

L'Khaim



!p'nif

THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Toronto's Hub for Secular Jewish Culture and Education

September/October 2014

Programs at a Glance



SEPTEMBER

Tuesday September 9 - 7pm

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Orientation
Winchevsky Centre

Sundays 10am-12:30pm

Morris Winchevsky School

Classes start on September 14
918 Bathurst Street

Sunday September 21 - 4pm & 7:30pm

Film Screening: "Strange Fruit"

Al Green Theatre - Miles Nadal JCC
750 Spadina Avenue

Thursday September 25 - 10:30am

Rosh Hashonah Observance
Winchevsky Centre

OCTOBER

Friday October 3 - 7:30 pm

Yom Kippur Observance
Winchevsky Centre

Sunday October 5 - 11am-1pm

Community Sukkes Celebration
Dufferin Grove Park

Thursday October 9 - 7:30pm

David Rovics House Concert
327 Rushton Road

Friday October 17 - 6:30pm

Fraytik Tsu Nakht - Jewish Humour Theme
Winchevsky Centre

Saturday & Sunday October 25 & 26

UJPO & IJV Conference
More info on page 7.

For event information:

416-789-5502

info@winchevskycentre.org

www.winchevskycentre.org

**Rosh Hashonah / Yom Kippur
reservation form enclosed!**

Find us on Facebook & Twitter:

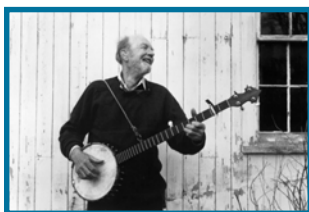


www.facebook.com/WinchevskyCtr



twitter.com/WinchevskyCtr

"WE SHALL OVERCOME" BY PAULA DAVID



What a time it was! Bits and pieces of tunes are still tickling the brain and their warmth is still permeating

the soul. This year during the mid-summer long weekend, the Hills of Naivelt truly came alive with the sound of music and the power of song. More than 300 people enjoyed a Klezmer concert, a Peace Tea, a Pete Seeger Tribute Concert, a Hootenanny, countless sing-alongs, picnics, barbeques and rekindling old or creating new friendships. No doubt you will have read or heard many talk about this magical weekend...who was there, who discussed what, who sang which songs and how many banjos and guitars were going at once. Peace was the unifying theme; appropriate for these challenging times in a world in which struggles for equity and justice continue. We were a diverse group with strong and varied opinions on just about everything, brought together by music and caring. In the words of Pete Seeger *"It's a very important thing to learn to talk to people you disagree with."* That's what happened on this very special weekend.

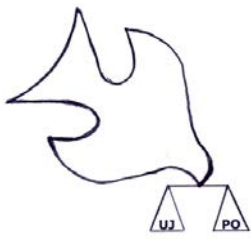
This joyous collection of events that captured both heart and soul grew out of Camp Naivelt's historic connection to Yiddish culture, art, music and its ongoing commitment to weave in peace and social justice throughout. The weekend started with an intergenerational Klezmer concert that demonstrated the collective efforts of a dozen or more instrumentalists and several more vocalists. Participants ranged from three years old to three score and ten years, and their musical training was as diverse as their ages.

The next day, with the clouds keeping a safe distance and the sun shining over the Peace Garden, families and friends regrouped for the Peace Tea. An annual Naivelt tradition since the 1940's, this event began with the recognition of Hiroshima Day and has continued over the years focusing on current events of importance. Every year the Tea highlights an individual, event or issue of social importance, and this year the focus was on Pete Seeger, his politics and how he used his music to deliver his message.

That evening the Big Event arrived and months of planning and arranging followed by hours of physical work done by dozens of volunteers brought us to Camp Naivelt's Pete Seeger Tribute. The Lasowsky Centre was packed with people of all ages who were friends and families of UJPO and Naivelt, both past and present, joined by a stellar lineup of musicians, all of whom had some connection both to our community and/or Pete Seeger. Each and every set was a tribute to the values of community, commitment, compassion and justice. Just like Pete always asked, everyone joined in and sang along. The energy in the room was palpable.

The weekend re-affirmed the current relevance of UJPO and Naivelt and that an organization with a long-term commitment to peace and justice, the arts and community is still viable. We have enough energy and passion to thrive well into the future. The music and memories of Pete Seeger combined with the energy and enthusiasm of past and future generations hold untold promise for a better world.

For pictures of the weekend see pages 4-5.



UNITED JEWISH PEOPLE'S ORDER

NATIONAL NEWS UJPO-CANADA REPORT

BY LYN CENTER
UJPO-CANADA SECRETARY

Winnipeg UJPO held its annual BBQ and wind-up on June 24, a social-political gathering. As reported in the last issue of *UJPO News*, the gathering, called “A-Dora-Fest”, celebrated the lifetime of activism and dedication of member Dora Rosenbaum and thanked her for initiating the UJPO’s North End Jewish Folk Choir. The BBQ also featured Harriet Zaidman and Cecil Rosner who led a discussion on the current situation in Ukraine and provided insights gleaned from their 2012 trip to Odessa and Lviv.

Speaking of the Ukraine, at the last “schmooze and nosh” of Hamilton UJPO members, Gloria Geller spoke of her recent visit there. She has researched her family history in that country, and gave us a very interesting history of Jews in that area of the world (see the next issue of *UJPO News* for more details). Hamilton UJPO’s next pot-luck will be an August 23 breakfast where Ronnee Jaeger and Sam Blatt will give us an update on the situation in Israel and Palestine.

Vancouver members are dedicated to the future of *Outlook*, Canada’s progressive Jewish magazine. On their website, outlookmagazine.ca, they write, “As you know, many print magazines are facing financial difficulties. *Outlook* is no exception to this disturbing trend. Our costs to produce each issue are increasing, while our advertising and other revenue is decreasing. In order to plan for *Outlook*’s future and not its demise, we are asking you to fill out this survey.” If you have not already done so, please visit the site, click on the survey, and send them your thoughts. If you’re not a subscriber, go to the website and read some of the articles from its current and back issues. You might decide to become a subscriber too!

Because of the rise in postage rates, readers of *UJPO News* across Canada have been asked to advise us if they wish to continue receiving the print version, or if they wish to read it online. About a quarter of the responders (including those without email access) asked for the print version.

As reported in the last issue of *UJPO News*, the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (CSJO) held its annual conference in Cleveland in May. Several of our members attended and indicated that they enjoyed it tremendously; Barbara Blaser and Henry Lowi were among those elected to its Board – mazltov.

At its July meeting, the National Resident Board (national board members in the Toronto area) proposed that the annual full National Board meeting be held in Toronto on the weekend of October 17-19, 2014.

In response to NDP leader Thomas Mulcair’s rescinding the possible nomination of Paul Manly as the NDP candidate in the riding of Nanaimo-Ladysmith, the National Resident Board will convey UJPO’s objection to this censorship to the NDP leadership. Mulcair’s action appears to be based on comments made by Paul Manly regarding the NDP caucus’ refusal to speak out against actions taken by Israel against his father, who was working in support of Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories. In addition, the National Resident Board, along with the Toronto UJPO Board, issued a statement on July 26 denouncing the violence in Gaza and Israel.

UJPO Annual National Board Meeting (ANBM)

Opener - Friday October 17: Everyone is invited!

Secular Friday Night Pot Luck (*Fraytik Tsu Nakht*)

featuring Jewish humour and a festive atmosphere.

Meet and greet National Board members from other cities.

Honouring the recipient of this year’s

Ben Shek Social Justice Award.

Saturday (and Sunday if required) will engage Board members in animated discussions related to strengths, shortcomings, fiscal, philosophical and practical efforts which could ensure growth, future prosperity and stability.

Saturday October 18: We’re planning a special **folk concert**.
All are invited.

More news to come at ujpo.org!

BEN SHEK SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

= Call for Nominees =

This award honours a UJPO member(s) meeting the following criteria:

- Upholds the values of the organization
- Is/has been active in promoting social justice
- Whose energies and commitment have enriched our UJPO

Procedures:

1. Send written nominations to the UJPO National Board (ujpo.office@gmail.com), by *September 15* with the reasons for consideration.
2. An UJPO member from any section can nominate any other UJPO member.
3. The UJPO National Resident Board will select and obtain approval from other National Board members and order the award plaque.



SHULE CORNER

FROM PRESCHOOL TO BAR/BAT MITZVAH
YOUR GATEWAY TO A MEANINGFUL, INSPIRED PROGRESSIVE SECULAR JEWISH EDUCATION!

www.mwstoronto.org

BY FRANCES HANDLARSKI
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

The summer is already more advanced than bears thinking about, but we at the Winchevsky Centre are still “kvelling” because of the B’nai Mitzvah ceremony which took place on June 7. Josh Berman Ghan, Nick Friedman Smith and Yoshi Maclear Wall did such an amazing job! They most ably presented their research papers on Marc Chagall, Albert Einstein and Activism in Music respectively. In addition they all showcased their musical talents by performing several songs, including amusingly enough one entitled “I’m a Man”, sung by Josh. Nick played a drum solo he had composed himself and Yoshi played Chopin’s “Prelude in E Minor” on piano. Josh also showcased his prowess in skiing and trampolining in a short video clip. We will miss this talented and wonderful trio and hope to see them and their families at our future events.

The ceremony was moving and impressive and the addresses made by family and friends to the three B’nai Mitzvah boys were particularly touching. Once again we would like to thank David Wall for working with the group on their musical pieces.

This was not the only activity the Morris Winchevsky School was involved with over the summer. We took part in the Annex Festival on Bloor on June 8 and also in the World Interfaith Pride Fair, held at the Metropolitan United Church on June 21, in honour of World Pride. As usual, we are looking forward to Ashkenaz at Harbourfront, as Yiddish and Yiddish culture remain important to our Shule.

We are not only looking back, but we are also looking forward to the new Shule year, which will begin on Sunday September 14. We are really happy that Ariel Sernick is back from her travels and will be teaching the Grades 1-3 class once

again. In addition, we are pleased to introduce our new teachers: Sandra Ruch and Emily Green.

Sandra is a Doula, the National Coordinator of Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and has many years of experience in Jewish education, including facilitating a music program. We know that she will bring tremendous talent, caring and experience to her role as the Grades 4-6 teacher.

Emily is a community worker and an experienced youth educator. She has worked teaching children in Peru, with the Aboriginal Justice team and at George Brown College, where she facilitated workshops for first year Community Worker students. We are happy that Emily is joining our community in September as our “Kinder Kapers” teacher.

I, Frances Handlarski, will be continuing in my role as Education Director and teacher of the B’nai Mitzvah class and am already hard at work looking at the curriculum for the 2014 – 2015 year. If anyone has any suggestions or comments regarding this, we would be delighted to hear from you, as we truly value your input.

Fortunately for us, we will once again have the support and direction of Maxine Hermolin - the Shule simply could not do without her. We would also like to thank Julianne Edler for her great administrative support and the members of the Shule Advisory Committee – Richard Lee, Harriet Rosenberg, Max Wallace, David Abramowitz, Shlomit Segal and Lev Jaeger for the incredible amount of work and caring they have put into the running of the Shule. We look forward to seeing you all again in September.



Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Orientation for 2014-2015

Mark your child's coming of age milestone with the Morris Winchevsky School.

Tuesday September 9, 2014 at 7pm - Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Avenue

Our progressive secular Bar/Bat Mitzvah program – for students in Grade 7 or 8 – is for families seeking a relevant and meaningful alternative to traditional Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

You are invited to this introduction and orientation session about our program, led by Frances Handlarski, Education Director and B’nai Mitzvah teacher. Feel free to spread the word if you know of families who may be interested in our program.

To register for the Morris Winchevsky School's 2014-2015 year
please contact us at: 416-789-5502 or info@mwstoronto.org.



CAMP NAIVELT

OUR SUMMER COTTAGE COMMUNITY

Photos: Nicole Bennett, Elissa Hermolin, Sheila Mudrick & Shlomit Segal.

As I write these words in the last week of July heading into the long weekend, Camp Naivelt is abuzz with activity. It was just Music Camp week and Martin Van de Ven worked his usual magic in blending an enormous range of musical talent into a cohesive band of musicians who provided Naivelt with a wonderful night of music on Saturday August 2. He seems to do it every year.

Not only that, but led by a core of volunteers, everyone at Naivelt pitched in to prepare for the big Pete Seeger tribute concert that was the climax of our Peace Tea Sunday August 3. The Peace Tea has been part of Naivelt since the 1940s. Music camp is a tradition at Naivelt and so are Bagel Brunches. To add, the opening weekend Progressive Feast, the closing Banquet with its *l'khaims* (toasts) and its talent show are now traditions. Tradition is the lifeblood of Naivelt. Present-day Naivelters are custodians of not just a parcel of real estate and some cabins near the Credit River but of a community with a long and honourable tradition. Music and culture, politics and justice, shared values and laughter, these things are also part of our tradition here at Naivelt. Tradition is not just in the events that we continue to celebrate but it's also in the sensibility of our Naivelt community.

So far this summer we've had a number of interesting and delicious bagel brunches with speakers. We've contra danced. We've played games. We've watched movies and held discussions. We've talked with old friends. We've eaten good food together and we've drank and laughed together. Every summer weekend is a chance for more of the same. Happily, I can say that the tradition continues at Camp Naivelt.

Robert Bredin
Chair, Camp Committee.



Bagel Brunches for mind and body.



Oh, the Credit River... Refreshing!



Klezmer music in July...

PETE SEEGER TRIBUTE DAY AT CAMP NAIVELT

AUGUST 3, 2014

FEATURING: SHARON & BRAM, DANNY BAKAN, FAITH NOLAN, WHERE HAVE ALL THE FOLK SONGS GONE?, NEIL SHARP & HUGH HUNTER (BRAMPTON FOLK CLUB), SAFETY IN NUMBERS, DAVID BUCHBINDER, DAVE RESTIVO & ROULA SAID



Thanks to the organizing committee and countless volunteers.



Pete's banjo was inspiration for this wonderful cake.



Faith Nolan playing her music.



Never too young to form meaningful bonds.



George Auerbach speaks at our Peace Tea.



Singing and making a community.



Concert Finale: "Goodnight Irene"

JEWISH FALL FESTIVALS

*Usher in the New Year with our
Community Secular Observances of*

Rosh Hashonah

Thursday September 25, 2014 - 10:30 am

Yom Kippur

Friday October 3, 2014 - 7:30 pm

at the Winchevsky Centre



Our contemporary progressive observances include the traditional blowing of the shofar, meaningful readings, poetry, and Yiddish, Hebrew and English music led by prominent Toronto musicians

David Wall and Marilyn Lerner

Reservation deadline: September 5

See reservation form for details.

**RSVP to 416-789-5502 or
info@winchevskycentre.org.**

Community Sukkes Celebration

Celebrate the Jewish harvest festival

Sunday October 5, 2014

11:00am - 1:00pm

Dufferin Grove Park

at the main campfire near the rinkhouse

(Rain location: 918 Bathurst Street)



Celebrate the harvest outdoors and enjoy fun and interactive activities for people of all ages:

decorating our *sukkah*, holiday music, symbols, stories, treats... & more!

**Bring a picnic lunch & blanket.
Drinks will be provided.**

Sponsored by the Morris Winchevsky School

UJPO is proud to help sponsor the following events at Toronto's **Festival of New Yiddish Culture**:



The Annual Summer Yiddish Concert: A Tribute to the late great Yiddish archivist and ethnographer Chana Mlotek featuring her son Zalmen Mlotek and grandkids (Avram, Elisha, Sarah) along with an all-star cast of Toronto Yiddish Singers.

Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Avenue
Thursday August 28th, 7:30pm \$15

From Both Ends of the Earth: The first reunion performance since 1999 of the New Yiddish fusion band featuring **Daniel Koulack, Marilyn Lerner & David Wall** - all friends of our UJPO. This formidable ensemble has a vibrant, contemporary take on traditional Yiddish and Eastern European music.
Harbourfront Centre, Lakeside Terrace, Saturday August 30, 7pm, FREE



Visit **our booth** at the Ashkenaz Festival's Community Village on Sunday August 31 & Monday September 1.



The United Jewish People's Order (Toronto) &



INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES
CANADA
VOIX JUIVES INDÉPENDANTES
www.ijvcanada.org

co-present the conference

"DOING JEWISH OFF THE GRID: POLITICS, IDENTITY AND SPIRITUALITY"

We invite Jewish community of diverse backgrounds and leanings - whether you're orthodox, reform, reconstructionist or secular, politically active or neutral - to join us for a full day of workshops and discussions, networking and brainstorming.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 - Location TBA.

Opening with HAVDALE followed by DANIEL THAU-ELEFF's one-man show "Good People, Bad Things".

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26 - Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil Street

To get in touch, email alternativejewish@gmail.com.

More info coming soon! ujpo.org

Co-presented by the Toronto Jewish Film Society and the United Jewish Peoples' Order (Toronto)



"STRANGE FRUIT"

Film Screenings:

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21: 4:00PM AND 7:30PM
AT THE AL GREEN THEATRE - MILES NADAL JCC
750 SPADINA AVENUE

Tickets: \$15 (general admission including seniors), \$10 (age 18-35)

Discount for UJPO community: \$12 (code: UJPO)

No advance sales.

Billie Holiday's heartbreaking 1939 rendition of "Strange Fruit" became a powerful emblem for African Americans in their long civil rights struggle. What is less known is that the song, with its stark depiction of the lynching of Blacks in the American South, was written by a Jewish schoolteacher from the Bronx named Abel Meeropol. Joel Katz's documentary paints a powerful portrait of the songwriter and those volatile times, testifying to the unique power of music to unite people and inspire change.

Post-screening discussion with

JONNIE BAKAN

HOUSE CONCERT - ONE NIGHT ONLY!

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9

Doors open @ 7:00pm Concert @ 7:30pm

Ronnee and Sam's Home @ 327 Rushton Road (2 blocks north of St. Clair)

Admission: \$20 or \$15 (seniors/students). All proceeds to the artist.



DOWNLOAD HIS RECORDINGS at davidrovics.com CHECK OUT HIS BLOG at <http://bit.ly/lpgoUZj>

Please bring along some wine,
beverage or snacks to share.

"If the great Phil Ochs were to rise from the dead today, he would probably be hailed as the new David Rovics."

Andy Kershaw, BBC

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED and please let us know if your plans change.

RSVP: 416-789-5502 or info@winchevskycentre.org

FRAYTIK TSU NAKHT - A new tradition!

Friday October 17 @ 6:30pm
at the Winchevsky Centre

Please join us for the first of our monthly gatherings – complete with secular Shabbes traditions (candles, wine, challah, readings & singing), a potluck dinner and cultural/educational program.

On October 17, our theme will be **JEWISH HUMOUR** – bring a joke or story, along with your contribution to the potluck dinner.

Reservations are required. RSVP: 416-789-5502 or info@winchevskycentre.org

34th Annual

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

November 2-9

Exploring the theme of Collaboration.

Wednesday November 5 @ 7pm at the Winchevsky Centre

UJPO and the Morris Winchevsky School sponsor the
FILM SCREENING of “The Forgotten Genocide”
on the persecution of Sinti and Roma and the role of “racial science” in
the formulation of Nazi policy.

SPEAKERS: BERNIE FARBER AND CYNTHIA LEVINE-RASKY

check: bit.ly/V1FjEZ

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME DINNER

Attention all new UJPO members!
You are invited to a community
Friday night potluck dinner at the Winchevsky Centre.
More information will be coming soon!

HOLD THE DATE: Friday November 7 @ 6:30pm

COMMUNITY NEWS



MAZLTOV To...

Sandy & Ron Traub on the birth of their grandchild Maeve Juniper, daughter to Stacey Traub & Hunter Covington.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

The Silverstein Family:
Silvia, Mark, Jordan
and Samuel.



The Latha Malik Family: Sarah,
Sumayya and Yaseen.

Elaine and Marv Silver.

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES To...

The Jaeger-Segal Family on the
passing of Shlomit's mother
Leah Segal.



The Pike Family on the passing
of Edith Pike.

The Cantor-Gold Family on the passing
of Alan's father Lee Cantor.

The Blaser Family on the passing of
Barbara's mother Ruth Goldman.

The Morris Paredes Family on the
passing of Wagner's father Manuel
Paredes.

The Castel family on the passing of
Mary's brother, Charles de Vries.

The Winchevsky Centre is home to:

- United Jewish People's Order - Canada
United Jewish People's Order - Toronto
- Morris Winchevsky School -
Toronto's Secular Jewish Community School
- Camp Naivelt
- Toronto Jewish Folk Choir Foundation



These institutions, founded on the traditions of social justice and humanism, are committed to making secular Jewish life relevant and accessible through a wide variety of cultural, social and educational programs.

The Winchevsky Centre

585 Cranbrooke Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6A 2X9

Telephone: 416-789-5502

Fax: 416-789-5981

Email: info@winchevskycentre.org

Website: www.winchevskycentre.org

If you wish to correct, add or delete a name from our mailing list, or if you do not wish for your photograph to appear in L'Khaïm or on our website, please contact us at info@winchevskycentre.org.

Your donations are critical in sustaining the important cultural and educational work at the Winchevsky Centre.

Tax deductible receipts are issued for donations to the "Morris Winchevsky School".