



### Programs at a Glance



#### MAY

May 22-25

**Congress of Secular  
Jewish Organizations  
Annual Conference**

Theme: *Boomer to Echo:*  
*Celebrating the 40th Anniversary  
of the Youth*  
West Chester, PA (USA)

#### JUNE

Tuesday June 23: 7:00 pm

**B'nai Mitzvah Orientation**  
Winchevsky Centre



**CAMP NAIVELT'S**  
**July/August 2015**  
**Program Calendar**  
Page 5 in this issue!

NAIVELT  
HAS PLACES  
AVAILABLE



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For information:  
416-789-5502

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www.winchevskycentre.org

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JULIA BARNETT | UJPO-TORONTO



Another busy season for the UJPO and Winchevsky communities winds up. Most recently, our annual Third Seyder - which took place on April 12th and attracted more than 200 people - continues to be a highlight of our programming season.

Leading our Seyder this year were members of our Morris Winchevsky School staff, Frances Handlarski, Sandra Ruch and Sarena Sairan along with UJPO-Canada President David Abramowitz - all wonderful readers! Contributors to our call out to share dreams of a new world also participated. We are pleased to share the following submission by Amanuel Melles, President of the Board of Directors of the Eritrean Canadian Community of Toronto. Amanuel was invited to join us at the seyder because several UJPO members have been establishing links with the Eritrean community. This is important given the increased oppression and abuse Eritreans are experiencing in Israel now.

*I'm dreaming of  
a Palestinian and a Jew  
walking side by side  
of a Sinhala and a Tamil  
playing together  
an Ethiopian and an Eritrean  
planting together.*

*I'm dreaming of  
the day that men  
recognize that there  
is nothing manly  
about torture, rape  
slavery and human trafficking.*

*I feel the joy when we will communicate  
in the universal language of humankind  
Peace Shalom Selam Pace Pax Paco*

*Across the horizon I saw peace...and..  
peace begat dignity  
dignity begat belonging  
belonging begat empathy...and..  
empathy saved humanity!*

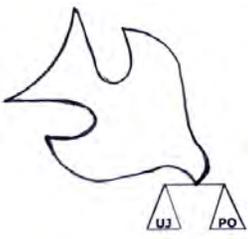


*Amanuel Melles*

Outstanding musical artists David Wall and Marilyn Lerner continue to raise the roof with their fantastic renditions of traditional Passover songs and some new selections including *Solidarity Forever*, in honour of the song's 100th anniversary, and *If You Miss Me at the Back of the Bus*, as we acknowledged that "Black Lives Matter." We continue to make relevant links to contemporary issues - at the Third Seyder and in all of our programming.

Our many Boards and Committees - all volunteer-driven - continue to convene and ensure that the running of our organization carries on in an effective way - whether it concerns programming, social justice issues, board strategic planning, our Shule or Camp Naivelt.

*Continued on page 2*



# UNITED JEWISH PEOPLE'S ORDER

NATIONAL NEWS UJPO-CANADA NATIONAL BOARD ANNUAL OVERVIEW

BY LYN CENTER  
UJPO-CANADA SECRETARY

## Winnipeg

Winnipeg UJPO sponsored a forum on Feminism in the 21st Century in January. It examined "Where is the women's movement today?" Despite gains in the workplace, education and the family over the last 50 years, women still form the largest section in society living in poverty and experience harassment and abuse on the basis of their gender. The recent revelations about abuse of women by former CBC host Jian Ghomeshi and comedian Bill Cosby have opened up a larger conversation about the situation of women today. The discussion covered what the feminist movement has accomplished and where it needs to go from the perspective of a Women's Studies academic and from an activist working to ensure women's security and advancement.

On April 13, Winnipeg UJPO and the Sholem Aleichem Community presented a Warsaw Ghetto Memorial called *Songs of the Ghetto: Women of Courage and Valour*. The book *Songs of the Ghetto*, compiled by Loa Henry, is about the Holocaust and told through the songs and stories of brave women. The songs tell the stories of women from various European countries who helped

save Jews, women who were partisans and fought fascism, women who resisted in the ghettos and the extermination camps and women who were members of Zionist, Soviet or Communist groups. The UJPO's North End Jewish Folk Choir presented a selection of songs in their honour.

## Hamilton

On March 29 a "schmooze and nosh" was held at the home of Cathy McPherson and Paul Weinberg. The pot-luck brunch featured David Cohen, group member and journalist who often writes for *Outlook*. He chose to speak about Viktor Klemperer (1881-1960), a little-known Jewish academic whose diaries of life during the Second World War were published in German in 1995, and in English in 1998. Klemperer survived the Holocaust mainly because he was married to an "Aryan" woman; they were housed in a "Jews' House" and she was able to hide the pages of his diaries in different places in the city of Dresden. They survived the bombing of the city and continued to live in East Germany after the war, where he returned to university teaching. David's presentation was fascinating and our discussion lively. At our next potluck Paul will talk about musician Leonard Cohen.

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*President's Report ... continued from page 1*

Highlights of this commitment include but are not limited to the following:

- UJPO-Toronto and UJPO-Canada co-sponsored and endorsed Jeff Halper, co-founder and director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD) who spoke in Toronto on January 22nd on the *Global Pacification System: Israel and Canada*.
- UJPO-Toronto endorsed the 10th Annual Strawberry Ceremony on February 14th in support of Indigenous struggles and the opposition to the growing number of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls (MMIW). We will continue to show our solidarity.
- On February 28th we co-sponsored, with Independent Jewish Voices, a talk given by David Sheen. Originally from Toronto, Sheen spoke on racism in Israel and the growing far right in both Israel and Germany.

- UJPO-Toronto has made a commitment to educating, organizing, exposing and making the links about the Jewish National Fund (JNF). The JNF uses environmentalism as a cover for its activities. A delegation of people from different organizations are going to Palestine and Israel this spring and will report back to UJPO this summer.

- UJPO members were present at the annual International Women's Day rally and fair. We also marked IWD with a concert featuring songs of hope, freedom and social conscience with guests Gathering Time.

So after a busy season in town, many of us are looking forward to a fun-filled summer at Camp Naivel.

Join us! *Details on p. 5.*



# THE CONGRESS OF SECULAR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 22-25 WESTCHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

*Boomer to Echo: Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Youth*

UJPO-Canada and the Morris Winchevsky School (MWS) have been affiliated with CSJO (Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations) since its inception 45 years ago. CSJO – as the voice of cultural Jews – is a vital organization for secular Jewish groups across North America. Through conferences, educational programs, networking, unique resources, effective leadership, CSJO links like-minded communities, schools and individuals. This is an opportunity not to be missed, and it's not too late to register.

This is the 45th annual CSJO conference and will provide all who attend a chance to celebrate CSJO's accomplishments, meet affiliate representatives from across North America and help mark this year's theme: *Boomer to Echo: Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Youth*.

In the words of a previous youth attendee from MWS: "The conference is a bubble of time where you socialize and have fun as much as you learn from workshops, voice your opinion, debate and sometimes, even change your mind." And as Henry Lowi has said, "CSJO affiliated organizations are our co-thinkers in the USA...It is very important for us to network with and support such important allies."

This year, all of our Shule teachers will be attending. And Frances Handlarski, the Education Director of MWS, will be leading a workshop entitled *Educating the Echo*. For more information and for a list of the other workshops, please visit CSJO's website: [www.csjo.org/interact/events/?ee=12](http://www.csjo.org/interact/events/?ee=12). You can also email CSJO at: [csjoconference@gmail.com](mailto:csjoconference@gmail.com)

## *Morris Winchevsky School's Purim Celebration – March 1, 2015*



*Arts and crafts table at Purim*



*Purim shpiel*

*Photos by Shlomit Segal*



# SHULE CORNER

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

BY FRANCES HANDLARSKI — EDUCATION DIRECTOR

It seems as if we have only just begun and yet this school year has drawn to a close. The B'nai Mitzvah ceremony will take place on June 6th. Perhaps time has passed so quickly because so much has happened.

The visit of the B'nai Mitzvah class to the Holocaust Museum was a moving and unforgettable experience. Child survivor Esther Fairbloom told us about her early life and it was both horrifying and inspiring at the same time. I was proud of our students — they showed great interest and behaved with real maturity.

Purim was fun. The week before our communal celebration, we baked *homentashn*, with the very able supervision of Shule parent, Elissa Hermolin. At the celebration Shule teacher, Sandra Ruch, led the younger classes in singing Purim songs written by Debbie Friedman and the B'nai Mitzvah students performed two Purim *shpiels*. We ate triangular-shaped food — *homentashn* and pizza — and enjoyed dressing up. For *Shalakh Mones* — we asked that donations of clothing be made to Ve'ahavta's *Mobile Response to the Homeless*. Sarena Sairan, our Kinder Kapers teacher, led the community singing of Purim favourites.

The B'nai Mitzvah students helped to pack boxes for the the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada's annual Passover food drive. At Shule we held a chocolate Seyder — using chocolate as a stand-in for the more traditional Peysach symbols. I think our students learned a lot from both these experiences, but they were not the only ones.

Helping out at the food drive led to an interesting discussion about participating in acts of charity — and how important it is to watch how we speak about it so that we don't set up a dichotomy of "us" and "them." Maimonides, with his ladder of charity (we teach this at Shule), has already sensitized us to this topic. However there can never be too many reminders of how important it is to watch our language, particularly in situations where we can inadvertently hurt others.

At the chocolate Seyder we spoke about the suffering of the young people who work picking the cocoa and how this is an example of how slavery still exists in the world. Out of this discussion at the Seyder we have decided to move forward and use only Fair Trade chocolate, in keeping with the social justice focus of the organization.

Ending on a positive note, the Shule children were incredibly lucky to have a music workshop with *Julius*, the new Yiddish Barbershop Quartet, featuring David Wall, (a past Shule parent and guest vocalist at our holiday celebrations), Mitch Smolkin (a Shule parent), Josh Dolgin and Anthony Russell. They taught the children the Yiddish song *Bulbes* and it was really a privilege to take part in this lesson. They also led two workshops for adults interested in Yiddish music.

Have a wonderful summer — and we hope to see you all again soon!

## Our Third Seyder — April 12, 2015 — Photos: Shlomit Segal



to Frances Handlarski (Education Director & B'nai Mitzvah teacher), our Educators Sarena Sairan, Ariel Sernick, Sandra Ruch and our Assistant Sue Goldstein!

To register for the Morris Winchevsky School's 2015-2016 year please contact us at:  
416-789-5502 or [info@mwstoronto.org](mailto:info@mwstoronto.org).

Early registration is encouraged and an incentive for registration by June 30th is offered.



# CAMP NAIVELT

## OUR SUMMER COTTAGE COMMUNITY

### SUMMER OF 2015

*A message from Robert Bredin, Camp Committee Chair*

Another winter has come and gone. Spring has finally made its presence known, but I'm sure we're all looking forward to the summer.

The Camp Committee has been meeting throughout the year to prepare for this summer. We are working on the final program. Below are some highlights.

Many Naivelters got together in February for Naivelt's annual Mid-Winter Mingle at the Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club. The event was a heartwarming (we all needed it) gathering of eating, talking, swimming, playing and singing. Everyone really enjoyed themselves.

I hope everyone has a safe and warm next few months and I look forward to seeing everyone during the summer. *L'Khaim!*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

#### Date

Sat	July 4	<b>Naivelt Free Market and Progressive Feast</b>
Sat	July 11	<b>Salsa Dancing</b>
Sun	July 19 -	<b>Music Camp begins</b>
Sat	July 25	<b>Music Camp concert</b>
Sat	Aug 1	<b>Strange Fruit: Film and Talk</b>
Sun	Aug 2	<b>Bagel Brunch: Community Art &amp; Development</b>
Mon	Aug 3 -	<b>Arts Camp</b>
Sat	Aug 8	<b>Camp Fire</b>
Sun	Aug 9	<b>Peace Tea with Ester Reiter</b>
Sun	Aug 16	<b>Bagel Brunch: A Critical Look at the Jewish National Fund</b>
Sat	Aug 29	<b>Banquet and Dance</b>

### MUSIC CAMP JULY 19-25, 2015

Back by popular demand, Naivelt Music Camp will start on Sunday July 19th and culminate in a concert on Saturday evening July 25th. All ages and abilities are welcome...all you need is an instrument, a voice and a healthy dose of enthusiasm! We will work in small and large groups, learning klezmer and related folk music. Mornings will offer workshops and rehearsals for both the large group and smaller ensembles and there will be a variety of music workshops, talks and jam sessions in the afternoons and evenings. Something for everyone! We welcome back Martin Van de Ven who will facilitate the program. At the Sunday July 19th bagel brunch, there will be a presentation and introduction to the week by Martin. Singers will have the opportunity to participate in the Naivelt choir and will join the orchestra for the concert.

### ARTS CAMP AUGUST 2-8, 2015

Presented by Making Room Community Arts with Michael Burt, Jonathan Vallery, Jess Shane and Shifra Cooper

**Come help celebrate Naivelt's 90 Anniversary: August 2-8.**



This year's Arts Camp will be a multi-faceted exploration of Camp Naivelt's 90 years of existence. A week of campers and visiting artists creating together in workshops on bookmaking, drawing, writing, craftwork, puppetry and more. The week will begin with a

Bagel Brunch on Sunday August 2, presented by Leah Houston from MABELLEarts on "Making art with community, home and abroad" and will culminate with a celebration and bonfire on Saturday night August 8.



**Aquafit:** July 4th is the kick-off for this year's Aquafit season. Everyone's participation is welcome. Hope to see you there!

*Naivelt News will keep you informed of details and updates.*

*Cottages are available for rent: for a weekend – a week – a month – the season!*

*Contact [naivelthousing@yahoo.ca](mailto:naivelthousing@yahoo.ca) for more information.*



**The registration form for Music Camp is enclosed with this issue of L'Khaim.**



To the Morris Winchevsky School  
B'nai Mitzvah students  
on their upcoming  
graduation ceremony June 6, 2015:

- Maya Gale-Buncel
- Avery Levin
- Sarah Levin
- Ruby Lewis
- Gabriel LiVolsi
- Yakov Ross-Ramsden



## COMMUNITYNEWS



### MAZEL TOV TO...

Lyn Center on the birth of her granddaughter Miriam, daughter to proud parents Anna Center & Kyle Aebker

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...



- Cynthia Levine-Rasky
- Jenny Lewis
- Leigh Salsberg & Eugenia Cappellaro
- Rhonda Sussman & Howard Tessler



### SPEEDY RECOVERY TO..Robin Vogl

## Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Orientation for 2015-2016

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

**Tuesday June 23, 2015 at 7 pm**  
Winchevsky Centre  
585 Cranbrooke Avenue

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 exploring our program.

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



## The Winchevsky Centre

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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.

*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'Khaim or on our website, please contact us at [info@winchevskycentre.org](mailto: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".