



In photo: Ivana and Chloe

PARTICIPANT NEWSLETTER



Winter 2011

RUM SUM SUM - THE TUNISIAN CONNECTION

*A rum sum sum
A rum sum sum
Gooli gooli gooli gooli gooli
Rum sum sum
(repeat)
A raffi a raffi
Gooli gooli gooli gooli gooli
Rum sum sum
A raffi a raffi
Gooli gooli gooli gooli gooli
Rum sum sum*

"I was introduced to a *rum sum sum* --then known as '*a ram sam sam*' as a summer camp song. I happily came upon it again several years later in my travels to North Africa. In 2001 I was in a resort hotel bar in Monastir, Tunisia when the piano troupe struck up an acoustic and drum version. All of the little children in the bar popped up to dance with their families. Years later a family friend (of Tunisian Jewish descent ironically) sang it to his new grandson. When I questioned Daniel about its origins he recalled his grandmother singing it to him--although her lyrics might have been closer to '*arabi arabi*'---perhaps in reference to the Arab influences that cross religious lines throughout the Magreb. The *gooli gooli* hand motion referenced cooking or baking in the preparation of candy or other sweets. I am delighted to rediscover this folksong with my own children through Parent Child Mother Goose."

Gooli gooli,
Ivana Barbieri
Participant, Lakeshore PCMGP

**The Parent-Child
Mother Goose
Program Presents
Animal Tales
At the Toronto
Festival of
Storytelling**



THE BATA SHOE MUSEUM
For the curious.



Date: Sunday, March 27th, 2011

Place: Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor Street West

Time: 11AM

Tellers: Ruth Danziger, Maria Ordonez and Leeya Solomon

Storytelling included with regular museum admission

To find out more info:

416 558 5234 ext. 21 or mgoose@web.net

www.torontofestivalofstorytelling.ca

www.nald.ca/mothergooseprogram.ca



Love for Lakeshore: Teachers and Participants at the Lakeshore P-CMG

Photos by Renita Fillatre



AN APPRENTICE'S REFLECTION ON HER TRAINING AT THE LAKESHORE P-CMGP IN TORONTO, ON

By Renita Fillatre

I was extremely grateful to be offered the chance to complete an apprenticeship for the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program in 2010. Being an aspiring mother I get to learn from all of the incredible families that come in and out of our program every Wednesday morning. Through my apprentice teachers, Megan Williams and Harriet Xanthakos, and through the encouragement of the Parent-Child Mother Goose office I have been fortunate enough to revisit what beginnings mean to me. Watching and learning from my teachers has been its own special journey. I see their passions unfold in the circle each week and their joy in exchanging something truly gentle and honest with all who participate.

Done with simple words and movements, the program reminds me of the necessity for songs, rhymes and storytelling by word of mouth and face to face. In a world of growing technology it is amazing to watch and experience these back to basic techniques and the effect they have on busy lives. It is such an honour to be able to offer tools to families that they can use in moments to ease a stressful situation or simply to make a connection with their little ones. I feel privileged to watch the strength and warm hearts of each parent as they interact and support each other in their shared experience. No matter how I feel before I arrive each Wednesday morning, I leave with a renewed sense of wonder, connection and excitement. I feel more and more with each passing week, that it is the families who teach me and I thank them for that along with all the admirable and supporting souls of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Team.

**APPRENTICESHIP IN THE PARENT CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM:
A PROFILE OF RENITA FILLATRE AT THE LAKESHORE PCMGP, TORONTO**

By Harriet Xanthakos, Lakeshore P-CMGP Teacher

Renita arrived at the the Lakeshore program with rings on her fingers and bells on her toes. A placement student from ISIS in expressive arts therapy, Ren jumped right in and immediately connected with the program. It was not long before she also connected with the co-teachers.

After four or five weeks, my teacher partner Megan Williams suggested that we take her on as an apprentice. Ren was already taking part in facilitating the program. She was conscientious. She trusted us and she listened to our suggestions. She followed through on her commitments whether it was bringing in a new rhyme or story, making phone calls or preparing snack. In short, she was committed to the program. We all thrived because of her presence and weekly dose of gentle Newfoundland humour.

Was Ren the ideal apprentice? YES! Of course there were differences of opinion. We got them out in the open and talked things through. Her enthusiasm and love of children made her blurt out more than once: "I am an aspiring mother and it is so wonderful to be here with you and your babies. I am learning so much from you. You are all so beautiful."

She brings light into our world and reminds me of the song that we have not used in our program for a long time.

*I think you're wonderful
When somebody says that to me
I feel wonderful
wonderful as can be*

*It makes me want to say
the same thing to somebody new
and by the way I've been meaning to say
i think you're wonderful too*



IN MEMORY OF DOREEN HAMILTON 1938-2011

By MargAnne Jones, Toronto Board Member



The Parent Child Mother Goose Program is very saddened to report the sudden and unexpected death of Doreen Hamilton on January 3, 2011. She was a very important and inspiring force in the Parent Child Mother Goose Program, almost from its Toronto inception. A long-time member of the Board, she put her heart, soul, and mind into the Program.

With her gifts of intelligence, creative thinking, and clarity of writing, she applied herself enthusiastically and tirelessly to nurturing and promoting Mother Goose. She made a significant contribution as a fund raiser, and in researching and writing proposals. It is interesting how the course of her life focused on her commitment to the nurturing of

children, and specifically to improving their health and well-being. She believed that intervention and prevention were critical to this process.

Educated at the University of Toronto as a nurse, she first worked in Public Health Nursing, where she advocated for the support of new mothers and their babies. After further degrees in Sociology and Education, she became the Maternal and Child Health Consultant to the Toronto Public Health Department. She played a key role in starting up Toronto's first parent-child drop-in centres. So it was natural for her to espouse the Mother Goose Program as a way of supporting mothers in the important role of nurturing their young children. We are very grateful that she believed so strongly in the work of the Mother Goose Program, and that she worked so hard and long on its behalf.

In recognition of her great contribution and commitment, she was made an Honorary Life Member of the Board on her retirement in 2009.

A HEARTFELT THANKS

By Celia Lottridge, Co-Founder of the P-CMGP



Ruth Danziger has been a part of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program for a long time, first as a teacher and later as a trainer of Mother Goose teachers across the country, a collector of rhymes and stories to use in the program, and, in the last several years, as Executive Director of the Toronto area programs. As she leaves this position I remember most how much Ruth enjoys the pleasure of sharing rhymes and stories within the program. Her appreciation for the rhymes and stories that participants have brought to the sessions has especially enriched the program.

For the endless hard work Ruth has done to connect our program with the community, to raise funds, to make new resources available, to see that new and wonderful teachers are trained, we all thank her. And we wish her well as she finds new ways to share her stories.

PARKDALE PARENT-CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM

By Lynda Howes, Teacher



In March 2011 Sandra Carpenter-Davis will no longer be teaching in the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program at Parkdale. She is retiring from that position and committing her time and her storytelling skills while visiting with her granddaughters who are living in Saskatoon.

In the years Sandra was at Parkdale, she has trod the streets, visiting every drop-in centre, medical centre, low-income housing project, library, and school from Ossington to Roncesvalles and from Bloor to King where she personally invited families to get involved. As Sandra says, "I will miss the community: the street fairs, the marches on Queen's Park, and I will miss having folks with kids of various ages stopping me and saying, 'We still sing songs and tell stories!'"

Sandra will be sorely missed by this culturally diverse community where she has worked since 1988.

This Newsletter has been prepared by Toronto
Lakeshore PCMGP Teachers and Office Staff



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- Membership lasts for one year
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- Receive invitations to programs and events

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