



THE WINCHEVSKY CENTRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Toronto's Hub for Secular Jewish Culture and Education

MARCH/APRIL 2018

Programs at a Glance



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

MARCH

Thursday March 8, 2018

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Zing! Zing! Zing!

UJPO's Singing Group

Details on page 6

Friday March 9, 2018

6:30 p.m – 9:00 p.m.

IWD Alternative Shabbes Potluck

Kiké Roach & Judy Rebick

Details on page 6

APRIL

Saturday April 7, 2018

4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Sala Caboto, Columbus Centre

MWS & UJPO Annual Third Seyder

Questions for a New World

Details on page 7

Thursday April 12, 2018

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Zing! Zing! Zing!

UJPO's Singing Group

Details on page 6

Friday April 13, 2018

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Alternative Shabbes Potluck

Panel on the Rise of the Alt Right in T.O.

REGULAR WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Sundays 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Morris Winchevsky School Classes

Kinder Kapers

Sundays 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Winter Semester KK Dates:

March 18; April 8, 22; May 6

918 Bathurst Street

**Passover Order Form
included with this issue**

Looking Back, Moving Forward

by Rachel Epstein, Executive Director

On Friday, February 9, approximately fifteen intrepid souls made their way through a snowstorm to the Winchevsky Centre for our second intergenerational dialogue. The first one took place last October, in collaboration with IfNotNow, and at that one we shared personal histories. As one young person put it after that event: "I've never had this experience of connecting with rad Jewish elders. It is indescribable." This time we dialogued in small groups about what a Jewish organization should be — politically and culturally — and what would make members feel safe, included, centred, cared for and uplifted.

We reflected on UJPO's history as a "fraternal" organization, which, despite the sexism implicit in the term, has a beautiful meaning — it's about being an organization that takes care of its members. In its early years UJPO members lived inside the organization almost from cradle to death — there was shared childcare, a school, a summer community, social and recreational events, a credit union, political and cultural activities, and finally, a cemetery. In these current times, marked by a crisis in capitalism and the rise of technology and social media, how do we exist as a political and cultural organization and as a community that values and takes care of its peeps?

From my vantage point, as the relatively new Executive Director of UJPO, I am privileged to have glimpses into the range and scope of the activities of the organization and, let me tell you, there is a lot going on!

This month and last — we hosted over sixty people at a workshop on anti-Semitism offered by Sam Bick and David Zinman from the Treyf podcast; with our pals from Independent Jewish Voices – Toronto, we negotiated the wording of a petition to be read at Queen's Park that insists on the separation of critique of Israel from anti-Semitism; approximately forty of us participated in the Kairos Blanket Exercise to further our



The KAIROS Blanket Exercise at the Winchevsky Centre. Photo: sue goldstein

Continued on Page 2.

knowledge of how colonialism has operated, and continues to operate, in Canada; our summer community, Camp Naivelt, held its annual Midwinter Mingle — a gathering of campers and friends in the city which was also a fundraiser to support restoration of one of its historic buildings; the Morris Winchevsky School staff and kids had a fabulous costume dance party for which we ordered 300 Hamantashn; some of us are reading heavy duty texts as part of a study group on Zionism; others are zinging in Yiddish and English once a month at our singing group Zing! Zing! Zing!; we are preparing for the Third Seyder with an organizing committee largely made up of young people who are incorporating non-Ashkenazi traditions into the ceremony — the Seyder will showcase the questions being asked by our

youngest members, the Shule students, as they engage with the social justice issues in their curriculum; meanwhile our archivist, Ruth Grossman, and her lovely assistant, Elyssa Marks, continue to work to bring order to our history; and just this morning I filled out a Burial Authorization form for one of our elders who passed away and had a reserved spot in our cemetery. It reminded me of UJPO's history as a "fraternal" organization and of the importance of our elders and of our history.

The range, depth and integrity of the things we do make me proud to be part of this organization. Sure there are lots of things to sort out, but I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the social/political organization, and the community, that we are.

Treyf Workshop on Anti-Semitism

by Shayle Kilroy

On Sunday January 28, Sam Bick and David Zinman, the hosts of the Montreal-based Treyf podcast, visited the Winchevsky Centre to run their workshop on anti-Semitism and anti-Jewishness. The workshop was well attended with an intergenerational crowd of over 60 people eager to discuss a topic that is confusing and difficult to broach for many Jews on the left. Treyf Podcast is a self-described "debatably Jewish podcast" that aims to provide a leftwing perspective on current events and politics in the Jewish world and to act as an alternative media source to the mostly centre-right Jewish media.

The Treyf hosts created this workshop in order to highlight the problems with the dominant framework for understanding anti-Jewishness (the term they use), on the right and the left. The workshop developed as a response to seeing right-wing ideas slipping into leftist discourses when addressing anti-Semitism.

At the workshop we discussed intersectionality and solidarity -- the importance of understanding anti-Jewishness as being driven by the same forces as other oppressions: settler colonialism, white supremacy, patriarchy, etc., and that Jewish experience is diverse and not a singular narrative. We talked about the ways histories of oppression are centralized in Jewish communities, with the dominant narrative being that anti-Jewishness is something unique, unstoppable and eternal. Treyf proposed: this narrative leaves no room for agency, where is the space for imagining a world without anti-Jewishness?

By the end, the room was buzzing with energy and enthusiasm — participants brought varied perspectives and questions. It was clear that an honest discussion of anti-Jewishness from a left-wing perspective is sorely needed. As the workshop came to a close, the discussion was just beginning. Hopefully David and Sam have initiated a discussion that we will continue to make space for in our communities.



Sam Bick and David Zinman of Treyf.
Photos: sue goldstein



Small-group break-out session at anti-Semitism workshop.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise at Winchevsky Centre

by Anton Guz

On Friday January 19, 2018 the United Jewish People's Order was pleased to welcome Dawn T Maracle and Zoe Aarden, who led more than thirty participants in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. This exercise grew out of the more than four hundred recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. It involves laying blankets on the floor to symbolize the Indigenous land we all live on and tells the history of colonization and racism that has taken place on northern Turtle Island.

Participants were asked to represent different groups of Indigenous people. As we travelled through the history, people were asked to step off the blanket if their group was killed or removed from the land — whether by disease, residential schools or direct violence. At the beginning everyone stood together on the blankets. By the end of the exercise only five remained "alive" and only three were still on their own land. The blankets themselves had been folded during the exercise so that they were barely large enough for a person to stand on — a symbol evocative of the small size of current reserves and the overcrowding that comes with it.

The exercise involved a lot of emotions and the learning of new facts — for instance, that forty-four Indigenous communities still lack schools, or that the explicitly stated

goal of the Department of Indian Affairs was to disappear the "Indian Problem" by assimilating people and denying them status. We also read out powerful statements by Indigenous elders, chiefs, and youth from handouts called "scrolls." We learned about efforts like Shannen's Dream — a campaign for safe, comfortable and equally-funded schools, and for culturally-based education for Indigenous children and youth. Read more about this campaign and contribute, if you can, here: fncaringociety.com/shannens-dream.

The Blanket Exercise is advertised as "the history we aren't taught" and, upon reflection, that is exactly what this experience was. Despite growing up and going to school in Toronto, and despite spending time in Toronto's activist circles, much of the information in this exercise was new to me and left me with a sense of urgency. As we engage in creative solidarity, Tikkun Olam and resistance in 2018, what are we learning about Indigenous struggles? Can we commit to actively pushing ourselves into unfamiliar territory and to learn about the real stories of this land? Can we learn to listen to Indigenous peoples and dedicate ourselves to supporting their struggles?

To learn more about the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, visit www.kairosblanketexercise.org. There are online resources for further education and online training also available.



Top left: The blankets before the exercise. Bottom left: What remains after a few centuries of land theft. Above: A participant reads from a "scroll." Photos: sue goldstein

To learn more, see: www.kairosblanketexercise.org

HASSAN DIAB FINALLY RETURNS TO CANADA

by sue goldstein



Hassan Diab arrives at the Ottawa Airport on Monday, January 15, 2018.
Photo from [Justice for Hassan Diab](#)

After three years and two months in a French prison, Hassan Diab was released. He arrived back in Ottawa on January 15, 2018, finally reunited with his partner, Rania, and their two children, one of whom was born while he was incarcerated abroad.

Diab, a former sociology professor at Carleton University in Ottawa, was accused of the bombing of a Paris synagogue in 1980 that killed four people. However, Mr. Diab was not in Paris at that time, he was in Lebanon. Nevertheless, with faulty handwriting analysis, French investigators said he was the guy. Prior to his jail time in France, Diab spent three years under house arrest in Canada, having to wear an electronic ankle bracelet which he had to pay for at a cost of \$2000.00 per month.

Though Hassan Diab is back home, his ordeal is not over yet, as the French public prosecutor and some civil parties have filed an appeal. Meanwhile, Diab and many of his supporters are calling for an inquiry into Canada's system of extradition.

For more information and updates: www.justiceforhassandiab.org

STRAWBERRY CEREMONY FOR MISSING AND MURDERED MARKS 13TH YEAR

by Deb O'Rourke

Excerpt from NOW Magazine

Remembrance of love, courage and grief for missing and murdered Indigenous women confronts an unresponsive justice system

Every Valentine's Day since 2006, loved ones of missing and murdered Indigenous women and their supporters have been gathering at Toronto police headquarters for prayer, drumming and song, and to share their love and grief.

For 13 years, Wanda Whitebird of the Mi'kmaq nation Bear Clan has guided the event. "Many of us are not family members of missing or murdered women," she says, "but as women and mothers and grandmothers, we are affected.



"This is something we can do to let them know that they are part of our community," she continues, "and that we love them and have never forgotten. We pray for justice and closure that those who are missing are found and returned home so that grieving can begin."

For the rest of the story and more of John Bonnar's photos, see: <http://bit.ly/2owvNMa>

Also see:

Why Canada should stand trial for Tina Fontaine's murder in NOW by Pam Pamater: <http://bit.ly/2FE11Is>

Marginalization of Indigenous in the Canadian Justice system in Two Row Times by Rachel A. Snow: <http://bit.ly/2CPefiq>

Photo: John Bonnar, NOW Magazine



A Message from Lia Tarachansky, Morris Winchevsky School Education Director

This semester at Shule we began with learning about Indigeneity, anti-racist struggles and how they intersect with Jewishness. We learned how Jewish people have traditionally struggled against discrimination and bigotry and how our diverse histories connect with colonialism. Over the course of this year we've also been collecting some remarkable questions that have come up in each of the classes, and used these questions in a two-part Storytelling module in which students created podcast episodes, a Shule newscast (with a hilarious weather report to boot), and designed comic books. Some of these Great Questions will be woven into the upcoming Third Seyder on April 7. We're hoping to see many of you there to witness the students' special presentation.

With guest educator Bryan Ginairick, we planted sunflower sprouts and learned about Tu B'Shvat. Brian is the founder of Backyard Groceries, a local urban

farming collective. The students got to take home seeds that would soon sprout into food. On February 25, we had an exciting Purim Dance Party. The students paraded their costumes in a fashion show, spun their gregers during the retelling of the Purim story, and danced their hearts out on the dance floor!

Coming up in the curriculum are modules on Tikkun Olam, Twentieth Century migrations, Jews and labour, and Palestine/Israel. We will end our year with a tour of Kensington Market on May 20. Remaining Kinder Kapers dates: March 18, April 8 & 22, May 6 (last day of classes). Drop-ins are always welcome to Kinder Kapers.

To keep up with the Shule, visit our website:
www.winchevskycentre.org/morris-winchevsky-school
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/morriswinchevskyschool
And Instagram: www.instagram.com/winchevsky_centre



Pictures from the MWS Purim Dance Party.

Top two photos:
Lia Tarachansky

Bottom two photos:
Shlomit Segal



ZING!



ZING!



ZING!

Have a yen to zing?

Join the **United Jewish People's Order's** monthly casual singing group. Come zing with others in English and Yiddish, learn a little Yiddish, discuss the culture, debate the politics. Mostly sing and have fun!

If you are interested in performing, there's a place for you. However, performance is not an obligation. Plans are in the works to perform at the Winchevsky Centre's upcoming **Third Seyder** on Saturday April 7, 2018. Also in the works is a plan to prepare a repertoire to sing at political protests and rallies.

This is a no-pressure environment. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming **Zing! Zing! Zing!** sessions at the Winchevsky Centre:

Thursday March 8 @ 7:00 p.m. and Thursday April 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

For more information, email Max Wallace at maxwallace@gmail.com.

Event page: www.facebook.com/events/153835608594879

Alternative Shabbes Potluck and Discussion
with Kiké Roach & Judy Rebick

March 9, 2018 • 6:30 p.m. • Winchevsky Centre • \$5 or PWYC

Roach & Rebick: Politically Speaking
20 Years Later



6:30 p.m. Arrival
6:45 p.m. Candlelighting & Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program
What to Bring: Potluck dish to share.

RSVP is appreciated, last-minute arrivals are welcomed.
RSVP @ info@winchevskycentre.org
or call 416-789-5502



Event page: www.facebook.com/events/1783683181934461

Alternative Shabbes Potluck and Panel

**THE RISE OF THE
ALT RIGHT IN TORONTO**

Friday April 13, 2018 • 6:30 p.m.
Winchevsky Centre

Speakers TBA

Photo: Mark Dixon, from The Walrus: <http://bit.ly/2BXiJah>



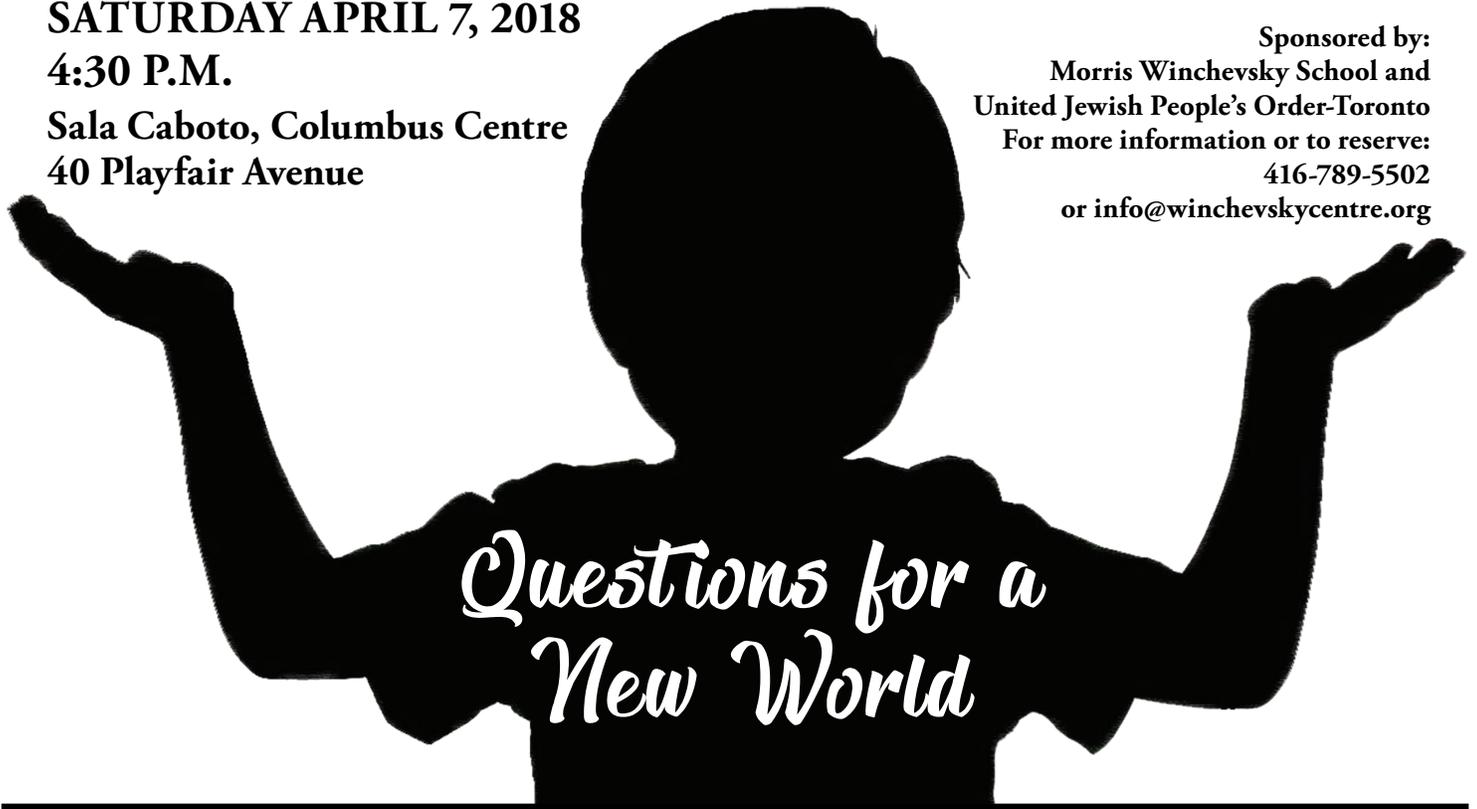
Annual Third Seyder

SATURDAY APRIL 7, 2018

4:30 P.M.

Sala Caboto, Columbus Centre
40 Playfair Avenue

Sponsored by:
Morris Winchevsky School and
United Jewish People's Order-Toronto
For more information or to reserve:
416-789-5502
or info@winchevskycentre.org



Dear Friends,

We invite you and your family and friends to join us at our annual Passover Seyder. Our theme this year is Questions for a New World. Building on last year's Seyder when we posed questions about meaningful action for social justice, this year we take our cue from the students in the Morris Winchevsky School who have been posing Great Questions related to the social justice issues in their curriculum.

This year we centre children and young people at our Seyder — they are at the heart of our community and it is for them and their future that we struggle. We hope you will join us for our Passover ceremony — to eat, sing and reflect on the important questions of these times.

As always, we attempt to make our Seyder accessible to all those who want to participate. We do this through donations from our members and supporters. Please consider making a contribution to our "Let All Who Are Hungry Come and Eat" fundraising campaign.

Now, more than ever, we need a vibrant, social justice focused, secular Jewish voice in Toronto and beyond. Help build this voice by donating generously to our campaign.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Rachel Epstein, Executive Director

Order form following last page of L'Khaim.

Community News

Jacquie Chic, in Memoriam



It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Jacquie Chic. Jacquie was a key part of the UJPO community and very committed to social justice. Above is a picture of Jacquie doing what she did best: appealing to the best in people and attempting to stir them to action at last year's Third Seyder.

A Professor of Political Science at Ryerson University, Jacquie was a lawyer and a Board member at the Kensington Bellwoods Community Legal Services. She had also been involved with Parkdale Community Legal Services. Jacquie was a dedicated daughter to her mother, who survives her. To say she will be sorely missed is a definite understatement.

Rest in Power.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER...

Alex Verman

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO...

Ella and Valentin Gorbatyuk on the passing of Ella's mother and UJPO member, Fanya Shifris..



Above is a replica of a whale installed by Greenpeace Philippines on a beach in the Philippines. It is made of and filled entirely with plastic. Marine mammals, fish, and other seafaring beings are dying due to the large levels of plastic and garbage that are taking over.

UJPO has named the environment as one of its key areas of concern. Though we continue to reuse and recycle all that we can, we hope to work on this issue in the larger context, pressuring corporations and governments to stop manufacturing and using plastics in the first place.

For more information on how to cut plastic out of your life: <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/lifestyle/20-switches-to-get-plastic-out-of-your-life>

Home to:

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



The Winchevsky Centre

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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

Reservation Deadline: March 23, 2018

Please print clearly and complete your reservation form in full.

Family Name: _____

Names of all attending: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did you hear about the Seyder? _____

Vegetarian meals

Adults _____ # Children _____

For whom? _____

Do you require ASL or other accommodations that would make the space more accessible for you?
For ASL please let us know by March 15, 2018

Highchairs & booster seats

Highchair for _____

Booster seat for _____

A play area will be available for families with toddlers.

Please seat me with: _____

We will do our best to accommodate you.

Seyder Tickets

Adult

*Members: \$40.00 x # _____ = \$ _____

Non-Members: \$50.00 x # _____ = \$ _____

Students/Unwaged \$30.00 x # _____ = \$ _____

Children (aged 3-6)

*Members: \$20.00 x # _____ = \$ _____

Non-Members: \$25.00 x # _____ = \$ _____

Children (aged 7-12)

*Members: \$25.00 x # _____ = \$ _____

Non-Members: \$30.00 x # _____ = \$ _____

Morris Winchevsky School students – Free

*Member rates apply only to UJPO members and Morris Winchevsky School families and do not apply to others in your party.

“Let All Who Are Hungry Come and Eat” Passover Fundraising Campaign

Please consider making a contribution to the Campaign.
The cost to support one person to attend the Seyder is \$60.00.
I would like to make a donation of:

- \$60.00 \$240.00
 \$120.00 \$600.00
 \$180.00 Other \$ _____

All donors will be acknowledged on our website.

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more.
You can also donate online at canadahelps.org/en/dn/33183

We also acknowledge the generous subsidization of our Third Seyder from the Shek Family Legacy Fund and the Lee & Hy Schechter Education Fund of the Morris Winchevsky School.

Payment Information

Total of all tickets \$ _____

Donation to campaign \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name on Card _____

Visa Mastercard

Card # _____ Expiry ____ / ____

Cheque (payable to ‘Morris Winchevsky School’) – Mail to 585 Cranbrooke Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6A 2X9

You may also fax your reservation to (416)789-5981, email to info@winchevskycentre.org or call (416)789-5502.