

L'Khaim



!פוינס

THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Toronto's Hub for Secular Jewish Culture and Education

November/December 2012

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



November

**MWS/UJPO-Toronto AGM/
COMMUNITY MEETING**
Monday, Nov. 19 6:00pm-9:00pm
Winchevsky Centre

Downtown Jewish Family Info Fair
Tuesday, Nov. 20 6:30-8:30pm
Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave.

L'khayim Concert
a celebration of Jewish Music with the
Toronto Jewish Folk Choir and Jubilate Singers
Sunday, Nov. 25 3:30pm
Grace Hill Church, 300 Lonsdale Rd.

December

Adult Education Sunday School for Adults
Jewish Holidays
Sunday, Dec. 2 10:45 am- 12:00pm
918 Bathurst St.

Bundaim, Socialists in Yiddish and Hebrew
Film screening
Thursday, Dec. 6 7:00pm
Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham St.

Latkes & Light
Family Chanukah Celebration
Sunday, Dec. 9 11:00am-1:00pm
918 Bathurst St.

Jewish Music Cabaret
Songs in Yiddish & English
Saturday Dec 15 8:00 p.m.
Winchevsky Centre

For event information call 416-789-5502
email info@winchevskycentre.org
visit www.winchevskycentre.org

EXECUTIVE REPORT

BY MARSHA FINE SOLNICKI

PRESIDENT, UJPO-TORONTO/MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL BOARD

We're part way through our fall season of activities and we've enjoyed our observances of the New Year with beautiful Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur programs. We've had the UJPO National Board AGM where we hosted members from Vancouver and Winnipeg. We've co-sponsored films with the Toronto Jewish Film Society at which Ester Reiter was a guest speaker, and we've hosted the fund raising concert by David Rovics, a memorial to Peter Kastner.

It's been a busy fall and we are now planning the UJPO Toronto AGM in combination with a Community Meeting on Monday November 19 at 6pm. We've changed from our usual Sunday meeting time for a variety of reasons. We know there are many competing demands on everyone's time and we wanted to have another Community Meeting in the fall but also were compelled to have our AGM in this time frame also. Joining the two meetings seemed logical and trying a weekday evening will hopefully be convenient for many of our members whose weekends are also very busy! As always, your input is very important and we hope that many of you will participate in this meeting.

The business of the AGM will be dealt with first. We'll have reports from our various Boards and Committees and financial reports will also be heard. If you are interested in being on the UJPO Board, please call the office and speak to Maxine. She will make sure your interest is conveyed to the Board.



The Community meeting will bring some governance documents to be approved by our membership. UJPO By-laws and Regulations of Camp Naivelt will be available prior to the meeting.

We have some very dynamic committees to which we hope you might consider giving some volunteer time. They cover a variety of interests and we hope that with any skills you may have, you will be inspired to use them in the furtherance of our community. We know we have a very diverse and talented membership with many areas of expertise. As a volunteer myself, I know that I feel best working in areas I'm interested in and where I feel I can best contribute. The rewards can be great. We want to help you find a good fit. See page 3 for a list of committees. Please consider getting involved.

**GET !
INVOLVED!**



UNITED JEWISH PEOPLE'S ORDER

NATIONAL NEWS

UJPO-CANADA REPORT

UJPO National Board Meeting Report
By Lyn Center

The annual meeting of the UJPO National Board was held in Toronto from October 12 to 14. The seven Toronto National Resident Board members were joined by three from Winnipeg – Roz Usiskin, Harriet Zaidman, and their new President, Henry Shorr – and by Sylvia Friedman from Vancouver.

Maxine Hermolin hosted a reception at her home on Friday evening where representatives from the Toronto Board and Toronto committees were warmly welcomed and had the opportunity to schmooze with our visitors. The highlight of the evening were the presentations, by David Abramowitz, of the Ben Shek Social Justice Award to Roz and Sylvia in recognition of their lifetime of dedication to the values of our organization.

Over the next two days, our meetings covered such issues as improving internal and external communications, growing our membership, reviving the Vancouver section, and leadership succession strategies. Nationally, we are organizing a tour of Avrom Yanovsky's political cartoons, to be displayed in Winnipeg, Vancouver, and possibly Hamilton.

Following Saturday's AGM session, Barbara and Sol Blaser graciously hosted a luscious dinner at their house for out-of-towners and in-towners. This gave us an opportunity to wind down over a glass of wine (or two), discuss politics and current events, and deconstruct the day's topics.

One agenda item of special note was the description by Max Wallace of the formation and the ongoing work of UJPO-Toronto's recently-formed Social Justice Committee. The committee members are working in accordance with UJPO values to promote human rights and an end to racism and bigotry. They are developing a "rapid response" plan to respond to issues as they arise, whether through participation in demonstrations, statements, or other means of showing concern and solidarity. Max's presentation and the work of the committee were inspiring to all attending the meeting.

In response to a question regarding the difference between the Program Committee and the Social Justice Committee, Barbara Blaser, Program Committee Chair, explained as follows: The Program Committee devotes itself primarily to the holidays – such as Rosh Hashone, Yom Kippur and, Passover – theatre events, and related festive and cultural activities. The Social Justice Committee focuses on political action and support, such as demonstrations, written position statements and correspondence, liaisons with like political groups, e.g. representation at the recent Independent Jewish Voices AGM in Toronto.

Toronto UJPO has an allotment of 10 members to the National Board; currently, however, there are only seven. Therefore, during this year's Toronto AGM on Nov. 19th, we will be asked to nominate three more representatives. (Both Winnipeg and Vancouver have two elected members each.)

The Board accomplished a great deal over the weekend. We made many decisions helping to clarify our path forward, strengthening our unity. Our organization of remarkable people fills a need in our community and we are optimistic that our future is bright.

BEN SHEK SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD
Sylvia Friedman & Roz Usiskin, Recipients



Inscription on Award:

*United Jewish People's Order-Canada
Honours Sylvia Friedman & Rosaline Usiskin
for a lifetime of leadership, dedication
and exceptional contribution to social justice
locally, nationally, and internationally,
in keeping with the proud history and
values of the United Jewish People's Order.*

UJPO-TORONTO NEWS



United Jewish People's Order Toronto
and
Morris Winchevsky School
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
& COMMUNITY MEETING**
Monday November 19, 2012
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Dinner at 5:30pm
Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave.

This is your opportunity to support and help build your organization. There are several active boards and committees which are the driving force behind the UJPO. You have been invited to participate and infuse these groups with new ideas. (See the list of committees below.) Please consider standing for election and volunteering in an area that interests you.

Do plan to attend this important meeting and participate in directing the future of the UJPO!

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

GET INVOLVED IN ALL THAT UJPO-TORONTO HAS TO OFFER!

COMMITTEE	RESPONSIBILITIES
Camp Naivelt - Camp Committee	Camp Naivelt, our summer cottage community, offers programming during the summer months. Camp Committee is responsible for programming, maintenance and housing issues and produces a weekly summer newsletter.
Membership Committee	Conducts orientation interviews with new member applicants.
Program Committee	Plans programs including lectures, cultural events, holiday celebrations and commemorations.
Locations Committee	Researches options related to our centre's current location versus re-development, renovations, alternative locations, models and partnerships.
History & Archives	Collects, organizes and catalogues historical and archival material to preserve the 85-year strong history of our organization and its institutions.
Social Justice Committee	Plans and organizes programs and events relevant to social justice issues. Grounded in an anti-oppression framework. Actively participates in rallies and actions.
Communications: Publications & Websites	<i>L'Khaim</i> - a publication of the Winchevsky Centre - keeps readers informed about programs and activities. <i>UJPO News</i> is a publication of UJPO-Canada with updates about UJPO centres in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, and articles of interest.
Marketing & Outreach	Promotion of programs within and beyond our community.

Get back to us and let us know where your interests and expertise lie and how you'd like to get involved. Contact Maxine Hermolin, Executive Director at 416-789-5502 or mhermolin@winchevskycentre.org.

HELLO FROM CSJO! (Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations)

The reports I've received from a number of communities highlight the successful Rosh Hashone and Yom Kippur programs that were held, incl. in the Cleveland community, where I participated.

The December 2012 issue of the CSJO newsletter will be the first for our new editor, Steve Shucard from Cleveland. He is working with Hans Leander to get off to a good start, and they have also gotten good input from a former editor .

I always look forward to hearing from you, our communities and members.

Be well! Rifke Feinstein, CSJO Executive Director



SHULE CORNER

MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL:

Celebrating Sukkes

The weather was calling for rain on October 16, but it held off for the outdoor sukkes celebration in Dufferin Grove Park. About 60 kids and adults alike, gathered together to mark the harvest holiday. A sukkah was constructed and decorated, games were played, and the holiday symbols and meanings were discussed around a camp fire.

Denise Handlarski, the Shule's Educational Director, tied in issues of homelessness and hunger with the holiday. Children were asked to reflect on "Ushpizin" (special guests) they would like to honour and invite into their sukkah, which evoked a range of interesting responses from family members to super heroes.

Thanks to Denise and the Shule staff for the program and to Ronit for the sukkah construction.



DOWNTOWN JEWISH FAMILY INFO FAIR

Tuesday, November 20; 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave.



Creative. Diverse. Inclusive. Discover the depth and breadth of today's downtown Jewish family life at the Downtown Jewish Family Info Fair. Connect with Jewish educational and experiential resources for your infants, toddlers, pre-school and school-aged children. At 7:00 pm, don't miss Neighbourhood Stories, a special presentation by acclaimed children's author, Andrew Larsen.

Neighbourhood Stories (at 7:00 pm)

Stories are everywhere. They grow in our families and they define our communities. Local children's author Andrew Larsen will talk about how parents and children can play and create in a manner that enriches us all.

www.mnjcc.org

MWS Adult Education - Sunday School for Adults

Topic: Jewish Holidays

Led by Denise Handlarski, Education Director
Sunday, Dec. 2 10:45 am- 12:00pm at 918 Bathurst St.

LATKES & LIGHT A CHANUKAH DELIGHT!



**Sunday December 9, 2012
11am - 1pm**

918 Bathurst Street

**SECULAR CANDLE LIGHTING
FAMILY FRIENDLY CELEBRATION
CHANUKAH GELT
CHANUKAH STORIES
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
ARTS AND CRAFTS
HOLIDAY MUSIC
DREYDEL GAMES**

Latkes and potluck lunch!
You bring a potluck ontribution, we'll provide the latkes, applesauce, sour cream, sufganiot (jelly donuts) and drinks!

\$5 per person, \$10 per family

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

Hosted by the MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL:
Toronto's Secular Jewish Community School

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir & Jubilate Singers present:

L'kheyim!

A Celebration of Jewish Music featuring the music of Milton Barnes

Special Guests:

Shtetl Shpil, klezmer ensemble



Sunday November 25, 3:30pm
Grace Church on-the-Hill
300 Lonsdale Road, Toronto

Tickets: 416-485-1988, 905-669-5906, at the door
www.ticketweb.ca
\$25 adults, (\$20 in advance),
\$15 seniors, \$10 students, children under 12 free

Sponsored by: Harbord Bakery & Calandria

Bundaím - Socialists in Yiddish and Hebrew

a film by Eran Torbiner

Screening & Discussion
Thursday December 6
7:00pm

Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham St.

Suggested donation: \$5 (minimum)

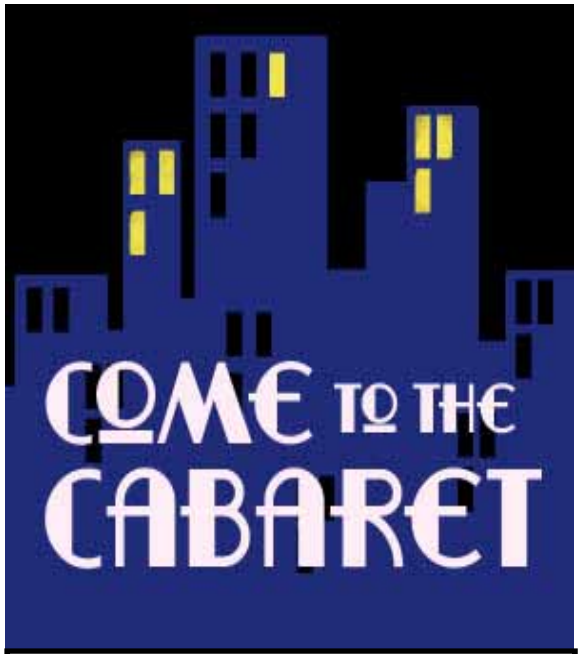


A message from Henry Lowi, Member UJPO-Toronto Social Justice Committee:

You may be acquainted with Israeli filmmaker Eran Torbiner, through his films "MATZPEN - Anti-Zionist Israelis" and "Madrid Before Hanita". Now he has a new film on the Bund in Israel. The Bund played a role in opposing Zionism since 1897; it was a founding constituent organization of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers Party; and it was a target of Lenin's struggle against the program of "national-cultural autonomy". The Bund became a mass movement in pre-war Poland until its members were wiped out by the Nazi genocide.

The anti-capitalist and socialist-humanist values of the Bund live on in the activity of many movements and in the hearts of many activists. As one of the aging speakers says in the film, while the "Jewish people" of Eastern and Central Europe is no longer, the values of solidarity live on and represent the future of humanity. Flaws and all, the Bund is part of our political heritage.

Cosponsored by UJPO-Toronto Social Justice Committee & Beit Zatoun



Jewish Music Cabaret Songs in Yiddish & English

Saturday December 15, 2012

8:00 p.m.

Winchevsky Centre
585 Cranbrooke Avenue

Featuring Gloria Valentine
and Nina Shapilsky

Refreshments will be served.

Admission:
\$10 in advance by Dec. 12th
\$15 at the door

Co-sponsored by
UJPO, MWS and the Yiddish Vinkl.

Call or email to reserve:
416-789-5502 or info@winchevskycentre.org

Gloria Valentine - a multi-talented entertainer who has performed across Canada and internationally, in concert and in cabaret shows, in both Yiddish and English. Gloria has been delighting audiences with her Yiddish Cabaret for many years. She is a regular performer at Toronto's Free Times Café.

Nina Shapilsky - award-winning concert pianist and composer. A talented and versatile musician and composer with improvisations from classical through folk to pop and jazz.

David Rovics Concert

By Ronnee Jaeger

What a grand treat! What a surprise!

All of those who came, and we were many, heard a “troubador” translating into song the news we read and often do not receive. Songs for children, songs for young lovers and songs to stir us up.

On Tuesday October 16th, at the Winchevsky, Bram Morrison (you know - of Sharon, Lois and Bram fame) introduced David Rovics and alerted us to his travels and reports on our small world.

The audience was varied and included folk music followers from all over Toronto. This is a voice to be invited back on his next North American tour. Try to make it.

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This evening was also a memorial tribute to Peter Kastner and a fundraiser for a headstone at Peter's gravesite. Bram Morrison, a good friend of Peter Kastner for many years, emceed the event and began with a song and added some reminiscences about his long friendship with Peter Kastner. Don Cullen, well-known for having started the Bohemian Embassy, among other accomplishments, added his reminiscences about Peter. We are pleased to report that the event was a success in every way ... excellent music, touching and humourous stories about Peter, an opportunity to socialize over refreshments and a successful fundraiser. We will notify our community when plans are made for an unveiling of the headstone for Peter. Our thanks to all of those who supported the event and for the generous donations.

INTRODUCING OUR COMMUNITY OFFICIANTS:

The Morris Winchevsky School is pleased to introduce **Dr. Denise Handlarski** and **Dr. Gale McCabe** as our secular humanist officiants providing rites of passage services for all occasions.



Denise Handlarski is a rabbinic candidate at the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism. She is ordained to perform life cycle events including wedding ceremonies, funerals and memorials, baby namings, and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Humanistic Judaism has a focus on how Jewish identity can bring meaning to our lives and deepen our experiences of our relationships, our communities, and our world. Denise's particular focus is on “Tikkun Olam,” or repairing the world, and how Jewish culture encourages ethical behaviour.

Delighting in and reflecting human creativity, intellect, and emotion, Denise creates ceremonies that inspire those being celebrated and in attendance.

Gale McCabe is endorsed by the Ontario Humanist Society and licensed by the Province of Ontario to solemnize weddings. Dr. McCabe performs secular wedding ceremonies that allow for the expression of the unique identities and cultural backgrounds of the participants. Her ceremonies are personal and non-theistic embracing inter-faith, inter-cultural and same-sex unions.



Both are available to officiate at weddings, commitment ceremonies, baby naming ceremonies, Coming of Age ceremonies, Funeral and Memorial Services. Initial Consultations are available without obligation by contacting the Winchevsky Centre at 416-789-5502 or visit our website www.winchevskycentre.org

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



The Winchevsky Centre

585 Cranbrooke Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
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Telephone: 416-789-5502

Fax: 416-789-5981

Email: info@winchevskycentre.org

Website: www.winchevskycentre.org

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 the office.

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” and “Toronto Jewish Folk Choir”.

COMMUNITY NEWS



MAZEL TOV TO...

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir on its outstanding performance at the Ashkenaz Festival on September 3rd

THANK YOU TO...

All the volunteers who helped with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkes celebrations!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Evan Castel
Andrew & Harriet Lyons
Kathryn & Jim Petersen

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO...

The Robinson family on the passing of UJPO member **Lukin Robinson**.

The Szmuklerz family on the passing of UJPO member Harry Szmuklerz.

