



Programs at a Glance



JANUARY

Sunday January 10

Morris Winchevsky School
classes resume
918 Bathurst Street

Friday January 29 — 6:30 pm

Friday Night Potluck & What's On Your iPod Night
See page 7 for more details

FEBRUARY

Sunday February 7

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

LGBTQ Family Day – Postponed

Morris Winchevsky School
918 Bathurst Street

Sunday February 21

3:00 – 8:00 pm

Camp Naivelt Mid-Winter Mingle
Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club
180 Westmoreland Avenue

Sunday February 28

10:30 – 12:30 pm

Black History Month panel
918 Bathurst Street

Regular Programs

Morris Winchevsky School
Weekly Classes

Sundays 10am – 12:30pm

Kinder Kapers

(MWS pre-school program):

Sundays 10:30 am-12:00 noon

Kinder Kapers dates for 2016:
January 10, 24; February 7, 21;
March 6; April 3, 17, 24

For event information:

416-789-5502

info@winchevskycentre.org

www.winchevskycentre.org

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twitter.com/WinchevskyCtr

SYRIA

A MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF THE UJPO-TORONTO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Syria is a word on everyone's lips these days. Considered the largest refugee crisis since the end of the Second World War, people in Toronto have been stepping up in whatever way they can. Here is how UJPO-Toronto has responded to this crisis:

- In an effort to raise awareness, a strong and moving message was included in our Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur observances along with the poignant song by David Rovics, *Upon Our Shores*.
- In response to an appeal organized by New College at the University of Toronto, we collected shoes that were sent to Syria.
- Educational forums were held on October 18 and at our AGM on November 28, where representatives of the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM) Canada spoke to inform our community about their work in coordinating relief missions to aid Syria's war victims. An appeal for

support to UOSSM Canada was included in the fall issue of *L'Khaim*.

- We collected warm clothing at our Chanukah celebration, which was donated to a refugee centre.

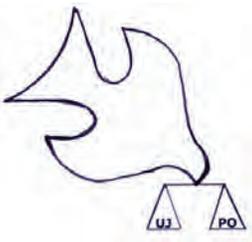
We are currently in the process of:

- Becoming involved with resettlement of Syrian refugees together with other groups.
- Offering space in our Centre for self-defence courses for Muslim women who are combatting Islamophobia.

Remaining true to our history, we are planning to become more involved as an organization. If you are interested in becoming part of the UJPO collective working on contributing to refugee resettlement, please contact Ester Reiter and Maxine Hermolin at the UJPO office - 416-789-5502. An update and action plan will be sent out in the next issue of *L'Khaim* and through the UJPO email digest.

Other places to contribute:

Humanities First collects through the Canada Helps platform here: www.canadahelps.org/dn/24771. A group of four universities: Ryerson, OCAD, U of T, and York have banded together to collaborate in the Lifeline Syria challenge: www.ryerson.ca/lifelinesyria. Lifeline Syria is being run locally out of COSTI Immigrant Services. More information here: lifelinesyria.ca.



UNITED JEWISH PEOPLE'S ORDER

NATIONAL NEWS UJPO-CANADA NATIONAL BOARD ANNUAL OVERVIEW

BY DAVID ABRAMOWITZ
UJPO-CANADA PRESIDENT

UJPO's 2015 highlights

What a year! We – along with millions of other Canadians – unseated the largely “unpopular” Conservative government and replaced it with the Liberals, who promised *real* change. Certainly they made promises which may not be possible to fulfill but that's the old normal. Of the first of UJPO's four priorities this year – reinstating door-to-door mail delivery – those who are already off door-to-door delivery may not get it back; we'll see how it develops.

As for all our sections, their common major flaw is not recruiting new, younger members and activists. This will be a major 2016 undertaking for the National Board. There are no easy answers but where and how we search – ah, “there's the rub.”

Our major national achievement in 2015 was the Winnipeg opening of our Avrom Yanovsky political cartoon exhibit. Not only was it well reviewed by Winnipeg's *Jewish Post and News* (see *UJPO News*, Fall Issue), but also by Vancouver's *Jewish Independent*! It's a remarkable tale of hard work and coordination.

At its premier exhibition at the Saxe Gallery at York University, I noticed ten of the reproductions were incomplete, missing the edges of Avrom's original cartoons. Our first volunteer was willing to frame the collection if the ten partial reproductions were complete. On checking with the curator, Dr. Anna Hudson, she learned that the *Art Gallery of Ontario*, which copied and framed the originals, hadn't made photographs; they had digitally scanned them so those which were larger than the scanner screen missed content from the edges.

As the UJPO National Board had initially agreed to send the exhibit to each of our centres, I mentioned this dilemma at a National Board meeting. Solly Blaser not only volunteered to photograph the delinquent ten but to print, frame, box and ship the entire collection. The originals were housed in the Varley Gallery in Markham, Ontario, where Solly acquired access to them thanks to Dr. Anna Hudson; he took the necessary photos and proceeded. The originals copyright holder, Anna Yanovsky, was consulted at each step, and, with her exceptional generosity, paid not only for the frames but for the shipping.

In 2013 UJPO-Vancouver members displayed the exhibit at the Peretz Centre for Jewish Culture to the largest crowd for a Vancouver-UJPO sponsored event in years. A variety of gallery venues were sought in Winnipeg. UJPO-Winnipeg's immediate past president, Roz Usiskin, knew it was important to make this left-wing exhibit of political art of the 50's through the 70's a significant event which would be seen by a large cross-section of the public, especially Jews. Having been involved in the creation of the archives of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, including being a former president, she approached the Jewish Heritage Society of Western Canada. Its present-day leadership not only considered displaying it, but agreed to co-sponsor the exhibit at its central location. We owe a special vote of gratitude to both Solly Blaser and Roz Usiskin.

The fall issue of *UJPO News* published the review in Winnipeg's *Jewish Post and News* of September 30, 2015 by its editor Bernie Bellan. The exhibit was also reviewed from a different perspective in Vancouver's *Jewish Independent* on November 18, 2015 at: <http://www.jewishindependent.ca/commenting-with-cartoons>



Call (416-789-5502) or email (info@winchevskycentre.org) the office to find out about concrete ways in which you can contribute to building the UJPO!

CAMP NAIVELT

OUR SUMMER COTTAGE COMMUNITY

Undzer Zumer Heym! – Our Summer Home



BY ROBERT BREDIN
CHAIR, CAMP COMMITTEE

Everyone who got to spend some time at Naivelt last summer knows that it was a season full of wonderful moments that were uniquely Naiveltian; our annual Peace Tea, the ceremony and creativity of our Arts Week, Music Camp, water slides, live music and dancing, barbecues, neighbours, friends, talking and sharing, the pool and aquafit, yoga and bagel brunches. This list could go on for a long time.

We're going to do it again next summer. Last summer Naivelt was filled with the excited voices of many young children. It's a great place for a family holiday whether it's for a weekend or a week. Naivelt is a welcoming community. Contact the Winchevsky Centre for information about rentals.

But you don't have to wait until the summer to feel part of the community: our Naivelt Mid-Winter Mingle is coming up on February 21st, which will give you a chance to swim in the pool, eat, talk and play – so it will almost be like Naivelt.

CAMP NAIVELT'S

Midwinter Mingle



Sunday February 21, 2016 from 3:00–8:00 p.m.
Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club • 180 Westmoreland Avenue



This fun-filled event for all Naivelters past and present includes swimming and a potluck dinner.
Don't forget to bring your own plates, cutlery and cups, as well as drinks!

Meet old friends and new for a relaxing and enjoyable evening of socializing, games, music and good food. If you're thinking about renting or buying a cottage at Camp Naivelt, this is a great way to meet new friends!



SHULE CORNER

FROM PRESCHOOL TO BAR/BAT MITZVAH
YOUR GATEWAY TO A MEANINGFUL, INSPIRING PROGRESSIVE SECULAR JEWISH EDUCATION!

www.winchevskycentre.org/school

BY FRANCES HANDLARSKI
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Life at the Morris Winchevsky School continues to be busy. We're progressing through year two of our three year curriculum plan and carry on with our rotations: I teach the Hebrew and Yiddish alphabet and some vocabulary; Sandra Ruch leads the music segment; and Ariel Sernick draws the students into discussion in her inimitable style. Sue Goldstein is responsible for administration and setting up the food and we are lucky to have someone who works so hard and with such professionalism. I always say that Sue is our resident conscience as well, because she is involved with so many causes.

Our Kinder Kapers classes have been extremely successful under the very able leadership of Sarena Sairan, who has the kids engrossed and involved in their Jewish experience, together with their parents and sometimes bobbies and zeydies. Our teaching assistants continue to add to the success of our programs, and will do so even more effectively after taking some leadership training with Ariel. This training was mainly the initiative of Ronit Little (an MWS Board member and Shule grandparent), and we are grateful to her for instituting it because it will prove to be helpful both to the School and to children's programming at Camp Naivelt.

I am taking a course with the The Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education on experiential education and will be working with them on creating an experiential take on *Tu B'Shvat* in January. We hope to make our program even more interactive with this training.

Talking about experiential, we had a wonderful time on December 6th making latkes. The latkes turned out really well and each child had a chance to mix a

batch and see it emerge golden and crisp at the end of the process. Then we got to eat them!

The year ended as usual with our Chanukah party on December 13th. Our students presented wonderful performances. Special mention must go to students Natalie and Yoav, who took the lead parts in a short play written by David Wall recounting the story of Chanukah. Natalie was front and centre in all the performances and we are thankful for all the help she gives in the Kinder Kapers class. She loves the little kids and they love her. Thanks also go to Yoav and Simon, who played the guitar and ukulele respectively for our student musical presentation, and to Xana, who performed in our play, and to Frida, Zohar, Levia, Sese (Sebastian), Gabriel and Dashiell, Xana and Simon who took part in the singing presentation and secular candle lighting ceremony. They all did a great job.

After our students' performances, we were extremely fortunate to have Mitch Smolkin, the internationally acclaimed vocalist and former Ashkenaz artistic director, accompanied by the sensational Nina Shapilsky on piano. They did a wonderful job getting people to participate in singing, finishing off with a hora that got everyone up on their feet. We are proud that Mitch is one of our Kinder Kapers parents and lucky for all that he adds to the music segments there.

We are now on a break. Shule will resume on Sunday January 10, 2016. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and well-earned rest. We look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

[Ed: Accolades of appreciation to our wise and wonderful Education Director and B'nai Mitzvah teacher, Frances Handlarski, for the strong mentorship and guidance that she brings to our Shule program.]

TO REGISTER FOR THE MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL'S 2016 WINTER & SPRING TERM
PLEASE CONTACT US – 416-789-5502 OR info@mwstoronto.org
DROP-INS ALWAYS WELCOME FOR KINDER KAPERS

LATKE-MAKING AT THE MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL DECEMBER 6, 2015



The expert latke-makers,
Lev and Elissa



Natalie enjoys the fruits
of her labour. Yum!

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION — DECEMBER 13, 2015



Music at our Chanukah party and enjoying the Chanukah performance.

Photos by Shlomit Segal

LGBTQ FAMILY Day at SHULE:
DeFINING FAMILY AS We See it
Sunday February 7, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
918 Bathurst Street

POSTPONED

Stay tuned For further details

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2016
PANEL DISCUSSION
10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
918 BATHURST STREET

DETAILS ON SPEAKERS COMING SOON
416-789-5502 • INFO@WINCHEVSKYCENTRE.ORG

United Jewish People's Order
welcomes

PENNY ROSENWASSER

author of

HOPE INTO PRACTICE
JEWISH WOMEN CHOOSING
JUSTICE DESPITE OUR FEARS

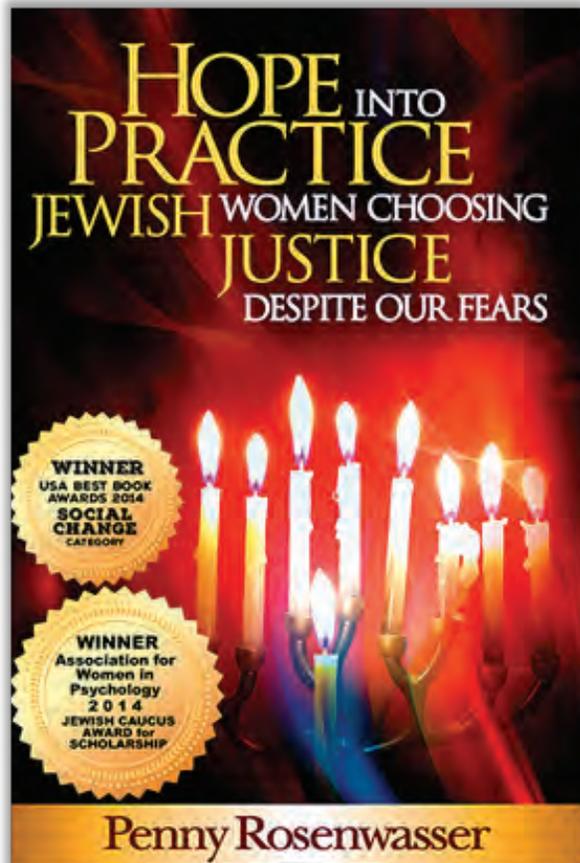
Anchored in Jewish ethical tradition & community, **Hope into Practice** is about liberation — linking personal healing with activism for justice. It offers a rich blend of stories, fascinating history, and a fair-minded perspective on Israel-Palestine. It's an activist's call to repair the world!



**BOOK TALK &
CONVERSATION**

Thursday March 3, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Beit Zatoun • 612 Markham Street
PWYC • Suggested donation: \$10
416-789-5502 • info@ujpo.org



A wonderful, gutsy, and inspiring book. Penny takes on the most explosive issues in American Jewish life today—racism & anti-Semitism, victimization & privilege, and Jewish politics around Israel/Palestine — and she does it with a generosity of spirit. A vision of a progressive Jewishness for a multicultural 21st century comes through proud and clear. It's an activist's call to repair the world!

— Karen Brodtkin, author, *How Jews Became Whiter and What That Says About Race in America*

Penny Rosenwasser earned her Ph.D. at the California Institute of Integral Studies. She is a founding board member of Jewish Voice for Peace, teaches at City College of San Francisco, and is a member of Kehilla Synagogue.

*Friday Potluck and
"What's on Your iPod" Night
Music appreciation, sharing & sing-a-long
with Martin van de Ven
Bring it, sing it, dance it, share it!*

**Friday January 29, 2016 • 6:30 p.m. potluck, 7:30 p.m. music
Downtown venue (near College Street subway station)**

RSVPs essential!

Please call 416-789-5502 to RSVP and for venue details by January 25

What's your current favourite music?

Bring instruments, recordings, sheet music, lyrics, and your vocal chords.

Come teach us a song: Play it on your iPod or phone • Bring a CD

Play it on your choice of instrument • Sing it acapella

Let's get together & spread the joy!



**SAVE THE DATE — CSJO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
IN TORONTO — MAY 27-30, 2016
CONFERENCE THEME: OUR TRADITION OF SOLIDARITY**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CSJO comprises independent secular Jewish schools, groups and individuals actively expressing their secular Jewish heritage based on its culture and ethics. Its paramount aim is the continuity of the Jewish people, which is dependent upon the traditional Jewish social values of justice, peace and community.

United Jewish People's Order-Canada and the Morris Winchevsky School, affiliates of CSJO, invite you to consider presenting a workshop as part of this important gathering of representatives from secular Jewish groups and communities across North America. Workshops may reflect a range of issues as they relate to the conference theme, including Jewish historical topics, social activism, secular Jewish education, Jewish culture, ethics and values, and more.

**Please forward your proposals to the
CSJO Conference Planning Committee at
info@winchevskycentre.org by January 31, 2016.**

**UPCOMING CSJO
BOARD ELECTIONS**

CSJO will be holding an election for board members. Positions open this year are: Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Adult Member-at-Large (2 positions). To be eligible to run you must be 18 years of age or older and a Member of an Affiliate in good-standing or an Associate Member in good standing. If you are interested, or you know of someone who might be interested, please send your name and contact information to Karen Knecht at:

*Knechtfour@aol.com
no later than January 15, 2016.*

COMMUNITY NEWS

UJPO-TORONTO ELECTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Announcing and welcoming the
Board of Directors of UJPO-Toronto and
the Morris Winchevsky School elected
at the Annual General Meeting
on November 28, 2015:

David Abramowitz
Julia Barnett
Barbara Blaser
Sam Blatt
Paula David
Marsha Fine Solnicki
Lev Jaeger
Sarah Latha
Ronit Little
Lana Rabkin
Ester Reiter
Marilyn Tate
Max Wallace

*Officers, positions and portfolio designations
will be determined early in the new year.*

The following Strategic Planning priorities will help direct the work of the Board:

- (1) Seek financial clarity and begin fundraising
- (2) Develop, integrate social, cultural
and political programming
- (3) Strengthening allies
- (4) Increase membership
- (5) Communications

Members interested in working in any of these
areas are invited to contact the office to get
involved. There are also several committees
which are also seeking new participants, such as
Culture/Social Justice, Membership, and the
Shule Advisory Council.

MAZEL TOV TO...

Barb Linds on the birth of her
grandson, Escher and to the proud
parents, Niko Kapetaneas (Barb's son and
a Shule graduate) and Caitlin Morgan.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Jack Gelbloom and
Jessica Goldstein



SPEEDY RECOVERY TO...



Adele Rosenbloom, Gilda Katz,
Reva Dolgoy, Sol Blaser,
Eli Howard-Cooper, Dan Meany,
Verna Van Sickle, and
Levi Barnett-Zeman

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO...

The Kanner-Andrews family, a Shule
family, on the passing of their grandfather,
Irving (Rusty) Halpert.



The Eichler-Marcovich family on the
passing of Magdalena Marcovich.

Rosa Orlandini on the passing of her father,
Richard Orlandini.



Looking for a few good volunteers!
Help draft this year's Passover
Haggadah supplement.

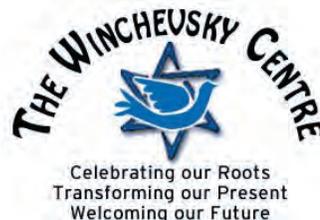
Interested?

Call or email the office:
416.789.5502

info@winchevskycentre.org

The Winchevsky Centre is home to:

- United Jewish People's Order - Canada
United Jewish People's Order - Toronto
- Morris Winchevsky School -
Toronto's Secular Jewish Community School
- Camp Naivelt
- Toronto Jewish Folk Choir Foundation



The Winchevsky Centre

585 Cranbrooke Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6A 2X9

Telephone: 416-789-5502
Fax: 416-789-5981

Email: info@winchevskycentre.org
Website: www.winchevskycentre.org

*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.*

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.

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."