

חדשות



Habonim Dror Foundation News

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3, DECEMBER 1995

From the Foundation

It is impossible to introduce this new issue of our newsletter without commenting on the tragic events in Israel. The Chadashot crew share your grief over the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin z"l and echo your concern over the future of Israel. On pages 1 and * you will find some representative comments from participants of our on-line discussion group Habonet, from immediately after the tragedy.

Several months have passed since the last issue of Chadashot reached your mailbox. Since that time Habonim Dror alumni continue to gather in cities,

camps and cyberspace to celebrate our past and consider the future together. Articles in this issue of Chadashot take a look at some of the ways we are identifying ourselves as movement graduates and enjoying the experience.

Last spring we reported that an interim executive committee has been formed to organize the Foundation activities. Others from around the country have volunteered to help. With your assistance, we would like to begin a new phase of our list gathering efforts. We are going to attempt to locate graduates of the movement by using old camp lists.

*Continued on page *, column **

Report from the Mazkira

by Trilby Smith

In an era when many Zionist movements (both youth and adult) are shrinking and even disappearing I feel proud to be the Mazkira of Habonim Dror, the only "classical Zionist youth movement" that is growing by leaps and bounds. Let me give just a few examples of the ways in which we are growing.

Machaneh Gilboa, our camp in California, reopened this summer after a hiatus of more than ten years. One hundred and twenty seven Californians enjoyed their summer Habonim Dror style in the San Bernadino mountains. And the Los Angeles ken is now one of the most

*Continued on page *, column **

Habonet Members Mourn Yitzchak Rabin z"l

(Editors note: Several months ago the Habonim Dror Foundation inaugurated its on-line forum Habonet. Over 150 participants have discussed the issues of the day, found all friends and met new ones. No period demonstrated the worth of this forum than the time immediately following the assassination of the prime minister. With the permission of the contributors, we have excerpted several of the dozens of postings from that time. For information joining Habonet, contact the moderator, Brian Cooper, at bc@lightstone.com.)

Dear Chevrae,

Unfortunately, this will be the first message I am sending to all of you. My name is Seth Brysk, Gilboa '77-'84,

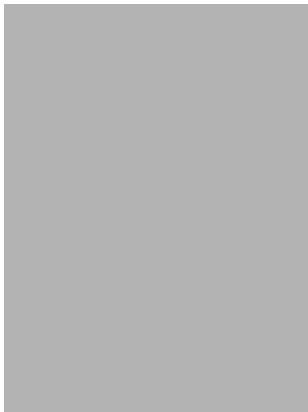
Workshop 36(Gezer), Galil '88-'94, Mazkir Tnuva '93-'94. I now live in Tel Aviv and am a student here at TAU in the Graduate Department of Political Science. I also have the misfortune of living 1/2 a block from Kikar Malchey Yisrael, was at the Peace Rally last night and heard the horrible event take place.

It is very difficult to put into words all that I am feeling at this time. The city/country is eerily silent. People are speaking to each other in hushed tones, and the din that has become a part of everyday existence is strangely absent. Simply put, we are all in shock. There seems to be some sort of tacit acknowledgment that what has transpired cannot

be soothed with words. If you can imagine the loss of innocence brought on by JFK's assassination, combined with the shock of the Oklahoma City bombing...

The irony of events that unfolded last night is spooky. The rally that was held was titled "Yes to Peace, No to Violence", a message that seemingly everyone should agree with. Rabin, who does not make a habit of attending events co-sponsored by Peace Now, not only spoke eloquently, he even sang along when the rally ended with "Shir Hashalom". After the song ended he took the mike and said, "Now, we must go make peace, and not just sing about it." I hope

*Continued on page *, column **



**YITZHAK RABIN ז"ל
1922-1995**

Habonet Members Mourn Yitzhak Rabin ז"ל
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that those final public words will spur people into action once the shock and mourning eases.

Prior to the rally, I attended a Habonim Dror North America 60th anniversary at Kibbutz Gezer. Despite the gigantic generation gap, it felt good to be back on Gezer and surrounded by chevrae who can relate to where I'm coming from. In conversations with my chevrae in TA we have all expressed the same shock and fears...how could this happen, what does it mean, can the process continue???

I wonder, especially as an oleh, about the kind of "maturation" Israel has gone through allowing for these events to take place. I can take no comfort in the words of Jews from Brooklyn on CNN, who lament the spilling of Jewish blood, but think that the act itself should have been carried out at least a year ago. There is nowhere to run to...we must make our stand in every place that we are...

We need to mourn.

Let us also remember (Change the name of the square to Kikar Yitzhak Rabin?)

But most of all, we ALL must do WHATEVER we can to insure that Rabin's death is not the death of Peace...

B'Shalom,
Seth

I am struck by how "regular" my day has been compared to the messages received from chevrah in Israel. Here in S.F. there happened to be a Jewish women's conference today, so 1000 Jewish women were gathered and yes we talked about the murder, and each speaker was eloquent in relating the horrors of the preceding day to her topic but the conference preceded as planned and we talked about this and that and yes it was good to be among Jews on such a day...but I imagine that this could not possibly have happened in Israel....I have only today discovered the true meaning of galut. Today is a day to mourn for Yitchak Rabin and for the complete loss of innocence (had any been left) in Israel. And then we will wonder about the politics, and labor's future, and about how something good may be born from this evil.

B'Shalom,
Nomi Jay

My eyes filled with tears again as I read the expressions of solidarity on this list.

When my chaverim and I were active in British Habonim in the mid-seventies, we believed that Israel must talk to the Palestinians and make peace with them, and we were labeled dangerous left wing extremists who believed in fairy tales.

No-one else could have done what Yitzchak Rabin, the victor of the Six Day War, the "Strong Man" of Israel's National Security, did over the last three years. He made our fairy tales come true, and more than that, turned our beliefs into an everyday reality, quite acceptable to a wide spectrum of the Israeli public.

This is his legacy.

Last night, Leah Rabin spoke to the crowds outside her home and thanked all the people who had come, but asked where Rabin's supporters had been a week earlier, when right wing demonstrators had gathered at the same place to chant "Rabin is a Traitor".

Rhetoric is part of political life. But when the rhetoric becomes vehement

and vindictive, then those who use the rhetoric cannot easily absolve themselves of their responsibility for the actions of those that listen to them.

So from now on, whenever we hear the rhetoric get out of hand we must, quietly but firmly, stand up and speak out.

David Farbey,
Kfar-Saba, Israel

Although I've been on the net for a few months, now, this is my maiden contribution. First, the vital statistics: I'm Ronnie Cohen (Los Angeles Habonim, Camp Gilboa from 1956 - 1968 (the last 2 yrs as Rosh Machaneh), 13th Workshop, 5 years or so as national gizbar, bus mgr of MB / Tel Ari summer of '74), married to Hilda (King), San Francisco Habonim and camp Gilboa 1963 - 1968.

During these last few weeks since Rabin's assassination, I have been very moved by the outpouring of feelings on Habonet. For me, the feelings I had transported me back to Kennedy's assassination, in that in each case, I felt so very isolated physically from where I wanted to be. In 1963, I was on Workshop at Gesher Haziv, and in Israel life went on, even though we US workshopers were in mourning. And now, I was in Los Angeles, where life went on (despite a fairly well attended, but somehow unsatisfying candle-light memorial service in front of the Consulate), but my heart was in Israel. I was particularly moved by David Twersky's Rabin's Song, and by JJ Goldberg's Notes from the Surreal, as well as by Charles Buxbaum's Poem in Memory of Rabin. But even more than these incredibly moving pieces, just the every day comments about how people felt, and the comfort that we all drew from our chaverim--both known and unknown--in our virtual machaneh acted like a soothing balm on raw emotions.

It's good to be among chaverim, in good times and bad. But especially, in bad times.

Lehishtamea.
Ronnie Cohen.

Muki Tsur Visits Movement Machanot

(Editors note: Muki Tsur, former general secretary of the Takam kibbutz federation, recently visited North America as a guest of the Labor Zionist Alliance of Los Angeles. A former shaliach to Habonim in the 60's and 70's, Muki insisted on visiting the movement machanot. Presented below is an excerpt from his report written at the end of trip)

July 17, 1995

To: Habonim Dror & LZA

Dear Friends,

These are the aims I see before us:

1. To arrive at a much greater participation level of Jewish youth in Israeli experience programs. To intensify the training of young leadership within youth movements and to create professional, territorial, community partnerships based on a process of building Educational Centers in Israel in which Jewish educators from here and there will be partners. To join efforts of tourism and education together with kibbutzim and the JNF. To create out of Habonim an extended optional program for Aliyah, studies, service, work in

Israel, in houses on Kibbutzim for students, groups, batim.

2. To develop the center for ecology of the kibbutz movement through contact with other active forces like cooperatives and communes in America, recognizing all the differences.

“I can see all these as part of our effort to deepen our knowledge and responsible attitude toward Jewish culture”

3. To develop contacts between Jews from the USA and Israel who want to see the State of Israel become a community of communities. The role of the kibbutz in developing pluralism is important. It is part of the kibbutz striving for social justice.

4. To together study Jewish sources from Genesis to the present.

I have no hope of immediate success for this plan because I know very well some of the intractable problems involved. But I can see all these as part of our effort to deepen our knowledge and responsible attitude toward Jewish culture.

Before Herzl died he wrote a letter of resignation to the Zionist Movement: “Once I wrote “if you will it, it is no dream; you did not will it...” I am not Herzl, and I can see many problematic practical considerations with the whole “dream” I described to you. I did not invent the idea. It was taken from our mutual experience and pain.

But I believe it is a necessary perspective for our life and for the life of our community, and for the Zionist movement as a leader of our people.

I would like to thank you for your warm reception, for the private and public talks, for your amazing kids who taught me so much and for the opportunity to see many airports and machanot...

Yours, Muki Tsur

From the Foundation

Continued from page 1, column 2

If you have such materials, please send them (or copies, nothing will be returned) to the Foundation.

On the financial side, Over 250 of you have contributed to the cause and the list

Upon reading Trilby and Gil's reports on the movement, I am sure you will share my admiration at what they are accomplishing. All of this in the face of unbelievable budget cuts, the result of changing Israeli and world Jewish organizational reality. The Foundation has been supportive, providing funds when requested. Unfortunately, we are

according to their ability, the results will be amazing. Please take the coupon on page in hand, and write a check. Where else can you invest your money in a project with such a proven track record? What other organization has produced such a progressive, innovative cadre of leadership for Israel and America? Please give what you can so we can help the movement grow!

Hag Urim Sameah,
Kenneth Bob

“Habonim Dror Alumni continue to gather in cities, camps, and cyberspace”

of founding sponsors donating \$200 or more continues to grow. Many of you have recently received letters requesting that you renew your contributions to the Foundation. Please consider this cause part of your annual giving ritual.

not yet in the position to replace the funds that are lost; we are not able to fully fund all the creative initiatives that are on the drawing board.

We need all of your help. If everyone receiving this newsletter contributes

mncok
Volume 1, Number 3, December 1995
The Habonim Dror Foundation
PO Box 166
Mineola, NY 11501
This issue put together by Kenneth Bob,
Jennifer Kay, and Steven Weinberg

Habonim Dror Foundation Founding Sponsors

You can Still 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 on this list. Please notify us and we will publish corrections in the next issue.

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Bennet Weintraub
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Reunion Bulletin Board

(Editors note: If you would like a report or announcement concerning a movement reunion or gathering posted here, please send it to us for publication in the next issue of Chadashot)

Habonim Dror Alumni in three countries have gathered in recent months to reestablish ties and celebrate the movement that has played an important role in their lives.

Tavor

Approximately 200 adults and 100 children came to Habonim Camp Tavor in Three Rivers, Michigan in June. Miriam Derman, the main organizer, wrote afterwards that we all had a fantastic time reliving memories and seeing old friends. It turns out that Tavor is exactly as we remember it, a magical combination of an idyllic setting and wonderful opportunity for human interaction. We raised a bunch of money for badly needed repairs and additions such as a dishwasher, dishes and new mattresses. We accomplished more than just fundraising. We rekindled an interest in each other, in our connections to Tavor and our children

got a chance to experience the camp that they are attending or may attend in the future. Leonard Fein, the noted writer and former rosh machaneh Tavor, delivered a thought provoking talk on Shabbat afternoon. Informal discussions on the progressive Zionist agenda for the 90s continued late into the night (along with the kumzitz, dancing, basketball and non-stop) shmoozing

Miriam adds that that several participants have begun organizing a Tavor alumni committee. If you would like more information, you can contact Miriam at 708-674-3312.

Kvutsa

Although we dont have many details, we heard that Camp Kvutsa, the machaneh that once served the Montreal area, held a reunion this summer at the site of the original camp. We heard that is was a successful trip down memory lane. If any readers would like to write us about it, we will include your comments in the next issue of Chadashot.

Israel

A gathering in honor of the 60th anniversary of North American Habonim was held at Kibbutz Gezer for all our chaverim in Israel. The event was well attended by several generations of chaverim who came from kibbutzim, moshavim and cities throughout Israel. Several of those who attended wrote is in email that it was very natural that many participants traveled directly from the reunion to the fateful peace rally in Tel Aviv.

At the Israeli gathering, participants from the 20th workshop realized that this was their 25th anniversary. Although this will likely reach you too late to attend a planned get together during Chanuka, you can get in touch with your chaverim from that workshop by contacting:

Shula Derechinsky and Shimon Gewing
Kibbutz Gezer D.N. Shimshon Israel
phone: 08-270663 fax: 08-270736 email:

need email address ↑

send money form goes here???

or is half a page not enough space

Foundation Mailbox

Shalom,

So glad someone put my name on your mailing list and that you sent the last issue of Chadashot to me! The flood of memories was overwhelming. From Shai Gluskin's article to the listing of people whose names evoke happy times!

Thank you and good luck,
Lil Raphael

Dear Chaverim:

Daniel Mann sent me a copy of Chadashot and I hasten to write to commend you on such a beautiful newsletter! To Ken Bob a yasher koach as he assumes responsibility to raise the second \$100,000. I agree, there are so many Habonim graduates in the country, most with fond memories.

So keep up the good work from one who helped start Detroit Habonim and still actively involved in LZA.

Dena G. Greenberg

Report from the Mazkira
Continued from page 1, column 2

active in the country - at their Reunion after machaneh there were 140 parents and campers, and all this after only one summer! Gilboa is once again holding their week long Winter Camp in December, and registration is now open for the summer of 1996.

Machaneh Bonim in Israel (M.B.I.) had a very successful fourth summer with 102 participants. In just four years, this program has more than doubled in size, and is one of the most highly regarded "Israel Experience Trips" in existence. The participants have returned to their communities to take on leadership roles, and are looking forward to their upcoming summer in Madatz.

The participants of Workshop 45 have just arrived on Kibbutz Grofit where they will be spending the last six months of their program. Our twenty-one kenim are each completing a social action project and plans have begun to reopen Machaneh Na'aleh in the summer of 1997. The list goes on, but I have to leave something for the next issue of Chadashot.

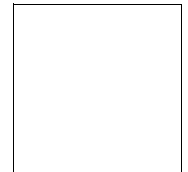
Therefore, just sing a song for peace
don't whisper a prayer.

Just sing a song for peace
in a loud voice

לכן רק שירו שיר לשלום
אל תלחשו תפילה
לכן רק שירו שיר לשלום
בצעקה גדולה

*From "Shir Hashalom - The Song of Peace" by
Rotblit & Rosenblum, sung at the peace rally in
Tel-Aviv minutes before the assassination of
Yitzhak Rabin.*

■
HABONIM DROR FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 166
Mineola, NY 11501



**I have to look at my last issue
to get the wording on here right
don't worry, I didn't forget**