

Naivelt נייזעל News

August 21, 2015

This week at Naivelt

Saturday, August 22

Naivelt Pool Time & Aquafit

1 pm

LGBT Parenting will have a visit to Naivelt, concluding with a concert by amazing dub poet Lillian Allen

7 pm sharp at the Lasowsky Centre

Sunday, August 23

Bagel Brunch, 10 am

Professor Mustafa Koc on Food Security

Sybil's Garden, front of Hill 3, Cabin 35

Naivelt Pool Time & Aquafit 1 pm

Volunteers needed for next week's banquet!

We need help with:

- Someone overseeing kitchen – food drop-offs/etc.
- Table set up – 3 people
- Appetizer table set-up person
- Food table set-up people (2)
- Coffee making person
- Dessert table set-up person
- After dinner clean-up – about 12 people are needed
- Someone to organize and read-out the “L'khaims”
- Please sign up by contacting Tina at 416-997-0730 (text) or e-mail at tina@spotonorganizing.com.

More on this Weekend's Programs

Queer Family Day – Sat. August 22

The LGBTQ Parenting Network is thrilled to be coming back to Camp Naivelt for the second Queer Family Day on Saturday, August 22. We will arrive around 11 am and are expecting between 100 and 140 people, including children. We will be based at the Lasowsky Centre, and from 11 – 12:30 pm will be orienting to Camp, picnicking and doing crafts and a scavenger hunt.

At 12:30 we warmly invite you to join us for the **FIRST EVER CAMP NAIVELT PRIDE PARADE**. All children and adults are welcome. We will be starting at the Lack and parading through Hills 1 and 2 and then back down to the Lack. Dress up! Dress down! Join us!

Following the parade those who want will head to the pool for swim or aquafit. Be forewarned: there may be extra participants in aquafit.

We will chill and hang out for the afternoon and dinner time, and then are happy again to invite all Naivelters to join us for a performance by the one and only Lillian Allen (www.lillianallen.ca). The performance starts at **7 pm sharp** which, we realize, is early by Naivelt time, but we are on a tight schedule as our bus leaves at 8:30 pm.

A huge thank you in advance from all of us for giving us access to Naivelt space for this event. Also a thank you in advance to Maddy, Micah, Amelia, and Altair, our Camp Naivelt helpers, and to the Camp Committee and Jacob and Robert for helping make this happen. See you Saturday!!

Rachel and Andy, LGBTQ Parenting Network

Review of Strange Fruit Screening *by Max Wallace*

*Southern trees bear a strange fruit,
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,
Black body swinging in the Southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.*

The Lack Shak hosted a film last Saturday that hit home for many Naivelters whose parents and grandparents once worked tirelessly as allies of the movement to combat racial injustice and for those of us who continue the struggle today.

The documentary, *Strange Fruit*, traces the history and impact of the haunting 1937 protest ballad about lynching in America that was named Time Magazine's "song of the century" in 1999. And while most people associate the song with Billie Holiday, few knew that it was in fact written by a Jewish communist school teacher and labour activist, Abel Meeropol, who wrote it at a time when the Party stood with black America against the scourge of racism.

Following the screening, guest speaker Jonnie Bakan put the film into fascinating context -- discussing the importance of New York's allegedly Communist-fronted Café Society, the city's first integrated music venue outside of Harlem. It was at this Greenwich Village nightclub where Meeropol offered his song to the struggling Holiday whose unforgettable rendition put it on the map and drew the ire of red-baiters who had it banned from the nation's airwaves.

An ethnomusicologist and York University lecturer who wrote his dissertation on the topic, Bakan linked the battle against lynching that lay at the song's roots to today's *Idle No More* and *Black Lives Matter* movements and explained Holiday's importance as an American jazz rebel who refused to conform to the era's music conventions.

The screening was especially timely, given new evidence released this week exonerating Ethel Rosenberg, who was executed with her husband Julius in 1953 on allegations that they had passed nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union. At the time, UJPO members and Naivelters led the Canadian charge to free the couple and have

enjoyed a long relationship with the Rosenbergs' sons Michael and Robby Meeropol whom we have frequently hosted at the Winchevsky Centre. As the film reveals, the young boys were adopted soon after the executions by none other than Abel Meeropol — composer of the powerful song — and his wife, Anne.

The evening served as an important reminder of our organization's roots and an inspiration while we continue as allies against racial and social injustice.



Billie Holiday



Abe and Anne Meeropol

Photos: Library of Congress, Goodreads

THE GRATEFUL GARDENER



“The Harebell gets its name due to the folk belief that witches used juices squeezed from the flower to turn themselves into hares. It was also linked to fairies and the devil. Pick it at your own risk!”

The Grateful Gardener

Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)

There are more than 30 named wild varieties of *Campanula rotundifolia*. This plant commonly found in Naivelt's grounds is also known as Goblin's, witches' or Puck's thimble. Harebell leaves can be eaten raw in a salad and the plant is known to have beneficial properties. These include a remedy for earache that can be made from the roots and a wash for the treatment of sore eyes. Other conditions Harebell is said to cure include depression and if the root is chewed, it may help to treat heart and lung complaints. As always though, consult a professional before attempting any GG remedies!



In 2009 our late friend Sybil Goldstein submitted this to the Naivelt News as the anonymous “Grateful Gardener.”

On Sunday we will gather at her garden on Hill 3 for the Bagel Brunch.



On Sunday, Aug 16th a bunch of Naivelters did yoga, led by Rachel Kellogg

Next week at Naivelt

Friday, August 28

Sleepover for kids at the Lasowsky Centre

Saturday, August 29

Annual Banquet

5:30 pm at the Lasowsky Centre

Sunday, August 30

Bungalow Holders Meeting

Everyone is welcome (you don't have to be a cottage owner). This is a chance to have your input about camp and elect a new Camp Committee.

Bagel Brunch August 16/15, with Sue Goldstein — a brief history of and critical look at the Jewish National Fund *by Barbara Morris*

Sue Goldstein gave a richly informative talk based on her knowledge and years of experience as an activist involved in solidarity work with the Palestinian struggle. Naomi Binder Wall, who was supposed to be one of the speakers was unfortunately unable to attend.

When Sue began by asking the attendees for a show of hands of who was familiar with the JNF, I raised mine. I knew that the JNF raised money to plant trees in Israel and to acquire land in the illegally occupied territories of the West Bank. I also knew that many Palestinian villages were demolished, and many people were displaced in order to build these Jewish-only settlements. But after listening to Sue's talk, I realized how little I actually knew! What Sue had to say was so important that I'd like to list just some of the astonishing things I didn't know! I learned from Sue that:

- The JNF was established in 1901 at the 5th Zionist congress — founded to acquire land in Palestine for Jewish settlement.
- The JNF is a bedrock of political Zionism and its establishment was the beginning of the formula for institutional discrimination. The JNF, through its land-use policies, has been able to do openly what the Israeli government officially cannot.
- In the 1940's, village files were opened in order to compile a list of land to be targeted. These files enabled Zionist militias to move swiftly and efficiently to take over Palestinian towns and villages, without time for Palestinian protest or resistance.
- Trees and parks later became a cover for ethnic cleansing in Palestine. The rubble of 86 Palestinian villages lies under JNF parks and forests.
- Canada Park is one of those "green" spaces. A 1991 CBC Fifth Estate documentary, "*Canada Park: Park with No Peace* (<https://>



www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcZL-z9fdLA), exposes the foundations of a demolished village lying beneath its park facade.

- The afforestation projects that the JNF aggressively raises funds for in Canada often act as placeholders for illegal settlements. Parks were also built around East Jerusalem to prevent expansion of Palestinian villages.
- Bedouin living in 35 unrecognized villages in the Negev (Naqab, in Arabic) get no funding from Israel for water, garbage or infrastructure.
- The JNF has charitable status in over 50 countries and raises 10-13 million dollars in Canada alone every year.
- Aside from the land in the occupied West Bank, the JNF owns 2 billion dollars worth of real estate in Israel within the green line.

Some good news I learned from Sue is that there is movement by several organizations targeting the JNF's charitable status and many groups around the world are implementing BDS action against Israel. As a result of the bagel brunch, Sue and Ronnee Jaeger will put together a source list of alternative organizations to donate funds to, instead of the JNF, as well as a list of groups that are challenging Israeli policies and the JNF.