

Social Notes

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SLAYEN/COHEN - "Hi - I'm **NOAH ALLAN CHAIM SLAYEN**. I was born Tuesday, March 20 (25 Adar), 2001, at 7:00 a.m., and weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 19 1/4 inches long. My very happy and sleepy parents are Shira Cohen and Stuart Slayen. My sister Cari is already my best friend! My especially proud great grandmother is Jen Cohen and my beaming grandparents are Ruth Slayen, and Susan & Jerry Cohen. My middle names honour the memories of my Zaida Hookey Slayen, Savta Carole Cohen and great grandparents Hy an Kay Shell. My parents, sister and I would like to thank Drs. Lazar, Grant, Singer and Seager; and the wonderful team at St. Boniface Hospital, especially nurse Tamara Kroop who hung out with my folks during labour and delivered me into the world. Well, gotta go now. I'm training my parents in how to raise a boy and it's time for their 3:00 a.m. lesson."

KLEIMAN
We are pleased to announce the birth of **MORIYAH LEIBA**, on April 10, 2001, to Rafael (Rafi) and Natalie Kleiman. The happy family (unfortunately) resides in Millburn, New Jersey. Moriyah is named for her maternal grandfather, Morris Leib Sobel. Proud grandparents are Orah and Soody Kleiman of Winnipeg and Diane Sobel of Toronto.

HEBREW SICK BENEFIT ASSOCIATION OF WINNIPEG / H.S.B.A. SYNAGOGUE

OPERATING AS BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE 1007 SINCLAIR STREET

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday, MAY 23, 2001 7:30 P.M.

Bnay Abraham Synagogue presents **A Social Evening**

featuring **Marcia Corrin & Rachel Fink**

Wednesday, May 23, 2001 7:00 PM

Upstairs Auditorium 235 Enniskillen Ave. Refreshments Served \$3.00 at the door

People

MTYP artistic director recipient of YM-YWCA Woman of Distinction Award

Children's theatre still Leslee Silverman's passion

Leslee Silverman, the longtime artistic director of the Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP), is modest about being presented with the YM-YWCA Woman of Distinction award in the Arts and Culture category. The award was presented to Silverman and the other honorees at a gala evening at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on Thursday, May 3.



LESLEE SILVERMAN: "It was marvelous being in a room with 800 other women... hearing of the kind of work being done by people who have a passion for improving the lives of children."

OUR LITTLE SHTETL



By

MYRON LOVE

"It was marvelous being in a room with 800 other women hearing descriptions of the kind of work being done by people who have a passion for improving the lives of children," says Silverman, who was also a recipient of a commemorative medal in 1993 on the 125th anniversary of Confederation. "There were other recipients of the award who are involved in foster care, for example, starting up community centres and doing genetic research."

Silverman's passion remains children's theatre. After 19 years as artistic director of MTYP, she is still enthusiastic about her work. "There is no other children's theatre company in Canada that tours as much as we do or performs before as

many children in a year as we do," she says. "Over 52,000 children and teens saw our productions this past season. We are the only theatre company that has a season of plays just for teens."

Silverman was there at the beginning of MTYP 19 years ago. As a teenager with a yen for the stage, she was strongly influenced by the late John Hirsch at the Manitoba Theatre Centre's theatre school. Hirsch, she recalls, had a real passion for children's theatre.

"At the time," she says, "we thought that children's theatre was the most innovative and that adult theatre was dull."

During her 20s, Silverman studied and worked in theatre in Vancouver and Toronto, experiences that left her convinced that it was preferable to be in charge of one's own destiny rather than being a struggling actor. She was home for Pesach in 1982 when she heard that Actors Showcase, a local theatre company, was changing its mandate and becoming a children's theatre. She applied for the position of artistic director and was

hired.

That first season, MTYP put on its performances at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. With the opening of the Gas Station Theatre on River and Osborne the next year, that became the MTYP venue for performances. Two years ago, the theatre company moved into its new home at The Forks. "We worked for 14 years to build our own place at The Forks," Silverman says. "It is great to be out here."

MYTP performs its own and other playwrights' works and also brings in touring theatre companies. Silverman is heavily involved in writing plays for MTYP in collaboration with actors, designers and playwrights. "Winnipeg is a caring and supportive community," she says. (Cont. on page 7. See "People".)

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People

People
(Cont. from page 6.)

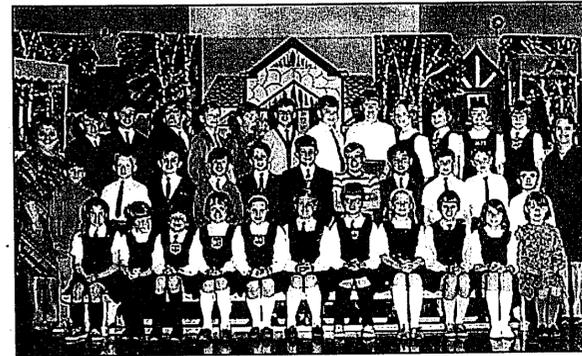
"We have a natural audience of parents and children which is constantly being replenished. I don't know why other cities can't seem to support a children's theatre."

As well as touring schools throughout Manitoba, MTYP has been invited to perform in major cities throughout North America. Next year, Silverman reports, the theatre company has been invited to perform in Hong Kong.

Leading Winnipeg architect Terry Cristall (Number Ten Architectural Group) has fond memories of his school days at Brock-Corydon Elementary School.

"It was a pleasant environment," says Cristall of the school he attended about 45 years ago. "I made a lot of friends I still have. It was nice that it was still small at the time. Larger schools look much too institutional."

Media personality Roger Matas, who attended the school in the 1960s, recalls the dramas and operettas that



A 1968 Brock-Corydon School class photo supplied by Roger Matas; he was in Grade 5 that year.

the students used to put on and being a member of a choir that participated in the annual Manitoba Music Festival.

"It is a surprise to me that I was in a choir because I can't sing," he says.

He also recalls a Grade 5 teacher who was very particular about grammar. "As a media person, I have always been particular about grammar," he says. "That teacher and my British mother were major influence on me in that way."

Both Matas and Cristall are kind of looking forward to attending the Brock-Corydon's 50th anniversary next October.

Shoichtim

(Cont. from page 3.)

Aronovitch said Weizman is "in his late 70s", and that of the vaad's two shoichtim, "the youngest is 79."

Because of their ages, he added, all three might not be willing or able to continue their work in a few years. "The killing operation in Carman (where the shoichtim do their work) has a short shelf life - whether it's three or four years, I don't know."

Weizman also declined comment on the age issue Aronovitch raised. Shlomo Benarroch, the older of the vaad's two shoichtim (ritual slaughterers), last week said in an interview that he's 79. He's been doing that job "for 39 years", and now works only once a week, as well as before Jewish holidays, because of reduced demand for fresh kosher meat here.

Benarroch's wife, Mary, added that his age "doesn't matter". Mr.

Benarroch earns only a few hundred dollars a month, and if the vaad does eventually want him to retire, it should give him "a pension", she argued.

Saul Fink, the vaad's other shoichet, noted that he's 76, not 79, contrary to what Aronovitch was quoted in a May 2 Jewish Post & News story as telling the Federation/CJA board meeting.

Fink said: "As long as I'm healthy - and I am healthy, I feel good - I don't plan to retire. It's not every day, and it's not that hard a job."

Benarroch and Fink both claimed that it will be impossible to replace them, once they retire.

"There'll be no more (fresh kosher) meat, because they don't have the money to pay them," Benarroch said. "A shoichet in the States makes \$50,000 (a year)."

of Canadian Footwear, who attended Brock-Corydon for Grade I. He transferred to Ramah when it opened.

The school reunion is scheduled for next October. All the plans aren't yet in place, notes Laurie Tighe, the school's principal. "One thing we will be doing is featuring the music, songs and books that were popular in each decade," she says. "It will be a real blast from the past."

volunteers needed!

WINNIPEG'S JEWISH VOLUNTEER BUREAU

Hours to Share

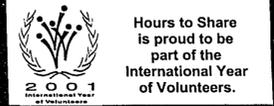
RADY JCC STAY YOUNG PROGRAM

Van Driver needed on Tuesdays to bring seniors to program 9am to 1pm * Sept.-June (if possible, driver could start now)

Assistant to help prepare food for Tuesday lunch 9am-1pm

Assistant to help with publicity for Stay Young programs, notices & phone calls

For more information contact Maureen Cohen at 477-7435 volunteerbureau@aspercampus.mb.ca www.jewishwinnipeg.org



Hours to Share is proud to be part of the International Year of Volunteers. Participating organizations include: Gray Academy of Jewish Education, Gwari Selter Creative Living Centre, Jewish Child & Family Service, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal, The Jewish Heritage Centre, Rady Jewish Community Centre, The Sharon Home and Winnipeg Jewish Theatre.

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If you haven't returned your 2001 Census form, mail it in today.

THE CENSUS INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO OUR PROVINCE.
That's because for every person who is ultimately missed, Manitoba will lose \$32,000 from Ottawa over the next five years.

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