



### Programs at a Glance



Events take place at the Winchevsky Centre unless otherwise specified.

#### September

**Sunday September 15, 2019**

10:00 – 12:30 p.m. – Jewish Studies

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon – Kinder Kapers

**Morris Winchevsky School**

First day of classes

918 Bathurst Street

Details on page 4.

**Thursday September 19, 2019**

7:30 p.m.

**The 1919 Winnipeg Strike:**

**The Story of Jewish Involvement**

Details on page 6.

**Monday September 30, 2019**

10:30 a.m.

**Rosh Hashonah Observance**

Details on page 7.

#### October

**Tuesday October 8, 2019**

7:30 p.m.

**Yom Kippur Observance**

Details on page 7.

**Sunday October 20, 2019**

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**MWS Community Sukkes Celebration**

Dufferin Grove Park

Details on page 2.

**Rosh Hashonah/Yom Kippur  
Order Form included in this issue  
Reserve by September 20!**

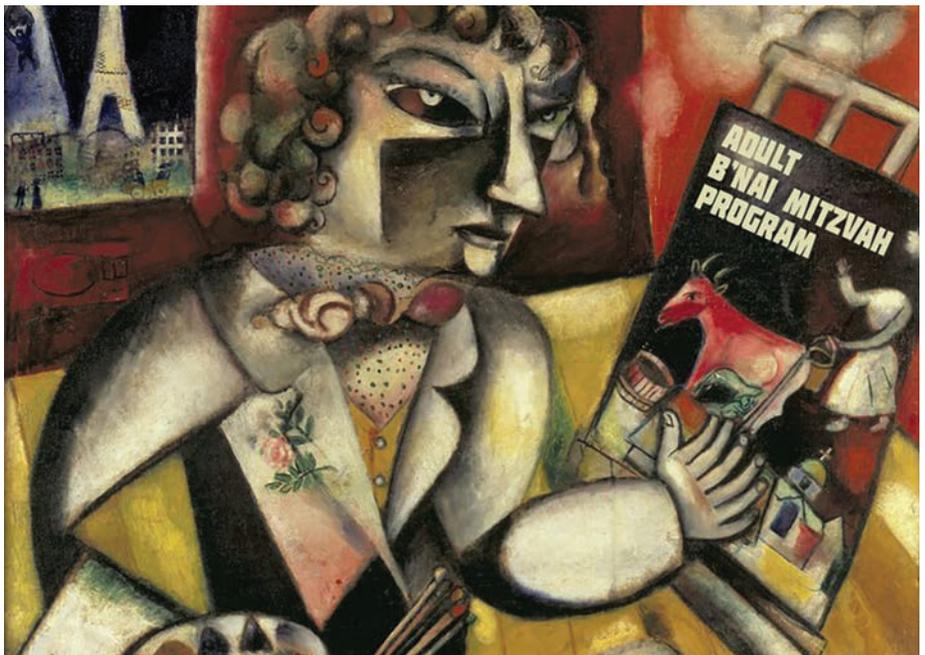
### Approaching the New Year and Introducing the Adult B'nai Mitzvah

by Rachel Epstein

Welcome to the fall edition of L'Khaim! We look forward to celebrating the New Year with you on Monday, September 30 (Rosh Hashonah) and Tuesday, October 8 (Yom Kippur) — see page 7. In these times we need community, so please consider joining us as we reflect, sing, read poetry, blow the shofar, take in the Kol Nidre and prepare for the year that lies ahead.

Here we are highlighting the Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program which will be starting up after the high holidays. We are running the program in response to having heard from people who, as adults, for one reason or other, are seeking a Jewish learning experience. Perhaps they missed the opportunity to have a Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah, were unable to have one because of gender or were misgendered at the ceremony they did have, perhaps they had a Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah but are seeking a different experience, and/or have Jewish family members and want to learn more.

Whatever the reason, we are providing an opportunity for those 18 and older who are seeking a student-centred Jewish learning experience. The program will run bi-weekly from fall to spring, and will include an optional research project and group ceremony, involving students in the program and their friends and families.



## The Morris Winchevsky School Welcomes Sharoni Siboni, the Adult B'nai Mitzvah teacher!

We are delighted to welcome program facilitator, Sharoni Siboni, who is an experienced and enthusiastic educator across multiple disciplines. After completing her BA and MA at the University of Toronto, she pursued a PhD in English Literature at Indiana University, where she taught courses in writing, rhetoric, and literature. A decade later, she took ceramics courses at Sheridan College and now teaches adult pottery classes at Woodlawn Pottery



Studio. In between school chapters, she worked and volunteered for nearly a decade in Jewish educational programming and event management at the Jewish Community Centres of Toronto, Ashkenaz Festival, Limmud Toronto, and the Ontario Jewish Archives: Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, and she brings a strong community-building orientation to her teaching. She has been a lecturer, tour guide, and book club facilitator in various venues across the Toronto Jewish community. She is excited to share her passions for Jewish life, history, arts, and culture with the inaugural cohort of the MWS Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program.

**For more information and to register:**

[www.winchevskycentre.org/adult-b-nai-mitzvah](http://www.winchevskycentre.org/adult-b-nai-mitzvah)

or contact us at: [info@mwstoronto.org](mailto:info@mwstoronto.org) or 416-789-5502.



## Morris Winchevsky School Community Sukkes Celebration

**Sunday, October 20, 2019 • 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Dufferin Grove Park**

**Event page: [www.facebook.com/events/517161868826192](https://www.facebook.com/events/517161868826192)**

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

Join the Morris Winchevsky School in a celebration of Sukkes in Dufferin Grove Park. Help us decorate the sukkah, sing and listen to stories around the fire, and more! Bring a picnic lunch and a blanket. We'll provide hot cocoa and cider.

**Please RSVP to 416-789-5502 or [info@mwstoronto.org](mailto:info@mwstoronto.org)**



# Report from UJPO's Indigenous Issues Working Group

## A good start!

by Deb O'Rourke

Early this year the Culture and Social Justice Committee asked the Indigenous Issues Working Group to move UJPO along a path toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, by helping our community to become more informed. The CSJC offered to support this effort by devoting programming time to speakers related to Indigenous issues. *L'Khaim* and *UJPO News* both agreed to devote space to articles on Indigenous issues.

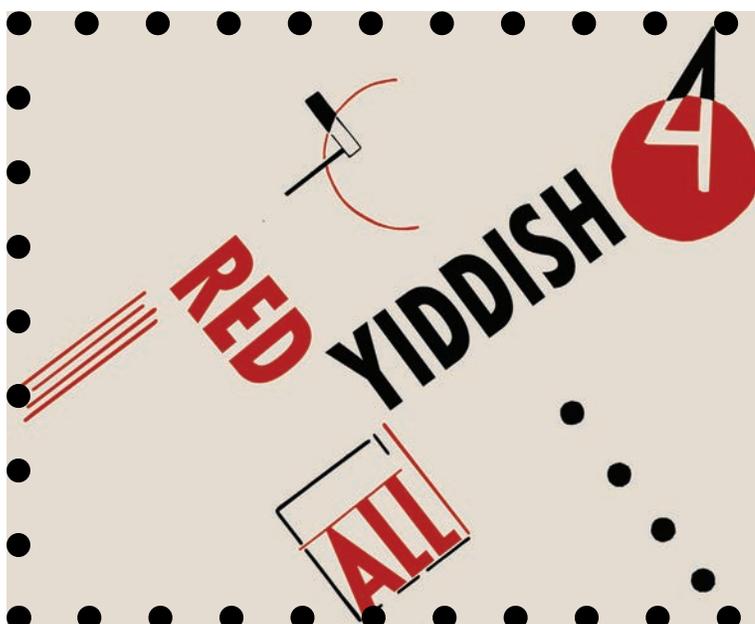
Margaret Sault's talk at the June 14 Alternative Shabes was a great way to launch this educational initiative. The event attracted an interesting and interested collection of people, including many non-members. The age range suggests that Indigenous issues programming may attract younger people to our aging organization. Director of the Lands, Research and Membership Department of the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation, Sault is a noted treaty scholar, and has guided the Credit First Nation through several successful land claims. She gave a detailed timeline and history of contact, treaty and settlement in the Toronto area that we never learned in school. Afterward she was surrounded by many people eager to talk.

A question posed by a young woman whose immigrant family succeeded in acquiring property: "What can we do as property owners, to make things right?" got interesting responses. Most important, we were told, is to be conscientious stewards of any land and water under our care. Sault also mentioned that, in their wills, some folks were leaving property to the Mississauga of the Credit. Some elder members of UJPO suggested to

me that Camp Naivelt should be left to the Mississauga when it stops being viable for us. I won't mention your names because it may have been the excitement of the moment and the charm of the speaker, but I'm not going to bury the idea, either!

In July, for Camp Naivelt's first bagel brunch specifically on reconciliation, UJPO's own Rosa Orlandini reported on her area of research. Rosa is an associate librarian at York University, specializing in maps and geographic mapping systems. In consultation with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), she is mapping the precise location of all of Canada's Indian Residential Schools. Her current research is designed to ensure the preservation of knowledge the government would love to forget, and to create a resource for the NCTR and their partners, as they work with affected communities and individuals to record and commemorate this history, and to find the children who disappeared while attending the schools.

Though some members of the Indigenous Issues Working Group have knowledge and/or experience in Indigenous issues, we do not consider ourselves to be experts. We're learners: supporting Indigenous initiatives and sharing with the organization our research and growing critique. In that spirit, members attended the Grassy Narrows River Run, and the launch of David Koffman's new book, *The Jews' Indian: Colonialism, Pluralism, and Belonging* (Rutgers University Press). Stay tuned to *L'Khaim* and *UJPO News* for reports on these areas and more.



**RED (SPEAK) YIDDISH  
WILL BE RESUMING  
THIS FALL.**

Are you a Red, an Anarchist, an Enviro-feminist and looking to learn, practice, and dream in Yiddish? Then Red Yiddish is looking for you. From absolute beginners to fluent speakers. Facilitated by Lev Jaeger and Ester Reiter. Details coming soon. For more information: [levjaeger@gmail.com](mailto:levjaeger@gmail.com)

*Image based on the El Lissitzky work, "Four Teyashim (Four Billygoats)."*



## A Message from Lia Tarachansky, Morris Winchevsky School Education Director

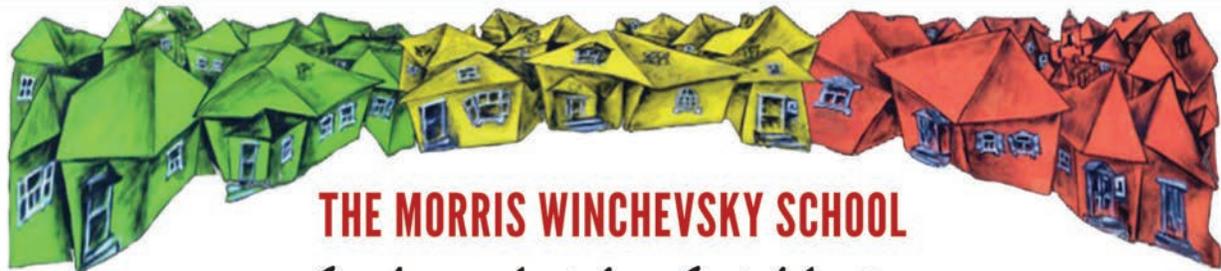
Hello UJPO Community!

Between my three-day Camp Naivelt filmmaking workshop, our new social media marketing campaigns and preparation for the 2019/2020 year at the Morris Winchevsky Shule, I feel like the summer has just flown by! This year we are lucky that the holidays are a little later and our students will get a chance to start the year with two themes before they tackle Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkes. These are the themes of Creation and Destruction. We will be looking at the Jewish myths of the Seven Days of Creation, Adam and Eve, Lilith, and the Great Flood and comparing them to those of other cultures to see what can be learned from such stories.

We'll be rolling out a brand new theme after the holidays and before we start our five-part migrations series. Entitled "Indigeneity and the Jews," this theme will tackle the complexity of Jewish relationships to land and belonging, Jewish relationships to Indigenous communities here and in other colonial contexts, and how periods of migration impacted Jewish belonging. If you have recommendations for how to tackle these sensitive topics, please feel free to reach out.

Lastly, we would like to invite you to come and share your own stories with our students. Last year Shule parent Nathalie Rothman presented on the Ottoman Empire (her research area as a professor at the University of Toronto) and parent Alejandro Paz presented on the many routes his family migrated from through Europe, Latin America, and Canada. Perhaps you would like to join our students this year to talk about your area of expertise, your interests, or your family history?

Please don't forget to like us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and hope to see you soon!



### THE MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL

*Secular Jewish Social Justice*



**Sunday Mornings • Downtown Location**

*For more information*

📞 416-789-5502    ✉ info@mwstoronto.org

🌐 [www.winchevskycentre.org](http://www.winchevskycentre.org)    📘 [www.facebook.com/morriswinchevskyschool](https://www.facebook.com/morriswinchevskyschool)

# CAMP NAIVELT

OUR SUMMER COTTAGE COMMUNITY

*Undzer Zumer Heym! – Our Summer Home*



*Camp Naivelt Peace Tea 2019 with Dr. Samantha Green*

## The Climate Crisis for Toronto Area Residents: Human Impacts and What We Must Do Now!

by Ann Pohl

The UJPO Peace Tea, commemorating the horrors of war and especially the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, always has a topical guest speaker. This year it was Dr. Samantha Green, a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment — and also a member of our extended UJPO community because her grandparents were active socialist secular Jews in the heyday of UJPO.



Dr. Green spoke on the human health aspects of the climate crisis. She began by reminding us about the 2018 report from the International Panel on Climate Change, which says

we have roughly a decade to stave off total environmental catastrophe due to the anthropogenic warming of our planet. Canada is globally the highest emitter of greenhouse gasses, at 21 tons/person/year — the sustainable limit is 1.5 to 2 tons/person/year. We have urgent and important work to do.

Health impacts of the unfolding climate crisis include heat waves and “tropical nights” with no temperature drop, which can and will lead to increased violence, stress, and anxiety. In addition, there will be more extreme weather events, including hurricanes, floods, and wildfires, causing injury and displacement. Also of concern is a rise in diseases that we are not used to, increased allergen exposure and allergy-related illness. Mental health is affected, especially obvious through anxiety and despair. Drought and flooding causes decreased agricultural

yields, leading to food insecurity... And all these impacts are hardest hitting on vulnerable populations — Indigenous peoples, poor people, and others who are politically marginalized.

But, emphasized Dr. Green, “People have solved complex, global, and seemingly insurmountable problems before — even in the last few decades. Our ozone layer has been repaired, and acid rain is not the crisis it was in the 1980s.” She also mentioned the shutting down of coal-fired electrical generation plants. And although the “AIDS crisis was and continues to be a complex, global problem, a matter of life and death for millions of people... thankfully there are now treatments, and they are widely available not just in North America, but even in many remote parts of the Global South.”

Dr. Green spoke at length on these and related points. Her entire presentation cannot be adequately summarized here. The message she left us with is: “Have some hope... which is so important, since despair is paralyzing, while hope can energize and motivate people to act.”

There is a place for everyone in this effort. An important lesson she has taken from the AIDS crisis is: “It takes many strategies, many different people, and time and patience to solve a complex problem. It took sit-ins, mock funerals...marches...careful research and meticulous political advocacy from the scientific and medical communities...leadership from film stars and Wall Street bond traders and flamboyant playwrights.”

If you would like a copy of Dr. Green’s speaking notes, email Ann Pohl: [ann@openflows.net](mailto:ann@openflows.net). It is important to inform ourselves fully and engage all federal candidates on these issues. It’s now or never. Literally.



*Photographs: Nick Iwanyshyn, National Observer; Photo above: Ann Pohl and Dr. Samantha Green at the Peace Tea, image from Naivelt News #7 (2019)*



The United Jewish People's Order (UJPO)-Canada

and The Socialist Project present:

# THE 1919 WINNIPEG STRIKE: THE STORY OF JEWISH INVOLVEMENT

WITH ROZ USISKIN  
AND HARRIET ZAIDMAN  
MODERATED BY LEO PANITCH

Thursday, September 19, 2019  
7:00 p.m. @ The Winchevsky Centre

[www.facebook.com/events/893766840989691](http://www.facebook.com/events/893766840989691)

Roz Usiskin was the first president of the Jewish Heritage Society of Western Canada and a past president of UJPO-Winnipeg. Her father, Joseph Wolodarsky, was a strike participant.

Harriet Zaidman is a UJPO-Winnipeg member and author of the novel, *City on Strike*, based on the events in 1919. Her family was greatly affected by the strike. Copies of her book will be available.



# Celebrate the Jewish New Year at the Winchevsky Centre



**Rosh Hashonah**

**Monday**

**September 30, 2019**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Yom Kippur**

**Tuesday**

**October 8, 2019**

**7:30 p.m.**

[www.facebook.com/events/859421011105854](http://www.facebook.com/events/859421011105854)

Dear Friends,

We hope that you and yours will join us for the United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) & Morris Winchevsky School's secular humanist celebrations of the Jewish New Year at the Winchevsky Centre.

Our community observances of Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur include traditional shofar blowing, readings, poetry, and Yiddish, Hebrew and English music led by well-known Toronto musicians, David Wall (vocals) and Marilyn Lerner (piano) – including the Kol Nidre on Yom Kippur,

We also offer special holiday programs for children ages 3-12.

Holiday refreshments are served at the conclusion of the Rosh Hashonah observance.

Please consider donating to our 'Gut Yor' (Good Year) campaign. Your donations will support the Morris Winchevsky School, Toronto's longstanding secular, experiential, social justice Sunday school, as well as new UJPO programming, including the Indigenous Issues Working Group and the inaugural run of the Adult B'nai Mitzvah program. Your support of these initiatives is much appreciated.

We look forward to ushering in the New Year with you!

A Gut Yor,

Handwritten signature of Rachel Epstein

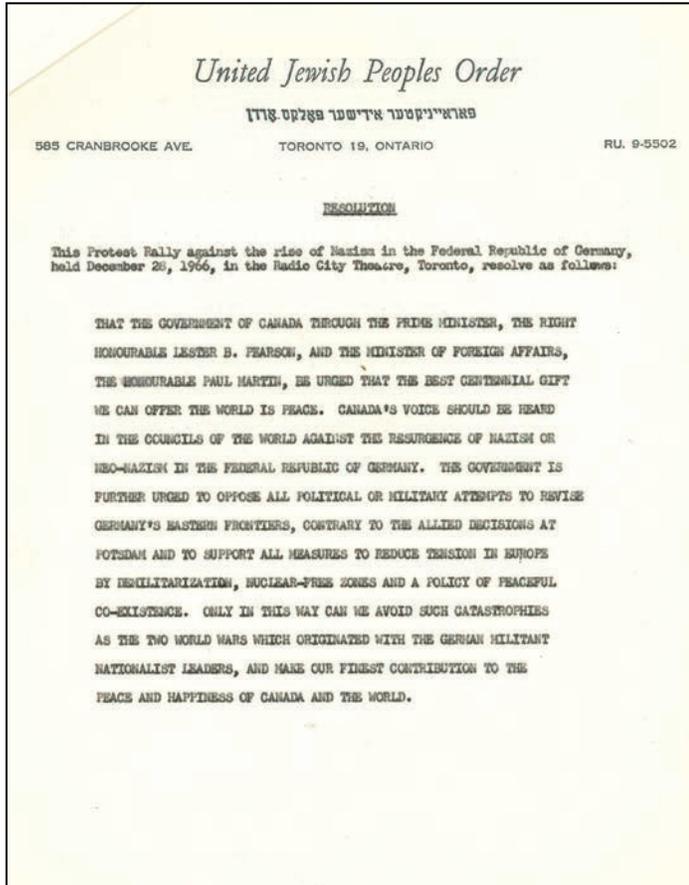
Rachel Epstein,  
Executive Director

The Winchevsky Centre unfortunately is not wheelchair accessible at this time.  
For information on building accessibility, go to: [www.winchevskycentre.org/accessibility](http://www.winchevskycentre.org/accessibility)





# Treasures From the Archives



## Community News

**HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO...**  
 Roslyn Oslender on the passing of her mother, Tillie Oslender.  
 The family of Paula Eidlitz on her passing.  
 Richard Lee and Harriet Rosenberg and family on the passing of Richard's sister, Rhea Shulman

**MAZL TOV...**  
 Naomi Binder Wall on the birth of her granddaughter, Socorro Leona de Oliveira, affectionately known as "Coco." She was born on April 22 to proud parents, Eliza and Donald.  
 Barbara and Sol Blaser on the birth of their first great grandchild on June 12, 2019, Nela Ruth Stansfield. Kiersten and Jon are the proud parents.  
 Joey Hotz (Hill 1, Cabin 4) on being the valedictorian at Northern Secondary School in Toronto.  
 Paul Kellogg and Abbie Bakan on the birth of their first grandchild, Gabriel Rutherford Stephens. Rachel and Michael are the proud parents.  
 Sam Blatt on his upcoming 80th birthday, September 25, 2019.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...**  
 Nellie Groeneberg, Olga and Leonid Minkin, Rochelle Fine, Hilary Barlow, Monica Harhay, Sarah Kitz and Ali Barkok

**SPEEDY RECOVERY TO...**  
 Kathy Sims, Morag York and Max Wallace, Ester Reiter, Lyn Center

*Don't forget to vote: October 21, 2019*

### Home to:

- United Jewish People's Order – Canada
- United Jewish People's Order – Toronto
- Morris Winchevsky School
- Camp Naivelt



Celebrating our Roots  
Transforming our Present  
Welcoming our Future

### The Winchevsky Centre

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Toronto, Ontario M6A 2X9  
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Email: [info@winchevskycentre.org](mailto:info@winchevskycentre.org)



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[www.instagram.com/winchevsky\\_centre](https://www.instagram.com/winchevsky_centre)

*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 us at [info@winchevskycentre.org](mailto:info@winchevskycentre.org).*

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."

You can donate online at [www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/33183](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/33183)