

# Naivelt **נביזעלמט** News

Issue 4, July 22, 2016



Ester Reiter in front of her Camp Naivelt cabin with her new book, *A Future Without Hate or Need, The Promise of the Jewish Left in Canada*.

Photo by Shlomit Segal

## Camp Naivelt Celebrates Ester Reiter and her Book on the Jewish Left in Canada

by Deb O'Rourke

Last Sunday's Bagel Brunch was a celebration of Ester Reiter's long-awaited book about -- well -- us, among others! Maxine Hermolin, the "self-appointed chair of the Ester Reiter Fan Club," chaired an interactive talk with Ester about her magnum opus, *A Future Without Hate or Need: The Promise of the Jewish Left in Canada*.

A York University sociologist who has been associated with the United Jewish People's Order (UJPO), and Camp Naivelt for eighteen years, Ester has really been a lifelong member, growing up in a "parallel universe, among the Jewish left in New York." This made her the ideal candidate to document this history.

Ester began by acknowledging the contribution to her research of many UJPO elders. Following her heart, (See **Ester Reiter**, page 2)

### What's On This Week

#### Saturday, July 23

##### 1-2 pm

Naivelt Pool Time & Aquafit

##### 8 pm

Film "Passing" and discussion with co-director Lucah Rosenberg Lee, Lasowsky Centre  
(More on Page 3)

#### Sunday, July 24

##### 10 am

Bagel Brunch – Food and Art Activism in Parkdale, with Michael Burt and Ayal Dinner of Greenest City  
HOST: The Bakans/Bennetts, Hill 2 (circle), Cabin 9

##### 1-2 pm

Naivelt Pool Time & Aquafit

##### 3-4 pm

Yoga at the Ritz



**Music Camp Band 2016.** Front (L-R) Ester Reiter, Nicole Bennett, Simon Bakan, Elorah Wohl-Bennett. Top (L-R) Ann Pohl, Shelley LaHay, Paula David, Martin van de Ven, Alan Cantor, Barbara Morris, Karen Gold, Melanie Brennan, Janice Meilach, Michael Blazer, Charna Gord, Aidan Paredes-Morris.

Photo by Shlomit Segal

### Ester Reiter (continued from page 1)

she wanted to commemorate the work of the “gutsy women” of the Jewish left. She fielded questions about UJPO’s relationship to the Communist Party, the State of Israel, and the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC).

Addressing the impact of the WWII Holocaust on the members of our community led to a moving discussion of personal histories. UJPO’s leftism resulted in its expulsion from the CJC in 1951. Its current critique of Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land has been a challenge to the mainstream Jewish community. But we have no regrets. “The value of this dissenting community,” emphasized Ester, “is incredible... Our value has been that we accept a range of views, so enriched by Yiddishkeit. I hope we hang on to that.”

Politics is, of course, core to UJPO’s existence, but Ester believes that cultural activities also strengthen community and contributed to Camp Naivelt’s persistence long after similar leftist camps closed. A Naivelt parent expressed a determination

to carry on this tradition: “It’s a wonderful thing to find a community where there is a history and possibility of growing up with left Jewishness.”

Maxine’s closing echoed the thanks that many participants expressed to Ester: “This is an invaluable array of information. We are indebted to you for this mitzvah, this gift.”

Sales of the book were brisk. Along the hills that warm afternoon, many people were spotted reading the turquoise and red book. As well as Ester’s brilliant research and entertaining writing, they were soaking up illustrations by Anna’s late husband Avrom Yanovsky, and looking for familiar faces in the photographs.

Ester will offer her “extra special” discount of \$30, including tax, at future UJPO events. But you can help the book’s success if you go to your local bookstore and demand it! There will be an official launch on Sat. Oct. 15 at the Winchevsky Centre.

# Music Camp Magic Capped by Finale Concert Last Weekend

by Deb O'Rourke

Music Camp 2016 came to a joyous conclusion last Saturday night, with an awesome concert that capped a week of learning, practicing, socializing, and jamming.

The opening number was a knockout that brought the house down. This year's choir director, Catherine Silverglen, found time not only to direct a children's choir and an all-ages choir: she worked with a group of interested kids on what participants explained as "a fast-paced walk-through of the history of how hip hop grew out of jazz."

The choir numbers were based on the theme of "Jews and jazz." Catherine pointed out that Jews and Blacks lived in the same neighbourhoods, and made music together. So it was not coincidental that some beloved jazz standards, made famous by Black musicians, were written by Jewish songwriters.

Martin van de Ven shepherded a crew of newbies and old hands through a mix of old Yiddish standards and rollicking Canadian tunes. Martin's genius is to mix disparate, sometimes eccentric instruments into arrangements that include musicians of all skill levels. Under Martin's coaxing: ukuleles, spoons and congas learn to talk with each other and with flutes, saxes and keyboards. As always, he found ways to make each musician shine.

Thanks to all the folks who helped make the magic happen. Martin and Catherine weren't the only ones given a bouquet: Barbara Morris, whose commitment to Music Camp extends far past dedicated musician, shared in the glory. Special thanks to the Programming Committee and everyone else behind the scenes who helped to support, feed and house the teachers, to set up the sound and get the Lac ready. Thanks to the dedicated musicians of all ages: the many young persons who came every day; the accomplished musicians for their patience and inclusion of the early learners; and first-timers for their guts and persistence.

Thanks for another magic year of Music Week!



**Choir Director Catherine Silverglen (centre stage) and Music Camp director Martin van de Ven (silhouette clarinetist) lead music campers in their grand "Blue Skies" finale.**

Photo by Deb O'Rourke

## Concert Video?

Did anyone take a video of the concert last Saturday and might you be willing to share it via Dropbox?

Melanie  
One of the Ukurists

## Gender Transition Experiences Profiled in Film "Passing"

"Passing," a short documentary exploring gender transition, will be shown this Saturday at 8 pm at the Lasowsky Centre. A discussion with one of the directors of the film, Lucah Rosenberg-Lee, will follow.

Directed by J. Mitchel Reed and Rosenberg-Lee, this 22-minute award-winning film explores the lives of three men of colour who have undergone gender transition from female to male. It examines what life is like living as a black man, when no one knows you are transgender, and how each perceives his journey after many years of being presumed a cisman, one who is assigned a male gender from birth.



Some happy customers and the kids on Hill 3, Cabins 13 and 12: Sasha, Sanoe, Jesse, Maxwell and Ever, who set up a beverage stand and donated the money they made to the Naivelt Community. Thanks again!

Photo by Jacob Bakan

## Important News about Garbage and Recycling

Beginning immediately, Naivelt campers are asked to completely stop using the garbage bins on the road to Kevin's cabin, both for recycling and regular garbage.

From now on, Naivelt cottagers can use the garbage and recycling bins that are in the first parking lot, to the left, as you first enter Eldorado Park. If a park attendant questions you, just explain you're from Camp Naivelt.

Only household garbage is permitted in the dumpsters. Large objects are to be taken to the local recycling centre.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Camp Committee

## Eldorado Pool in NOW Magazine

Our own Deb O'Rourke has an article in NOW this week that refers to our wonderful Brampton pool. "Stop telling people what to wear swimming, Canada"

Check it out!

[www.nowtoronto.com](http://www.nowtoronto.com)

## What's On Next Week

### Saturday, July 30

#### 1-2 pm

Naivelt Pool Time & Aquafit

John Greyson Film Night

### Sunday, July 31

#### 32-20 am

Bagel Brunch

Lesley Wood on Activism and Policing

Host: Jessica Goldstein & Jack Gelbloom

Cabin 19, Hill 1

#### 1-2 pm

Naivelt Pool Time & Aquafit

#### 3-4 pm

Yoga at the Ritz

#### 7:30pm

GAMES NIGHT

Host: Valerie Morris and family

Lasowsky Centre

### Naivelt News

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Deadline for submissions : Tuesday noon.

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