



Habonim Dror Foundation News

חדשות



VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1, PASSOVER 2000

Remembering Moshe Kerem

By Jack Nusan Porter

Moshe Kerem, one of the most influential Labor Zionist thinkers and teachers of the post-war generation, died on December 7, 1999, at *Kibbutz Geshet Haziv*, of which he was one of the founders. Born on May 10, 1924 in the Bronx, NY, Kerem completed his high school studies and undergraduate studies at Yeshiva University in the 1940's and was among the founders of *Garin Aleph* of American Habonim which made *aliyah* in 1948. He and his wife Evie married this same year, right before they went to Israel.

In 1949, Americans from Habonim, along with others from *Kibbutz Bet Ha'arava*, founded *Geshet Haziv*. Over fifty years, Kerem served as *mazkir* (secretary) of the *kibbutz* numerous times and taught at the regional high school. He was a much loved teacher at Oranim, the *kibbutz* teacher's col-

lege, at Haifa University where he was a professor of education, and upon his retirement, as head of the academic department of the *Yad Natan* religious college.

Influential in Labor Zionist groups, and even non-Zionist organizations such as Reform and Conservative rabbinical groups, Kerem went on *shlichut* (emissarial work) to the US on several occasions. He was instrumental in not only bringing the unique message of the *kibbutz* philosophy to American Jews, but also worked to establish long-term educational trips to Israel such as Habonim's workshop. Danny Mann, National President of the Labor Zionist Alliance and close friend of Kerem, said that Kerem was the "guiding spirit of such programs as well as a key ideological leader of the *kibbutz* movement."

Kerem was best known for his classic book, "Life on a *Kibbutz*," which he wrote under

his English name, Murray Weingarten. Aliya Cheskis-Cotel relates this partly mythic tale: "When Moshe was in the US studying at Columbia University while serving as Central *Shaliach*, he took a small sociology seminar as part of his course work for his Ph.D. The professor assigned each person a piece of seminal sociological writing and instructed students to read the book and critique it. Imagine Moshe Kerem's surprise when the professor handed him "Life on a *Kibbutz*" by Murray Weingarten!"

Amnon Hadary, another renowned teacher and leader at *Geshet Haziv*, now living in Jerusalem, said of Kerem, "Moshe was one of my culture-heroes, a father-figure too ... I bear a great sense of loss." Kerem left hundreds of students with that same sense of loss. He is survived by his three children, Eitan, Rachel, and Miriam, and five grandchildren: Yael, Ruth, Omer, Guy, and Noam.

From the Foundation

This has been an exciting year for the Foundation so far and I would like to share the highlights with you. In the last issue of *Chadashot*, I reported to you regarding the greater financial commitment we have undertaken in order to meet the rising needs of Habonim Dror North America. Proving the close teamwork between movement alumni, the Labor Zionist Movement and Habonim Dror camping, Camp Moshava came forward with a significant grant for the Foundation, enabling us to hire a administrator. The goal is to establish an infrastructure and processes that will enable us to better support the youth movement.

Ezra Weinberg joined us in September and has already made a difference. Working out of the New York Habonim Dror office, Ezra

has created a physical presence and single point of contact for the Foundation. Many of you have already had contact with Ezra as he has gotten to know alumni around the world. His main focus has been expanding our alumni database, ensuring that we are reaching a maximum number of alumni with our message.

The Foundation executive committee has been particularly active this year, setting up sub-committees to address a variety of issues regarding fund-raising and support for the movement. Anyone interested in joining a committee, please contact Ezra or myself. You don't have to be near New York to be involved; through the wonders of email and phones, our committees include "long distance" members.

I want to draw particular attention to one new committee of special significance. This summer we will join the movement in sending off the 50th Habonim Dror Workshop. Long regarded within the Jewish community as one of the highest quality Israel experiences, the workshop continues to provide a unique Zionist experience with a special Habonim Dror orientation. We have established a committee headed by Danny Mann to celebrate our reaching this historic occasion. If you would like to join Danny in planning events and activities surrounding the 50th Workshop, please contact him through the Foundation office.

Wishing you a *Pesach sameach v'kasher*,
Ken Bob
Chair

HDNA2K: Labour Zionism for the 21st Century

By Jared Matas, *Mazkir T'nua*

If a *kvutsa* (group) of Habonim *chaverim* from 1935, 1955 or even 1980 stumbled into a movement *peulah* (activity) in the year 2000, their initial reaction would probably be that "this isn't my youth movement!" With seven autonomous *machanot* acting as the primary recruiting ground for HDNA (Habonim Dror North America) *chaverim*, with a Workshop program that doesn't focus exclusively on *kibbutz*, with *aliyah* no longer the ultimate goal in the movement, with an active e-mail list-serve that allows scores of movement members across North America and in Israel to communicate on a daily basis, these hypothetical visitors wouldn't be wrong in telling their (grand)children "This ain't your momma's movement!"

However, if the visitors stuck around long enough to see the *chultzot* amongst the cell phones and e-mail they would notice that we

If the visitors stuck around long enough to see the *chultzot* amongst the cell phones and e-mail they would notice that we have stayed true to Habonim's original Labour Zionist goals.

have stayed true to Habonim's original Labour Zionist goals. We have changed our methods in order to stay ideologically relevant in the face of rapid technological and sociological changes. This past December, 160 *chaverim* gathered for our biennial Veida, the decision-making body of the movement. For just under a week, we talked, argued and debated. What emerged from the over two dozen resolutions that the movement passed was a new avenue of expression for Habonim Dror's Labour Zionist ideology. Two resolutions in particular illustrate this paradoxical ideological trend of looking both to the past and the future. One resolution embraced *urban socialist garinim*, such as the one that Garin Alpayim will be creating this fall in Jerusalem, as a new direction for the movement. Recognizing the current challenges facing

the *kibbutz* movement, but refusing to abandon our commitment to communal socialist living, we are determined to create a new, workable method for HDNA *chaverim* to actualize our ideology. Another resolution called upon movement *ma'apilim* (college-aged members) to live together in communal movement *batim*, known as 'Batei Shalom.' The *Bayit* is to serve as a centre of Progressive Zionist campus activism, as well as a way for movement members to actualize HDNA ideology year-round.

To complete the virtual tour of the movement, our hypothetical visitors would have to go to Israel. There they would find the 25 members of Workshop 49. Having just completed the first half of the Workshop Tochnit on Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh, the Workshopers are now living with Israeli youth movement members of HaNoar HaOved v'HaLomed (Habonim Dror's Israeli sister youth movement) in their *chavot chakshara* (urban communes). This is another example

of retaining the fundamentals of Labour Zionism but adapting them for the 21st century. I would then encourage our visitors to stay with us until the summer, when the movement truly flourishes with over 2,000 North American Jewish youth participating in Habonim Dror – either as a *chanich/a*, a *madrich/a* or a *Madatz* (young *madrachim* / "CIT's") at one of seven *machanot*, or on our Israel programs.

Change is the only true constant in the development of a youth movement. However, Habonim Dror has managed to modernize our movement while staying true to our Labour Zionist ideology. Habonim Dror is still as important and relevant to North American Jewish youth and the Jewish community at large, as it has been throughout its rich 65-year history.

Machaneh Moshava Reunion

The greatest Mosh Reunion ever is scheduled for August 27, 2000 at Camp Moshava in Street, MD. Plans include a full day of *avodah*, *shira*, *sicha*, *kumzitz*, *rikudai am*, and *tochnit erev*. Lunch and dinner will be served and a roster/adbook is in the works. Alumni should email Tammy Block Schmidt at moshava@aol.com or call 1-800-454-2205 to get on the mailing list. Presently, most of the people who have responded are *chevrei* from the 1960's and 70's. We would love to see some representation from both earlier and later years!

Upcoming LZA Convention

A special alumni gathering will take place in Los Angeles April 1-3, 2000 - the 32nd biennial convention of the Labor Zionist Alliance. We're honored to have Samuel Norich as our convention chair and it is our privilege to host some important visitors from Israel. Deputy Minister of Defense, Ephraim Sneh, will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday night public meeting, and Aharon Yadlin, former Minister of Education in Rabin's first government and current chairman of our world movement, will be on hand to address the convention and participate in workshops.

What makes this convention especially exciting is the participation of Habonim Dror *ma'apilim* (college-aged members) as delegates of their new national Labor Zionist chapter of LZA. Since they voted to join LZA, they have taken part in revamping LZA's ideology statement, submitted articles for publication in Jewish Frontier, and joined us for some special events along the way. At the convention, these Habonim *chevrei* will be submitting and voting on resolutions, participating in convention workshops, and electing a new LZA president and administration. We look forward to this experiment in intergenerational Jewish progressivism and will get back to you with a report in the next issue of Chadashot and on LZA's website located at www.jewishfrontier.org.

Letters

To the editors:

I was very happy to receive my first copy of the Habonim Dror Foundation Newsletter (Chadashot). It's great that the movement is still alive and kicking. As I read through the newsletter, I was struck by the almost exclusive focus on Israel. At Camp Moshava, we learned that Habonim Dror was a multi-dimensional Zionist movement, not just a summer camp. Campers were encouraged to open their minds to other aspects of Habonim Dror such as political activities in our local communities, awareness of other religions and cultures, and especially, critical analysis and questioning of all of these things. But the newsletter seems to show that Habonim Dror now has but one unwavering focal point – Israel. What happened to everything else? I have always been grateful for the way in which Habonim Dror broadened my world view, but the world view seems to have shrunk. I hope that this is not the case.

*DeeDee Swesnick
Habonim Dror Camp Moshava
KM Bet 1987*

Dear DeeDee,

We are glad that you enjoyed reading the last issue of Chadashot. While our last issue had many articles related to Israel, we can assure you that this has not become the one unwavering focal point of the movement. We encourage you to read the article by Jared Matas, the mazkir t'nua, in this issue in which he discusses the many different aspects of the movement. We thank you for your perspective, and hope that you will find in this issue a more diverse offering of articles.

The Editors.

To the editors:

It's good to be back again in Habonim Dror. My ties to Camp Tavor in Three Rivers, MI were revived on a visit there this past summer. Habonim Dror has come back stronger than ever, and I'm proud to be a part of it again!

*Jack Nusan Porter
Machon 1962-3, Camp Tavor 1957-65*

Workshop 43 Reunion

Plans are in the works for a Workshop 43 Reunion. Workshop 43 is the first *kvutza* to be in touch via listserv since Workshop. Twenty-two out of 26 of us still communicate weekly on email!

If you are interested in helping plan the reunion call the Habonim Dror Central Office and speak to Jared: (212) 255-1796 or e-mail:

mazkir@habonimdror.org.

Tavor Reunion 2000

It's happening! August 11th -13th at Camp Tavor in lovely Three Rivers, Michigan. The place you have always wanted to come back to with the chevrei you always wanted to see again! It's been five years since the last reunion so save the date! We would like to contact anyone who has ever attended camp at Tavor and let them know about the reunion so send any addresses and e-mail addresses (especially) to:

tavor_reunion@hotmail.com.

Coming Soon: Workshop 50th Anniversary Celebration

By Ezra Weinberg

This is a truly historic year for Habonim Dror North America. This summer the newest *kvutza* of Habonim Dror *Ma'apilim* will be lifting off for Israel as the participants of the 50th Workshop. As the longest running year-long Israel program from North America, the Workshop program has evolved almost as much as Israel has in the past 50 years. For many of you, Workshop was one of the greatest and most challenging years of your life.

Many *kibbutzim* were pioneered and are continually sustained by *chevrei tuat* Habonim Dror. Israel has felt Habonim Dror's presence thanks in large part to the goals achieved by and the continued success of the Workshop program.

To honor Workshop's 50th Anniversary, the Habonim Dror Foundation is eager to take advantage of this special occasion. We are currently working on two projects. First, we have created a 50th Workshop committee which is exploring the options for celebrating this momentous occasion. Although we do not yet have a date, we are aiming for the spring of 2001. If you would like to be on this committee please contact Ezra Weinberg at the HDF office.

The second project is going on right now. We are trying to create a complete Work-

shop database from 1-50. We want anyone who was on Workshops 1-49 to receive an invitation to be a part of the 50th anniversary. In order to send out invitations to over 2000 graduates of Workshop, we need current addresses and contact information. I am in the midst of recruiting one person from each Workshop *kvutza* to help me find their *chevrei*. These "captains" are calling all the people they are in contact with and networking their way to acquiring the most up-to-date address list of their *kvutza*. Right now we need 23 more captains. Listed below are the *kvutzot* available. If this *tafkid* interests you, please contact the Foundation immediately and we'll help you get started. Good luck and *Aleh V'hagshem*.

Workshop Captains needed:

- #2 on Kfar Blum and Geva
- #9 & 10 on Geshar Haziv
- #16, 17, 18 on Urim
- #21 on Geshar Haziv and Rosh Hanikra
- #22 on Geshar Haziv and
Maayan Baruch
- #23 on Yotvata
- #28, 29, 31 on Urim
- #26, 30, 32 on Grofit
- #32, 34 on Geshar Haziv
- #36, 37, 38 on Gezer
- #37, 40, 42 on Urim

Please return to:

The Habonim Dror Foundation
P.O. Box 17305
Milwaukee, WI 53217-0305

The Habonim Dror Foundation has 501(c)(3) tax exempt status in the United States

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

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



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

- Please find an enclosed check made out to the Habonim Dror Foundation earmarked for the Harold Warshawsky Scholarship Fund.
 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 חדרשות. (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 type or write clearly or, better yet, submit the names directly via Email to foundation@habonimdror.org We would appreciate getting all the alumni names that you have (copies of old camp rosters, Ken lists, etc.), but please send copies, originals will not be returned. Thank you.

CAN WE BUILD A CULTURE OF GIVING?

By Hank Albert

When Talia Stein, the second daughter in a second generation Camp Galil family, decided to insert a particular request on her Bat-Mitzvah invitation, she sparked a debate throughout the Habonim Dror community that was very unexpected, but may be very necessary. The request read, "In place of a gift, please honor me on the occasion of my Bat-Mitzvah, with a donation to the general scholarship fund of Camp Galil."

Without requesting permission from the Camp Galil administration, and without comment to the Central Office of Habonim Dror, Talia simply decided that she wanted to "help other kids have the same experience" that she has had during her four summers at Galil. When asked why she made such a focused decision, she stated, "Galil has meant so much to me... I just wanted to give something back."

"Galil has meant so much to me ... I just wanted to give something back"

As the Registrar for Camp Galil for the past fourteen years, I have served on the scholarship committee for just as long. I know that a gesture similar to Talia's was made a few years ago. But that was the only one. For the purpose of this article, I surveyed Habonet (the Habonim Dror alumni listserv) requesting information on these kinds of "giving" activities at the other camps. I received only two responses that were not of similar magnitude. We're not good at this.

When news of Talia's donation reached the Camp Galil community, a "question" arose about whether or not to publicize it. The mere fact that it was not automatically shouted all over the community - alumni and current members - speaks to the fact that we do not know how to honor those who give. The immediate argument against publicity was that (in true Habonim Dror fashion) we should not put anyone's effort above someone else's. What of all the people who still give to the movement with small or even no compensation? *Machanot* are filled with

madrichim who should be making much more. *Kenim* have leaders who make little or no money. Why is this situation different? I believe there is a difference that should be recognized.

Talia's unique gift request has already produced over \$3200 in donations, enough to allow another child to attend Galil for the entire summer of 2000 at no cost (although it will be divided among several recipients). She gave it from her heart - out of love. It was unique. And it came at a time when others her age are taking the opportunity to have extravagant parties and collect material items. Talia found value in giving. I have always believed that this is where Habonim Dror philosophy has tried to lead us.

Can we, in Habonim Dror past and present, learn to honor the givers? Can we learn to notice and recognize the ones who have acted on what Habonim Dror has

taught us, and not feel we are betraying our roots?

Habonim Dror no longer receives funding from Israel. The *kibbutz* movement is no longer a major support for our summer camps. We pay, or find creative funding, for the *shlichim* that organize our *kenim*. Finding money to keep our former youth movement alive for the next generation is a monumental task. If we do not create and revere a culture of giving (financially) back to our Habonim Dror beginnings the way Talia Stein has done, my children may not have a youth movement for which to donate their Bar/Bat-Mitzvah money when their time comes.

(Editor's note: Over the years, the Habonim Dror Foundation has received dozens of donations "in honor" or "in memory" of people for all types of lifecycle occasions. We encourage you to contribute to the Foundation in this way and you can be assured that the person or family being remembered will receive an appropriate acknowledgment.)

Ruach Galil to host Amnon & Rivka Hadary

Ruach Galil is excited to announce that Amnon and Rivka Hadary will join them for a *sichah* on "Habonim Dror and Labor Zionism as an interface between Israel and ourselves". The event will be a pot luck dinner at the home of Mark Seal and Margo Bloom in Elkins Park on Saturday evening, May 20. Host Mark Seal, who, as Executive Vice President of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, participated in the February Israel leadership mission of the Conference of Presidents, will also add impressions from this visit to the mix.

Amnon Hadary, a Habonim veteran in America and in Israel, continues to stimulate the Habonim alumni community through his popular contributions to Habonet from his home in Jerusalem. Known in Habonim as a "madrich's madrich", he was a founding member of Kibbutz Gesher Haziv. Born in Israel (then Palestine) he moved with his family to the US as a child, returning to Israel with his Habonim garin. Amnon is now a writer.

Rivka Hadary, an active Labor Zionist in the US, is remembered by many as the business manager of Na'aleh in its Red Hook incarnation. For more information on this event, Email Ruach Galil Steering Committee Chair Hank Albert at ohanka@aol.com.

Contact Us!

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Got email? Join Habonet - the email list for Habonim Dror alumni and friends. For more information on our virtual machaneh, send email to: BCooper@descartes.com

The Harold Warshawsky Scholarship Fund

Three years ago we lost our dear friend, Habonim alumnus and lifelong ardent supporter, Harold Warshawsky. Harold and his entire family have all been active members of Habonim and many continue to be active supporters.

Shortly after Harold's passing, we created, within the parameters of the Habonim Dror Foundation, a scholarship fund for participants in the Israel programs of our movement. Currently, the two programs are the Habonim Dror Workshop, about to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, and Machaneh Bonim B'Yisrael (MBI), our summer program for high-school aged members. It was decided, as a matter of principle, that the monies raised for this fund would be handled as a trust and that only the earned interest would be distributed for scholarships. This principle has been adhered to faithfully.

Although many of our friends and alumni have given generously to the "Harold" fund, most of the money has been obtained due to the efforts of Harold's brother Jerry, who engaged in an intense campaign among his friends and business associates, many of whom knew and

loved Harold. Of course, Adele, Harold's beloved wife, and Allan, his youngest brother, also actively participated. In addition, we are most grateful to Harold and Adele's dear friends "Chico" and Zmirah Sabbah, who, like Harold and Adele, were former members of Kibbutz Urim. Their very large contribution, along with the funds raised by Jerry, form the base of the scholarship fund.

The fund has provided scholarship assistance, primarily for participants in MBI, to some 25 young leaders and potential leaders of Habonim Dror. Six of our camps (all except Na'aleh which has only recently reopened) have sent promising young people to Israel, all of whom have returned refreshed and inspired. Nearly every one of those young people is continuing in an active role in our *machanot* and our *kenim*, which bodes well for the future growth and strength of Habonim Dror.

The scholarship fund is doing much to help the continuity and growth of Habonim Dror and is, indeed, a fitting tribute to Harold and all the members of his extended family. We will continue in our efforts to make the fund grow.

2nd Annual NYC Kumzitz

JUNE 3, 2000

The 2nd annual New York Kumzitz will be held on June 3, 2000 (Saturday evening). After the incredible success of last year's event where 150 people ages 20-75 sang, danced and shmoozed from 7 p.m. until 1:30 a.m., how could we not do it again? The event will once again be held at Anshe Hessed (100th Street and West End), and plans are to include a potluck dinner this year as well. If you are interested in attending or finding out more information, please contact Aliya Cheskis-Cotel at sc523@aol.com.

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Vol. 5, No. 1

This issue put together by
Ken Bob, Jennie Kay,
Trilby Smith, Ezra Weinberg,
and Steve Weinberg



Clockwise from top left:

- Aviva Kutnick lights a candle for Workshop 47 at the opening ceremonies for the tenth Habonim Dror *Veida*
- Na'aleh women at a *ken peula*
- A toast to workshop 49 on Kibbutz Mashabeh Sadeh