

L'Khaim



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THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Toronto's Hub for Secular Jewish Culture and Education

January/February 2013

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



January

History of Zionism:

Then and Now

Mondays Jan. 14 - Feb. 19

6 - 9 pm

Winchevsky Centre

February

New Members Welcome Event

Friday Feb. 1 6:30 pm

Winchevsky Centre

Camp Naivelt's Mid-Winter Mingle

Saturday Feb. 23 5:30 - 9 pm

Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club

180 Westmoreland Ave.

Purim Community Celebration

Sunday Feb. 24 11 am - 1 pm

918 Bathurst St.

Love and Anarchy

Emma and Leon, the

Intimate Side of Anarchist

Revolutionaries

Tuesday Feb. 26 7 pm

Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham St.



For event information:

call 416-789-5502

email info@winchevskycentre.org

visit www.winchevskycentre.org

EXECUTIVE REPORT

BY PAULA DAVID

EXECUTIVE MEMBER, UJPO-TORONTO/MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL BOARD

Following my second excellent summer at Camp Naivelt, I decided to make the leap and devote more time and energy to the organization that simultaneously welcomed, challenged and stimulated me. After a year on the rather rambunctious Camp Committee, I volunteered to run for a seat on the UJPO-Toronto Board and thus attended my first AGM in November. Even though I'd been attending copious meetings ever since I joined UJPO and I've sat on many other community Boards, I've never witnessed an AGM like this one. Firstly an ever efficient office staff sent out copious materials on governance, budget and committee terms of reference and reports.



Sure enough, we had an impressive crowd show up on time, and an excellent meal was ready and waiting. People helped themselves, had quick visits and sat down to begin the meeting. We were each given a folder that contained summaries of the reports, finance statements and governance issues. There was a lot of material and I wondered how we would ever wade through it, giving the many important issues their due. Marsha Fine Solnicki chaired. Committee Reports were informative, allowed for some questions and moved right along. The Program Committee, following a year of eclectic events, asked for new members. A relatively new and vibrant group formed the Social Justice Committee and their report promised more innovative events in the coming months. I was fascinated at the work that had gone into the Strategic Planning Group

and recognized that so much of the detailed and updated governance issues must have evolved from that process. The Camp Committee, where I was first introduced to the workings of this dynamic democracy, reported on its growing and renewed community. This, tied in with the Membership Committee's report on our expanding membership underlined the theme of potential and growth in the coming year for UJPO-Toronto. Knowing that the approximately fifty attendees likely represented 150 diverse opinions, Julia Barnett and Max Wallace kept the coffee and the conversation flowing. Many people had done their homework ahead of the meeting and the questions were relevant and helpful. I had been most skeptical about the plan to vote on issues by consensus and to my surprise, we moved smoothly through the agenda with lively discussion and consensus!

Near the end of the meeting Henry Lowi convened the elections for the 2013 UJPO-Toronto Board. The following people were elected as new Board members: Naomi Binder Wall, Paula David and Max Wallace. I was impressed with the number and caliber of people volunteering their time to serve the Order in so many different capacities, and I look forward to learning, growing and contributing on this new Board! Most of all, I look forward to learning more about debate and resolution by consensus, it makes meetings so much more challenging and interesting! I joined UJPO looking to be part of a caring and just community, and I left this year's AGM knowing that I had found one.



UNITED JEWISH PEOPLE'S ORDER

NATIONAL NEWS

UJPO-CANADA REPORT

UJPO National Board Meeting Report
By David Abramowitz

The full national board annual meeting last October 12-14 resulted in establishing our agenda of duties for the coming year.

Our updating of the draft constitution continues. In accordance with the provisions in our constitution, it can only be approved at a national conference which occurs every 5 years. While that would normally mean 2014, there is a clause in the constitution which permits the national board to advance or delay the date.

2012-2013 marks the 85th anniversary year of our first section (Toronto's Labour League Mutual Benefit Society) which marked its first anniversary in 1927. Toronto's national resident board anticipates that we will hold our next national conference in October 2013 and conclude its anniversary year with a gala celebration. Plans are in the works.

We are excited to follow the programs of our Winnipeg section which just sponsored a very successful *Outlook* magazine event. 2013 also marks the 50th anniversary of *Outlook* and we wish it many more years of success.

We are also happy that Toronto combined a successful AGM and community meeting with a record attendance. We had hoped that some would volunteer for the 3 vacant positions on our national resident board but we were not successful. We will attempt to fill them by co-opting willing individuals.

We are awaiting a report on Vancouver's new membership campaign meeting scheduled for early 2013.

Till the next *L'Khaim* we wish all our members a happy and healthy new year!

EVENTS

UJPO-TORONTO

LOVE AND ANARCHY Emma and Leon, the Intimate Side of Anarchist Revolutionaries

The lively political and personal worlds of early 20th century anarchists come to life with a presentation by researcher Debbie Rose. Debbie is working with translators to bring the correspondence in Yiddish between Emma Goldman and Leon Malmed, a follower and lover of Goldman, into a larger public realm.

Tuesday February 26 at 7:00 pm
Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham Street

Admission: \$5 (minimum)

Co-sponsored by UJPO-Toronto and Beit Zatoun

Please join us!

History of Zionism: Then and Now

A 6 week workshop series
January 14 - February 19, 2013
6:00 - 9:00 pm

Winchevsky Centre
585 Cranbrooke Avenue

This course will explore the history of Zionism from its early origins through WWII, 1967 and its contemporary manifestation.

Course presenters: Sheryl Nestel & Jason Kunin, university & public school educators; members of Independent Jewish Voices (IJV)

**SPONSORED BY UJPO-TORONTO AND
INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES**

FAMILY PURIM CELEBRATION!

Purim Shpiel 🎧 **Holiday Crafts & Games**
Purim Songs 🎧 **Costume Parade**
3 Cornered Foods: Pizza & Homentashn

Sunday
February 24
11 am - 1 pm

918 Bathurst Street

Adult : \$10

Child: \$5
(12 & under)

Family: \$25
(2 adults, 2 children)

***Includes pizza, drinks & homentashn.**

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



Purim Donation Drive

In keeping with the tradition of *Shalakh Mones* (the joy of giving), we are collecting the following items for distribution to Anduhyaun Women's Shelter and Ve'ahavta's Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless.

- ⇒ Plus Size Women's Pajamas
- ⇒ Scent Free Toiletries
- ⇒ Men's Warm Socks
- ⇒ Men's Underwear

Please bring whatever you can!
Thank you!

L'KHAYIM: A CELEBRATION OF JEWISH MUSIC

By Linda Litwack
Program Chair, Toronto Jewish Folk Choir

This past year, the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir has been celebrating the 80th anniversary of the late composer Milton Barnes, who wrote two klezmer suites for the choir that may be its biggest all-time hits. With the Shtetl Shpil ensemble, we gave three performances of *Dos Naye Lid* (The New Song), one of Milton's last works, which the late Myrna Levine had commissioned for us. It was the finale for our spring concert, and was cheered by the full house at the 2012 Ashkenaz Festival. And on November 25, it was the rousing conclusion when the Folk Choir joined with the Jubilate Singers to celebrate Milton and Jewish music in general. Grace Church-on-the-Hill was packed with an enthusiastic crowd, as the combined choirs opened with the Hebrew song *Mayim Mayim*, followed by Milton's Ladino suite, *Sefarad*, led by the Jubilates' conductor Isabel Bernaus. It concluded with the two choirs reuniting, under the Folk Choir's Alexander Veprinsky, for *Dos Naye Lid*, and, as an encore, Alexander's arrangement of Morris Winchevsky's *Ale Brider*. In our choir's own set, we premiered Alexander's irresistible, swinging arrangement of *Bay mir bist du sheyn*, in the original Yiddish, with a solo by our marvellous lead tenor Martin Houtman - which couldn't have been better on Broadway!

Thanks go to our excellent MC, Barbara Blaser, who also ran our raffle. And thanks to David Abramowitz for some very resourceful emceeing at Ashkenaz. A big bouquet to UJPO for its ongoing support of these concerts and our other endeavours.



SHULE CORNER

MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL:
TORONTO'S SECULAR JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

LATKES & LIGHT: A CHANUKAH DELIGHT!

By Richard Pearl, Shule Parent

On Sunday December 9th, the Morris Winchevsky School hosted a Chanukah celebration that was attended by close to 200 guests from both the school and the wider community. Partygoers had plenty to keep them entertained during the event, including a variety of arts and crafts activities, some fairly competitive dreidel games, wonderful music, a fascinating presentation about the story of Chanukah, and many heartfelt dedications during the lighting of the Chanukah.

As well, what Chanukah celebration would be complete without food, and this party was no exception. Guests feasted on the multitude of potluck options, from the numerous salads to the noodle dishes to the tasty desserts, as well as the traditional latkes and sufganiot. It goes without saying that there was enough variety to please even the most discerning of palates.

CityTV also showed up to cover the event and an informative piece - Jews around the world mark start of Hanukkah - aired on the December 9th evening broadcast of CityNews Toronto. The story can be viewed at <http://www.citytv.com/toronto/citynews/life/video/239821-jews-around-the-world-mark-start-of-hanukkah>

A big thanks to Maxine Hermolin (Executive Director), Denise Handlarski (Education Director), the MWS staff, and everyone else involved in organizing this wonderful event.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE IMPORTANT DATES:

Kinder Kapers - winter/spring term: January 6 & 20; February 3 & 10; March 3 & 24; April 7 & 21; May 5
Drop-ins welcome.

Sun. Jan. 20th - Sunday School for Adults - Marking Martin Luther King Day: Humanistic Values

Sun. Jan. 27th - Tu B'Shvat Seyder at Shule - parents and siblings welcome

Sun. Feb. 24th - Purim Community Celebration - everyone welcome



Camp Naivelt's Annual MID-WINTER MINGLE

**Saturday February 23, 2013
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club
180 Westmoreland Ave.**

\$5/person or \$15/family, plus a potluck dinner contribution

This fun-filled evening includes a swim period from
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 7:00 p.m. Special feature: karaoke!

Meet old friends and new for a relaxing and enjoyable evening of socializing, games,
music and good food.

If you're thinking about renting or buying a cottage at Camp Naivelt,
this is a great way to meet new friends!

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME DINNER

Attention all new members! You are invited
to a community Friday night
potluck dinner at the Winchevsky Centre.

More information will be forthcoming soon!

HOLD THE DATE:
Friday February 1 at 6:30 pm

THIRD SEYDER

A progressive secular celebration of Passover

HOLD THE DATE:
Saturday March 30

UJPO EXPRESSES ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE IDLE NO MORE MOVEMENT

Join the world community to save Chief Spence's
life. Send messages to Harper and your federal
representatives to demand that Harper and the
Governor General meet with First Nations lead-
ers about their treaty and land rights.

'Idle No More' grew from the passage of the
toxic omnibus Bill C-45, as a movement broader
and deeper than Occupy, with great potential to
educate and change. The resistance movement
was started by Indigenous women and is carried
forward in good part by youth. The democratic
and environmental issues impact us all.

Let us demand that Bill C-45 be recalled and that
the rights of First Nations and their lands be pro-
tected. Let us demand democracy, environmental
protection and human rights in Canada!

**For more information
please go to
idlenomore.ca**

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAZEL TOV TO...



Richard Lee and Harriet Rosenberg on the birth of their grandson, Vincent Isaac McGinty Rosenberg (also known as Izzy)! Proud parents Miriam and Vincent!

Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler and Jude McDonald for their activism that helped to bring Rob Ford's conflict of interest to light! And also to Jude McDonald for being nominated as a finalist for 2012 Hero by Torontoist.com for her activism!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Wayne-Von Kaldenberg Family - Joyce Wayne and Sandy Von Kaldenberg



HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO...

The Buller Family on the passing of UJPO member Jim Buller

John Williams and Deb O'Rourke on the passing of John's mother Elizabeth Williams

OFFICE NEWS

WELCOME FLORENCIA!

We are pleased to welcome Florencia Berinstein to our staff at the Winchevsky Centre as a part-time administrator. Florencia joined our staff in December 2012. Florencia brings a great deal of experience in the community arts sector including Mayworks Festival and Harbourfront Centre. Her range of skills in administration and project management as well as her understanding and commitment to the progressive values upon which our community is founded will be of great benefit to our community as Florencia steps into her responsibilities in office co-ordination, communications, outreach and programming support - to name a few. We are looking forward to Florencia's creative input to our community.



THANKS TO LISA!

And on behalf of the Winchevsky community, we would like to express our thanks to Lisa Roy who left her position in September 2012. Lisa left her mark in all of the facets of our organization in which she was involved over the ten years that she was a member of our staff. Her talents, skills and dedication were evident in our smooth-running office procedures, our programs, holidays and special events, and in our Shule. We remember her flair for theatre and the dramatic presentations at Shule and holiday celebrations that she orchestrated. We are grateful for Lisa's commitment to our community and wish her much success in her future endeavours.

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".