

L'Khaim

ל'חיים

May/June 2008

Har/Sivan 5768

THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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Visit our website at: www.winchevskycentre.org



Celebrating our Roots
Transforming our Present
Welcoming our Future



Calendar of Events

May

Sunday May 4th 10:00 a.m.
MWS/Kinder Kapers
End of Season Program

Tuesday May 13th 8:00 p.m.
Theatre Night: *Body & Soul*
Young Centre for the Performing Arts

Thursday May 15th 8:00 p.m.
*Israel Through the Eyes of
Ralph Benmergui*

Tuesday May 20th
7:00 p.m.
*Winchevsky Centre Info Nite
&
7:30 p.m.
Camp Naivelt's
Bungalow Holders' Meeting*

Friday May 23 - Monday May 26
Annual CSJO Conference
Hopewell Junction, New York

Friday May 30th 5:30 p.m.
MWS/Kinder Kapers
Family Shabbes

June

Sunday June 1st 2:00 p.m.
Toronto Jewish Folk Choir
Annual Spring Concert
Leah Posluns Theatre

Thursday June 12th 8:00 p.m.
Theatre Night:
My Name is Rachel Corrie
Tarragon Extra Space

Israel Through the Eyes of Ralph Benmergui

**A discussion in response to
VisionTV's world-premiere
documentary series with
award-winning broadcaster,
journalist and interviewer**



Thursday May 15, 2008

8:00 p.m.

Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Avenue

Ralph Benmergui: My Israel brings one of Canada's most renowned journalists face to face with Israelis from every stratum of society, and shows this fascinating and troubled country in ways that few Canadians have been privileged to experience.

The five-part VisionTV series is a heartfelt exploration of belief and values, conflict and reconciliation, poverty and class, ethnicity and identity – all through the eyes of a Moroccan-Canadian Jew as he strives towards an understanding of Israel.

This event is free of charge. Light refreshments will be served.
Co-sponsored by the United Jewish People's Order and Hashomer Hatzair.

The five-part series will air May 5, 6 & 7 at 9:00 p.m.
as VisionTV marks Israel at 60.

The Winchevsky Centre has reserved a block of tickets for
Two Exciting Theatre Nights:

BODY & SOUL

Written & directed by Judith Thompson
Comissioned by DOVE
With a cast of 12 real women

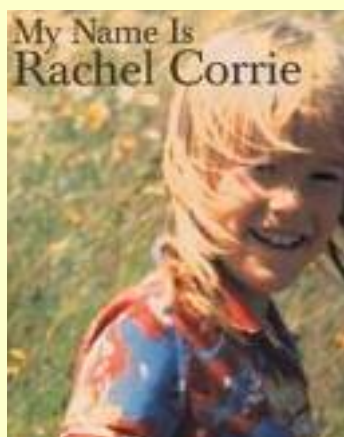


Tuesday May 13, 2008

8:00 p.m.

Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 55 Mill Street (Distillery District)

Internationally-acclaimed playwright Judith Thompson worked with a cast of 12 real women ages 45 to 78, **including UJPO member Lois Fine**, to create this new Canadian play. A provocative tapestry of their own life stories, their passions, traumas, dreams and joys, *Body & Soul* reveals the awe-inspiring beauty of each and every woman.



MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE

Edited from the writings of Rachel Corrie
by Alan Rickman and Katherine Viner
Produced by Theatre Panik
Directed by Kate Lushington

Thursday June 12, 2008

8:00 p.m.

Tarragon Extra Space, 30 Bridgman Avenue

A powerful one-woman show about Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old activist who had a powerful social conscience at a very young age and decided to follow through on her passion by joining other foreign nationals working for the International Solidarity Movement and going to Gaza to defend the homes of Palestinians in 2003. She was killed by an Israeli bulldozer in March of that year.

The play will be followed by a talk-back session at the theatre with the performer.

Co-sponsored by the United Jewish People's Order and ACJC, the Alliance of Concerned Jewish Canadians.

Tickets are \$25.00 per play, and must be reserved in advance.

To reserve, call the Winchevsky Centre at 416-789-5502 or email mws@on.aibn.com.

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir presents
Songs of Hope, Peace and Kibbutz Life for Israel at 60



**82nd Annual
Spring Concert**

**Sunday June 1, 2008
2:00 p.m.**

Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst Street

featuring the lively work about a boy's passion for the violin

“Oyfn Fidl” (On the Fiddle)

by composer **Vladimir Heifetz**

based on the short story by **Sholem Aleichem**

Conductor: Alexander Veprinsky

with guest musicians:

violinists **Lyrity Milgram and Eitan Postavsky**,
cellist **Hannah Belvedere**, flautist **Chris James**
and clarinetist **Alexander Fedorovsky**



Adults: \$23.00 Seniors/Students: \$19.00
Children 12 and under: Free

For more information and ticket reservations, email tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca
or call 416-636-0936 (evenings, weekends) or 416-737-6101 (business hours).

Presented with the assistance of the Toronto Arts Council and the Ben and Hilda Katz Charitable Foundation.

“Souper Sunday – the Intersection where Charity, Mitzvah and Tzedakah Meet”

by Ronit Little

MWS/UJPO Board of Directors

On March 30th we hosted a new community event, ***“Souper Sunday”*** – a soup kitchen fundraiser in support of **Jewish Family and Child** and the **North York Harvest Food Bank**. The day was a busy one, and the building was buzzing with Shule and Kinder Kapers families, campers and members.



From our event partner guest speakers, we learned about how many people in the GTA, once they pay for rent and other necessities, cannot afford food. Going hungry and doing without is particularly distressing when we realize that a large proportion of those who do so are children. Jewish poverty, while slightly lower than the national average, is not a myth, and presents particular challenges to service providers, as those in need often become isolated from the supports of their community.



After the presentations, we all had the pleasure of helping ourselves to delicious homemade soups and chilis prepared by Shule families and staff, served in one-of-a-kind bowls painted in advance by students and community members at our Purim party on March 9th. And while we ate and schmoozed, we enjoyed listening to the mellow sounds of our own Camp Naivelt musicians: **Steve and Shelley Cope**, and **Mitch, Zack and Astrid Harrison**.



Our community comes from a long tradition of social justice activism, which, when partnered with *tikkun olam* (healing the world), is the intersection where charity, *mitzvah* (obligation) and *tzedakah* (justice) meet.

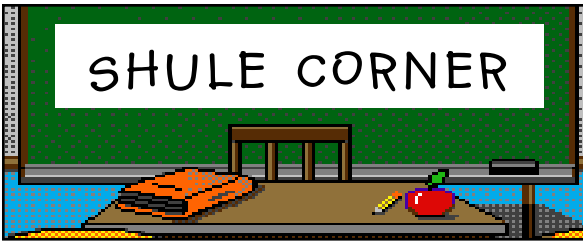
If we look to Mazon Canada, “the Jewish response to hunger rather than a response to Jewish hunger,” we are made aware that food banks are not an appropriate response to the “*quite incredible scandal of hunger in Canada.*” Many view the existence of food banks as a band-aid solution, representing a significant failure of social policy, and requires a political response with respect to affordable housing and employment that can meet basic needs.



Events like ***“Souper Sunday”*** remind us that it remains our responsibility to do something to help those many Canadians who continue to go to bed hungry. We are pleased to report that we raised \$400.00 for our two event partners, and we look forward to making ***“Souper Sunday”*** an annual event.

Ed: Many thanks to: all of our Shule families and staff members for their tasty contributions of soups and chilis; our talented Naivelt musicians; Dominion, No Frills, Sobey’s and What a Bagel for their donations; and everyone who helped with set up and clean up. An extra special thank you to our CSJO affiliate the Jewish Children’s Folkshul in Philadelphia for the event inspiration.

This was a true community effort! A hartzikn dank!



MWS B'nai Mitzvah Program

The Morris Winchevsky School program culminates in a B'nai Mitzvah ceremony which marks the important life cycle, coming of age. We celebrate this Jewish rite of passage from childhood to adulthood with a beautiful secular group ceremony.

The components of the celebration are the students' presentations of their in-depth research projects, a dramatic presentation, musical selections, artwork and the presentation of graduation certificates.

If you are a parent considering enrolling your child in our 2008-2009 B'nai Mitzvah program, and would like to attend this year's ceremony, please call 416-789-5502 by May 8th. We will do our best to accommodate you.



Congratulations!

On behalf of the MWS Board of Directors, Staff and Community, we extend congratulations to our graduates and their families on their B'nai Mitzvah and MWS Graduation ceremony on Saturday May 10, 2008:

***Julia Cass
Catherine Edwards
Raymond Mendelovits
Alyssa Muzyk***

Mazel Tov!

We acknowledge the ongoing support of The Centre for Enhancement of Jewish Education.

Thanks to their 2007-2008 grant, we enhanced the Morris Winchevsky School curriculum with "Souper Sunday", the B'nai Mitzvah Cultural Arts program and the Winchevsky/Oraynu Youth Theatre Ensemble.



***Relax & unwind... Enjoy good food...
Make new friends...***

**MWS/Kinder Kapers Shabbes -
A Family Shabbes Experience**

Friday May 30, 2008

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Admission is free. Event will include a short Shabbes ceremony, dinner, music, stories & activities. RVSPs are required by Thursday May 22nd to 416-789-5502 or mws@on.aibn.com. This event is open to Morris Winchevsky School & Kinder Kapers families.

Discover all that the Winchevsky Centre
has to offer at our



INFO NITE

Tuesday May 20, 2008

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Meet representatives from our multi-faceted community and learn about:

- ⇒ Morris Winchevsky School, including our 2-year B'nai Mitzvah program
- ⇒ Kinder Kapers - our Sunday morning program for toddlers
- ⇒ Camp Naivelt - our summer cottage community
 - ⇒ The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir
 - ⇒ Yiddish Reading Circle
 - ⇒ Youth Theatre Ensemble
- ⇒ Community cultural and educational programming and events

*Supervised activities for children will be available and light refreshments will be served.
To RSVP, please call 416-789-5502, or email mws@on.aibn.com.*

Camp Naivelt Cottage Rentals

Early Bird Special:

Rent a cabin and pay in full
before June 1, 2008 and save 10%!

Please e-mail naivelthousing@yahoo.ca for more
rental information or to arrange a tour of camp.



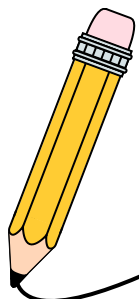
Bungalow Holders' Meeting



Tuesday May 20, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Winchevsky Centre



A Note from Ruth Howard to the Camp Naivelt community:

This summer Jumblied Theatre and Naivelt are producing a community **Theatre and Arts Project**. This project will be at the centre of this summer's Naivelt program, offering a variety of workshops and activities for all ages and artistic interests, and performances on August 9 and 10, 2008.

As well, Friday night movies, Saturday entertainment, Sunday bagel brunches and Aquafit will continue through the summer. Some highlights will be a reading by author John Miller, Irish, Andean and Somali music, Ester Reiter's research presentation about women and the Spanish Civil War, and of course the annual Naivelt Banquet on August 23rd. Check our website at www.winchevskycentre.org for a complete summer programming schedule.

The **Theatre and Arts Project** is open to people of all ages and to anyone connected with the extended Naivelt community (your family doesn't have to own a cottage!). The phases will include:

- **May 17-19** **youth and multi-age theatre workshops at Naivelt**
- **June** **advance costume-making and other production-related workshops**
- **July 12-19** **week-long role-playing re-enactment based on Manya Lipshitz's memoirs of a children's work commune in 1920's Soviet Russia – with a focus on youth, plus opportunities for participants of all ages**
- **July 5-Aug 8** **rehearsals and production work in acting, dance, music, video, visual arts, costume, set & props-making, light and sound**
- **August 9 & 10** **a public installation and performance at Camp Naivelt**
- **end of August** **a possible presentation at the Toronto Ashkenaz Festival**

There will also be some **paid positions for youth 15 to 25 years old**. Most of the jobs will be part-time, but there will also be 2 to 4 full-time jobs available for a 6-week period. To qualify, you need to be at Naivelt for at least 2 consecutive weeks, between July 1 - August 14. The jobs will involve:

- taking on a responsibility within the production (performance, design, technical, admin...)
- contributing to some aspect of overall Naivelt community life (maintenance, cleaning rented cottages or common spaces, gardening, childcare, program set-up...)

SO - here's what I need to know (if you haven't already been in touch):

- **For all:** would you like to take part in the **Theatre and Arts Project**? And if so:
 - In which elements would you like to participate?
 - What are your artistic or other interests?
 - When will you be at Naivelt this summer?
- **For youth:** are you interested in a paid job at Naivelt this summer? And if so:
 - When will you be available?
 - What kind of artistic and community work would interest you?
 - What experience do you have, and what would you like to learn?



Please email your responses to ruth@jumbliedtheatre.org or call 416-203-8428.

This project is partly supported by the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (CSJO) Annual Conference

"The Whole Mishpokhe – Diversity Rocks!"

Weekend of MAY 23-26, 2008
Circle Lodge (Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring)
Hopewell Junction, New York



FRIDAY MAY 23

8:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat & Mixers

SATURDAY MAY 24

10:30 a.m. Keynote Address with **Mike Felson**
(Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring)
and **Jeff Zolitor** (CSJO)

DAYTIME Workshops

7:30 p.m. Entertainment

SUNDAY MAY 25

DAYTIME Workshops

5:30 p.m. Closing Banquet

8:15 p.m. Multi-generational Talent Show

Selected Workshops:

- ✧ *The Secret Lives of Gefilte Fish and other Tales from the Kitchen: A Food Workshop*
- ✧ *Shalom Bayit: Organizing Real Jewish Grassroots Activism in Cross-Racial Coalition*
- ✧ *Yiddish in Current Hollywood Flicks*
- ✧ *Orange Jews and Blue Jews: Similarities and Differences Between Jewish Sects*
- ✧ *Jewish Songs of War and Peace: Every Mother's Son*
- ✧ *Jews and Fashion*
- ✧ *Waiting for God: The Spiritual Explorations of a Reluctant Atheist*
- ✧ *The Revolutionary Graphic History of Illustrated Yiddish Children's Literature*

For more information, call 416-789-5502, or download a registration package at www.csjo.org.

Winchevsky Community News

We send get well wishes to...

David Abramowitz

Barbara Blaser

Reuben Blazer

Henry Lowi



Peter Kastner invites you to attend his show at the Free Times Cafe on **Sunday May 4, 8:00 pm**, dedicated to UJPO member **Rita Bergman**.

\$15.00 cover at the door

For more information, call 416-967-1078.



Winchevsky Joins Facebook!

The Winchevsky Centre has created two new groups on **Facebook!** This is a great way to connect with members of our community, and we encourage you to check out the links below and sign up.

The link to the general Winchevsky group is:
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=15581785379

The link to the Morris Winchevsky School group is:
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=32885020219
(see MWS students' "What Makes Me Feel Jewish" photos)



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".