

THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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Visit our website at: www.winchevskycentre.org



Calendar of Events

March

Sunday March 2nd 10:00 a.m.
Community Homentash Bake

Sunday March 2nd 10:00 a.m.
"Shu, Shu Shushan" performed by the Youth Theatre Ensemble

Sunday March 9th 11:00 a.m.
Wacky Winchevsky Purim party featuring *"YidRhythmics"* with Brian Katz

Sunday March 30th 11:00 a.m.
"Souper Sunday" - a soup-kitchen fundraiser with Jewish Family & Child Services and North York Harvest Food Bank

Regular Programs

Morris Winchevsky School
Sundays 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Kinder Kapers
Sundays - twice a month
10:00-11:30 a.m.

Toronto Jewish Folk Choir
Wednesdays 7:30-10:00 p.m.

Yiddish Reading Circle
Thursdays 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Save the date!

Sunday April 27, 2008

Community Third Seyder with special musical guest Adrienne Cooper!

Look for an order form in the April issue of L'Khaim.

Wacky Winchevsky



featuring:

"YidRhythmics" - an interactive Purim Happening with musician Brian Katz

Explore the relationship between movement & music through singing, improv and wacky musical games.



&

- *"Dr. Seuss-shan" - a twist on the Purim story*
- *Shalach Mones art activity*
- *Costume parade & prizes*
- *Carnival games*
- *50/50 raffle*
- *Gragors & homentashn*



Sunday March 9th 11:00 a.m.

Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave

Adults: Members \$7/Non-members \$10
Children: Members \$5/Non-members \$6

Free admission for MWS students

AGM Report

by Maxine Hermolin, Executive Director

Kayn-eyn-horah... are we busy!! That was the message that came through at the **Annual General Meetings** of the UJPO-Toronto/Morris Winchevsky Schools on Sunday January 27, 2008.

Gord Meslin, President, opened the AGM with the 'State of the Order' address, and reported that our Strategic Plan has gotten off the ground with our plans to work on fundraising grants.

Ester Reiter, representing our hard-working Program Committee, reported that cultural life at the Winchevsky is blossoming, with such diverse events as holiday celebrations, community-wide events as part of **Holocaust Education Week** and **Jewish Book Fair**, theatre nights, our ever-growing **Yiddish Reading Circle** and the **Toronto Jewish Folk Choir**. In keeping with our quest for peace and justice, we continue to hold educational forums and discussions on social justice and our concerns for Middle East peace. We are also very excited about the success of several new initiatives – many of which are co-sponsorships, an important new programming strategy – including:

- **Youth Theatre Ensemble**, a joint venture with Winchevsky and Oraynu Children's School
- **Yiddish Improv Theatre** group, in partnership with the Committee for Yiddish
- **Kinder Kapers**, a cultural program for toddlers

Finally, Ester cited an example of "our organization at its finest" – the celebration of **Ben Shek's 80th Birthday** and our **Shule's 80th Anniversary** on November 3rd, a successful fundraising event which brought our organization together in a memorable way. We definitely continue to offer something for everybody!

Morris Winchevsky School Education Director **David Lipovitch** reported on the success of our ambitious curriculum and special projects, such as the 'What Makes Me Feel Jewish Photography Project' and the upcoming "**Souper Sunday**" – a *Tikkun Olam* fundraiser to raise awareness about hunger and poverty. However, these successes are tempered with the concern regarding our declining enrollment.

Paul Freudenthaler, Chair of the Camp Naivelt Committee, proudly reported on a great 2007 season, a hard-working committee and plans for the summer of 2008, with the hope of increased cottage rentals and the exciting culmination of Ruth Howard's **Community Arts Project**.

Howard Kaplan reported on the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir's ambitious performance schedule last season and preparations for the 82nd annual Spring Concert. However, the Choir's numbers are also in decline, and they need new singers.

Reporting for UJPO-Canada was co-President **David Abramowitz**, who was pleased to announce that a successful meeting took place in November with representatives from our Winnipeg and Vancouver branches. A new website was launched (www.ujpo.org), and plans are underway to hire a National Organizer to develop a National UJPO membership strategy.

At the coffee break, we enjoyed a glimpse of our activities through the creative talents of **Peter Kastner**, who presented a video montage featuring scenes from our Tu B'Shvat Seyder, Kinder Kapers, the Yiddish Reading Circle and our packed hall at Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur – to name a few. What a treat!

After listening to all of the AGM reports, it becomes clear that the major challenge we face – in every facet of our organization – is membership growth. However, if the activities and events reported on are a sampling of what we can do now, just imagine what we could accomplish with more members! I wish to extend a personal invitation to you to help us *Celebrate our Roots, Transform our Present and Welcome our Future*. Contact us about our Family Membership discounts, or download a membership form at www.winchevskycentre.org.

Welcome to the 2008 MWS/UJPO Board of Directors:

Re-elected: **Gord Meslin**, President
Sandra Traub, Secretary
Marsha Solnicki, Treasurer
Sol Blaser, Director
Barbara Lipton, Director

Newly-elected: **Howard Kaplan**, Director
Ronit Little, Director





Soup's On at



"Souper Sunday"



*A fundraiser to increase awareness
about hunger and poverty
within Toronto*

Sunday March 30, 2008

11:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Avenue

**We can make
a difference!**

- * take part in discussions led by Jewish Family & Child Services & North York Harvest Food Bank
- * listen to the lively sounds of our own Camp Naivelt musicians
- * enjoy matzah ball and a variety of other homemade soups, stews & breads made by our community

Admission

\$7- members \$10- non-members

Family rate (3-4 people):

\$18- members \$20- non-members

Admission includes a soup bowl painted by a Shule student/parent to take home as a keepsake, as well as a lunch of soup/stews, bread and drinks.

Proceeds collected from this fundraiser will be donated to our partners:





Naivelt Arts Project Update

by Ruth Howard, Camp Committee

The summer of 2008 will see a performance by our community in collaboration with my company, Jumblies Theatre. The overall theme is survival and the utopian spirit that has fueled Naivelt from the start, and the piece is an assemblage of all the research we have managed to gather over the past two years, both at Camp and through Ester Reiter's History Project. The August 9 & 10 event will be a "work-in-progress" presentation of this material, as the time-line now is short, but it will still be a big production, a lot of fun and a lot of work. Here's an outline of what's to come:

July 11-19: Re-enactment of the Twelfth Children's Work Community, based on the memoirs of Manya Lipshitz (Soviet Union, 1922). This activity is mainly aimed at teens, but younger children and adults will also have a chance to participate. Under the supervision of several theatre artists, we will orchestrate a week of role-playing, with food-making, cultural activities, nature walks – all directed by the teens, as was actually the case. Keeners can spend the week in character at the 'Commune'; others can visit day by day.

July 20-Aug 8: Production and rehearsal work for the performance. This includes the July 26/27 weekend and the August long weekend. There will be weekend rehearsals for larger groups, and rehearsals during the

three weeks for those who want to have larger parts. The rehearsals will include live music (instruments and singing), acting, storytelling and dance. The production work will include the design and making of costumes, props, puppets and scenery, as well as carpentry and technical work.

Aug. 9 & 10: A public performance, including 4 to 6 installations around camp – including inside cottages and at the Old Bunkhouse in the woods – which the audience will visit in small groups lead by guides (probably the 'commune' children in character). These installations will involve different art forms, and will be documentary in nature. Each will have a different theme, and each will have a different lead artist. The performance will culminate with a full-community 20-30 minute finale, probably at the Lasowsky Centre. The finale will be choreographed as a dance/movement piece with images and spoken text, and will include a music and sound score created by Martin Van de Ven. We may be able to do 2 performances each day.

Naivelters of all ages and abilities are invited to take part in this performance as performers, production makers, etc. – all are welcome! Please contact Ruth with your interests and availability at 416-203-8428 or ruth@jumbliestheatre.org.

This project is generously funded by the Toronto and Ontario Arts Councils, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Metcalf Foundation.

"Shu, Shu, Shushan!"

an outrageous Purim play performed by the
Youth Theatre Ensemble



Sunday March 2, 2008

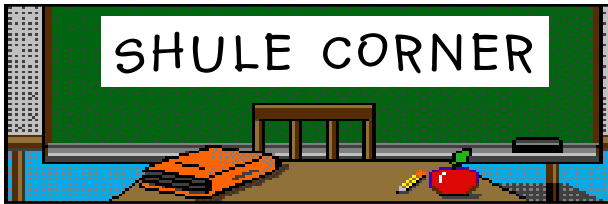
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



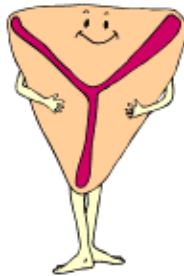
part of the Oraynu Family Purim Festival
St. Andrew's Junior High, 131 Fenn Avenue

(just west of Bayview, north of York Mills)

Admission is free. RSVP by February 29th to 416-789-5502.



Community Homentash Bake



Sunday March 2, 2008
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Winchevsky Centre

Dust off your apron, and have some fun making traditional treats for our Purim party on March 9th.

To volunteer, call 416-789-5502.



KINDER KAPERS!!

*a Sunday morning program
for toddlers 18 months-4 years
& parents/grandparents...
with a Jewish flair!*

Upcoming dates:
Sunday March 2
Sunday March 30

Drop-in rate:
\$10 members
\$12 non-members

RSVP:
416-789-5502

Energizing eco-troubadour Chris McKhool leads families in song at Tu B'Shvat Seyder

*by Lisa Roy
MWS Cultural Arts Coordinator*

Toes were tapping, fingers were snapping, and the entire room was alive with eco-friendly music at our Tu B'Shvat seyder on Sunday January 20th. In addition to students, parents and staff, we were happy to welcome **Kinder Kapers** toddlers and parents - the newest (and smallest) members of our Winchevsky family.

Hailed as "Canada's greatest eco-troubadour for young people", we were very fortunate to have special guest artist **Chris McKhool** share his infectious love of music and the environment. His original songs incorporated audience participation, including the energizing "B is for Bicycle", jazzy "No More Trash" and soothing "Mother Earth". So much fun!



To round out the event, everyone read from our secular seyder, and we all enjoyed some holiday treats, such as carob, figs and dates. Yummy!





IN MEMORIAM

Molly Myers 1912-2007

Sadly, since our last issue of *L'Khaim*, we lost a very special and beloved long-time member of the UJPO community, **Molly Myers**, who passed away on December 8, 2007. The following tribute was written by David Abramowitz for the UJPO News:

Winnipeg's Molly Brown joined our predecessor, Toronto's Labour League, in the 1930's, joined the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir and participated in anti-war (and later peace) activities. These continued most of her life.

Molly married Hymie Myers, raised two children of whom she was justly proud, maintained her choral, peace and Camp Naivelt activities and chaired the Nechama Lodge. She also represented UJPO at the Canadian Peace Alliance and the Association of Jewish Seniors, and marched in numerous peace demonstrations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Myers-Yukich family. Your great loss is also ours. Molly, through her passion and dedication to social justice, helped to permanently shape our organization. She will be greatly missed.

Ere ire ondenk!
Honour to her memory!

Donations in memory of Molly can be made to:

*The Morris Winchevsky School
The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir*



Winchevsky Community News

We are pleased to welcome back to the office...
Simon Drexler, who is working part-time.

Join us in welcoming new members...

Carolina Berinstein, John Saunders and Noah Berinstein-Saunders

Judith Taylor, Mitch and Frank Willer

 The Outlook Magazine Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the International Women's Day Fair on **Saturday March 8th** at the Ryerson Student Centre, 55 Gould Street. You can help by delivering promotional materials to the Ryerson Student Centre at 11:30 am on March 8th, or by staffing our table for a 1½-2 hour shift between 12:00-5:00 pm.

To volunteer, call Anna Yanovsky at 416-368-3569.

We extend heartfelt condolences to...

The Greene family on the passing of long-time UJPO member **Lil Greene**.

The Myers and Yukich families on the passing of long-time UJPO member **Molly Myers**.

The Faivel family on the passing of **Elka Faivel**.

The Charlton family on the passing of Tavia's mother **Susan Charlton**.

The Rotmensz family on the passing of **Sophie Rotmensz**.

The Lukacs family on the passing of Agi Lukac's mother.



Your donations are critical in sustaining the important cultural and educational work of the Winchevsky Centre. Tax deductible receipts are issued for donations to: the "Morris Winchevsky School" and the "Toronto Jewish Folk Choir".