

## TIKKUN FELLOWSHIP 2013

### Studio Pintele Russian Jewish Children's Summer Theatre - Sergey Mezhericher



15 children from the Russian-speaking Jewish families ages 5 to 14 were enrolled in this project. Pintele Rehearsals took place every Sunday during the summer for two hours and resulted in a final performance, in Russian language, "Joyous professions" on September 8th, 2013. The performance gathers over a 100 people including the families of young actors and guests from the community. During the sessions children learned some basic of craft of acting in a conservatory approach that involves exercises, scene work and theatre games designed to develop performance skills and technique. Through theater games they learned to develop creativity and self-expression. Sergey mentor Russian-speaking cantor Vicky Glikin of

Congregation Solel of Highland Park helped the fellow to involve Jewish Music in the performance. See [photos](#) from the performance.



Sergey Mezhericher is from Kiev, Ukraine. He is an actor and a co-founder of Chicago's Russian Theater "Tet-A-Tet". "Being an actor isn't a profession, it's more of a way of life that we choose for ourselves: the calling of any true actor - giving happiness to people, developing and understanding yourself and the world", says Sergey. He has a BBM from the European University in Kiev and studies at the Midwest College of Oriental Medicine. Sergey's interests are in theatre, music, sport, traveling and oriental medicine.

### Art Reception and Exhibition of Yefim Rudminsky's art - Natalia Kogan



Jewish painter from the Ukraine, Yefim Rudminsky (1937-1994). Virtually unknown in the U.S., Rudminsky is a world-class artist, who is the pride of Jewish culture and must be known by Jews worldwide. RJD in conjunction with Signature of Art Gallery, Glencoe, held a premier art event curated by Natalia Kogan: a reception of paintings by the late Ukrainian Jewish artist Yefim Rudminsky on Sunday, November 10th, 2013. Through her Tikkun fellowship, Natalia organized an exhibition of Yefim Rudminsky's paintings, thus raising the local Jewish community's awareness of an important cultural figure, who left a lasting impact on Jewish history. This exhibition was a unique opportunity for Chicago's young Jews to be reminded of the

rich Soviet-Jewish heritage, to which many of them have a connection. This was a reflection on forgotten talents, a chance to look at the past and find in it new sources of inspiration and strength. The Exhibition also took place at the Daley Center in Chicago November 3rd - November 17th, 2013. The reception and both exhibitions involved over 300 people in the Chicagoland area. See [photos](#) from the exhibition.



Natalia Kogan was born in the Crimea, Ukraine in 1986. She immigrated to the U.S. with her family at the age of 12 and has lived in Chicago since then. A graduate of the University of Chicago, Natalia has diverse interests and hobbies, including music and art. Natalia has played piano since an early age and has given multiple performances in the Chicagoland area during college and beyond. Currently, Natalia organizes weekly art history social events for young people; many of her guests are young Russian-speaking Jews of Chicago. Her passion in life is to learn about and promote art, as she believes that "art makes this world better."

## JukeboxGroove Jewish Music Project - Aleks Romanenko

Aleks's Tikkun project is called JukeboxGroove, a workshop and a musical composition exploring and celebrating the immense contribution of Jewish musicians around the world to the formation and development of modern global music culture. Workshop took place on Sunday, November 17th at the Terra School in Glenview. The JukeboxGroove project featured clarinetist Matvey Kostukovsky and pianist Paul Goldman in an interactive music presentation highlighting the works of prominent Jewish musicians and composers of several different genres, including klezmer, classical, jazz, and popular music. The concert gathered over 70 people of all ages. Musicians talked about the influence of Jewish music and Jewish musicians on world music and performed for the audience.

Jukebox Groove is Terra Sounds team effort; Romanenko is joined by clarinetist and Terra Sounds co-founder and Head of Audio Production Matvey Kostukovsky, as well as other talented instructors and prominent Chicago-based musicians such as saxophonist Doug Rosenberg, trumpeter James Davis, and percussionist Dane Crozier. Video work was completed by Columbia College of Chicago graduate and cinematographer Sargon Saadi.

The Project was presented at the 10th Russian Shabbaton on March 8th and at the City Winery on June 1, 2014. Watch the [music video](#).



Aleks Romanenko (also known as Aleks Di Roma), is a guitarist, singer, songwriter and a president and co-founder of Terra Sounds School of Music and Art. Originally from the Ukraine, Aleks has picked up his first guitar at the age of seven and has never put it down since, studying with extraordinary guitarists such as Irene Yanovskaya, Michele Iaccarino, Manuel Lozano Gomez, and Alfredo Mesa. As a dynamic guitar instructor, passionate music producer, and a vibrant performing artist featured in numerous international music festivals, concerts, productions, recording projects, and workshops, Aleks enjoys his lifetime commitment to self-expression and creativity through his continuously evolving Art of Guitar.

Aleks is a graduate of University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona.