



# חדשות



## Habonim Dror Foundation News

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2, APRIL 1995

### Becoming a Rabbi in the United States: Is That What We Meant by "Aleh Uvneh - Arise and Build"?

by Shai Gluskin

It took six days and Shabbat in the summer of 1970 to make me a committed Habonim member. It was so exciting to become a part of a new family - a family which had a set way of doing things based on commitment to ideals and making the world and ourselves better. At age 13, I was sure I would make aliyah to kibbutz!

Oh, who shall we thank?  
Oh, who shall we bless?  
To work! To labor!

On Shabbat, however, we sang "Hamotzi", "Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, sovereign of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth." Somewhere in that inconsistency Habonim found its humanity.

### Message From The Foundation Chair

by Sid Troy

There is a nucleus of Habonim "old timers" in Israel and in America who so value and believe in the Habonim experience that they have, over the years, given support, encouragement and funding.

How gratifying it was to receive calls from Ben Cohen and Danny Mann telling of and asking me to participate in a brand new effort to support the Movement. Ken Bob, Mark Seal and others have joined this new undertaking, which is to finally build a proper support system for Habonim-Dror. Judging from the response they have thus far, it was the right moment for the right idea!

I was delighted to lend my name to a project that is so dear to my heart.

Many of you know me from Business Manager days at Camp Galil 1947, or from Habonim Camping Association meetings over the years. Some of you know Shula, who was camp Mother at Galil (it was a needy year), cook at Machaneh Bonim Tel Ari for a couple of years, and general go-fer at Na'aleh for a season. Bethie, Debbie and Shari Troy, our daughters, may also be familiar names to some. Shari was Rosh at Na'aleh one season.

Now that introductions have been completed, I am asking for your involvement

### "A significant part of the exploration that I had to do was discovering that Judaism could be a spiritual path for me."

Shabbat was special. Clean and well dressed we marched to "emek Shabbat" singing the same Shabbat songs in the same order. The Kabbalat Shabbat, whether it was a song, a poem, a Greek chorus, or something completely different, always ended with us singing Bialik's "HaChama Meirosh" "The sun has vanished behind the treetops. Come! Let us go out toward the Sabbath queen!" I have always loved how Habonim was able to so thoroughly welcome the radical and the traditional within Judaism. Six days a week we sang before we ate "Mi yatzileinu...:"

Who will save us from hunger?  
Who will feed us with abundant bread?  
Who will give us a glass of milk to drink?

I think the reason that I did not make aliyah with my garin was that at age 25, I still had a lot more exploring to do. In a way, kibbutz was too much of a "grown up" thing to do. The kind of exploration I wanted couldn't be subject to a vote of the asepha.

A significant part of the exploration that I had to do was discovering that Judaism could be a spiritual path for me. When I was in Taiwan, at the studio of my Tai Chi teacher's master, I had the opportunity to study and become a Tai Chi teacher myself. Though I originally became interested in Tai Chi for its physical benefits. I soon realized it was a

Continued on page 3, column 1

Continued on page 3, column 3



# Habonim Dror Update

by Trilby Smith,  
Mazkira of Habonim Dror

It's time for another Foundation update from Habonim Dror North America!

After a very difficult budgetary year, the Mazkirut is very excited about the many opportunities which are opening up for the Movement. Jewish communities across North America are actively seeking innovative "continuity" programs, and Habonim Dror surely has much to offer. During 1995-96, we hope to see proposals written and projects funded, both at camps and for expanded Ken activities.

At the end of December we held our annual Winter Seminar in Blairstown, New Jersey. This seminar is for Habonim Dror members from all over North America ages

sixteen and up. We had 135 participants this year, taking part in both the educational seminars and in our biennial Veida (policy convention). The Veida was very successful, and focused on redefining the role of Habonim Dror within the changing Jewish/Zionist world. Copies of the Veida resolutions are available from the Central office (212/255-1796, HDNA@panix.com)

We are presently nearing the registration deadlines for MBI and Workshop #45. This summer's MBI will be the biggest ever, with over 100 participants and an expansion to three buses. Even more important, as our own, unique, kibbutz-based, Israel Experience program, MBI is fulfilling its mission of galvanizing Habonim Dror leadership cadres for future Movement development.

And finally, the most exciting news - Habonim Dror North America will be reopening Machaneh Gilboa, its sixth summer camp, in July of 1995! After an incredibly successful week long Winter

## Machaneh Gilboa Reopening!!!

Camp in December with 44 campers, and a lot of hard work by the Gilboa Camp Committee and California madrichim, it was decided that Gilboa could make it in '95. Alumni (and other interested parties) can contact Natalie Hausman-Weiss at 213/655-6576, for registration information.

We are all very energized by the continued growth in our movement.

# The Progressive Zionist Caucus

by Jono Glick

The Progressive Zionist Caucus was founded in 1982 by college-age graduates of HaBonim Dror and HaShomer HaTzair. Although its formation was a direct reaction to the support for the Invasion of Lebanon in the American Jewish community, more generally, the PZC believed "that striving for peace, social justice, religious pluralism, and economic democracy

notably increased, as we strove to work with students outside the Jewish community and academics.

At Brown, for example, PZC planned an Arab-Jewish Dialogue retreat, where students of both communities came together for a weekend to "break down barriers." Brandeis-PZC worked with the Peace and Conflict Resolution Department to put together a symposium on the impact of the Hebron

The success of last year has brought with it its own set of rewards and challenges. We have secured funding for Regional Coordinators in Atlanta and New York. We have raised funds for a much-needed Israel Coordinator. We will be sponsoring a weekend seminar in Montreal on the topic of "Jerusalem and Peace" and an Eco-Ruach festival in Oregon on environmentalism and the Jewish tradition. Our biggest problem remains our lack of institutional support apart from the crumbling WZO.

## "the movement is alive with thoughtful energy & commitment"

is essential for the realization of a positive and responsible Zionism." (PZC Platform, 1982.)

Continuing the long tradition of American progressive Jewish student activism, PZC was established throughout the U.S. and Canada, particularly on campuses with high Habonim concentration. Over the last few years, the resurgence of the peace process and a change in national PZC leadership has resulted in a sharp upswing in PZC campus activities. We not only grew in our total number of chapters, but the sophistication of our programming

Massacre. And at McGill, to great acclaim, a Palestinian student filmmaker screened his film on Arab-Israelis at a PZC-sponsored program. Our programming in Israel similarly increased in volume and quality. Seminars for the Overseas Students at Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University -- a traditionally ignored student constituency -- were conducted at Kibbutz Tuval and at the Givat Havivah Institute for Arab-Jewish Coexistence. PZC students at these campuses volunteered for social justice projects and took part in pro-peace demonstrations. On every campus that PZC existed, we filled the void with progressive Jewish and Zionist activism.

Our unique approach to Jewish involvement allows us to reach portions of the so-called non-affiliated community. And at the time of this writing, the movement is alive with thoughtful energy and commitment. PZC continues to be the voice of progressive Judaism and Zionism on campus, and a vital breeding ground for the next generation of Jewish leadership.

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The Habonim Dror Foundation  
PO Box 166  
Mineola, NY 11501  
This issue put together by Kenneth Bob,  
Jennifer Kay, and Steven Weinberg

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# Letters to the Editor



The first issue of Chadashot generated many letters, email messages and phone calls. It was not surprising to find Habonim Dror graduates involved in a wide variety of endeavors. Whether they came from people in education, down on the farm, in Silicon Valley or becoming Rabbis (see article on page 1), the general message of all the communication was vocal support for this fledging effort.

We expected to receive mail from outside of North America and we were not surprised to hear from graduates of the movement in Israel. We decided that the letter we received from Croatia qualified as the most distant origin, if not in actual miles, certainly in other ways.

Jill Benderly attended Moshava, Naaleh, Galil and MB as a chanicha and madricha from 1968-1976. She is currently working with women in Croatia and writes that "I am involved with Jewish community in Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia." She enthusiastically supports the Foundation and suggests that we "might want to try a pitch (of) everything I need to know I learned in Habonim. It's true."

In future issues we will publish more letters and share with our readers the activities and whereabouts of movement graduates. Feel free to include a note with your checks and address lists!

*The Editors*

Message From the Foundation Chair  
Continued from page 1, column 3

in this exciting venture so that we can strengthen the financial and organizational basis of Habonim-Dror. Let's help new generations be touched by the beauty of being Jewish in this unique way.

Youth leading youth was not such a bad idea, was it? Many of you learned and honed some valuable skills in Habonim... Let's pass it on. Join us!!!



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*Becoming a Rabbi in the United States...*  
Continued from page 1, column 2

spiritual path. In Taiwan I realized that I did want to become a spiritual guide. But I also realized that I had never really explored my own Jewish path. My strong Jewish identity was never a question. But I had never taken Jewish "religion" seriously. It was then, subconsciously, that I decided to become a rabbi.

My Habonim experiences taught me the wonderful feeling states of a deep celebra-

sion to sing joyfully **as adults!** The Torah discussion was familiar to me for it reminded me of the hundreds of passionate "sichot" I had experienced in Habonim. We led the minyan ourselves, even though we didn't have that many skills, just as in Habonim we did everything in spite of our lack of professionalism. The minyan and Habonim were both intimate. Finally, there was eating and socializing. These were all the critical ingredients. It was only later that I learned to love the liturgy as an inspirational religious document. It was the interpersonal dynamics that

our senior project entails writing a paper about a Jewish organization. I knew immediately that I wanted to write about Habonim. The end of my rabbinic training brings me full circle. It was in Habonim that I first learned to **love** being Jewish, and now at the end of my rabbinical training I have gone back into that experience to reacquaint myself with that inspiration and to see it in perspective.

Though I never made aliyah to kibbutz, I do feel that Habonim started me on my path

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## "It was then, subconsciously, that I decided to become a rabbi"

tion of Shabbat. But in Habonim we had a difficult time owning the religious nature of what we were doing. We were living so much in reaction to shtetl and orthodox Judaism that we had a hard time seeing how rich and beautiful Jewish religion can be.

At 28, I found an egalitarian davenning community in San Francisco. What I liked about it was how similar it was to what I had experienced in Habonim. I loved the singing; how great it was to have permis-

brought me, for the first time, to love and enjoy Jewish worship.

A few years later I was a rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC). And now five years later I am a graduating senior, about to take on the title "Rabbi".

The Reconstructionist movement takes each era in Judaism seriously. The final year at RRC is called the "contemporary" year and

to create something Jewish that would make a difference in the world. Helping Jews to find access to our heritage and creating community in the process is truly "building" something.

I am very enthusiastic about the establishment of the Habonim Dror Foundation. I am excited about being a full participant. In particular I hope to dialog with Habonim graduates and current Habonim Dror members about how we relate to the religious aspects of our Jewish heritage.

# Reunion News

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## Galil 50th Anniversary Celebration

The summer of 1996 marks the 50th year of Habonim Dror summer camping at Philadelphia's Camp Galil. To celebrate this landmark event in Philadelphia area Jewish camping, the Camp Galil 50th Anniversary Committee is planning a 1996 Labor Day Weekend reunion for all former campers and counselors.

Camp Galil takes great pride in its Habonim Dror alumni and their ongoing involvement in Jewish community issues. The Camp Galil 50th Reunion will be both a celebration of past camp and movement friendships and an examination of the role Habonim Dror alumni

still have to play in leading the American Jewish community into the 21st century.

Camp Galil's 50th anniversary reunion will be held at Camp Galil in Ottsville, PA, over the 1996 Labor Day Weekend, from Friday, August 30 through Monday, September 2. Camp Galil alumni who would like to serve on the Reunion Committee should contact Judy Shribman Ron:

215/635-1629

E-Mail - yjitron@AOL.com

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## Tavor Alumni to Meet in June

Habonim Camp Tavor is holding a reunion for campers and counselors from the 60's and 70's on June 16-18, 1995. The program will include a variety of activities and will feature a talk by Leonard Fein, founder of Moment Magazine, who served as Rosh Machaneh of Tavor in 1958. In addition to putting together the reunion, the organizing committee is planning to publish a directory of former Tavor campers.

For information please contact Miriam Ellis Derman at 708-674-3312, 9463 Central Park Ave., Evanston, IL 60203.

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## Toronto Alumni Enjoy Reunion

On November 13, 1994, over 150 Habonim Dror alumni gathered together for a reunion at the Borochoy Cultural Centre in Toronto. The Centre is the home of the Toronto Ken, of LZA and of Na'amat.

After a lot of detective work by Barry and Orit Praag, the Toronto Shlichim, a mailing list of Toronto area alumni was pulled together. From this list, they organized the Reunion Committee consisting of representatives from all generations, both Habonim and Dror.

The main aim of the reunion was to rejuvenate the Habonim and Dror spirit among the alumni and to begin building a New Generation that will bring the values of these movements into LZA and Na'amat and increase community support for Habonim Dror and Camp Geshet.

There were representatives from all walks of life and from all generations. Julius Sokoloff, Chairman of the LZA Toronto and Lou Kirshenbaum, National LZA Treasurer, both former Habonim members and founders of the Toronto Ken, were present. Many younger alumni are still very much involved in the Habonim community. Musicians, lawyers, social workers, doctors, and cantors all went through the Movement and the Reunion took them back to their time at camp and ken respectively.

A cultural programme included a reading from an original Habonim Haggadah (1950) by two young Geshet counsellors and spirited Israeli dancing. Five "peace songs" were performed by a local Israeli singer. Memorabilia included old pictures, clothing and a slide show that provoked a lot of interest. We even had a video greeting from Uri Zissling (Ein Harod) a former Toronto Shaliach.

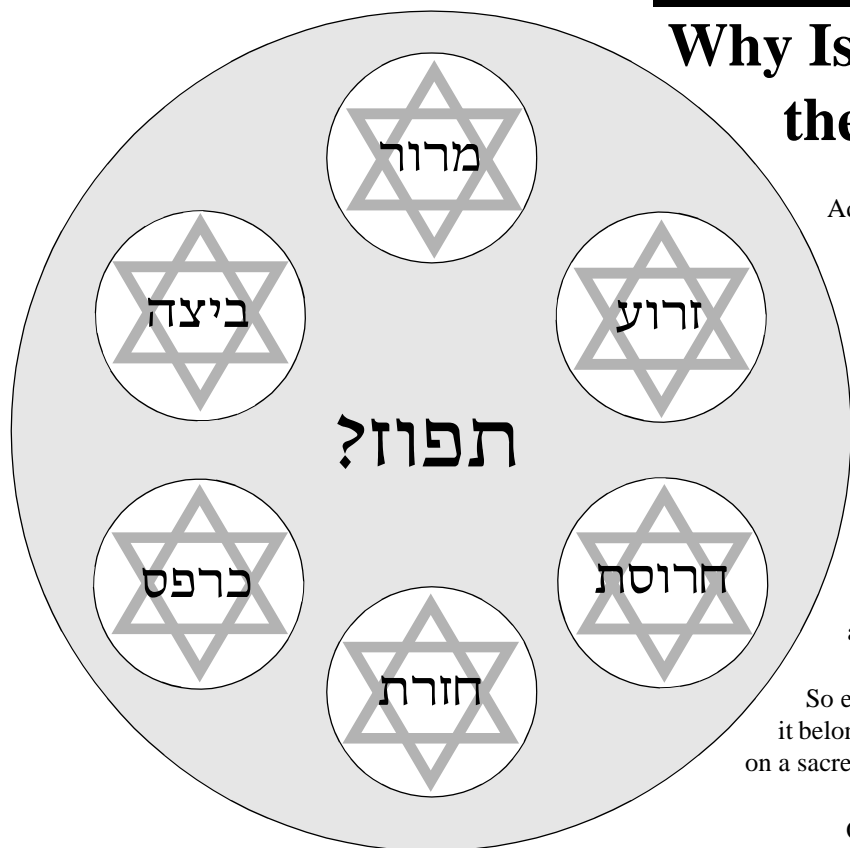
While the parents were having a great time, Madrichim from Toronto's Ken Hayona ran special peulot for young children that had come along. Hopefully future movement members.

As at all reunions, the heart of the matter was seeing and hugging old friends. Clearly, a special spark in each of the alumni was being refueled. Each, in her or his own way, related how the memories of Camp and Ken sparked by the reunion also helped them appreciate how important Habonim and Dror had been for them in the development of their lives, both Jewish and secular.

Our next alumni event is a Third Seder on Sunday, 16 April, 1995, at The Borochoy. For Further Information, contact Orit or Barry Praag at 416/633-2511 or fax 416/636-5248.

# Happy Passover! פסח כשר ושמח!

## Why Is There an Orange on the Seder Plate?



Add an orange to the traditional items on the Seder plate. Then invite someone to ask "one more question," as above, and tell the following story in response:

In the days long ago when women were just beginning to be rabbis, Susannah Heschel was traveling in Florida, the Land of Oranges. One night she spoke at a synagogue about the emerging equality of women in Jewish life -- as rabbis, teachers and students of Torah, synagogue presidents, and in all other ways.

After she spoke, a man arose in wrath, red with fury. "A woman belongs on the bimah [pulpit]," he said, "as much as an orange belongs on the Seder plate!"

So ever since that day, we place an orange on the Seder plate, for it belongs there as a symbol that women belong wherever Jews carry on a sacred life.

Our thanks to:

ALEPH: ALLIANCE FOR JEWISH RENEWAL  
and The Shalom Center

## Fund-raising Campaign Report

As we reported in the last issue of Chadashot, we have almost completed the steps to formalize the Habonim Dror Foundation. A Board of Directors is being established and an interim Executive Committee met in Manhattan in March to move the process along. More details will follow in future issues of Chadashot and mailings to contributors.

### Grants to Habonim Dror

Trilby Smith, mazkira of Habonim Dror North America presented a request for a \$20,000 grant for 1995-96 which will

enable the movement to reinstate the position of Merakez Kenim. Previously funded by Takam, the Kibbutz movement is no longer able to take this responsibility. The request was granted, and the movement leadership is already considering candidates for the position.

The interim Executive Committee decided to begin a phone calling project to reach out to people on the mailing list. If you would like to help with this effort, contact the Foundation by mail (see box on page 2) or email (see back page).

Total cash receipts and pledges have now reached \$118,000, and plans for an organized, annual giving campaign are being drawn up. Meanwhile, you can use the coupon on page 7 to make, or add to, your 1995 gift. As the form indicates, feel free to send a check now and make a pledge for the remainder of your contribution.



# Habonim Dror Foundation Founding Sponsors

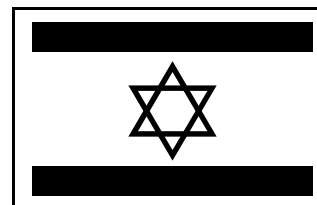
You can join this list by contributing \$200 or more by the end of 1995. Half of that amount can be in the form of a pledge to be paid next year.

We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions to this list. Please notify us and we will publish corrections in the next issue.

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Roz and Elliot Vogelfanger  
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Harold and Adele Warshawsky  
Steve and Dorna Weinberg and family  
Bennet Weintraub  
Barry and Robin Wilen  
Dan Zucker  
Leonard and Etti Zurakov



Please return to:

**The Habonim Dror Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 166**  
**Mineola, NY 11501**

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Name(s)	Maiden Name	Date
Street Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Fax	Email
Camp(s) Attended	Years	Hometown Ken
		MB Year
		Workshop #

**My/our 1995 annual gift to the Habonim Dror Foundation is:**

- \$54    
  \$90    
  \$180    
  \$540    
  \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
 Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_    
  Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Attached are the names & addresses of families who may be interested in sending their children to a Habonim Dror summer camp. Please send them camp brochures.
- I'm willing to volunteer to help the Habonim Dror Foundation. Call me.
- Enclosed is a check made out to Herzl Press for a copy of Builders & Dreamers, the recently published history of the first 50 years of Habonim Dror. (Paperback - \$14.95 Hardcover - \$29.95)
- Below  Attached are the names of additional alumni and supporters who should be on the Habonim Dror Foundation mailing list and receiving חודשות. (Please type or write clearly)

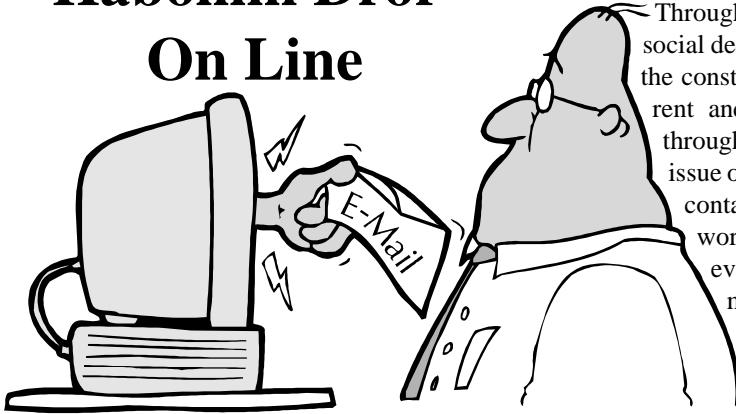
**Chevre Who Should Also Be On The Habonim Dror Foundation Mailing List**

Name	Verified Current Address	Phone, Email	In touch within last 6 months?*	Habonim Dror History (Camp, Ken, Workshop #)
			Yes / No	
			Yes / No	
			Yes / No	
			Yes / No	

\* Please verify name and address data if you're not sure it's current. We're mobile and mail forwarding expires after 6 months. Verifying names and addresses now will minimize the need for painstaking follow-up work by Foundation volunteers. Please send in all the alumni names that you have (copies of old camp rosters, Ken lists, etc.). Please send copies, originals will not be returned. Thank you.



# Habonim Dror On Line



Through the years, Habonim Dror has always been at the forefront of new social development in North America. We have not been left behind during the construction of the information superhighway, either. A group of current and former members of the movement have already connected through the internet and we are planning to formalize the link. In the last issue of Chadashot we first mentioned this possibility. If you have not yet contacted us about the establishment of a Habonim Dror email network, send us your email address. Such a network might discuss events in Israel and the Jewish community, share news from the movement and catch up on the whereabouts of old friends.

Contact us at: [ken@lightstn.com](mailto:ken@lightstn.com) (Ken Bob) or  
[nevets2@aol.com](mailto:nevets2@aol.com) (Steve Weinberg).

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