Preparing for the New Year
by Rachel Epstein

Greetings! As I write this we are preparing for the High Holidays, which come early this year — Rosh Hashonah on September 7 and Yom Kippur on September 15. This year we invite people from around the globe to join us online for traditional shofar blowing, readings, poetry, and Yiddish, Hebrew and English music led by well-known Toronto musicians, David Wall and Marilyn Lerner — including the Kol Nidre on Yom Kippur. It’s been a rough year and we look forward to celebrating, reflecting, grieving, singing and connecting with our ever-expanding community.

We are also delighted to announce that we have successfully moved to online registration for all our programs. Registration for the High Holidays, the Morris Winchevsky School and the Adult Secular B’Mitzvah program are all open! Please visit our website (www.winchevskycentre.org) to sign up. And don’t forget to remind your friends and family to sign up too.

The MWS is scheduled to open in-person in September, beginning with a Sukkes/Sukkot party in Dufferin Grove Park on September 19. All of our wonderful teachers are returning this fall, which bodes well for a great year!
Camp Naivelt is currently in the midst of a rich, exciting and Covid-safe summer, enhanced by thoughtful and diverse programming and the everyday trials and tribulations of camp life. See page 2 for some images.

On page 3 you can find out more about Sophie Bourret-Klein, who will be working with us through the Fall in a Canada Summer Jobs position. Sophie will also be partially filling in for Lia Tarachansky, the MWS Education Director, who will be away temporarily this fall working on her PhD research. Sophie will be helping to develop a Youth Program for young people older than B’Mitzvah age, planning some intergenerational dialogues and assisting with the set up of an online site to highlight the work of the many artists in our midst.

Please plan to join us for the High Holidays, check out our programs and think about how you might like to contribute to the growth and health of our community.

In love and solidarity, Rachel

---

**Nominations Open for the Ben Shek Social Justice Award**

**Deadline for Nominations: September 30, 2021**

UJPO Canada presents an award annually in memory of the late and beloved Ben Shek, a lifelong social justice activist and UJPO member. The award is presented to a current member who fulfills the following criteria:

- UJPO member
- Upholds the values of UJPO
- Active in promoting social justice in Canada
- Has made an extensive contribution to UJPO

All UJPO members across the country are invited to nominate members to receive this award, outlining the reasons the nominee merits the award. The UJPO-Canada Board will choose the successful candidate from those nominated and the award will be presented at the UJPO-Canada AGM on December 12, 2021.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is September 30, 2021.

Please email nominations to the UJPO-Canada Board at info@ujpo.org or mail to the Winchevsky Centre: 585 Cranbrooke Avenue, Toronto, M6A 2X9.
Ben Shek — 1927-2011

Ben-Zion Shek was born in Palestine in 1927. The Sheks returned to Poland in 1929, and immigrated to Canada in 1934 where 7 Brunswick Avenue in Toronto, the location of the Labour League and the Morris Winchevsky School (MWS), became a second home. Every day after school, Ben would go to the Shule. On Sundays, there were clubs. He learned to play the mandolin from Podoliak, who conducted the orchestra.

Ben and his family lived in the Labour League community. They were his classmates, his friends, and his comrades. Ben recalled, “It was a total sense of community — we were together in the summer, winter, fall. Some of us played in the mandolin orchestra. It was really our home...even more so because we lived in cramped quarters. Here we had ample room in a big building, and the place was a hive of activity. There were several thousand people in the organization, maybe more! We had two or three hundred campers at a time at Naivelt. Trucks and buses would take us to camp from the city. At school, I had other friends and neighbours, but it was not that total involvement and commitment.”

Ben’s father, Sol, was the treasurer of the Toronto Labour League and a member of the City Committee in the leadership of the organization. When the UJPO held its first National Convention in 1945 (see back page for an image of the program), Sol Shek was the national treasurer.

In the 1940s, while still a teenager, Ben became a teacher in the MWS, working with Ruth Biderman (Borshover), Braindl Grafstein, Gittl Kagan, Miriam Kelsen, and Emil and Faygl Gartner. He also worked at Camp Naivelt until 1951 as co-director with Albert Blugerman. After a year with the World Federation of Democratic Youth in Europe, Ben edited the Champion, a magazine for communist youth and later worked with Nathan Cohen editing the English section of the Vokhnblat, the Canadian Jewish Weekly.

Ben joined the Toronto Jewish Folk choir in 1951 as an “extra” for a performance of Shostakovich’s Song of the Forest under Emil Gartner. He fell in love with Jean who joined the choir in 1953. They were married in 1958 and raised two children, Elliott and Ghiitta. Ben and Jean were active members of the choir and many credit the continued existence of the choir to their efforts.

Ben’s plans to teach high school were stymied by cold war politics. After a brief stint as a filmmaker, Ben became a professor of French at the University of Toronto in 1966. In 2002, he was made a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada, the highest academic accolade available to scientists and scholars in Canada. Ben is known for his strong commitment to promoting the appreciation of French Canadian and Quebecois culture in all parts of Canada.

There is a consistency to Ben’s involvement in all aspects of our community and his academic career. Ben imbibed with every breath the idea and the duty of cultural and political commitment in artistic expression. Fuelled by a concern with social justice, Ben lived a remarkable life, with his active involvement in Yiddish in music, and in Quebecois literature. Ben and his family embody what we are most proud of in our Winchevsky community.

The Winchevsky Centre Welcomes Sophie Bourret-Klein!

Sophie is a Master of Education candidate at OISE (UofT) in the department of Social Justice Education. Her research looks at the intersections of anti-racism and anti-colonialism education, particularly investigating how learning the Yiddish language is part and parcel of a larger Jewish anti-zionist community-oriented pedagogy. She is eager to learn from leftist Jewish community organizing and working in solidarity with other anti-colonial struggles. Sophie’s passion and advocacy for social justice stems from her dedication to guiding and helping youth in their journey as young learners navigating difficult spaces. She is a founding member of X-Impact, a Toronto based non-profit organization, that works alongside youth to ensure youth voices and actions are the centre of education and wellness. She is passionate about youth empowerment and challenging herself as a learner so she can bring an ethics of care to everything she is part of. In her spare time, you can find her on Yiddish Duolingo, gardening and perfecting the best latte!
Another eventful year came to a sensational close at the Morris Winchevsky Shule. Though our school was forced to move online before the end of the fall semester, our students and educators took to the transition with remarkable adaptability and resilience. The school experimented with interactive digital learning platforms that had the kids learn as 3D avatars in a SecondLife fantasy world or as 90s game characters in Gather.Town. From the littlest ones to the B’Mitzvah, the students returned week after week, even when we were simply leading discussions over Zoom. They dressed up in real-life and in virtual costumes for Purim and took to the streets of Kensington Market for our end-of-year Soundwalk. Researched, recorded, and performed by our educators and yours truly, the Soundwalk takes you all around the Market and shared its Jewish history from the mid 19th century to today. You can listen to it on your smartphone whenever you visit Kensington Market. The details are here: https://bit.ly/3zyTlq2.

In June, our graduating class delivered an astounding digital ceremony, speaking to their research projects on the Jewish history of basketball, sneaker culture and Jewish-Black relations in the United States, the Jewish inventor of one of skateboarding’s foundational moves, Jewish film festivals, and the Jewish superhero, Emma Goldman. They performed, made hilarious and thought-provoking videos, and added their own revisions to the Morris Winchevsky Credo.

Looking ahead to the coming fall semester we are thrilled to be returning to in-person learning at the 918 Bathurst, so tell your kids, tell your grandkids, and don’t forget to tell your friend’s kids! Our 2021-2022 schedule, registration, and holiday information are now online: www.winchevskycentre.org/morris-winchevsky-school

First day of classes: September 19, 2021
Register for the 2021-2022 year here: https://formfaca.de/sm/xl6IJb2zX

This year’s Shule grads, in their own words.

Aaron Bergman

My name is Aaron Bergman. I am 14 years old. I like skate-boarding and that’s why I did my project about Alan ‘Olliepop’ Gelfand. The most important people in my life are my family. That includes my parents, three sisters, one brother and my pet skinny pig, Moto Moto. I am almost finished Grade 8 and preparing to start high school in September. I am looking forward to this major change in my life. When skateboarding isn’t possible, I enjoy playing video games with my friends. My favourite place to visit is Hawaii and I can’t wait to go back some day. One of my favourite things to do is to watch a movie while eating MacDonald’s with my twin 4-year-old brother and sister, Annie and Wes. We always turn it into a sleepover.

Mika Breznitz

Mika Breznitz is a 13-year-old who loves reading, poetry, acting, and listening to music. She attends Runnymede Junior and Senior Public School in Grade 7. When they aren’t playing video games, they can be found writing short stories, drinking lots of coke, and trying to figure out how to apply eyeliner. She used to be a part of a choir and is currently going to acting classes after school. Mika writes: “What is the true phenomenon of a Jewish film festival? I am extremely interested in the topic of film festivals because I love acting and enjoy making films, and I wanted to connect this to my Jewish heritage. Jewish film festivals are extremely diverse and offer insight on Jewish heritage and other important topics as well.”
Sadie Kopyto Primack

Sadie Kopyto Primack is 12 years old and loves attending Grade 7 at Karen Kain School of the Arts. She is a passionate activist for LGBTQ+ rights, feminism, the environment, a properly funded education system and various other social justice causes. She likes finding creative ways to speak her mind through protest art, fundraising, and school and community projects.

Sadie on why she chose to write about Emma Goldman: “She revolutionized how we think of feminism today. She is an icon. She was brave; she did not care if her outspokenness and beliefs took her to jail or got her deported, she did it anyway. But what really stuck with me was that someone who was straight in early 1900s could be a gay rights activist. She was so committed to making the world a just place, that she did not do it only for her own good, but for the people around her. That’s what Emma Goldman means to me.”

Keegan Munk-Phillips

Keegan is 12 years old. He spends half his time with his dad, Ralph, and the other half with his mom, Michelle. He has a younger brother named Carson, and two step brothers, Evan and Bennett. Keegan loves to play basketball and his B’Mitzvah project was on the Jewish roots of the game. He writes: “As a Jewish basketball player and enthusiast, I feel more connected to the sport after doing this research. Before I did this project, when I thought of basketball stars, I thought of non-Jewish players like Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant, who single-handedly ruled the courts. Now, I understand the legacy of teams like the South Philadelphia Hebrew Association (SPHAS) and the New York Hakoahs who dominated the game at the birth of North American professional basketball, creating a path for young players like me to follow.”

Miles Sommers

Miles is 13 years old and he lives in Toronto with his parents, Erin and Michael, his younger brother Ellis, their two cats Fred and Ginger, and their dog Sasha. He has just finished Grade 7 at Fern Public School. Miles likes to play video games, baseball and basketball. He also loves sneakers, which led him to his project: “For some people, it is the shirts they wear, or even a coat, or a hat. For me, it is my sneakers that I care about. I like them for many reasons: style, comfort, and most importantly, identity. Sure, shoes are just various materials put together to protect your feet, but I see them describing the person that I am, and the personalities that I have. Because of my love of sneakers, I chose to direct my research project to sneaker culture. Was there a Jewish connection to be found here? The more I read, the more interesting connections I found, and that led me to my research question, what does sneaker culture tell us about the relationship between the Jewish community and the Black community?”

Mazl Tov to this year’s B’Mitzvah Grads!
This year marked the second time that the Morris Winchevsky School (MWS) has run an Adult Secular B’Mitzvah program, and the first cohort that ran fully on Zoom during the pandemic. Despite never having met in person, the participants in this program came to know each other deeply, forming a supportive community as they journeyed alongside each other on their different Jewish paths. Our meetings were alive with questions and comments about Jewish history and contemporary community concerns. We started the year with personal reflections on the idea that every Jew is a collage and revealing what Philip Roth calls the “mob of Jews” that lives inside each of us. From this open sense of multiplicity and intersectionality, we dug deep into Judaism’s biblical origin stories — the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves and our place in the world — and unpacked the consequences of retelling these stories in our own time. We spoke of Exodus politics and revolution, resistance and personal sacrifice, crisis and reconstruction, the magic and mystery that made its way into the Talmud, the development of diasporic Judaism under the Muslim and Christian Middle Ages, and Jewish encounters with modernity. We drew the masks we wear in Jewish spaces and the masks we wear in spaces that are not Jewish. We shared stories of families chosen and assigned at birth. We laughed together, and sometimes we cried. We held each other through a year of exploration and discovery and carried each other to the point that we arrived at: the ceremony that took place on June 10, 2021, marked the completion of a year of study, engagement, and personal growth in community. Mazl tov to all of our graduates!

A Message from Sharoni Sibony, Adult B’Mitzvah Facilitator

ASBM grads hold up their certificates with an audience of over 100!  
Screenshot: Lia Tarachansky
Suzanne was grateful to take part in this unique program during such a tumultuous year. She joined the ABM class to learn Jewish narratives and history from a secular perspective, pondering how she might educate hypothetical future children. Suzanne took on the role of emceeing the ABM Ceremony.

In October, she will begin the optional research project with an urgent topic: she and her partner, Hussein, are expecting a baby. They hope to have enough energy left for a post-pandemic Jewish and Indian wedding next year. Suzanne works in the Jewish world as the first and only staff of Lishma, a new, pluralistic community for learners in their 20s and 30s.

Sara (Seth) Davis

Sara (Seth) Davis has a Christian father and a Jewish mother. The decision was made that the family would be a Christian one, so Seth received a Christian education including postgraduate studies at Emmanuel College. Since her mother died in 2013, she’s been interested in learning more about her Jewish background, the religion and the culture. Seth is a special education teacher in Brampton with a special interest in learners with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities and sensory learning, and is a contributor to PMLD Link.

Seth’s project was to make a Passover Haggadah specifically for sensory learners like her students. This Haggadah focuses on the needs of the “silent” one and their own wisdom, enhancing the sensory aspects of the seyder while being economical with words. ASL translations and story massages are included so people can join in with movement.

Beverley Frydman

Beverley Frydman was named Bubble by a rabbi who transposed the name of her Mother’s uncle, Labble (from the Yiddish word laberdick, meaning ‘lively’), into a girl’s name. Beverley volunteers at the Baycrest Home for the Aged. Since the pandemic, she has been talking to two elderly ladies twice a week on the telephone. She has two daughters, Hailey and Michelle.

For her project, Beverley focused on her grandfather, Max Tohn, who was a factory worker and unionist. Tohn was the youngest of 13 children and came to Toronto from Poland to avoid being drafted into the Russian army at 21 years. He managed to support his family through the Depression as a Finish Presser of jackets and suits. Max Tohn was a proud member of the United Jewish People’s Order. Beverley discovered that her grandfather was also at the heart of union in-fighting between the Communists and the Socialists, a story she shared in her presentation.

Sue Goldstein

Sue Goldstein is an artist and activist residing in Tkaronto/Toronto. She is the product of a New York father and a Montreal mother, which is where she gets her beautiful attitude from. This is sue’s second round of the Adult Secular B’Mitzvah program and she signed on to help jump-start writing and artwork about Jewish identities and the politics involved in the evolution of those identities. What directed her back to this question of identity was time spent in Palestine and sue’s involvement in the Palestine Solidarity Movement. She is considering negative and positive space, both in terms of composition and as connected to identity. Is she Jewish in terms of what she is not? Does she see the letter or the space within the letter (the counter) or the space around the letter? Is she the shadow or that which casts the shadow?
Julia Horel

Julia Horel (she/her) is a cis, white, Ashkenazi Jewish woman who lives in Toronto with her partner Craig, and their five-year-old, Jocelyn. She grew up in an interfaith family and now loves having an interfaith family of her own.

Julia’s project was a research paper that draws on literature, media, interviews, and personal stories to examine issues of fatphobia and fat liberation through a Jewish lens. Moving from a place of narrowness to a place of expansiveness and freedom — this metaphor permeates not only Passover celebrations but much of the Jewish practice and tradition Julia has chosen to prioritize in her own life. Captivity, suppression and restriction mark our histories; liberation is what we’ve fought for and how we’ve carried on. Why, then, do so many in Jewish communities and spaces perpetuate narrow standards of acceptable body types, fear fatness, and balk at the idea of freeing ourselves from the restrictive cycles of dieting and negative self-talk? How can we create Jewish communal spaces that are freeing and liberatory for all?

Lauren Schreiber Sasaki

Lauren (Beyle) Schreiber Sasaki is a 6th generation Jewish Montrealer on an extended (16 years and counting) intermission in Toronto, where she lives with her husband Kevin, and their kiddos, Gideon (7) & Olive (nearly 5).

Lauren’s project is an exploration of A Treasure for My Daughter, a cookbook and reference work initiated in the 1940s and written especially to answer the questions of young Jewish homemakers who wanted reliable advice on how to carry out traditional practices — and how to learn to “cook just like mother.” How was it created and what function did it serve? What has been its role for generations of Jewish Montreal women? Why is it still being published today? What can we learn from it, and how can it be adapted to be relevant for a new generation of Jewish “daughters,” both in format and in content?

Rosa Orlandini

Rosa Orlandini (she/her) is a cis white woman who was raised by two awesome left-wing and atheist parents. Her mother, Mora, is Ashkenazi Jewish and her father, Richard, was from an Italian and Polish Catholic background. Rosa grew up in Toronto, Sudbury, London (Ontario), and Winnipeg, and she now lives in Toronto, with her mom nearby.

Rosa has created an interactive website that tells the story of two scrap businesses in London, Ontario: the William Leff & Company, founded by her great-grandfather at the turn of the last century, and the Hyman Leff Company, founded by her great uncle in the 1930s. This project came about because she wanted to learn more about her family, the Jewish involvement in the scrap metal trade in Canada, and the history of the Jewish community in London, ON. To access the website go to: [http://bit.ly/londonscrap](http://bit.ly/londonscrap)

Kiga Tymianski

Kiga Tymianski may not have gotten the chance to have her bat mitzvah as a teenager, but fortunately, the Year of Being Stuck Inside Forever provided a pretty good opportunity to play catch-up. After nearly a year of studying alongside her peers, Kiga is very excited to finally be able to claim she is, in fact, an adult. She’s even glad that she put off her bat mitzvah for so long — it turns out that aging the old-fashioned way gives you a perspective that doesn’t come with the teenage experience. It’s been a huge privilege to learn about Jewish traditional practices (and the holy texts that accompany them) with such insightful, enthusiastic, and kind-hearted people. Kiga looks forward to walking through the world with a greater understanding of her roots, her spirituality, and her newfound community. Kiga lives with her 6-year-old parrot, Whiskey, who unfortunately was unable to attend the ceremony.
Alexa Veldhuizen is thrilled to be becoming an adult in the eyes of the Jewish tradition, albeit a few years late. They are excited to be reconnecting with their Jewish heritage through the wonderful community of the Winchevsky Centre and are grateful to have been able to participate in the Adult Secular B’Mitzvah program.

Alexa’s project explores their Bubby’s life story through the lens of the many different names she’s had throughout her life. It looks at the tradition among (Ashkenazi) Jews of naming children after their ancestors as a form of honouring deceased family members. Alexa would like to thank their Bubby Rose for being an excellent and inspiring subject (and for currently being named Rose, since it made naming the project so easy), their mother for corroborating and filling in the later parts of the story, and two other people who were named during the presentation.

Registration is now open for the 2021-2022 Adult Secular B’Mitzvah (ASBM) class. This year, the ASBM will be held on Tuesday evenings online from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. EDT, beginning October 12, 2021. We invite folks local and not local to Toronto to participate.

Cost:
$590 Solidarity rate
$540 Sustainer rate
$490 Community rate

You can register online here: https://formfaca.de/sm/KfLbCbgIIN
For more information: www.winchevskycentre.org/adult-b-nai-mitzvah, contact us at: info@mwstoronto.org, or visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/events/508425947088603

Are you an adult seeking a Jewish learning experience?
Did you miss the opportunity to have a bat/bar mitzvah?
Were you unable to have a bat/bar mitzvah because of gender or were you misgendered at your bat/bar mitzvah?
Did you have a bat/bar mitzvah but are seeking a different experience?
Do you have a Jewish family member and want to learn more?

Welcome to this opportunity to build your personal relationship to Jewish life! We’ll explore our unique, progressive (Jewish) identities in the twenty-first century as responses to what came before us and the kind of world we want to build. What stories do Jews tell about ourselves? What can Jewishness/Judaism(s) offer us on our own life journeys? Drawing on a set of texts from across the centuries and around the world, we will critically examine where “tradition” comes from and what it might mean to us in a secular Jewish context. We will explore key moments and narratives in Jewish history; deepen our relationship to the Jewish calendar and holidays; and engage in hands-on activities and discussions that will bring us deeper insights about ourselves and our communities. We do not assume prior knowledge of Jewishness or Judaisms.
In spite of extreme heat, forest fires, tornadoes, lingering pandemic impacts and intense social unrest, the summer of 2021 has been quite wonderful at Camp Naivelt. More ‘campers’ have arrived to spend time in a calm and beautiful oasis. Any available rental cabins are booked, and we are meeting new people while welcoming back old friends. In the midst of external chronic chaos, Naivelt has provided a safe, unique and accessible escape. Last summer, our Camp and Program Committees worked diligently within a framework of strict pandemic regulations to provide a semblance of a ‘normal’ Naivelt summer. This summer, after many restrictions have loosened a little, the numbers have calmed down and we understand the possibilities; our potential seems wide open. We are back at Camp, enjoying the tranquility, the activities, the programs and each other. Some of us are out here working, some thoroughly enjoying doing nothing much at all, and all of us finding new pleasure in the local flora, fauna and peace. We adhere to the ever-changing rules, and we have a healthy community in so many ways.

Our programming is as diverse and rich as ever. The eight weeks of the summer have been divided into themes of interest to our Community.

You can check us out on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/Camp-Naivelt-209079502463728.

Many of the activities are virtual and self-driven which allows a more personally customized approach to participation. You can be involved even if you have to remain in the city. Our commitment to intergenerational programming continues, so each week a rich array of resources are offered for all ages and we have seen impressive and creative approaches to enable maximum participation. Now that we can gather in small groups and take off our masks outdoors where appropriate, we can also enjoy a more interactive social environment. Many of us are just trying to get our rusty social skills back to pre-isolation days, and the prompts, programming and projects are contributing to the healing process. Craftkits, scavenger hunts, photo challenges, music events, outdoor movies projected onto a sheet hanging from the trees, pop-up canopies to enable outdoor
events, a revitalized bike shack and sports equipment available across the Camp have provided the perfect combination of supporting involvement, socializing and quiet personal time.

There are traditional events that are sorely missed. Our Bagel Brunches are cancelled until we can gather safely, share food and sit closely together and enjoy a guest speaker. Our community hall is locked as we can’t have large indoor gatherings. Saturday night concerts have been cancelled but with so many musicians within or community, we are still blessed with live music at small pop-up outdoor concerts. Camp Naivelt has a long and important tradition of holding a Peace Tea since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 76 years ago. Since then, it is a time to reflect and to renew our commitment to work towards peaceful initiatives. This year our Peace Tea did’t serve tea, but we gathered in person, carefully socially distanced and virtually to discuss our role within the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation process. Our meetings, large discussions and some programming is via Zoom, and while it’s an adjustment and sometimes an Internet challenge, we appreciate having easy access to attendance. We have all experienced various levels of challenge and difficulties in the past year-and-a-half and now we are appreciating Camp Naivelt as the perfect place to re-group and heal.

The Rest of the Summer at Camp Naivelt: Upcoming Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Theme for the Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 19 - Jul 25</td>
<td>Naivelt, the Environment and a Community Point People: Deb F. &amp; Sharona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26 - Aug. 1</td>
<td>The Holocaust, Trauma &amp; Jewish Resilience Point People: Abbie &amp; Paula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 2 - Aug. 8</td>
<td>Naivelt Indigenous Solidarity Group (NSIG) Point Person: Maxine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 9 - Aug. 15</td>
<td>Moving, Grooving &amp; Games Point People: Nicole &amp; Ingrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 16 - Aug. 22</td>
<td>Jumblies Artful Adventures with Ruth Howard Point Person: Shlomit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  **Weekend Only: 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

  **August 21-22:** Mural Project with Aurora Pt 1 (details to follow)

| Aug. 23-29 | Yiddish Week Point People: Shlomit & Friends                                     |

  **Weekend Only: 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

  **August 28-29:** Mural Project with Aurora Pt.2 (details to follow)

For weekday swimming, online booking is available via Brampton Parks & Rec.

Check the Weekly Naivelt News for program details, scheduling, activities, and supply kits. Project materials will be available at Camp or in the City, as described in the Naivelt News.

You will be notified of Pop-Up events in advance via email blast or in the News.
We invite you to join the United Jewish People’s Order and the Morris Winchevsky School for our online celebrations of the Jewish New Year. We welcome people from around the globe to gather with us online. While we hope to be together in person soon, we remain vigilant in our concern for safety for all of us.

Please join us for traditional shofar blowing, readings, poetry, and Yiddish, Hebrew and English music led by well-known Toronto musicians, David Wall and Marilyn Lerner — including the Kol Nidre on Yom Kippur.

Rosh Hashonah: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 — 10:30-11:30 a.m. EDT
Yom Kippur: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 — 7:30-8:30 p.m. EDT
Register online here: https://formfac.de/sm/dz5x6t7aC
Event page: www.facebook.com/events/417524712896597

To welcome the year 5782 on Rosh Hashonah we will light candles for LandBack, Climate Justice, Abolition, Health Care & Global Solidarity and share our sources of hope and inspiration. Our ceremony will be filled with music and poetry as we reflect on our emergence from the pandemic and on the world we hope to build.

Yom Kippur is a time of reflection and a time to remember and honour the dead. Together we will grieve and honour those who have died from the pandemic, the Indigenous children lost to the Residential School system, the children who are the recent victims of the protracted and painful struggle in Israel-Palestine and the Muslim family recently killed in London, Ontario. Finally, we will celebrate the resilience of movements for justice and the importance of community and mutual aid.

Last year Arundhati Roy saw the pandemic as a portal. One year later, Roy writes: “We’re still moving through that portal. We haven’t transitioned. We still don’t know what the fallout of this havoc will be...The pandemic has also been like an X-ray showing up the horrific, systemic, institutionalised fault-lines of our egregiously unjust world. I do believe that there is still hope, because the suffering that Covid-19 has brought with it, physical as well as psychic, will make human beings reassess their lives and values, their wants, their desires. I can’t say the same about governments or Big Tech or banks. But if human societies, thus far brainwashed and driven by consumerism, suddenly stop in their tracks and think, it could drive real change.”
Join the Morris Winchevsky School for our Annual Community Sukkes Celebration

At the Smaller Campfire Near the Playground – (Rain Location: 918 Bathurst Street)

Celebrate the Jewish Harvest holiday of Sukkes/Sukkot with the Morris Winchevsky School in Dufferin Grove Park. Help us decorate the sukkah, learn about the symbols of the holiday, sing and listen to stories together, play Jewperdy, and much much more! Like last year, we will be following all COVID-19 safety rules. Bring a picnic lunch and a blanket. We will provide beverages in accordance with the Covid-19 rules. We look forward to seeing everyone in person again, but will confirm location closer to the date. RSVP to info@mwstoronto.org or 416.789.5502.

Event page: www.facebook.com/events/798190877559399

Manuscript Illustration of a Sukkah (Italy, 1374).
British Libriary MS Or 5024 fol 70v from Metzger, Jewish Life in the Middle Ages, fig. 369.
The United Jewish People’s Order (UJPO) – Canada stands in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples across this continent who are grieving and re-traumatized due to the uncovering of a previously undocumented grave at the site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School (IRS) on the territory of the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation. This grave holds the bodies of 215 children and youth killed at this IRS during its operation. This is only the tip of the iceberg and we demand immediate federal implementation of all recommendations of the 2015 report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in particular the six specific Calls to Action (71-76) under the heading “Missing Children and Burial Information.”

In the 1996 report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, survivors of residential schools described horrors inflicted on children and youth by IRS personnel. Intergenerational trauma from these institutions continues to torment Indigenous individuals, their families and communities. As a Jewish organization, we understand the emotional, spiritual, mental, and social complexities of genocide. We strongly condemn all contemporary forms of Indigenous child apprehension and abuse inflicted by Canadian governments, including through child welfare agencies, social services, healthcare, and policing.

The Canadian program of genocide against the First Peoples of this land is ongoing. For example, decade after decade the governments of Canada delay the resolution of Indigenous land rights while allowing the lands to be occupied and exploited by corporate and colonial interests. They continue to: favour use of Indigenous territory for toxic waste disposal; use “modern treaty” methods to circumvent inherent Indigenous rights; battle in court against equity resourcing for First Nation child welfare programs; fail to provide clean drinking water to dozens of communities; and, remain aloof from resolving RCMP involvement in cases of so many missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, two spirit and trans people.

The United Jewish People’s Order urges our community members, and people across Canada, to act in solidarity with residential school survivors. Demand full implementation, before the end of 2021, of the six crucial TRC recommendations regarding the burial grounds of all the disappeared IRS children. Write your premiers, the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and the prime minister and let them know we want no more excuses — it is time to act.


More Resources

Learn whose land you’re on: https://native-land.ca

Grassy Narrows: https://freegrassy.net/learn-more

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) Reports: https://nctr.ca/records/reports

NCTR Calls to Action archived and downloadable here: http://tiny.cc/NCTRcalls2action

List of readings, films, music, and podcasts from UJPO’s Indigenous Solidarity Working Group (ISWG) contribution to summer programming at Camp Naivelt: http://tiny.cc/ISWGreresources
Statement from the United Jewish People’s Order – Canada
May 13, 2021

Today is Eid al-Fitr, the feast that follows the end of the month-long Muslim observance of Ramadan. At the al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, Israeli police and settlers have been harassing and attacking Muslim worshippers. On May 10, Israeli forces once again fired tear gas and sound grenades into the mosque as worshippers prayed. The United Jewish People’s Order (UJPO) is appalled at this attack on a house of worship. At the same time, in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah, settlers continue their push to take over by expelling Palestinians from their homes under the watch of Israeli forces. And now Israel is bombing Gaza again. Currently 83 Palestinians, including seventeen children, have been killed as well as six people in Israel. The Canadian government and others have expressed “concern” and a need for “both sides” to de-escalate, but we recognize that this is an asymmetrical struggle of people facing evictions, violence, bombings, and erasure in the face of the full force of state power and the violence of Israeli settlers.

UJPO strongly condemns Israel’s actions and the ongoing harassment and evictions of Palestinians from their homes. We oppose settler-colonial policies, whether the Canadian government’s actions displacing the people of Wetsuwet’en, or the Israeli government’s displacement of Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah, in the West Bank, and elsewhere. We call for an end to Israeli impunity. As we approach May 15, which Palestinians commemorate as al-Nakba, or the Catastrophe, we call on the Canadian government to move beyond “concern” and exert pressure on the Israeli government to stop settler and police attacks on Palestinians under Israeli rule, and halt their brutal assault on Gaza. If there is to be a just and lasting peace in this place where there has been none, all inhabitants must have the same rights and protections.

We stand with #SheikhJarrah. #WeStandWithGaza
Community News

Mazl Tov...
Sol Blaser on the occasion of his 90th Birthday
Lyn Center on the occasion of her 75th Birthday

Get Well...
Sadie Epstein-Fine, Mari Drexler

Heartfelt Condolences to...
Lyn Lubitz, on the passing of her dear friend, Kim
Saskia Laufer on the passing of her grandfather, Murray Laufer
Nicole Bennett and Jacob Bakan on the passing of Nicole’s brother, Jacque Bennett
Paula David and family on the passing of Paula’s sister, Sheila Joan Mudrick
Sharoni Sibony on the passing of her aunt Maddy

Save the Dates!

UJPO-Toronto Annual General Meeting:
Sunday, November 7, 2021
Time & place TBD

UJPO-Canada Annual General Meeting:
Sunday, December 12, 2021
Time & place TBD