



THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Toronto's Hub for Secular Jewish Culture and Education

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

Programs at a Glance



Events take place at the Winchevsky Centre
unless otherwise specified.
A chairlift is available.

JANUARY

Sunday January 13, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Shule resumes for 2019

Sunday January 20, 2019

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Kinder Kapers resumes for 2019

Thursday January 24, 2019

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Alternative Thursday Potluck:

How to Criticize Israel

Without Being Antisemitic

Details on page 7.

Wednesday January 30, 2019

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Zing! Zing! Zing!

UJPO's Singing Group

Free Times Cafe

Details on page 7.

FEBRUARY

Saturday February 23, 2019 — Time TBD

Naivelt Mid-Winter gathering

Details on page 4

Wednesday February 27, 2019

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Zing! Zing! Zing!

UJPO's Singing Group

Free Times Cafe

Details on page 7.

Regular Weekly Programs

Sundays 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

January 13 – June 2, 2019

Morris Winchevsky School Classes

918 Bathurst Street

Kinder Kapers

Sundays 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

KK Dates for 2019:

January 20; February 3 & 24;

March 3, 17 & 31; April 14 & 28;

May 12 & 26; June 2

Looking for a Secular Jewish Social Justice Community?

by Rachel Epstein, Executive Director

Make 2019 the year you get involved with the United Jewish People's Order!

The United Jewish People's Order, the Morris Winchevsky School and Camp Naivelt are busy and growing. This year we enacted our social justice priorities – Indigenous Rights; Racial & Economic Justice; LGBTQ+ issues; the Environment; Israel/Palestine in a multitude of ways, through cultural and educational events, political protest, song and celebration!

Some highlights:

- Over 40 people participated in the **Kairos Blanket Exercise**, learning about the history of Indigenous experience on Turtle Island.
- **Chief Stacey Laforme** spoke and read poetry at Camp Naivelt at the annual Peace Tea, marking the anniversary of Hiroshima. Out of this event we are exploring shared use of our Credit River access with the Mississaugas of the Credit River.



Chief Stacey Laforme, with Deb O'Rourke. Photo: Harriet and Andrew Lyons

- Our **Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Passover** celebrations brought attention to the situation of displaced persons worldwide and we honoured acts of creative solidarity from around the globe.
- In partnership with **Independent Jewish Voices** we lobbied for a place on the provincial government's Antisemitism Committee and called attention to the unethical equating of criticism of Israel with antisemitism.
- Over 80 people attended a workshop on antisemitism with **David Zinman** and **Sam Bick** of Montréal's *Treyf* podcast — treyfpodcast.wordpress.com.

Continued on Page 2.



Treyf's antisemitism workshop— January 28, 2018
Photo: sue goldstein

- We deepened our learning about gender from **Hershel Russell's** presentation, *The Joy of Gender*.
- We honoured both our history and the need for change in several **intergenerational dialogues**, bringing older and younger activists into conversation.
- Many people new to UJPO attended a downtown event that featured **Arielle Sugarman** speaking on *Disability, Racism and Conceptions of the Jewish Body*.
- We were proud of our longtime member, **Ester Reiter**, for standing her ground in the provincial legislature against Doug Ford's decimating of the Toronto City Council.
- The dynamic staff at the Morris Winchevsky School held rip-roaring **Sukkes and Chanukah parties** and continue to attract new students.



Building the Sukkah in Dufferin Grove Park — September 30, 2018
Photo: Lia Tarachansky

- **Zing! Zing! Zing!**, UJPO's drop-in singing group meets regularly at the Free Times Cafe for group singing in English, Yiddish, and Hebrew.
- In the face of the rise of right wing politics and movements, we continue to build community, forge connections and partnerships, celebrate together and sing!



Vigil in Dufferin Grove Park, honouring those killed in Pittsburgh, Kentucky, and Gaza — October 30, 2018 — Organized by IfNotNow-Toronto and endorsed by UJPO. Photo: Randy McDonald.

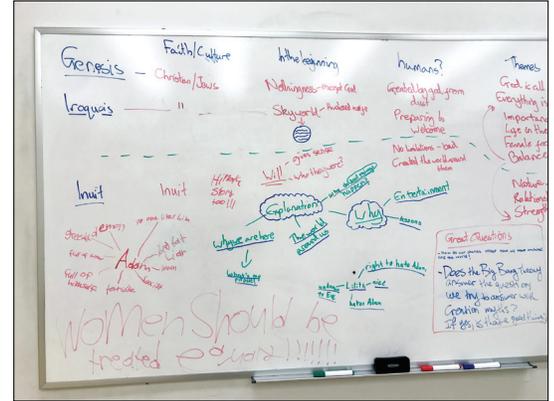


Still from a video of the protest against Steve Bannon and David Frum in Toronto — November 2, 2018 — Organized by the General Defense Committee of the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World), No One is Illegal, Council of Canadians, and endorsed by UJPO and many others. Filmed by: Garry Bakuniec.

Want to get involved? Here's how:

- Attend our events and holiday celebrations
- Join us at a demo or protest
- Suggest a cultural, educational or political event
- Write something for our newsletter L'Khaim: www.winchevskycentre.org/newsletters
- Become a member — download our membership form [here: https://tinyurl.com/yahhpqx8](https://tinyurl.com/yahhpqx8)
- Visit the Morris Winchevsky School
- Visit Camp Naivelt in the summer
- Join a committee
- Consider planned giving to UJPO in your will
- Find out about the cemetery privileges we offer
- Make a donation: www.winchevskycentre.org/donate

To find out more: info@winchevskycentre.org.



Pictures from this year's Shule. Photos: Lia Tarachansky

Reflections from New MWS Teachers

Lainie Basman



I'll admit I was a bit nervous about teaching this year's B'nai Mitzvah class: I'd never taught before, and most of my own Jewish learning was dusty at best. But what a wonderful experience it's been. (A big thanks to Lia and Rachel for having faith in me!) During the week, I'm like a yeshiva student, hunched over the books,

madly soaking up Jewish literature, scholarship and history. And on Sundays, I explore these subjects with the students, who are beautifully open to whatever nutty idea I throw at them (and increasingly not shy to throw their own ideas right back at me).

Since September, we've read incredible, original texts aloud; learned the art of the apology; molded our own personal FIMO creatures and invented origin stories for them; given names to the anonymous women in Noah's ark; held a séance to experience the scent of an extinct flower; considered the origins of constitutional monarchy by re-enacting King David's rise and fall; and debated the feminism of Judith, who slaughtered the Assyrian General, Holofernes.

I hope, through all these mad exercises, that the students have picked up certain themes that course powerfully through ancient and contemporary Jewish writing: a critique of authoritarianism, a passionate insistence on justice and a concern for the marginalized. I know I have!

Shifra Cooper



Shifra in action. Photo courtesy of MAYBELLEarts

It has been such a joy to be welcomed into the Morris Winchevsky School community this fall — playing, learning and exploring with Kinder Kapers families. Some of my favourite memories have been: making found-object dioramas that tell stories of significant personal rituals; using our many hands to create a giant braided cloth challah; and singing together around the camp fire at Sukkot.

I have been highly impacted by the sharing of these stories and moments, across perspectives on and experiences of being Jewish. Each week I feel grateful for the opportunity to deepen my own learning and commitment to community, together with Kinder Kapers families. One thing I'm looking forward to in January is working on some communal projects that will explore our themes, while beginning to transform and add colour to our classroom space!

CAMP NAIVELT

OUR SUMMER COTTAGE COMMUNITY

Undzer Zumer Heym! - Our Summer Home



Image based on artwork by El Lissitsky

Summer Memories



Photos: Jacob Bakan

Meet Our New Toronto Board Members!



Adam Chaleff

A graduate of the Morris Winchevsky School, I grew up spending summers at Camp Naivelt and now get to share our community with my own family, including my spouse, Amina and son, Elan.

Raised with the social justice values our community cherishes, I've been part of movements to sustain public services like education, transit and hydro. I've also had the chance to serve on and lead a number of boards, including as vice-chair of the Toronto Public Library Board; president of Wychwood Open Door, which serves homeless and socially isolated folks in the St. Clair West community; and chair of SummerWorks, a curated performance festival to launch new and experimental work in Toronto. I work in communications for a provincial union and frequently contribute to progressive electoral and issue-based campaigns.

Having benefited from the work of all those who came before me, I'm looking forward to collaborating with Rachel, the UJPO-Toronto Board and the rest of the community to ensure we thrive now and for future generations.

Jonathan Brown Gilbert

I'm a young Jewish guy who grew up in Toronto and now do a lot of community organizing work with IfNotNow, and sometimes with Independent Jewish Voices. Since discovering UJPO a year and a half ago, I've come to many events, helped organise an intergenerational activist shabbes, and joined the Zing! Zing! Zing! singing group, which prompted a magical visit up to Camp Naivelt.



Zing! Zing! Zing! was my introduction to the Yiddish language, which led me to spend last summer learning Yiddish at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts.

I'm excited about the role UJPO can play in the resurgence of the Jewish left in Toronto, and as a home for radical Yiddish culture, old and new! I would be honoured to help contribute to this work.



Anton Guz

Anton Guz is a 26 year old white trans non-binary bisexual disabled Jew from Kyiv, Ukraine. Anton uses they/them pronouns. They've lived in Kyiv, Toronto, New York City, small town Indiana, rural Georgia, Nicosia, Cyprus and Brattleboro, Vermont. They are in the middle of an MA in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation which they swear they'll finish sometime before the heat death of the universe. Most recently, they moved back to Toronto in 2016.

Anton got connected to UJPO by accident through attending the first Intergenerational Dialogue event at the Winchevsky in 2017 and then walking up to Rachel to offer to do an internship there. They wound up working in the office for 6 months, doing things such as writing petitions, running events, re-organizing bookshelves, destroying refrigerators and being confused over the phone. Since then, they are a full-time caregiver for their grandmother. Anton also organizes with IfNotNow Toronto and Independent Jewish Voices. They've been known to spend a little more time than is entirely healthy on Facebook and if you'd like to help them do more of that, you can add them by searching Антон Биип Бууп (Anton Beep Boop in Russian) or just Anton. They're really excited to join UJPO-Toronto's Board of Directors and to continue to do work with this organization that embodies a Jewish life they can be proud of, UJPO-brand narishkayt and all.

Returning Board Members:

David Abramowitz, Barbara Blaser, Hannah Blazer, Charna Gord, Marilyn Tate, Elyse Tera, Max Wallace

In Ford's Ontario

by sue goldstein

We enter 2019 after six months of Doug Ford: the Premier of Ontario and a nightmare for all who care about living in caring and more equitable communities. Ford, who earlier in 2018 made a play towards becoming mayor of Toronto, has relentlessly made cuts to everything from Toronto's City Council — from 47 to 25 councillors — to education — including programming in line with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to funds to repair public schools, to arts funding, to the Indigenous Culture Fund. The premier also got rid of the reformed Sex Education program, which has a major focus on consent, a really important issue for young people. The Ford regime also cancelled the Cap and Trade program, scrapped the Basic Income pilot program, is making major cuts to social assistance, and plans to have the province take over the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC).

Transit is an important element of any city. It facilitates how people can move around. From home to work or in search of work — connecting people to local businesses — transit is a big part of the equation of a working municipality. A recent meeting at the Toronto Metro Convention Centre to discuss the end of tokens highlights the growing inequity in how cities are run.

Just under 200 people were in attendance — many of whom travelled almost two hours to be there, from Jane-Finch and Scarborough. Metrolinx presented a PowerPoint on the Presto system rollout of single-fare tickets, where Presto cards can be purchased, how to register one's card, and why this is better than the system as it is. They were repeatedly interrupted by people who had concerns due to a lack of discussion in different neighbourhoods throughout the city as well as environmental concerns. Butterfly, an activist from Jane Finch Action Against Poverty (JFAAP), challenged the panel, drawing a direct connection between the lack of consultation with poverty and racism and how the new system is one of exclusion.

Panelists claimed that the Presto card is environmentally sound, though plastic, because you can continually add money on, though you cannot add on a single fare. The card itself costs \$6.00 and requires at least \$10 to be loaded on it. For those who cannot afford this, don't worry. They've got paper tickets. And here is where some of the environmental concerns were raised.

Whereas tokens are recycled back into the system, their replacement is a paper ticket that has a chip embedded in it, rendering it unrecyclable. In addition, paper tickets come with an expiry date. Community and anti-poverty

groups always have tokens available to give to people who need them. Metrolinx claims that groups can give out the single use tickets, but they must purchase a minimum of 400 at a time, which makes the cost for these organizations prohibitive.

The TTC will stop selling tokens on August 3, 2019. December 31, 2019 is the last day tokens will be in use. Metrolinx promised to exchange any unused tokens for single use tickets. Another aspect of accessibility will be where these tickets and cards are to be sold. Currently, tokens are available at over 1200 locations in the GTA. That will be drastically reduced when paper tickets and Presto cards will only be available for sale at TTC stations, Loblaws, and Shoppers Drug Marts.

Yet another concern was privacy. When you purchase a Presto card you can register the card so that if you lose it you need only purchase a new one and the balance — if not used by anyone who might find your card — will automatically be transferred. Sounds great, no? Except for the fact that this is a digital card and registering means you can be tracked — where you get on and off, for instance. Where will this information be stored and for how long? According to reports by both the CBC and the Toronto Star, police made 28 inquiries to Metrolinx for information on individuals and warrants were not required. Not all of the requests were granted — at least 12 were. Metrolinx has not been transparent in how it is using the data collected on users. According to Chris Parsons, a research associate at the Munk School of Global affairs specializing in privacy and security, "in order to be transparent and accountable to the public, Metrolinx should explicitly and publicly state when it will share their data with police. It should also regularly publish statistics about the number of requests it receives and how they are handled."

Here are a few links to places where you can keep up with the struggle for accessible and sustainable transit:

TTC Riders:

ttcriders.ca, [@ttcriders](https://twitter.com/ttcriders), www.facebook.com/TTCriders

Fair Fare Coalition: fairfarecoalition.wordpress.com, www.facebook.com/groups/173087086111948

TTC Riders is planning a welcome party for the new incoming TTC Board at 12:15 p.m. on January 10, 2019 at Toronto City Hall. Event page:

www.facebook.com/events/309841142949295

HOW TO CRITICIZE ISRAEL

JANUARY 24, 2019



\$5 OR PWYC
6:30 P.M.

WINCHEVSKY CENTRE

БЕЛЫХ

Литиздат Политуправления Запфронта

Уновис

Artwork by El Lissitsky, with new text superimposed.

White nationalism and antisemitic rhetoric and actions are on the rise in Canada and throughout the world.

For Jews who support justice for Palestinians, how do we also recognize and address antisemitism? What is and what is not antisemitism in the context of working in solidarity with Palestinians?

At the recent Independent Jewish Voices conference in Toronto, Hannah Gold of the UK group, Jewdas, led a stimulating session on this topic and shared the Jewdas materials so that others could reproduce the experience.

Come join us for a potluck dinner and a workshop/discussion about this important topic.

If you can, please bring a dish to share — but if you can't don't let that keep you from attending. We want you there!

Facilitated by Rachel Epstein, Anton Guz, and Marilyn Kanee

www.facebook.com/events/372389916915301



Zing! Zing! Zing!

Wednesday January 30, 2019

Wednesday February 27, 2019

Free Times Cafe, 320 College Street

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Zinging

Zing! Zing! Zing! is UJPO's singing group. It's a very relaxed atmosphere where you can zing your heart out in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. Come at 6:00 p.m. for a warm meal followed at 7:00 p.m. by a hot night of singing with local musicians Rachel Sheinin and Hartley Wynberg of *Broken Bagel Scene*.

For more information visit the Facebook pages below or email info@winchevskycentre.org

www.facebook.com/events/1971382992940277 — www.facebook.com/events/332933267435806



Treasures From the Archives

Community News

MAZL TOV TO...

Sadie Epstein-Fine and her co-editor, Makeda Zook, on their book, *Spawning Generations: Rants And Reflections On Growing Up With LGBTQ+ Parents*, being named one of the top ten books of 2018 by NOW Magazine.

Charna Gord on her new position for the winter in Nova Scotia. We'll miss you while you're gone!

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO...

Anna Yanovsky

Please send us news that you'd like to share with others and we can print it here.

UNITED JEWISH PEOPLES ORDER, M.B.S. City

HEAD OFFICE: 585 CRANBROOKE AVE., TORONTO 19 Lodge No.

PHYSICIANS ATTENTION
Answers must be written by Physician only, and in ink.

SICK CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Attending Physician found Mr.

residing at by occupation

suffering from **ACUTE-CHRONIC**

His condition is such that he is unable to follow his occupation. My instructions are: Must stay in bed; allowed to leave the house

Leading symptoms of disease

The above named patient was incapacitated for days from 19..... to 19.....

Signature of Physician

COMMITTEE REPORT: באריכט פון קאמיטעט:

I hereby certify that I have visited the sick member.
איך באשטעטיק מיט מיין אונטערשריפט, אז איך האב באזוכט דעם קראנקן.

State condition of Patient אין וועלכן צושטאנד געפונען	Signature of Committee אונטערשריפט פון קאמיטעט	Date of visit דאטע פון דאטע
--	---	--------------------------------

HOSPITALERS REPORT: האספיטעלערס באריכט:

I certify that the above mentioned member reported to me sick.
איך באשטעטיק אז דער אויבגערעכמאנטער מיטגליד האט זיך געמאלדן קראנק.

Date

I visited him on
איך האב אים באזוכט אונטערשריפט

Lodge Approval Date	FOR HEAD OFFICE USE ONLY Sick Benefit Committee Date of Passing
-------------------------------------	--

Am't paid last \$	Signatures
Receipt No.	Signature of Sec.-Treasurer
Dated at	Weeks
Balance \$	Amount
Signature of Sec'y	

Sick Certificates must be at office not later than fourteen (14) days after it is filled out by the Physician.

טערטיפיקאטן פאר קראנקהייט מוזן איבערגעגעבן ווערן אין אפיס נישט שפעטער ווי 14 טעג נאכן אויספילן פון דאקטאר.

Save the Dates!

Sunday March 17, 2019

Purim Party

Saturday April 27, 2019

Annual Third Seyder

This Year's Theme:
Displaced Peoples Worldwide

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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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