



UJPO *News*



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The United Jewish People's Order is a national, nonpartisan, socialist-oriented, secular organization, serving Canada's progressive Jews in individual organizations since 1926 and collectively as the UJPO since 1945.

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Banner graphic by Avrom Yanovsky, 1911-1979

United Jewish People's Order Statement

October 9, 2023

Over the weekend, we have been devastated to learn of the horrific violence unfolding in Israel/Palestine. We mourn and grieve the lives already lost and counting in Israel and in Palestine.

Right now and right away, we call for Hamas to end the killing and kidnapping of hundreds of Israeli civilians, for the Israeli army to stop its murderous bombing of Gaza, and for the Canadian and all western governments to desist from escalating the violence.

We believe that the violent and unacceptable actions taken by Hamas cannot be seen outside of a historical context of chronic, colonial oppression from the Israeli state. To quote the Centre for Constitutional rights (ccrjustice.org), "International indifference to 16 years of suffocating closure of the Gaza Strip and decades of Israeli impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians is the necessary context for Palestinian armed resistance."

We are further disheartened by the language being used by western media and mainstream political actors, who have been using rhetoric to unleash further harm and trauma to civilians, and therefore enabling Israel to call recent events a "war". This language permits continued vengeful, murderous acts onto those undeserving.

As a secular Jewish organization dedicated to social justice we are disturbed by the decision to launch the attack on a holy day for religious Jews and also on the Shabbat/Sabbath. The United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) is grounded in anti-oppressive, anti-colonial social justice principles. We are Jews who care about Jews and non-Jews. We stand against the Israeli occupation and settler colonialism, and know these issues are the root causes of Palestinian suffering and desperation, the background to Hamas's recent actions in Israel. These are not two equal sides. However, we do not support Hamas's appalling violence and consider Israel's retaliation to only inflame and aggravate this terrible situation with much larger resources. We do not consider this a self-hating or anti-Semitic position. To the contrary, we see ourselves continuing a legacy of Jewish activism that embraces a future where dehumanization and flawed justifications for wielding power over others have no place.

We support and hope for an immediate ceasefire from all sides. All people deserve their basic human rights to be upheld. ♦

NATIONAL UJPO NEWS

FROM WINNIPEG

By Ellen Karlinsky and Harriet Zaidman, Nov 2023

It is impossible to start this report with anything other than the devastation going on in Israel and Palestine. The events in Israel/Palestine have occupied our thoughts and actions for the last many weeks. Many UJPO Winnipeg members and supporters have participated in rallies in support of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the occupied territories. There is so much activism going on and I want to express appreciation for those organizing events in Winnipeg. Difficult conversations are happening within our families and within many groups. We hope for a ceasefire and the return of hostages and long term Justice for the Palestinian people. One of our board members Rubin Kantorovitch has spoken at many of the rallies.

UJPO Winnipeg held a forum on Sunday, November 5 featuring Dr. John Wiens, the former Dean of Education at the University of Manitoba, whose topic "Usurping Freedom - Propositions, Purposes and Prospects" It stimulated some good conversation. It was our first program in a long time.

The North End Jewish Folk Choir is singing in full voice again, under the baton of George Bajer-Koulack. We are pleased to welcome many new choristers to our weekly rehearsals. We're singing old songs, but we are adding many new ones to our repertoire. We express our great appreciation to Koren Kominsky for conducting us since the choir formed in 2006. Koren resigned her position, but she's still around, adding her voice to the alto section.

UJPO book club has been active and boasts a healthy membership. It meets regularly to discuss books and articles on current affairs, Israel/Palestine and historical issues with an orientation towards progressive views and struggles for human rights.

There were two memorials this past year for two cherished UJPO board members.

Roz Usiskin - An evening of memories was hosted by The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada Inc. Many people spoke and we were blessed to hear Roz's voice on an audio tape from the archives that Stan Carbone curated. Ester Reiter spoke beautifully about Roz's activism and the friendship they shared.

The grandchildren of the late Lee Anne Block planted a tree in The Healing Forest at St. John's Park in Winnipeg this past summer. Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest honours Indigenous children lost to or affected by the

residential school system, and offers a place for teaching and learning about all injustices from colonialism and racism, past and present. Lee Anne, a UJPO member who died unexpectedly in 2022, helped initiate the establishment of the forest.

We will once again be offering a lecture series delivered by Dr. Itay Zutra, a professor in the Judaic Studies Dept at University of Manitoba. The four lectures will be on the theme of Yiddish Radicals: Yiddish Literature and the Progressive Left. This series will be in person but also available on zoom in the hopes that UJPO members across Canada can have access to this opportunity.

Our website ujpowinnipeg.com is now a part of our presence. We call ourselves Jews for Social Justice: Winnipeg Chapter of UJPO. We feel this a better reflection of who we are and a name for readily accessible to those unfamiliar with UJPO. ujpowinnipeg.com

The documentary film project is underway and Saul Henteleff will be the filmmaker. He will focus the film on the Women of UJPO and has done some interviews with some of our elders in UJPO. This project will take time. We are enjoying working with Saul and his artistic vision.

We are a small board made up of wonderful people. Thanks go out to Harriet Zaidman our secretary, Henry Shorr our treasurer, Judy Haid, Joel Kettner, Dora Rosenbaum and Rubin Kantorovitch. I (Ellen Karlinsky) announced I was stepping down as chairperson at our wind up BBQ in June. At this point we do not have a permanent chair. We are continuing to meet and rotating the role of chair.

We are proud to be a part of the UJPO family. As a member of the National Board I am awed by all the work being done nationally.

FROM VANCOUVER

by Carl Rosenberg, Nov 2023

Over the past year, UJPO Canada renewed contact with the Argentine branch of ICUF (*Yidisher Kultur Farband--Yiddish Cultural Organization*) which once had branches throughout the Americas. ICUF Argentina organized a virtual event on April 19 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, consisting of three videos featuring members of various affiliate or affinity organizations, including two UJPO members, Lia Tarachansky and myself. A brief excerpt from the above-mentioned text was read aloud at the UJPO/MWS Third Seyder.

FROM TORONTO

By Sarena Sairan, UJPO ED, Nov 2023

With our UJPO Toronto and UJPO Canada AGMs taking place in December of every year, it gives us a chance to deep dive and review our entire calendar year, our successes and our challenges.

September marked my first anniversary in the position of Executive Director at the Winchevsky Centre, and I have learned more about the org, our membership, our organizational structure and culture, our impressive and fascinating legacy, and about my own leadership as we forge a future together. My focus in year one has been to better integrate our entities, and to remind ourselves that our bustling Shule and active summer residence of Naivelt all fall under our UJPO umbrella. Integration and self-reflection as we emerge from the depths of pandemic isolation were my two strategic goals. What I learned is that UJPO is both our foundation of principles and our shelter. We are a unique progressive cultural and political Jewish organization. It's a liberating prospect to consider the ways in which we get to continuously reinvent ourselves without a parent organization overshadowing our aspirations.

These aspirations and our org's moral compass lead us in our social justice initiatives. Always tackling the injustices of the oppressed, we stay focused on our social justice priorities. Working for indigenous solidarity, trans and queer rights, environmental concerns, economic and racial justice as well as solidarity with Palestine and Palestinian people. Obviously the events in Israel/Palestine since October 7th have assumed much of our energy and we continue to fight hard and represent an alternative Jewish voice to the prevalent narrative where critiquing Israel is considered an antisemitic act. I was recently going through some historical documents, and while it didn't surprise me it still amazed me how consistent and passionate our drive for Palestinian solidarity has always been.

Being one of the only Jewish cultural spaces in Toronto that allows for dissenting voices when it comes to Israel, we have had a big influx in interest and awareness of our org from Jewish folks in Toronto who feel uncomfortable and left behind by mainstream Jewish spaces. We have had an unprecedented spike in sign-ups for our newsletter and emails and phone calls asking how to connect with our community and get involved.

Since October 7th UJPO has been a signatory on many campaigns, letters, and petitions. We are participating in coalitions, all demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, the return of Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees, and an end to Canada's role in arming the Israeli military. Most notably, we have been instrumental in a newly formed coalition

called Jews Say No to Genocide. We are made up of five other Jewish orgs and Jewish contingencies within larger orgs. We are UJPO, IJV, IfNotNow Toronto, SURJ Toronto, and World Beyond War. We have been planning direct actions all in support of ending the genocide in Gaza. We are living in a historical moment, where opinions about Israel are dividing the Jewish community in unprecedented ways. I want to remind you all to find refuge here - UJPO is here to shelter us all during this storm. We are here doing our best to be a balanced Jewish voice, respecting the value of Jewish and Palestinian civilian rights and life. We are here to rebuild bridges together.

For a complete annual report on UJPO Toronto, go [here](#).

HONOURABLE MENTSHN

Paula David

Presenter & Lecturer

By Dr. Paula David - "Lessons Learned From Holocaust Survivors"

Thursday, October 19th | 7:00pm – 8:30pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)

In person – Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave, Toronto

See UJPO's own Dr. Paula David's lecture entitled "Lessons Learned From Holocaust Survivors: Antisemitism, intergenerational trauma, and caring for survivors of oppression, genocide, and extreme trauma in a post-Holocaust world."

This presentation will explore how our understanding of intergenerational trauma, post-traumatic stress disorders, and care for survivors of genocide and extreme trauma has evolved in our post-Holocaust world. The talk will also discuss the effects of antisemitism both past and present, and its pervasive and growing presence in contemporary times.

Listen to the presentation [here](#).

Kyo Maclear

For the Governor General Award

UJPO member **Kyo Maclear** wins Governor General Award for "Unearthing"! Kyo's wonderful memoir about DNA tests, the nature of kinship and the beauty of gardening (among many other things) has won the Governor General Award for best non-fiction book! Kyo also won the prestigious Vicky Metcalf Award! "Unearthing"'s story is also a Jewish one, as her discovered DNA reveals her to be part Ashkenazi.

Kyo has been coming to UJPO events for years and has recently become a member. Welcome Kyo! Kyo's children (with partner David Wall) are MWS B'Mitzvah graduates.

Published by Penguin/Randomhouse in Canada.

Vicky Metcalf award

<https://www.writerstrust.com/awards/vicky-metcalf-award-for-literature-for-young-people/>

Governor general award (non-fiction)

<https://ggbooks.ca/unearthing>

♦

WHAT'S IN ORDER

Mazel tov to:

Ronnee Jaeger. Her translation of Lili Berger's "The Rabbetzin's Sense of Justice" has been included in an anthology of eighteen works: "18: Jewish Stories Translated from 18 Languages". (Book launch October 17th, 6:00 p.m., Ben McNally Books Store, Toronto.) Her translation was first published on JewishFiction.net, and is also included (in a soon to be released..) anthology of translations of works by Lili Berger.

<https://www.academicstudiespress.com/cherry-orchard-books/9798887192062>

Mazel tov to:

Barbara and Solly Blaser for their new great-grandchild. His name is Mikhailo Rosen Stansfield, born October 26, 2023. He is the son of their granddaughter Kiersten and husband Jonathan Stansfield, and brother to Nela Ruth Stansfield, 4 years old. ♦



Get Well to:

Wishing Solly Blaser health and happiness.

We wish David Abramowitz a speedy recovery.

Condolences to:

We are passing along the sad news that Joe Hermolin, brother of Sol Hermolin, passed away on December 12th, 2023 in Wisconsin, his home for the past many years.

Condolences to:



We wish our heartfelt condolences to Barb Lipton and family on the passing of Larry Adler. Larry died suddenly on the evening of November 10th. Larry was a longtime Naivelter.

Larry Adler's funeral comments November 13, 2023 by Steve Cope, with contributions from Robin Vogl and Ross McKie.

Larry Adler was a renowned ornithologist, horticulturalist, urban explorer, octogenarian and close friend of mine, my best friend. I am still thinking that it is in fact inconceivable that Larry passed so suddenly last Friday. What the hell was I doing hanging around with an 82 year-old dude? The answer is that we always ended up having a great time whenever we were together. We would make each other laugh, all the time. We had so many common interests. As each new Camp Naivelte season ramped up in the spring, I was often permitted to crash on Larry and Barb's couch on Hill 1, while I was working on getting my shack on Hill 2 up and running. It was like I was a member of the family, the zany cousin. It was awesome. They let me cook at their place and I don't have to do the dishes afterwards. Ribs anyone? Things kind of slowed down over the last few years, in that Larry and I did not log as many miles in his car travelling the Georgetown/Brampton/Mississauga environs in search of elusive garage sales full of must-have treasures. In past years, we have been known to depart from hill 1 as early as 5:45 am on a Saturday morning, to embark on a sailing (garage sailing) quest. Typically, we would end up at Angel's restaurant in Georgetown or one of the many convenient Mickey D's locations on our route of the day. Often, we would in fact have a detailed prepared route of intended destinations before we left hill 1. We would each contribute information that we had gathered about upcoming sales and pooled our values. Larry would carefully review all of the tabled information and plot out a detailed route of where we intended to shop the next day. We had our own "sailing" vocabulary. Larry maintained a 'no fly list' of locations that he vowed we would never return to based on either sad or no merchandise or for people being 'jobbers', and whole swaths of Brampton have now been declared 'no go' zones based on our exhaustive empirical field research. Linkdale and Madoc for example both now reflect large 'X's through them on all of Larry's map books. Just to mention their name still makes me

shudder. We celebrated our "finds" until we both faced the wrath of our respective spouses for bringing home more "junk".

As a devout bird lover and feeder, and lover of nature, Larry could identify even the rarest of the avian visitors on Hill 1. Not surprising, since his last name, Adler, means eagle in German. Robin Yogl and Larry often laughed about their shared love of birds, since her last name Vogl (spelled with an "e" means "bird" in German). We would often bird watch as we travelled around, although Larry sometimes had to take my word for some of my sightings, when he was driving the car and I was watching the skies out the window. Each year it seems to be some kind of contest between him and I to see who can spot the first Oriole, or Pileated Woodpecker, eagle (an Adler), owl or heron of the new bird watching season.

Larry's keen interest in music was another bond we shared. We attended many concert performances together, occasionally ones where I might be performing. Those were usually at Camp Naivelt. We saw the band Phish perform at Ontario Place. We saw Bela Fleck play at Koerner Hall and then met him afterwards. We saw Victor Wooten of the Bela Fleck's Flecktones play a gig with his family at The Opera House. We travelled to the Avalon Ballroom at Fallsview Casino, Niagara Falls to see Roger Daltrey of the Who perform. We were in the 6th row on the floor for that very loud gig. That Daltrey show was surely our longest road trip together. We saw many different genres of music performed, enjoying each and every show that we attended. Larry was still rocking even into his 80s. And he was good company at all the shows.

His collection of vintage LP album covers decorating the cabin walls with LP collection to match;

His telling stories of of his time spent with musical friends. I had heard some of Larry's stories so many times that I able to fill in details for him when he tried to re-tell them to me. My personal favorite was the one he told about sitting at a cafe in Yorkville with his brother Mark and having Neil Young and Leon Russell walk up to chat with them.

Oh how we will miss all him!

His signature long grey ponytail and errant grey eyebrows, proudly sporting his vintage tie-dyed tee shirts;

For many years, Larry was in charge of camp maintenance and was the person to call if something went wrong at camp. He shepherded the camp through many challenges including a hydro failure. He didn't want this widely known, but had been my plumber who assisted me several times with water issues at our place on Hill 2.

After many years of heading off to play baseball, bonding with his baseball buds, his knees betrayed him and he was forced out to pasture. This was preceded by him having a career playing basketball. The highlight of his basketball career was a pickup game where he played against All Star great Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain.

Larry was also a Scrabble whiz who played and won endless games, with a knowledge of obscure words that could sneak in for multiple scores. During this past summer, I was a regular visitor to Hill one and Scrabble opponent. But Barb was also always "game" for a game and even newcomer to Hill One, Roushell took on Larry the pro. Larry was always learning new words and would give credit to where or from whom he learned each new word. Rousell taught him a new two letter word starting with K that he attributed to her each time to used it.

It was Larry's special joy, to spend time with his 3 generations of Adler women who loved to visit Barb and Larry at their Naivelt cabin. He was great with kids both young and old, and he and Barb often helped take care of our kids Benjamin and Abigail as they were growing up.

Robin told me that she can still see Larry leaping through the bedroom window of Paula's cabin, landing on her bed, when they needed to get in without a key. He had claimed to me that he could get into any cabin at Camp in 5 minutes or less. He was often sighted on the roof of their cabin when Barb was not around, tending to chores which "needed" to be done. He knew he would be 'ratted out' and inevitably confessed to Barb himself as a pre-emptive strike.

Each autumn, he and Barb would enjoy their country drives as the Naivelt season drew to a close. I don't know if they set up a charge account at Al Ferri's place on Heritage Road, but they sure could have.

I spent much of last week with Larry at their home in the city. Each day we would play two or three games of scrabble, have a meal and kibbitz. Last Friday we played three games and Larry was two for three. He was a winner on his last day playing. He did catch me cheating that day but it was too late, we had already played on. We went out for a fish and chips lunch at Sea Witch on St. Clair. We didn't sit at our regular table. The table where we sat that Friday had an article posted on the wall, written by Dave Bidini of the West End Phoenix. It was an article about Levon Helm from the Band having lived just a few blocks from where we were eating our lunch that day. A few years earlier I had gotten Dave to inscribe a copy of his book about an Italian Baseball trip "Baseballismo" to Larry. Larry spoke fondly that day of his admiration for The Band and spending time at the "Hawk's Nest" seeing Ronnie Hawkins backed up by The Band.

After Barb called me last Friday night with the sad news, I played a song by Queen in his honour:

"You're My Best Friend" and bawled my eyes out.

Full of the optimism of his times, "Imagine" was indeed Larry's life's motto. On his last day we spoke about the recently released "last" song by the Beatles, "Now and Then". I told him that I would play it for him next time he visited me at our house. Sadly I never got the chance. A few hours after Larry has driven me home last Friday, he was gone.

And so, In memory of Larry, let us all now "Imagine".

Steve Cope, Hill 2, cottage 16

GETTING TO KNOW OUR UJPO MEMBERS

Meet Michelle Munk

Interviewed by Sam Blatt

From Shule parent to SAC member to UJPO member



1) *Since when have you been a member of UJPO (Toronto)?*

I joined UJPO this past summer, although my family has been involved for over a decade. My kids started at the Shule when they were in Kinder Kapers, and now my eldest is a Teacher's Assistant and my youngest is in the B'Mitzvah class.

2) *What brought you to UJPO? e.g. family history in UJPO, friends bringing you in, activity in related*

areas such as housing, labour, grass-roots politics...other?

I grew up in the Secular Jewish Association in North York, which (I have heard) was formed by a group of people who had been members of UJPO in the 1960s, and wanted to start an organization that was Secular and Jewish but less political than UJPO. Both organizations were part of CSJO*, so I grew up with many of the texts and traditions that UJPO uses. When I was in the SJA (Secular Jewish Association) Youth Group, some Winchevsky grads (the Hermolin kids) joined us, since there wasn't an active UJPO youth group at the time. That was how I first learned about UJPO and the Winchevsky Shule. We attended CSJO* conferences together, and I began to learn more about UJPO. (*CSJO used to be "Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations" and is now "Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization.") When I moved downtown in my 20s, I began attending UJPO services, since I was looking for something that aligned with my Secular Judaism *and* my political values. My kids both attended Kinder Kapers, and we attend holidays and events at the Shule and UJPO.

3) *In which boards and/or committees are you active?*

I am on the MWS Shule Advisory Committee. I also was part of the Hiring Committee for the UJPO Executive Director.

I am also involved in the Toronto Jewish Families group, which includes a number of Shule families concerned about Anti-Palestinian Racism in the TDSB.

4) *What are some of the projects or activities your committee or board has been or is involved in?*

The MWS-SAC helps to support the Shule and offers advice when needed. Through my work with SAC, I have been involved in the hiring of Shule teachers, I have helped make latkes at Shule, I have lent a hand in putting up the sukkah at Sukkot, and offered guidance as we navigated running the Shule during the COVID lockdowns. As part of the ED Hiring Committee, we reviewed many résumés, interviewed many candidates, and had conversations about which candidates were best-suited to running an organization as complex as UJPO. The Toronto Jewish Families group began in response to the TDSB's response to students from Marc Garneau CI who participated in a Palestinian solidarity walk-out, which including the silencing of Desmond Cole when he said "Free Palestine" at a speech to TDSB leadership. We have been working with a group of Palestinian TDSB parents to put pressure on the TDSB to end its practices of Anti-Palestinian Racism. To that end, we held a press

conference in front of the TDSB's head office to demand that the TDSB consider the impacts of its communications (e.g. around Oct. 7) and policies on all families. We hope to get the TDSB to end its harmful partnerships with CIJA and Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre, to include Anti-Palestinian Racism in its Equity policy, and to consider the diversity of Jewish perspectives when developing programming on Israel, antisemitism, etc.

5) *What is your life outside UJPO, (that you are willing to share..)?*

Outside of UJPO, I am an elementary teacher in the Toronto District Schoolboard. I am currently working as a Math Learning Partner, supporting math programs at five West End schools. I worked for many years at City View Alternative School, which has connections with many UJPO families. I am passionate about how mathematics curriculum and pedagogy can be improved to meet the needs of more students, and how it can empower students to understand and address inequity and injustice. For example, I am interested in exploring how we can use math to understand things like how First-Past-the-Post doesn't lead to a government that represents the mathematical majority, and how math helps us to recognize the disproportionate injustices faced by members of marginalized communities (e.g. how nearly 50% of federal female inmates are Indigenous, even though they represent less than 5% of the population). I am also a parent, a sister, a daughter and a partner. When I'm not working, I enjoy going on backcountry canoe trips with my family, playing board games, skating, cross-country skiing, and listening to podcasts and audiobooks. I am perpetually trying to learn Spanish.

6) *Are you able to bring your non-UJPO activities and skills into a close relationship with your UJPO activities?*

My role as a teacher has helped with my work on the Shule Advisory Committee.

7) *Are other members of your family involved in or members of UJPO?*

My eldest child is a teacher's assistant at the Shule and is an occasional member of the fledgling youth group. My youngest is in the B'Mitzvah class.

8) *Have there been any changes in UJPO since you joined, that you would like to mention?*

Well, I just joined in August, so no significant changes to speak of. I am glad that UJPO is part of the Jews Say

No to Genocide coalition in response to Israel/Hamas war.

9) *Are there changes you would like to see over the coming years?*

That's an interesting question. I would love it if the Youth Group could gain momentum, but there are larger forces beyond our control at work. I would like the organization and the Shule to develop a thoughtful definition of what it means to be "secular" in positive terms (not only what it's not). I would love it if UJPO could offer a meaningful, contemplative program on the day of Yom Kippur. I'm curious to see what the efforts to "de-Ashkenize" the organization will produce.

10) *How do you see yourself contributing to the health of the organization?*

As a new member, I am not sure yet how I can contribute to the health of the organization.

11) *Last and not least – recent book and/or movie and/or play you recommend!*

I just read the book and watched the movie *Women Talking* (book by Miriam Toews, screenplay by Sarah Polley), which was incredible in both formats. I recently saw "A Poem for Rabbia," a Nightwood production at the Tarragon theatre. I can't recommend others to see it since the run is over, but it was excellent!

♦

POETRY & SONG

Jewish Resistance Nigun

Volt Ikh Gehat Koyech

VOLT IKH GEHAT KOYEKH,
VOLT IKH GELOFN IN DI GASN
VOLT IKH GESHRIGN SHOLEM
SHOLEM, SHOLEM SHOLEM

If my voice were louder
If my body stronger
I would tear through the streets
Crying peace, peace, peace

(Sung at anti-war protests and rallies).

A LITTLE NOSH

Mejadra (Middle East Spiced Lentils and Rice)

By Harriet Zaidman

This dish, which originates in the Middle East, can be found in Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi's popular cookbook, *Jerusalem* (Random House, 2012). It has a unique flavour that comes with the addition of a pinch of allspice and cinnamon. If the mixture is cooked through and fluffy after the water has boiled through, then don't let it sit the extra 10 minutes. You don't want the rice to get too dry.

The lentil/rice mixture becomes a complete meal with a dollop of yogurt on the side. The coated onions, sprinkled on top, add a nice texture.

This and other delicious recipes can be found on my food blog, North End Nosh (northendnosh.weebly.com). Enjoy!

Serves: 4

Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients

1 1/4 cups (250 grams) green or brown lentils
4 medium or 2 large onions
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
Vegetable oil as needed
2 teaspoons cumin seeds or 2 scant teaspoons ground cumin
1 1/2 tablespoons coriander seed
1 cup (200 grams) basmati rice
2 tablespoons olive oil or more
1/2 teaspoon turmeric
1 1/2 teaspoons allspice
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon sugar
1 1/2 cups water
salt and pepper

Method

Place the lentils in a small saucepan, cover with plenty of water. Bring the water to a boil and cook for 12-15 minutes, until the lentils have softened, but still have a little bite. Drain and set aside.

Peel the onions and slice thinly. Sprinkle them with the flour and 1 teaspoon salt. Mix well with your hands.

Heat the vegetable oil to high in a medium-sized frying pan. Make sure the oil is hot by throwing in a piece of onion. It should sizzle vigorously. Reduce the heat to

medium-high and fry the onions, in batches, for 5-7 minutes. Stir occasionally until the onion takes on a nice golden brown colour and turns crispy. Adjust the temperature so the onion doesn't fry too quickly and burn. Add oil as needed.

Transfer the onions to a plate lined with a paper towel to drain them. Season again with a little salt.

Wipe the frying pan clean and put in the cumin and coriander seeds. Place over medium heat and toast the seeds for a minute or two. Add the rice, olive oil, turmeric, allspice, cinnamon, sugar, 1/2 teaspoon salt and plenty of black pepper.

Stir to coat the rice with the oil and then add the cooked lentils and the water. Bring to a boil, cover with a lid and simmer over very low heat for 15 minutes.

Fluff with a fork. If all the moisture is absorbed, skip the next step and proceed to incorporating the onions. If there is still moisture, remove the pan from the heat, lift off the lid and quickly cover the pan with a clean tea towel. Seal tightly with the lid and set aside for 10 minutes to let the rice finish steaming.

Finally, add half the fried onion to the rice and lentils and stir gently with a fork. Pile the mixture in a serving bowl and top with the remaining onions. Serve with yogurt and/or any kind of greens. ♦

YIDDISH

Yiddish Is Having a Moment

By Ilan Stavans, Sept. 2, 2023

He is a professor of humanities and Latin American and Latino culture at Amherst College and an editor of the book "How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish".

For a language without a physical address that has come frighteningly close to extinction, Yiddish's will to live seems inexhaustible. The lesson is simple and straightforward: Survival is an act of stubbornness.

Yiddish has been experiencing something of a revival. Online courses mean that anyone from Buenos Aires to Melbourne might learn to speak it. There are new translations of long-forgotten works and literary classics. An Off Broadway staging of "Fiddler on the Roof" was performed in Yiddish. And streaming platforms like Netflix have released series, including "Shtisel," "Unorthodox" and "Rough Diamonds," fully or partially in Yiddish.

Before World War II, approximately 13 million Jews, both secular and religious, spoke Yiddish. Today it is

estimated that there are about a quarter of a million speakers in the United States, about the same number in Israel and roughly 100,000 more in the rest of the world. Nowadays the vast majority of those who speak the language are ultra-Orthodox. They aren't typically multilingual, as secular Yiddish speakers always were.

I was born and raised in Mexico City, speaking Yiddish and Spanish. Whereas the part of my extended family who fled to New York and Chicago lost Yiddish along the way, Mexican Jews remained more in the community, continuing to use the language even as they remained secular.

It's worth noting that Yiddish has been maligned by gentiles and Jews alike. Antisemites considered it the parlance of vermin, while the rabbinical elite deemed it unworthy of serious Talmudic discussion. As the saying goes, better an honest slap in the face than an insincere kiss. I like to think that animosity has helped the language to be nimble, clearheaded and improvisational.

Yiddish came to life at least a millennium ago. The earliest historical documents we have date back to the 12th century in the Rhineland in western Germany as a code-switching form of communication – called *loshn ashkenaz*, the language of Ashkenaz – juxtaposing High German and Hebrew. There is a scholarly theory that posits that the combination was actually High German and Aramaic, which was used by Middle Eastern Jews. At any rate, Yiddish was the tongue of women, children and the illiterate.

By the time the Italian poet Dante Alighieri composed “The Divine Comedy,” the “jargon,” as it was derided, had attained political, economic and cultural power, giving Eastern European Jews a sense of interconnectedness. While it is true that Shakespeare didn't imagine Shylock to be a Yiddish speaker, it's likely that Jewish merchants like him would at least have heard about *di mame loshn*, the mother tongue.

During the Enlightenment, secularists, called *Maskilim*, depicted Yiddish as a contorted language, incapable of “civilized” thought. In their view, to be a full-fledged European citizen one needed to speak the languages of Goethe, Locke and Voltaire. On the other hand, Hasidism, a religious movement that at the beginning was against the rabbinical establishment, thrived in Yiddish.

The superb stories of its founder, the Baal Shem Tov, and his descendants, including Rabbi Nakhman of Bratslev, his great-grandson, were, for the most part, disseminated in Yiddish. Rabbi Nakhman is considered a forerunner of Franz Kafka's worldview on fate as being shaped by obscure, mysterious, perhaps divine drive. Fittingly, Kafka

studied the language and in 1912 even delivered a speech in Yiddish.

The embrace of secularism is best represented by the Yiddish literary output of the 19th century, including the most beloved of Yiddish writers, Sholom Aleichem, the author of “*Tevye the Dairyman*,” a story about a shtetl dweller whose life is redefined by secularization, politics, antisemitism and immigration. As in the case of *Tevye*, Yiddish was the lingua franca of Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Lithuanian and other Jews, allowing them to have a neutral meeting ground while inhabiting the same stateless culture.

My paternal grandmother, originally from Brodno, a neighborhood in Warsaw, spoke Yiddish with her family and Polish and Russian with the gentiles. That universality has served Yiddish. Eliezer Zamenhof, the creator of Esperanto and a native Yiddish speaker, modeled his constructed language as an “auxiliary,” or a second language, an approach that would allow people to put away their differences without losing their individuality. Yiddish was already doing that for Ashkenazi Jews.

Another enemy of Yiddish was Zionism. In the late 19th century, as the hope for a Jewish state found its ground, it was portrayed as jargon spoken by the diaspora – the language of homelessness, without a true national voice. To combat this deficit, Hebrew needed to be revived. Soon the myth sprung of the Hebrew pioneer, in sharp contrast with the large-nosed, hunchbacked Jew that Zionists themselves vilified.

Hebrew, which officially became the national language of the state of Israel in 1948, is spoken by about nine million people around the world. For some, the language symbolizes far-right Israeli militarism.

In contrast, Yiddish represents exile – a longing for home. It was the backbone of the Jewish labor movement in the United States, and the feminist Emma Goldman championed women's equality and free love in Yiddish. Abraham Cahan, the feisty, commanding editor in chief of *Forverts* – *The Forward*, the left-leaning Yiddish daily in New York at the turn of the century – saw the language as a tool for educating Jewish immigrants about their rights.

Given everything Yiddish has gone through – how it was a tool of cross-border continuity, how it was pushed to the crematories by the Nazis, how after the Shoah it thrived in some diasporas but was pushed aside in others – its sheer endurance is nothing short of miraculous.

Yet nostalgia alone cannot push a revival beyond its narrow means. It continues to be a language without a homeland, without an army, a flag, a post office or a central bank, the language of a small, dispersed people. Its

speakers may be few, but as my maternal grandmother used to say, words should be weighed, not counted.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/02/opinion/yiddish-language-diaspora.html>

Ilan Stavans is an American writer and academic. He writes and speaks on American, Hispanic, and Jewish cultures. He is the author of Quixote and a contributor to the Norton Anthology of Latino Literature.

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Yiddish Choir thrives in New York!

By David Abramowitz

Yiddish Choir thrives in New York!

Good news for Winnipeg, as you've probably read by now, a revitalized Winnipeg Jewish Folk Choir is being resurrected under the leadership of George Bajer-Koulack*. Thanks to Dora Rosenbaum, who has been the enthusiastic spirit of Winnipeg's choir for ages, Yiddish choral music in Winnipeg will soon resound again as it has been and still does in New York.

There was a time in North America when Yiddish choir music was part of the cultural life of Jewish left-wing organizations. The movement was the *Freiheit Gesang Farein* - ייִדישער פֿײַהאָרמאָנישער כאָר (the Freedom Song Society). In Toronto it started in 1925 and updated its name to the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir in 1939 with the arrival of its new director, Emil Gartner who narrowly escaped the Nazis conquering (*anschluss*) of Austria. Next year would have been its centenary but it ceased functioning in December 2013. Its final performance was a khanike concert at Toronto's *Barbara Frum Library*.

However, definitely marking its centennial is New York's *Yiddish Philharmonic Choir* which is very active. It also has its origins in the *Freiheit Gesang Farein* movement which encompassed most secular progressive Jewish organizations at the time.

New York's *Yiddish Philharmonic Chorus* has evolved over the years encompassing many similar choral groups/choirs. The most memorable UJPO Passover Seyder was in the 1990's when some of our guests, New York's Jewish Peoples Philharmonic Chorus under the then conductor Peter Schlosser, stood and the choir members present sang a number from our own hagode! The 200+ attendees didn't realise what a fantastic event this was. Peter Schlosser was its conductor till 1995; In 1995 [Binyumen Schaechter](#) took over as conductor, a role which he continues to hold at present. He developed the choir, which had lost the ability to perform more advanced arrangements, into a more ambitious choir which is now an intergenerational ensemble, performing a variety of Yiddish standards, theater songs, a liturgical number as

well as a children's song, all in some way rallying for solidarity or declaring the need for freedom. Its June and October 2023 performances, titled *Chutzpah! Yiddish Songs of Defiance* featured brand-new choral arrangements and some familiar songs sung in a creatively different way. For those who don't know a word of Yiddish, English supertitles are projected, and a keepsake program booklet containing full lyric translations (although it takes liberties with the accepted transliterations) to keep all totally engaged and in the spirit. Its two recent concerts also honour two historic acts of defiance: the *Warsaw Ghetto Uprising* (80 years ago) and the *founding of Israel* (75 years ago).

For those who desire hearing how fabulous Yiddish choral music can sound, here's a sample you can enjoy right now, the Hirsh Glick classic Warsaw Ghetto Partizans Hymn - "*Mir Zaynen Do!*" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBdTnhBw2o> ! *Ester Reiter's grandson! **My Niece, Sarah Williams, is one of the 2 producers of the new Netflix #1 series in US & Canada, *Unicorn Academy*.

Israelism Shown in Hamilton despite opposition from local Jewish federation.

By Paul Weinberg

Across North America and globally there is a serious campaign to shut down any criticism of the Israel military attacks on Gaza following the brutal killings and kidnapping by Hamas in communities in southern Israel.

Typically, accusations of antisemitism are directed at the raising of the root causes of the Israeli Palestinian conflict such as the Nakba, the occupation and Israeli apartheid (What complicates things is that antisemitism does exist and it does require an understanding of the difference between real and made-up examples of it.)

Naomi Klein recently dubbed this phenomenon of the weaponization of antisemitism as the distraction machine which is mounted by pro-Israel groups to distract us from the news of details of the mounting and horrendous deaths in Gaza especially involving women and children that are the consequence of severe Israeli retaliation in the form of revenge for the Hamas attack of Oct. 7.

The city of Hamilton experienced a version of this trend when a local independent cinema, the board of the nonprofit Westdale Theatre, announced it was cancelling its showing of the documentary, *Israelism* scheduled for Dec. 6. The action was in response to a protest from the Hamilton Jewish Federation which told the CBC that the sponsors of *Israelism* were seeking to inflame the current situation and lead to the spread of hate.

Canadian Parliament honors man who fought for Nazis. Speaker regrets decision

By HT News Desk



Canadian lawmakers give a standing ovation to a man introduced as a war hero, later discover he served in Nazi unit. September 25, 2023 – Information Clearing House

In a major embarrassment for Ottawa, the Canadian lawmakers gave a standing ovation to a man who was introduced as a war hero after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's address in the House of Commons only to later realise that he had served in a Nazi unit during World War II.

The speaker of Canada's House of Commons apologized Sunday for recognizing 98-year-old Yaroslav Hunka as a "Ukrainian hero" before the Canadian Parliament. Hunka served in World War II as a member of the 14th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS, according to a Jewish human rights group that demanded an apology.

"In my remarks following the address of the President of Ukraine, I recognized an individual in the gallery. I have subsequently become aware of more information which causes me to regret my decision to do so," Rota said in a statement.

Rota took responsibility for what was characterized as an oversight, calling the initiative "entirely my own."

"I wish to make clear that no one, including fellow parliamentarians and the Ukraine delegation, was aware of my intention or of my remarks before I delivered them."

"The initiative was entirely my own, the individual in question being from my riding and having been brought to my attention," he added, adding his "deepest apologies" to Jewish communities.

Following Zelenskyy's address in the House of Commons, Rota acknowledged Hunka, who was seated in the gallery, praising him for fighting for Ukrainian independence against the Russians. Hunka received two standing ovations from those gathered.

"At a time of rising antisemitism and Holocaust distortion, it is incredibly disturbing to see Canada's Parliament rise to

"While The Westdale certainly does not take the position that the film is anti-Semitic (as some might claim), and The Westdale supports free speech and important social dialogue, we believe that the present environment makes it an inopportune time to showcase this film," the chair of the Westdale board, Fred Fuchs wrote.

What alarmed the Hamilton Jewish Federation was that this was film by Jews about Jews. The two directors Erin Axelman and Sam Eilertsen depict the experiences of two American Jews who have been educated to love Israel but go through a profound disillusion after discovering how Palestinians are treated by the Jewish state.

The Hamilton chapter of Independent Voices and specifically Rabbi David Mivasair who had made the arrangements for the showing of *Israelism* mounted a successful protest in front of the theatre.

Within a short period, the board of the Westdale Theatre reversed its decision and decided in an official statement to show the film on Dec 6 after all. The chair Fred Fuchs conceded to reporters he had been mistaken.

"We have been listening intently to the voices of our community members in response to our decision to postpone the screening of the film *Israelism*.

After careful review, we determined that there was no credible evidence that the screening would cause harm to anyone in our community. We also acknowledge that the screening of this film was important to many in our community, and was being presented with a panel to provide context and engage in discussions on the film's important topic," the Westdale board stated.

Typically, the Westdale Theatre struggles on many nights with small numbers of people attending its scheduled films. But on the night of December 6 the close to 300 tickets for *Israelism* and a panel were all sold out.

The Hamilton Jewish Federation retaliated with an announcement it would not be staging the annual Hamilton Film Festival at the Westdale anymore.

In the end the Westdale did not allow itself to be intimidated, perhaps because as a nonprofit community run body it has its ears close to the ground where there is serious concern about the indiscriminate killing of Palestinians in Gaza.

CANADA

applaud an individual who was a member of a unit in the Waffen-SS, a Nazi military branch responsible for the murder of Jews and others,” the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center said in a statement while demanding an apology earlier Sunday.

“An explanation must be provided as to how this individual entered the hallowed halls of Canadian Parliament and received recognition from the Speaker of the House and a standing ovation,” the group added.

<https://informationclearinghouse.blog/2023/09/25/canadian-parliament-honors-man-who-fought-for-nazis-speaker-regrets-decision/>♦

The lessons from the Christie Pits Riot 90 years ago are strikingly relevant today

By Jamie Michaels

Jamie Michaels is an instructor at the University of Calgary’s Department of English and the creative director of the publishing house Dirty Water Comics.

Globe and Mail, August 16, 2023

The details of the Christie Pits Riot, which occurred on August 16, 1933, remain chilling 90 years later. Nazi-inspired youth unfurled a swastika banner at a baseball game in Toronto’s Christie Pits park, leading to an all-night brawl involving thousands of people in the nearby streets. Many were injured in the violence, which pitted Jews and their allies from Toronto’s recent immigrant communities against Anglo-Canadians, many of whom were in favour of restricting Jews from accessing certain public spaces, jobs and housing.

Today, Canada is undoubtedly a more tolerant, generous, and welcoming country than it was 90 years ago. However, anti-Jewish hate is on the rise. Jewish Canadians comprise one per cent of the population, yet despite this, they remain the targets of 14 per cent of all police-reported hate crime. Canadian Jews are 10 times more likely to be the targets of a hate crime than other religious minorities. Begrudgingly, there are lessons from Christie Pits that remain strikingly relevant for Canada today.

Anti-Jewish hatred differs from many other hatreds. It is both a bigotry and a conspiracy theory. The absurd belief that Jews control the financial system goes back thousands of years. This trope becomes particularly dangerous in times of economic uncertainty.

Inequality is skyrocketing in Canada. For those without intergenerational wealth, the prospect of homeownership remains a fever dream. The gap between the haves and the have-nots continues to increase.

As the playing field becomes increasingly unfair, it’s no surprise that some Canadians are searching for scapegoats to blame for their problems. Many are stumbling into antisemitism.

First and foremost, this conspiratorial thinking poses a direct threat to Canadian Jewry. It also robs those who believe in a Jewish monetary conspiracy of the opportunity to learn how financial systems actually function, how to challenge inequality, or how to be informed participants in a democracy. Ultimately, the outlet for this type of conspiratorial thinking has been, and always will be, violence.

It’s no coincidence that the Christie Pits Riot took place against the backdrop of the Great Depression. Inequality breeds populism. Today, there is no need to wait for the outbreak of violence to combat hatred and confront inequality.

The Jews who fought at Christie Pits were joined by other newcomers who felt they too had been treated as second-class citizens. The sense of camaraderie between these communities was bolstered by living side-by-side in Toronto’s immigrant neighbourhoods, such as St. John’s Ward and Kensington Market.

On July 11, 1933, a month before the violence erupted at Christie Pits, Jewish Canadians walked off the job in a protest strike against Hitlerism. They were joined by fellow immigrants, as well as union leaders and labour activists.

Today, our sense of solidarity remains our greatest strength in combatting the rise of antisemitism and challenging inequality. In fact, I’m not convinced either can be challenged holistically without considering the other.

Unchecked corporate profiteering has run rampant as everyday Canadians struggle to emerge from the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Food bank use has reached record numbers. For many, the basic costs of living are becoming unreachable. In response, labour actions have surged across the country.

Grocery store workers have walked off the job. Longshore workers have shut down ports across British Columbia. Federal public servants engaged in a historic strike. As labour actions continue to challenge an increasingly stratifying Canada, their successes will be defined by how well they can keep the conversation focused on policy.

Xenophobia has already begun to tiptoe into discussions surrounding the housing crisis. Immigrants and “globalists” – a thinly veiled dog-whistle for Jews – have been scapegoated as the cause of high home prices. These misguided knee-jerk reactions reveal a deep frustration with current financial systems.

As we mark the 90th anniversary of one of Canada's worst race riots, we are afforded a unique historical anchor through which to consider the past and imagine the future.

In the aftermath of the Christie Pits Riot, Toronto mayor William James Stewart declared he would prosecute future displays of the swastika. It was one of Canada's first policies prohibiting hate speech. This victory was followed by a series of labour actions – many spearheaded by the Canadian Jewish Labour Committee – that simultaneously championed workers' rights alongside human rights. One of the many triumphs of this movement was the introduction of a federal employment insurance program.

Embracing the ethos of togetherness that defined Toronto's immigrant communities in the lead-up to the Christie Pits Riot is as pressingly relevant now as it was 90 years ago. Co-operation between Canadians of all stripes remains key to protecting human rights and striving toward a more economically just Canada.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-the-lessons-from-the-christie-pits-riot-are-strikingly-relevant-today/> ♦

MIDDLE EAST

American Jews are about to shut down the White House

From: Eva, IfNotNow info@ifnotnowmovement.org
Date: Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 12:38 PM

We are about to shut down the White House to demand a ceasefire now.

RIGHT NOW, over a thousand American Jews are on their way to shut down the White House to demand President Biden and every American political leader call for a ceasefire now. We will not allow the Israeli government to commit genocide in our name.

Make no mistake: we are in mourning.

But through our grief, we are demanding that our government do everything it can to prevent the murder of innocent Palestinian civilians. **We will not let our pain be weaponized for murder.**

We are raising our voices for our Israeli siblings who – while burying their loved ones and desperately awaiting news of those kidnapped – are screaming at their government begging for the bombs to stop. **300,000 reservists have already been called up and Israelis know that this war will not make them any safer.**

We are raising our voices for our Palestinian siblings who are mourning their children killed in bomb strikes and

are terrified of annihilation. They are reaching for us, asking us to do everything in our power to stop this horror. We must respond with all our strength.

Last night, President Biden called on Israel not to “re-occupy” Gaza, underscoring what we already know: that the President has leverage in this war. But by not calling for a ceasefire, he is failing to protect millions of Palestinian and Israeli lives. **Through our grief, we demand President Biden wield his full influence and call for a ceasefire.**

Together we are a powerful force. Join our efforts by sharing the livestream now on all platforms.

In love and solidarity,
Eva Borgwardt
Political Director
IfNotNow. ♦

A Textbook Case of Genocide

Israel has been explicit about what it's carrying out in Gaza. Why isn't the world listening?

By Raz Segal, October 13, 2023



Palestinians look for survivors after an Israeli airstrike in Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip on October 12th, 2023. AP Photo/Hatem Ali

ON FRIDAY, Israel ordered the besieged population in the northern half of the Gaza Strip to evacuate to the south, warning that it would soon intensify its attack on the Strip's upper half. The order has left more than a million people, half of whom are children, frantically attempting to flee amid continuing airstrikes, in a walled enclave where no destination is safe. As Palestinian journalist Ruwaida Kamal Amer wrote today from Gaza, “refugees from the north are already arriving in Khan Younis, where the missiles never stop and we're running out of food, water, and power.” The UN has warned that the flight of people

from the northern part of Gaza to the south will create “devastating humanitarian consequences” and will “transform what is already a tragedy into a calamitous situation.” Over the last week, Israel’s violence against Gaza has killed more than 1,800 Palestinians, injured thousands, and displaced more than 400,000 within the strip. And yet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised today that what we have seen is “only the beginning.”

Israel’s campaign to displace Gazans – and potentially expel them altogether into Egypt – is yet another chapter in the Nakba, in which an estimated 750,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes during the 1948 war that led to the creation of the State of Israel. But the assault on Gaza can also be understood in other terms: as a textbook case of genocide unfolding in front of our eyes. I say this as a scholar of genocide, who has spent many years writing about Israeli mass violence against Palestinians. I have written about settler colonialism and Jewish supremacy in Israel, the distortion of the Holocaust to boost the Israeli arms industry, the weaponization of antisemitism accusations to justify Israeli violence against Palestinians, and the racist regime of Israeli apartheid. Now, following Hamas’s attack on Saturday and the mass murder of more than 1,000 Israeli civilians, the worst of the worst is happening.

Under international law, the crime of genocide is defined by “the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such,” as noted in the December 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In its murderous attack on Gaza, Israel has loudly proclaimed this intent. Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant declared it in no uncertain terms on October 9th: “We are imposing a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we will act accordingly.” Leaders in the West reinforced this racist rhetoric by describing Hamas’s mass murder of Israeli civilians – a war crime under international law that rightly provoked horror and shock in Israel and around the world – as “an act of sheer evil,” in the words of US President Joe Biden, or as a move that reflected an “ancient evil,” in the terminology of President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. This dehumanizing language is clearly calculated to justify the wide scale destruction of Palestinian lives; the assertion of “evil,” in its absolutism, elides distinctions between Hamas militants and Gazan civilians, and occludes the broader context of colonization and occupation.

The UN Genocide Convention lists five acts that fall under its definition. Israel is currently perpetrating three of these in Gaza: “1. Killing members of the group. 2.

Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group. 3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.” The Israeli Air Force, by its own account, has so far dropped more than 6,000 bombs on Gaza, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the world – almost as many bombs as the US dropped on all of Afghanistan during record-breaking years of its war there. Human Rights Watch has confirmed that the weapons used included phosphorous bombs, which set fire to bodies and buildings, creating flames that aren’t extinguished on contact with water. This demonstrates clearly what Gallant means by “act accordingly”: not targeting individual Hamas militants, as Israel claims, but unleashing deadly violence against Palestinians in Gaza “as such,” in the language of the UN Genocide Convention. Israel has also intensified its 16-year siege of Gaza – the longest in modern history, in clear violation of international humanitarian law – to a “complete siege,” in Gallant’s words. This turn of phrase that explicitly indexes a plan to bring the siege to its final destination of systematic destruction of Palestinians and Palestinian society in Gaza, by killing them, starving them, cutting off their water supplies, and bombing their hospitals.

It’s not only Israel’s leaders who are using such language. An interviewee on the pro-Netanyahu Channel 14 called for Israel to “turn Gaza to Dresden.” Channel 12, Israel’s most-watched news station, published a report about left-leaning Israelis calling to “dance on what used to be Gaza.” Meanwhile, genocidal verbs – calls to “erase” and “flatten” Gaza – have become omnipresent on Israeli social media. In Tel Aviv, a banner reading “Zero Gazans” was seen hanging from a bridge.

Indeed, Israel’s genocidal assault on Gaza is quite explicit, open, and unashamed. Perpetrators of genocide usually do not express their intentions so clearly, though there are exceptions. In the early 20th century, for example, German colonial occupiers perpetrated a genocide in response to an uprising by the Indigenous Herero and Nama populations in southwest Africa. In 1904, General Lothar von Trotha, the German military commander, issued an “extermination order,” justified by the rationale of a “race war.” By 1908, the German authorities had murdered 10,000 Nama, and had achieved their stated goal of “destroying the Herero,” killing 65,000 Herero, 80% of the population. Gallant’s orders on October 9th were no less explicit. Israel’s goal is to destroy the Palestinians of Gaza. And those of us watching around the world are derelict in our responsibility to prevent them from doing so.

Correction: An earlier version of this piece said that Israel dropped more bombs on Gaza this week than the US dropped on Afghanistan in any single year of its war there.

In fact, the US dropped more than 7,000 bombs on Afghanistan in both 2018 and 2019; at the time of publication, Israel had dropped an estimated 6,000 bombs on Gaza in less than a week. ♦

Raz Segal is an associate professor of Holocaust and genocide studies at Stockton University and the endowed professor in the study of modern genocide.

https://jewishcurrents.org/a-textbook-case-of-genocide?token=-5QiQQnfBR0eMo3Pab6kH_vRbHMRf0cr

Over Ten Thousand March for Palestine in Historic New York Action

By ANSWER Coalition, Popular Resistance.
October 14, 2023. Resist!

These days may be remembered as a turning point for the Palestine solidarity movement in the United States. Despite every effort by the most powerful people in New York City, over 10,000 protesters courageously marched to demand freedom for Palestine.

Starting in Times Square, the massive crowd made it clear where the people stand. The politicians and generals who are rushing to guarantee limitless support and weaponry to Israel as it carries out a massacre in Gaza of massive proportions do not speak for the people of this country. The people are for Palestine!

In a blatant attempt to shut down free speech, New York Mayor Eric Adams mobilized the entirety of the NYPD – all 36,000 officers – based on the outrageous and racist notion that pro-Palestine demonstrations represent a grave danger to public safety. The city’s authorities along with the major news outlets treated this righteous expression of solidarity as a terror threat. But the enormous turnout provided a resounding answer: resistance is not terrorism!

This act of defiance has left the city’s elite rightfully humiliated. Especially over the past 20+ years, the NYPD has been built up into a hyper-militarized force larger than the armies of many nations. The Arab and Muslim community in particular has been a key target for surveillance and suppression. But that cannot stop the movement for justice.

It is clear that Israel’s ultimate goal is to wipe out Gaza. This is a genocide. But the people of the world, joining hands with the heroic people of Palestine, can stop it. Find an action near you below, check back to the ANSWER website for an updated list of actions, and submit an action for the listing here.

<https://popularresistance.org/over-ten-thousand-march-for-palestine-in-historic-new-york-city-action/> ♦



“Our national liberation will never be through Israeli blood”

By Rajaa Natour

My national liberation and the national liberation of my people do not include a jeep speeding through the streets of Gaza with a half-naked Jewish woman strapped to its front.

“We, the Palestinians, are not guilty of anything, and of course – not of this murder which took the lives of over 800 innocent Israeli civilians. From our point of view, the Occupation is the source of all evil and destruction: what did you expect would happen after decades of blockades, oppression, humiliation and loss of human dignity? What did you expect from the Palestinians who have lost everything and broken through the fence? That they will hug you?”

This is what is expected of me to write today, as a Palestinian journalist – strong armed by the massive power and influence of the national Palestinian rhetoric discourse that silences any criticism, logic, and basic morality, and that forces us as Palestinians into two main roles: murdered or murderers. After all, we are the ultimate victims and thus, we are allowed to do anything. No?

So, this Saturday, Hamas succeeded in turning us, the Palestinians, into murderers. We are no longer “murdered” or “helpless victims”. This time Hamas made it official, in a sophisticated, convincing, and pride-inspiring way (at least, according to some). We, as a Palestinian collective, haven’t even bothered to stammer or whitewash our actions, just like the Israeli occupation army: our role models. Yes, we have become murderers, through a premeditated, tactical, well-timed, and calculated operation led by Hamas, who has suddenly become the ultimate Palestinian representative, leading the national Palestinian liberation movement according to an agenda only it knows!

But we, the Palestinians, are the victims of the Israeli Occupation, not murderers – we are just reacting to the oppression exerted on us by the State of Israel and its army. That is why the murder of more than 800 innocent people is just another reaction, a catharsis, a release, and above all – legitimate, because we, just like Israel, have the right to defend ourselves, without limit and at any price! In war, as in war, we are not to ask moral or ethical questions because they will only hurt our national Palestinian goals. It's unnecessary, isn't it?

Of course, this is all moral and political bullshit. Not only because this specific operation was well planned on an operational-strategic level, and was meant to cause only massive carnage. But mostly because this time, with the help of the military and media wing of Hamas, this murder has a different and critical role to play. This murder has been politically leveraged and turned into a Palestinian all-Arab victory, through which, so to speak, we as Palestinians, and the Arab world, have recovered our pride, our honor and the national erection we lost in 1948 and in 1967.

Yes, we have turned the tables, changed the power equation between Palestinians and Israelis, seared defeat unto Israeli consciousness, and completely undermined Israeli national resilience. We are amazing! We are simply the best! But above all, we have shifted the Palestinian, and more generally the Arab defeated narrative into a victorious narrative through massive and deliberate mass murder – so to create a victorious consciousness.

Only this time, unlike many other past occasions, this sense of triumph has registered in the minds of many Palestinians and many Arabs in the Arab world, as a process that was created, and will be sustained, only through the slaughter, murder and bloodshed of Israelis.

My fingers are shaking, but there is no escape: my duty as human, even before my journalistic duty, demands I write this: Hamas does not only want a strategic achievements, to be leveraged into a political achievement aiming to end the siege on Gaza; Hamas wants to create a Palestinian narrative in which the Israeli blood will be the only measure of victory. In other words: Hamas is creating automatic murdering machines, under the cover of national Palestinian rhetoric.

My National Liberation

To Hamas, their supporters, and those among us who worry and stammer because it is “complicated” to speak up now, I want to say that my national liberation narrative, and the narrative of my people, does not include a speeding jeep in the streets of Gaza with a half-naked Jewish woman strapped to its front! It also does not include forcing a Jewish woman over the age of seventy to make a victory

gesture, just because we can, like the soldiers of the Occupation and the settlers do! My national liberation project does not include barbaric terminology that defines Israeli women prisoners of war as “slaves” of war just because they are Jewish! And it most definitely does not include sentences such as: “Steal everything, doors and even the toilets” because it is cool to steal and loot Jewish families! Have you forgotten so quickly that that's exactly what Israeli soldiers did in Jenin?

And to the Israelis who are calling to wipe out Gaza I say: Remember – it is sad to say – that a consciousness that has tasted the taste of the Israeli blood this past Saturday, will never return to defeatism. The separation fence will be breached, again and again. Nothing will stop the Hamas fighters who entered Israelis' homes, shot them, pulled them out of their beds, and vandalized their homes. Nothing will stop a consciousness that has broken through the barrier of fear and deterrence, and views Jewish blood as hope and salvation.

Neither the Hamas, nor the occupation soldiers who will soon be marching through the streets of Gaza, nor the occupation pilots who are bombing Gaza at this moment, interest me, even though I know that for them, our lives as Palestinians are worthless. I care about my people, the Palestinians, and their just demand for freedom, and that is why I must say – perhaps in a broken, pained, and trembling – but clear voice – that we, the Palestinians, have shed this blood.

Dear Palestinians, tell yourselves whatever you like, try to escape difficult moral questions, whitewash reality, write generic posts on Facebook, compare their murder to ours, and try to justify the atrocities like many Israelis do. And when you fail, and your heart breaks with grief and pain, when it realizes that there is no excuse in the world that can justify this kind of murder, write: we are also wallowing in the blood of the Israelis. Write: our national liberation will not go through their blood.

Translated by Jasmin Habib, Professor
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Palestinian rights according to the political climate in Canada

By Paul Weinberg, October 12, 2023

There is a hostility towards those who speak of Palestinian rights in Canada.



Al-Aqsa Mosque, in the Old City of Jerusalem, Palestine. is the third holiest site in Islam.

The horrendous killings and taking of hostages of hundreds of Israeli civilians by Hamas fighters in the Gaza Strip is generating a lot of sympathy and concern across political spectrum in Canada and that makes sense.

What is worrying is the lack of a similar response to the call by the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for 2.3 million Palestinians to desert their 365 square kilometer urban enclave in Gaza ahead of a possible military invasion designed to obliterate the Hamas presence by land and air.

Where would these refugees (descendants of an earlier group of expelled Palestinians from the new state of Israel in 1948) go is not clear as their enclave is surrounded by Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean.

There is one lonely Canadian voice, MPP for Hamilton Centre Sarah Jama, who tweeted for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas to avoid war. She is being opposed by her own party, the NDP, which used to make this kind of declaration as a matter of course.

Already, there is fresh Israel aerial bombing of Gaza and the decision has been made to keep fuel, water, food and electricity out of the enclave which relies on the outside world for most basic essentials. The World Health Organization is reporting that medicines are running out too.

The problem is that we have seen before Israel efforts to punish Hamas in Gaza through a combo of tightened supplies and aerial bombardment since the siege by the Jewish state began in 2007.

And so, in the words of one observer, the situation has been sadly “normalized.”

The political climate in Canada has historically been very pro-Israel, and so jumping on board lately to support Israel post Hamas attack under the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau is not surprising.

All of this made things challenging for the approximately 45,000 people of Palestinian origins living in this country.

I have met Palestinian Canadians who prefer to call themselves Jordanian or Lebanese to avoid harassment and possible loss of employment.

Now, a few articulate voices have emerged who are open about their Palestinian identity. They include Saeed Teebi, the celebrated author of *Her First Palestinian and Other Stories* and Mark Muhannad Ayyash, who teaches sociology at Mount Royal University in Calgary and is a columnist for *Al Jazeera*.

I approached Samer Abdelnour, a Toronto born academic of Palestinian origins for his perspective.

He is the co-author of a chapter, *Exclusion and Exile*, in a forthcoming collection of articles, *Canada as a Settler Colony on the question of Palestine*, edited by Jeremy Wildeman and Mark Muhannad Ayyash.

Abdelnour says he gained a fuller appreciation of how challenging the situation is for Palestinians living in Canada after moving to the UK and becoming a senior lecturer in the University of Edinburgh School of Business.

“Moving outside Canada I have had the opportunity to better understand the anxieties of speaking out, the degree to which Palestinians here self censor,” he stated.

“There is tremendous hostility in Canada to anybody who speaks of Palestinian rights or is perceived as being critical of Israel and its practices with regards to human rights and the occupation,” he explains.

In contrast, Abdelnour continues, “In the UK and other places where I have lived, there seems to be more space and room for discussing the issue of Palestine.”

He blames the popularity of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism among governments at the federal and provincial level for the negative political climate in Canada.

Although the IHRA was also adopted in the UK, it really has taken hold in Canada, he explained.

A number of scholars in Jewish studies have attacked the IHRA for its Israel only orientation (and in effect downplaying the more traditional form of antisemitism) including Antony Lerman, the British author of *Whatever Happened to Antisemitism: Redefinition and the Myth of the Collective Jew* (2022). He writes that Irwin Cotler, the special envoy appointed by Justin Trudeau to preserve Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism played a role in the formulation of the IHRA, along with the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

Among the eleven examples of antisemitism provided by the IHRA is the assertion that Israel constitutes “a racist endeavour.”

This specifically targets the Palestinian historical narrative of the Nakba where 750,000 Palestinians were expelled or displaced from their homeland by Zionist militias in the founding in 1948 of the Jewish state of Israel.

To be called an antisemite for citing the Nakba is classic anti-Palestinian racism, says Abdelnour.

It is an academic rite of passage for Abdelnour to experience APR style microaggressions.

“When I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto I was elected to serve as a member on the Governing Council representing my campus. During that time another member of the council repeatedly made anti-Palestinian comments to me, including advocating for mass murder of Palestinians. I was still young at the time and didn’t feel I could address his bigotry within the council, and so chose to withdraw from the position,” he stated.

More recently, Abdelnour was approached by a colleague at a conference who reacted negatively to an essay he had published on Israel’s military industrial complex.

“Rather than discuss the work however, he proceeded to engage in genocide and (Israel) Apartheid denial, as well as tokenization and belittling the Palestinian condition,” he added.

Unfortunately, local Palestinians in Canada will find themselves having to carefully navigate past the raw emotions still festering after the Hamas attack in order to express their own unique perspective. It may not be easy, just as it was hard to talk about root causes following the 9-11 attacks on the twin towers in Manhattan in 2001.

Editors note 2023/10/16: It was reported in this story by *rabble.ca* that a Hamilton NDP MPP in the Ontario legislature Sarah Jama in a tweet this week called for a ceasefire in face of an impending Israeli military invasion threatening the besieged people of Gaza following a brutal Hamas attack. Her party, the NDP, had not at the time taken a position. But this changed on Saturday, October 14 when delegates at the federal NDP convention in Hamilton indeed called for such an action as part of an emergency resolution on the crisis.

<https://rabble.ca/politics/world-politics/palestinian-rights-in-canada/> ♦

Palestine Solidarity Protesters Defy Denouncements From Politicians

‘This is an answer to all those who tried to shut down our voices’

By Dustin Godfrey & Alex Cosh, October 11, 2023

Photo credit: Dustin Godfrey

Canadian politicians at every level of government and across all major parties condemned them as glorifications of “death and terror.” Police departments in major cities issued statements ahead of time warning that they would be increasing patrols near community centres and places of worship.

Despite efforts to stop protesters standing in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza on Monday, the peaceful demonstrations went ahead in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and elsewhere.

The protests came as the Israeli government launched its “fiercest airstrikes ever” on Gaza this weekend, killing at least 1,000 people, including at least 140 children. Thousands more were wounded. Meanwhile, the Israeli military cut off access to water, electricity, fuel and food in the Gaza Strip, where the population is approximately 2.1 million and the median age is just 18. Human rights monitors have warned of a looming humanitarian catastrophe as a result of Israel’s siege.

In announcing the intensified blockade of Gaza, Israel’s defence minister described residents of Gaza as “human animals,” while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took to ‘X’ to celebrate the military’s destruction of buildings in the densely populated region, where the residents say they have no real means of escape.

Israel’s massive assault on civilians in Gaza came in response to a surprise attack launched by Hamas and other factions against Israel on Saturday. In their attack, the Palestinian factions took at least 150 Israelis hostage, including some peace activists who oppose Israel’s occupation. At least 1,200 have been killed in Israel so far, according to news reports.

Hamas said the attacks were a response to Israel’s continued occupation of Palestine, increased attacks by illegal settlers against Palestinian civilians and Israel’s recent attacks on the al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.

The surge in violence comes after 5,590 Palestinians and 251 Israelis were killed as a result of fighting between 2008 and 2020. According to Human Rights Watch, 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinian children in the West Bank in 15 years, with 2023 on track to meet or exceed that peak.

Demonstrations were called in Canada to support the Palestinians. Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow characterized a downtown protest on Monday as a “rally to support Hamas,” and said she had been assured by police that they would investigate “any suspected incidents of hate.” Similarly, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim denounced a



Palestine solidarity protest in the city, claiming the rally was being held to celebrate Hamas. Ontario Premier Doug Ford called protests in his province “hate rallies” that “have no place in Ontario.” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wrote: “I strongly condemn the demonstrations that have taken place, and are taking place, across the country in support of Hamas’ attacks on Israel.”

Ahead of the protests, police departments in every major Canadian city announced that they would be “closely monitoring” developments in Israel and increasing police patrols in certain areas, including around mosques and synagogues.

On Monday, CBC News host David Cochrane asked Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly whether she supported prosecuting those who attended Palestine solidarity rallies “for supporting terrorism,” a question that Joly avoided answering directly.

What did the protesters themselves have to say?

Speaking at the rally in Toronto, Yara Shoufani, with the Toronto chapter of the Palestinian Youth Movement, told CBC News “It’s not a question of whether we support the attacks. It’s a question of what do we stand against.”

Shoufani added: “We are here again in support of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian nation, across all walks of life inside of Palestine, outside of Palestine, in the refugee camps, all across the world that is fighting to return home.”

The rally held in Vancouver was impassioned, with participants chanting slogans and speakers calling for justice for Palestine and for an end to the Israeli government’s settler-colonial policies. Off to the side, a

small group of Israel supporters were separated by police and only drew brief attention from the pro-Palestine crowd.

The crowd cheered at statements by organizer Hanna Kawas, who said that the demonstration celebrated not death, but life and freedom. Kawas, chairperson of the Canada Palestine Association, told The Maple the turnout came despite fear mongering that pushed a narrative to the contrary.

“[This is] an answer to all those who tried to shut down our voices, from Olivia Chow to all the others,” said Kawas. “Even the police got into it; they tried to shut our voice.”

He said that political leaders have pushed narratives that conflate anti-Zionism – opposition to Israel’s founding ideology – with antisemitism, which he said itself fuels antisemitism.

“If all the evils of Israel and Zionism are attributed to the Jewish people, you’re going to increase antisemitism,” Kawas explained.

“They’re trying to show that we are the aggressors, [when] we’ve been the victims for 75 years. I was born with the Nakba; I’m still waiting to go back,” he added, referring to Israel’s ethnic cleansing of 750,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1948. “Canada for the last 10 years votes against me going back to Palestine.”

Kawas said major news outlets covering the current escalation of the conflict have served to reinforce the status quo, noting that CBC’s official guidelines prohibit the use of the word “Palestine.”

“I’m Palestinian,” said Kawas. “I’m from Palestine.”

<https://www.readthemaple.com/despite-politicians-denouncements-people-stood-in-solidarity-with-palestine/?ref=friday-round-up-newsletter> ♦

‘Antisemitic propaganda’ removed from U of M as tensions rise

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

By: Maggie Macintosh *Maggie Macintosh reports on education for the Winnipeg Free Press. Funding for the Free Press education reporter comes from the Government of Canada through the [Local Journalism Initiative](#).*

Posted: 9:00 PM CST Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023

The University of Manitoba has torn down “antisemitic propaganda” that appeared on campus — dozens of posters

that characterized the late Izzy Asper as a fascist sympathizer — and contacted police to investigate.

Administrators are also facing internal pressure to quell rising tensions related to the Israel-Hamas war and reinstate a final-year nursing student who was suspended after repeatedly condemning the Israeli government on social media.

Over the last week, the local divide about the conflict reached a new height with a series of developments on the Fort Garry school grounds.



MIKAELA MACKENZIE / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS FILES

University of Manitoba administrators are facing internal pressure to quell rising tensions related to the Israel-Hamas war and reinstate a final-year nursing student who was suspended after repeatedly condemning the Israeli government on social media.

A protest was held to condemn [Arij Al Khafagi's expulsion from the College of Nursing for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.](#)

A pair of Jewish academics penned letters requesting senior administration reconsider the severe penalty issued on Nov. 21.

And university staff removed 70 bulletins demanding U of M stop honouring Asper, the late Jewish lawyer and media magnate, after whom its business school is named.

Ben Baader, an associate professor who researches Jewish history, called the decision to suspend Al Khafagi “a political act” and warned it is bound to create a hostile and divisive climate.

“(U of M) has been immensely fortunate not to have been experiencing the type of confrontations, intimidations and hostilities in matters of Middle East politics and antisemitism among students and faculty that are common

on campuses across North America,” Baader wrote in a recent memo to president Michael Benarroch.

“I am deeply concerned that this will change now.”

The historian is one of two faculty members involved in the Judaic studies program who have requested Al Khafagi be reinstated immediately; his colleague asked their name not to be published.

Baader’s Dec. 3 letter urged three recipients — including nursing dean Netha Dyck and Eleanor Coopsammy, director of issues management — “limit the damage already done.”

A modified version of the email [was published in *The Manitoban* student newspaper.](#)

Last month, the president of the Nursing Students’ Association was ejected from her program until September 2024.

The penalty was announced after senior leaders called Al Khafagi into a meeting to discuss Instagram activity on her personal page, which she sometimes uses to publicize school events, and relay reports of antisemitism they had received from community members.

Al Khafagi shared a controversial cartoon that equated the Israeli military’s actions to those of Nazis during the Second World War over the Oct. 14-15 weekend. The accompanying caption stated: “The irony of becoming what you once hated...”

Around the same time, she re-posted a video of people searching the rubble for a child in Gaza that included a paragraph criticizing supporters of Israel for backing a government responsible for killing Palestinian civilians.

The 25-year-old was told her posts were discriminatory and, along with allegations of wider unprofessional conduct, responsible for the penalty. She told the *Free Press* her intention was simply to condemn the Israeli government and military — not her Jewish neighbours, and has submitted an appeal.

The university has repeatedly declined to weigh in on the specifics of the case due to privacy laws.

“(U of M) does not discipline students for exercising freedom of speech,” said Eleanor Coopsammy, a spokeswoman, in a statement Wednesday.

“The (university) values and upholds the principle of freedom of expression; however, we are also responsible to

maintain a respectful and safe environment for all members of our community.”

Many of the anonymous posters about Asper, which suggest the philanthropist supported the radical right-wing and promoted division in the world, were hung up in and around the Asper School of Business.

The post-secondary institute denounced them as hateful and antisemitic, and touted the family’s contribution to the school and province at large.

“*The situation on campus is awful.*”—a Jewish master’s student at the U of M, who asked his name not be printed for fear of his safety

Noah Greenfield, president of Hillel Winnipeg, said Jewish students continue to “trudge on” although he personally knows about a handful of peers who have specifically sought mental health support in connection to the conflict.

“I wear my Star of David every day. I wear my kippah every day because I live in Canada, we’ve got the right to freedom of religion,” Greenfield said, adding he does so to show solidarity with other Jews who are grappling with rising concerns about antisemitism on and off campus.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance describes antisemitism as a specific perception of Jews that can be expressed as hatred and directed at people, community institutions or religious facilities.

The alliance states that antisemitic acts include comparing Israeli government policies to that of Nazis and claiming Israel’s existence is a racist endeavour.

In contrast, the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism has a more narrow definition that it is “discrimination, prejudice, hostility or violence against Jews as Jews (or Jewish institutions as Jewish).”

The Canadian and Manitoba governments adopted the former in 2019 and 2022, respectively. The U of M’s undergraduate students’ union has also endorsed the IHRA view at the request of Jewish student advocacy groups in early 2021.

But Baader disagrees with the categorization that has become increasingly popular. As far as he is concerned, Al Khafagi’s posts may be controversial and distasteful to some, but they are “completely in the realm of free speech.”

Discussions about the definition of antisemitism should be debated rather than shut down with sanctions, he noted.

“The situation in Gaza is beyond, beyond desperate. Speaking out about it is a moral imperative. Yet as to how to do it, is more complicated,” Baader said.

In recent weeks, the faculty association has encouraged academics to exercise their right to weigh in on the conflict in the Middle East.

President Orvie Dingwall said the union will always defend its members’ rights to academic freedom.

“For academic freedom to work, the university generally has to be a place where faculty and students are free to express their opinions,” Dingwall said.

Greenfield, however, defended the university’s decision to suspend Al Khafagi.

“Part of being a nurse is you have to treat all people equally,” the U of M student said, adding there is no need to tear down others while defending one’s views.

INTERNATIONAL

Our statement on the Russian invasion of the Ukraine

March 7, 2022

As a social justice organization the United Jewish People’s Order (UJPO) unequivocally condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which is a flagrant violation of international law and the right of the Ukrainian people to self-determination. Since the Soviet Union collapsed, Ukrainians have been fighting for their sovereignty, freedom and democracy. We have seen remarkable movements rise amongst the ranks of regular people of all ethnic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds, especially since 2013. At a time like this we are seeing that the most important thing allies can do is to first of all understand what is happening, learn the history of the conflict unfolding in front of our eyes, and listen to those caught in the crossfire.

We stand in solidarity with all who have suffered in this horrific attack, those whose homes and livelihoods have been impacted, and who must make the difficult choice of taking up arms to defend their homeland. 1.5 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their country. Millions have been forced to seek shelter underground in subway stations and parking garages. We also stand in solidarity with the citizens of Russia, many of whom oppose the war and millions of whom will suffer the

consequences of their government's actions. Since February 24, nearly 10,000 Russian citizens have been arrested for protesting it, many have been arrested simply for posting anti-war messages online, and all independent media has been muzzled. We support the International Court of Justice's investigation into potential war crimes committed in this war and call on it to end immediately.

<https://www.winchevskycentre.org/post/ujpo-says-no-to-war-against-ukraine> ♦

UNITED JEWISH PEOPLE'S ORDER

The United Jewish People's Order develops and perpetuates a progressive secular approach to social and cultural matters, our Jewish heritage, the Yiddish language and holiday and festival celebrations; we sponsor secular Jewish education, musical and cultural groups, concerts, lectures, public forums, and take part in social action and related community activities.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are the authors' and not necessarily those of UJPO.

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