Comparative Tour

led by Dr. Vivian B. Mann,

JTS GRADUATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF THE MASTER'S PROGRAM
IN JEWISH ART & VISUAL CULTURE

COST FOR ENTIRE PROGRAM

Including bus transportation

From Beth El Synagogue, New Rochelle at 9:15 am: \$ 65.

From NYC, East 55 Street Synagogue, at 12:30 pm: \$ 55.

KINDLY RESPOND BY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th

Limited Availability: to reserve, please email your name, phone number, email address and the number of people registering to tspol@netzero.net and, ASAP, please send your check made out to WLCJ-M/N to:

Tamara Spolan, WLCJ M/N Educ.V.P.

156 West 86 Street, New York, NY 10024

TOUR SCHEDULE

11 AM - 12:30PM: MINGLE OVER FULL BRUNCH

East 55th Street Synagogue, 308 East 55th Street at Third Avenue, 212-752-1200

Bus transportation north ten blocks to our first tour stop

1 PM: GUIDED TOUR BEGINS

Temple Emanuel, 1 East 65th Street at Fifth Avenue; docent guidance in the Beth El Chapel and Museum:

Walk two blocks south to our next stop

2:45 PM: GUIDED TOUR CONTINUES

Safra Synagogue, 11 East 63rd Street at Fifth Avenue, including Sephardic Snack "Tasting".

Bus transportation across Central Park and north seven blocks to our next stop

4 PM: GUIDED TOUR CONTINUES

Shearith Israel, Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue, 8 West 70th Street at Central Park West, 212-714-6265

5 PM: TOUR ENDS

New Rochelle bus returns to Beth El Synagogue, arriving around 6:30pm