



THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Toronto's Hub for Secular Jewish Culture and Education

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

Programs at a Glance



Events take place at the Winchevsky Centre unless otherwise specified.

January

Monday January 6 & 20, 2020

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Red Yiddish

Downtown location

Details on page 7.

Sunday January 12, 2020

Grades 1-B'nai Mitzvah @ 10:00 a.m.

Kinder Kapers @ 10:30 a.m.

Shule resumes.

918 Bathurst

Details on page 4.

Friday January 24, 2020

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Alternative Shabbes Potluck:

Using Humour to Fight The Right

Details on page 6.

Wednesday January 29, 2020

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Zing! Zing! Zing! UJPO's Singing Group

Free Times Cafe

Details on page 7.

February

Monday Feb 3 & a date TBD, 2020

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Red Yiddish

Downtown location

Details on page 7.

Wednesday February 26, 2020

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Zing! Zing! Zing! UJPO's Singing Group

Free Times Cafe

Details on page 7.

Saturday February 29, 2020

1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Naivelt Mid-Winter Mingle

Trinity Community Recreation Centre

Details on page 5.

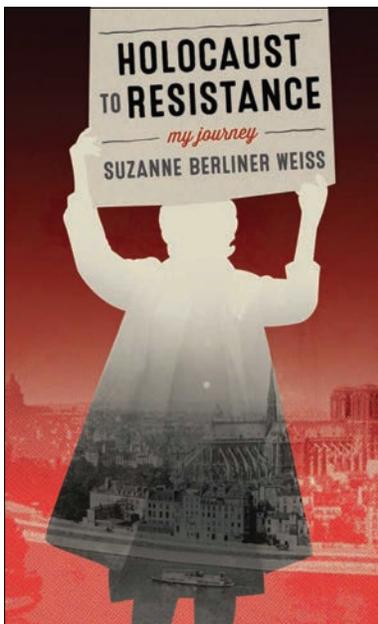
Welcome to 2020!

by Rachel Epstein

It's hard to say "Happy New Year," when the year started off with catastrophic fires in Australia, warmongering from the American head of state, a spate of antisemitic attacks (see UJPO's statement on p. 2) and ongoing disregard for people of the Wet'suwet'en nation in their attempts to protect their traditional territories from the destruction of pipelines.

Given this state of affairs, you might want to consider joining us for some laughs at the first Alternative Shabbes event on January 24. UJPO members Harriet and Andy Lyons, two retired professors of anthropology, will be exploring how humour has been used to oppose the politics of the right. They guarantee some good chuckles, as well as some serious conversation.

In February, the Naivelt Midwinter Mingle is back! Organized this year by the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group, the event will include schmoozing, swimming and noshing as well as an all-ages art activity centering on wildlife stories from Camp Naivelt.



March will feature another Alternative Shabbes, this time with the wonderful Suzanne Weiss, author of *Holocaust to Resistance: My Journey*. Suzanne, who is an UJPO member, will speak about Jewish resistance and survival under Nazi occupation with a focus, in honour of International Women's Day, on the role of Jewish woman in the resistance and on some "lessons for today."

In April, please join us for our annual Third Seyder on Saturday, April 18. This year's theme is the climate crisis and climate activism. Plans are already underway! If you know of examples of inspiring climate activism or you have suggestions for songs related to the theme, please send them along!

May's Alternative Shabbes will be a launch for Paul Weinberg's new book, *When Poverty Mattered: Then and Now* — a history of radical politics in 1960s Canada and an illustration of some of the dirty tricks orchestrated by the Canadian government to disrupt activist organizations.

In June, in collaboration with our friends at the Noor Cultural Centre, we are putting together a panel discussion about the legal, philosophical and political questions raised by free speech/hate speech debates. Details

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

to follow in the coming months and the next issue of L'Khaim.

And, of course, our regular programs Red Yiddish and Zing! Zing! Zing! are starting up again and will run regularly through the year.

In times like these, more than ever, we need our friends and allies around us. Please come build community with us. Hope to see you soon!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE EVENTS

Friday March 13, 2020

Alternative Shabbes with Suzanne Weiss — *Holocaust to Resistance: My Journey*

Zing! Zing! Zing!

Wednesdays: March 25, April 29, May 27, & June 24, 2020

Saturday April 18, 2020

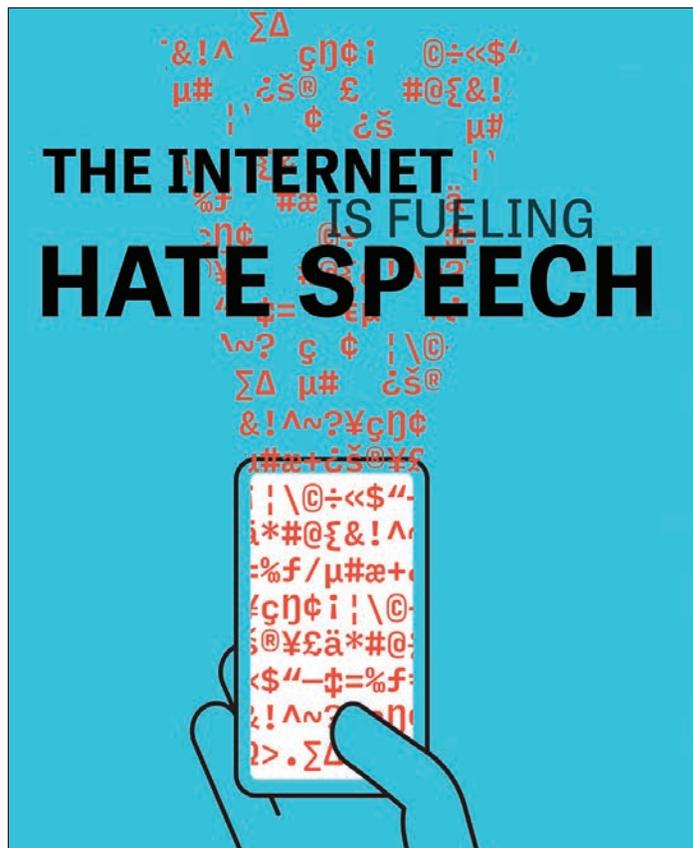
Third Seyder. This year's theme: The Climate Crisis

Friday May 15, 2020

Alternative Shabbes with Paul Weinberg — *When Poverty Mattered: Then and Now*

Mid-June event with the Noor Cultural Centre, Date TBD

Free Speech/Hate Speech Controversies: Critical Perspectives



Grief, Anger, Solidarity: UJPO response to recent antisemitic attacks

January 8, 2020

The United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) joins with others in expressing our grief and anger at the recent antisemitic attacks on orthodox Jews in New York and New Jersey, as well as the defacing of a Jewish children's camp on Gabriola Island, B.C. This rise of blatant and violent attacks on Jewish people and organizations is a cruel reminder that Jews continue to be targets of hate.

While antisemitism is of course not new, it is being encouraged and allowed to flourish by the Trump administration in the United States as well as right-wing politicians here in Canada — who are actively stoking divisions between our communities, and normalizing the open expression of racist, antisemitic, misogynistic, Islamophobic, homophobic and transphobic views and actions.

Our response is to join in solidarity with others who are the targets of hate. Rabbi Michael Adam Latz and Carin Mrotz remind us that "when we are attacked in our most vulnerable place, we often reflexively respond from where we perceive our power. When white Jews experience antisemitism, one impulse might be to respond from our whiteness, to lean into racism. We must resist those impulses."

We also resist the manipulative misuse of the term "antisemitism" to silence criticism of the policies and actions of the State of Israel. The equation of criticism of Israel with antisemitism has become a brilliant and powerful device to silence the growing number of Jewish, and other, voices that are demanding justice for Palestinians in the face of a brutal occupation. To assume that criticism of the State of Israel is "antisemitic" is not only misleading, it is a painful disrespecting of Jewish history, of the Holocaust, and of the ways that Jews have suffered through time.

Antisemitism is real and is on the rise. We ask others to stand up for us, and we pledge our solidarity with all those who are targets of the current upsurge of hate. Our strength lies in our numbers and in our commitment to each other.

Indigenous Solidarity Working Group Updates

Deb O'Rourke, Rosa Orlandini, sue goldstein

Grassy Narrows

The Trudeau administration came in with a promise to prioritize Indigenous and Canadian relations: Nation-to-Nation. Among the Canadian Government's many broken promises is to build a mercury treatment centre for Grassy Narrows. The Ontario Government has yet to act on its responsibility to clean up the mercury. In October of 2018, Grassy Narrows made a declaration stating that its territory is an Indigenous Sovereign and Protected Area. This effectively banned all industrial logging there. For updates and more on what you can do to support Grassy Narrows, see the links below.

- Free Grassy Narrows: <http://freegrassy.net/take-action/organize>
- Amnesty International writeathon Campaign — (The campaign has just wrapped up, but they have great ideas on how to write letters to Ottawa). Download your walleye (pickerel) template, colour it, write a message, and send it. <https://writeathon.ca/grassynarrows>
- Decades of promises, but little action as mercury still takes lives in Grassy Narrows: <https://bit.ly/35PlnsB>

Wet'suwet'en

As we go to press, the Hereditary Chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en report: "Unceded and sovereign Wet'suwet'en land is under attack." Since the RCMP forcibly dismantled barriers at Gidimt'en and Unist'ot'en a year ago, a pipeline company has been bull-dozing and building man-camps: cutting trees and destroying archeological sites, traplines and buildings.

The *Manchester Guardian* recently revealed that in January 2019 the RCMP had arrived at these checkpoints "prepared to shoot Indigenous activists" who have been blockading pipeline construction on their territory for ten years. The Guardian points out that "the Canadian state has thrown its national security apparatus behind oil and gas development — often directly at Indigenous people's expense." [<https://bit.ly/2NrMpBi>]

Below is the Wet'suwet'en report and call to action.

"On December 31, 2019, BC Supreme Court Justice Marguerite Church granted an injunction against members of the Wet'suwet'en nation who have been stewarding and protecting our traditional territories from the destruction of multiple pipelines, including Coastal GasLink's (CGL) liquified natural gas (LNG) pipeline. Hereditary Chiefs of all five Wet'suwet'en clans have rejected Church's decision, which criminalizes Anuk 'nu'at'en (Wet'suwet'en law), and have issued and enforced an eviction of CGL's workers from the territory. The last CGL contractor was escorted out by Wet'suwet'en Chiefs on Saturday, January 4, 2020.

"We watched communities across Canada and worldwide rise up with us in January 2019... Our strength to act today comes from the knowledge that our allies across Canada and around the world will again rise up with us, as they did for Oka, Gustafsen Lake, and Elsipogtog, shutting down rail lines, ports, and industrial infrastructure and pressuring elected government officials to abide by UNDRIP. The state needs to stop violently supporting those members of the 1% who are stealing our resources and condemning our children to a world rendered uninhabitable by climate change. Light your sacred fires and come to our aid as the RCMP prepares again to enact colonial violence against Wet'suwet'en people.

We ask that all actions taken in solidarity are conducted peacefully and according to the laws of the Indigenous nation(s) of that land."

There are ongoing solidarity actions and below are some links to keep up with the changing situation. We will send updates in our weekly e-newsletter as well. It is definitely all of us or none of us.

- For updates: <http://unistoten.camp>
- Support the Wet'suwet'en: <http://unistoten.camp/support-us>
- Press Statement From all 5 Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs: <https://bit.ly/2t8KRou>

For more background, check out Deb O'Rourke's article on p. 12 of the Summer 2019 UJPO News [<https://bit.ly/3ol8kPH>]



Sabina Dennis stands her ground as police dismantle the barricade to enforce the injunction filed by Coastal Gaslink pipeline at the Gidimt'en checkpoint near Houston, BC, on 7 January 2019. Photograph: Amber Bracken



A Message from Lia Tarachansky, Morris Winchevsky School Education Director

The fall semester at the Morris Winchevsky Shule finished with a bang on December 15, 2019 with our annual Chanukah Party! This year the B'nai Mitzvah class again put on a fabulous rendition of the shpiel (play) Judith and the Salty Cheese, directed by their teacher, Lainie Basman. The celebration was also marked with a beautiful candle-lighting dedication, with the students dedicating each candle to our principles of solidarity and social justice.

Last year our students also worked with theatre trainer, Shayle Kilroy, as part of the Performance Chug (club) in preparation for a fabulous Purim Spiel, so stay tuned for further thespian updates!

In the year ahead we look forward to new experiential projects as part of our ever-growing curriculum and expanding our Chugim (clubs) with some fabulous

creative projects, including creating dioramas, filmmaking, podcasting, cooking, and music.

Shule resumes on Sunday, January 12, 2020! If you are interested in registering for the Winter/Spring term, contact educationdirector@winchevskycentre.org or call 416-789-5502. Kinder Kapers, our bi-weekly program for children between 2-5 years of age always welcomes drop-ins. The drop-in rate is \$20 and includes snack time (challah, cheese, cucumbers, fruit, and juice).

Please save the date for our Purim Party: March 8 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. And don't forget to check us out on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/morriswinchevskyschool

Twitter: [@WinchevskyCtr](https://twitter.com/WinchevskyCtr)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/winchevsky_centre

Photos from Latke Making and our Chanukah Party

Photos: MWS Staff



Morris Winchevsky School Classes

Grades 1-B'nai Mitzvah

Sundays 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Kinder Kapers

Sundays 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Winter/Spring Semester KK Dates:

January 12 & 26; February 9 & 23;

March 1, 8, & 22; April 5 & 18;

May 3, 24, & 31

918 Bathurst Street



CAMP NAIVELT

OUR SUMMER COTTAGE COMMUNITY

Undzer Zumer Heym! – Our Summer Home



The Mid-Winter Mingle is baaaaack!

New time! New location!

\$10/person – \$15/family – or PWYC

Schmoozing! Swimming! Noshing! As always!

NEW: It's an afternoon event. Trinity CRC closes sharp at 5pm. Ping-pong tables and other recreation are available and Trinity Pool is open for a public recreational swim from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS: We ask all to bring finger-food, treats, non-alcoholic drinks and snacks. No alcohol: public community centres have zero-tolerance for alcohol.



SPECIAL: An all-ages art activity, sharing wildlife stories from our beloved *Zumer Heym!* The Indigenous Solidarity Working Group (ISWG) is organizing the Mingle this year. We are designing the arts activity, and will have information available on some Indigenous solidarity that our community can help with. You can get to know us, and maybe join us!

Questions or suggestions? Contact Deb at deborourke@milkweedpatch.com.

USING HUMOUR TO FIGHT THE RIGHT:

An Alternative Shabbes Potluck



Friday January 24, 2020

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Winchevsky Centre

585 Crannbrooke Avenue

Event page: www.facebook.com/events/541166943398923

An illustrated romp with Harriet and Andrew Lyons through verbal and pictorial attempts to turn humour against fascism and other right wing ideologies. Laughter guaranteed; useful tips, who knows?

Andy and Harriet Lyons are retired professors of anthropology. Harriet wrote a thesis on humour — Andy wrote one on racism. Tonight, they will look at how humour has been used to oppose the politics of the right, which, naturally, means opposing the racism embodied in these politics. The laughter will come from plenty of examples, but there will be serious questions: How does the humour work? Are there consistent themes? And, most important, is it an effective political weapon? Why or why not?

Details for the evening:

6:30 p.m. Arrival

6:45 p.m. Candlelighting & Dinner

7:30 p.m. Program

\$5 or PWYC; no one turned away.

What to Bring: Potluck dish to share, if you can

Children and families are welcome though formal childcare will not be provided.

The Winchevsky Centre unfortunately is not wheelchair accessible. For more on building accessibility please see: www.winchevskycentre.org/accessibility

RSVP is appreciated, last-minute arrivals are welcomed.

To RSVP please email: info@winchevskycentre.org or call 416-789-5502



Zing! Zing! Zing!

UJPO's Singing Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at Free Times Cafe. This informal gathering puts the emphasis on comradery and song. Join us for a bisl nosh of some of Toronto's finest Ashkenazi Jewish fare followed by zinging in Yiddish, English, and Hebrew. Led by amazing local musicians Hartley Wynberg and Shifra Cooper, Zing! Zing! Zing! welcomes all. Feel free to bring a favourite tune to share. **For more information:** info@winchevskycentre.org or 416.789.5502.

Upcoming dates:

Wednesday January 29

www.facebook.com/events/442845639953060

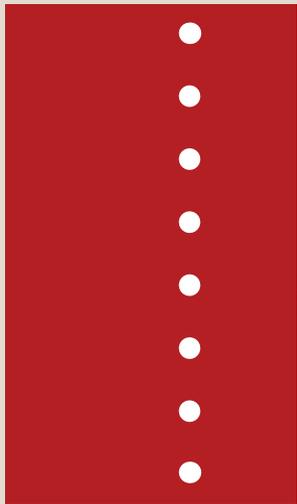
Wednesday February 26

www.facebook.com/events/479232823015903

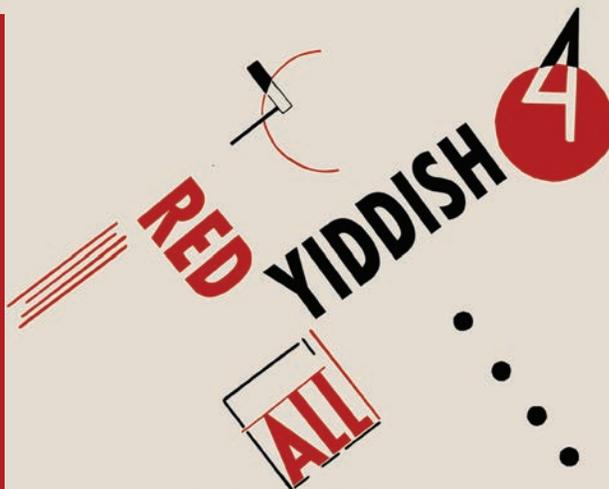
Free Times Cafe, 320 College Street

6:00 p.m. for a meal

7:00 p.m. in the back room zinging



**MONDAYS
JAN. 6 & 20
FEB. 3 &
DATE TBD**



**7:30
TO
9 PM**

Calling all Reds, Anarchists, Enviro-feminists and anyone who wants to learn some Yiddish! Red Yiddish, the United Jewish People Order's (UJPO) Yiddish group, is starting up again. From absolute beginners to fluent speakers. Starting up on Simchat Torah. It will be a very red celebration of Torah.

Join facilitators Lev Jaeger, Ester Reiter, and Shayle Kilroy to learn and practice Yiddish. For all levels — the perfectly fluent can lead or talk together, in true solidarity. Please contact levjaeger@gmail.com for location details.





Treasures From the Archives



In the photo above: Rochel Rosen, Ruth Levkoe, Paul Acker, Stanley Pearl, Valerie Siren, Donna Shlachter, Debbie Adler, and Susan Kashtan with Paul Robeson.



Paul Robeson appears with children at the United Jewish People's Order in Toronto, where in 1956 he performed an impromptu concert before leaving for an appearance in Sudbury, Ontario. He once told a friend, "When I sing to an audience of children, I am much freer than at any other time. Children will never hurt you."

Community News

MAZL TOV...

A special mazl tov to Darrel Hotz on his new liver — wishing you a speedy recovery, and keeping you in our hearts.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO...

Sadie Epstein-Fine, Zohar Jaeger Segal, David Abramowitz

In Memoriam



Bonnie Burstow was well-known to many in the UJPO community. Below a remembrance from UJPO member, Marnie Wohl-Bennett.

Bonnie Burstow was a woman who in every way, with every fibre within, was completely devoted and utterly committed to Tikkun Olam — the healing of the world. We know her and love her for her uncompromising drive — her thirst for justice, her teaching, her anti-psychiatry scholarship, her devoted work as a therapist to those who are most vulnerable to personal and systemic violence, her writing of novels, and perhaps, above all, her devotion to her community and loved ones.

Bonnie, may you Rest in Peace. May you Rest in Power. You have made a huge difference and your work will go on. You are deeply loved.

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

585 Cranbrooke Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6A 2X9
Telephone: 416-789-5502
Fax: 416-789-5981

Email: info@winchevskycentre.org

 www.facebook.com/WinchevskyCtr

 twitter.com/WinchevskyCtr

Website: www.winchevskycentre.org

 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.

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