



Dear Woolf Friends,

After a long and cold winter Purim is the first holiday to start off the spring season. This is the holiday where Jews remember the story of Esther, her uncle Mordechai, King Achashverosh and the evil Haman.

There are four important elements to Purim: Hearing the Book of Esther being read twice, once in the evening and once during the day; giving charity to the poor, and especially those in food poverty; preparing food packages to be given to others, often friends; and preparing the Purim Feast, a festive meal held towards the end of the day. There is also a widespread custom of wearing costumes commemorating Queen Esther hiding her Jewish identity from King Achashverosh.

The cycle of Purim actually starts the day before with a day of fasting to emulate and commemorate Esther fasting for three days and praying for salvation from a genocidal decree, but for me the preparations start way before that. I set aside time in the weeks beforehand to think about both the important details of the day and the logistical questions. Which charity are we going to support this year? Who do we want to celebrate our Purim Feast with? Will there be enough food? (There always is!) and what costumes will we wear?

This year my husband and I hosted a large Purim Feast with friends. As we have just moved to a new house that still needs a bit of work, we decided to dress up as decorators wearing overalls and shirts with a lot of paint on them. We cooked up a Mexican style buffet and served strawberry daquiris and

pineapple-cinnamon-rum cocktails.

On the eve of Purim, hungry from a day of fasting, we went to synagogue and listened to the Book of Esther being read from a parchment scroll (I always forget how long the reading takes!). Everyone comes to the service dressed up and ready with anything that can make noise so when the name of Haman is mentioned we can 'erase' his name with noise. After the service we broke our fast at the Purim party with pizza and alcohol and enjoyed a comedy evening with our local community.

In the morning we heard the Book of Esther read again at an early synagogue service so my husband and I had enough time to cook a feast, prepare our new home for our guests, make our charitable donations, and deliver food packages. Then at 17:00 we opened our door and enjoyed a tasty meal and many cocktails with our friends that lasted till late in the evening.

It all went so well we even decided who is hosting the Purim Feast next year!

Best wishes,

Flora Moffie
Development Manager, Woolf Institute



Upcoming Events

27 March

Barbarians and
Romans: dynamics
of integration in Late
Antique Hispania



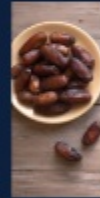
28 March

Canada's Special
Envoy on Preserving
Holocaust
Remembrance



30 March

Iftar



4 April

Antisemitism from
without and Racism
from within.



27 April

Woolf Institute in
New York



6 June

Woolf Institute
Garden Party



Woolf Institute In New York

27 April 2023



THE WOOLF INSTITUTE IS GOING TO NEW YORK

At the end of April, The Woolf Institute will be visiting New York. We will be meeting alumni and friends, and Dr Katherine O'Lone will be giving a talk entitled '*Belfast; Have the Ghosts Left?*' based on her research. This will take place at the Cambridge in America premises at 1120 Avenue of the Americas.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. In this talk, Dr Katherine O'Lone will explore the psychological and moral landscape of post-conflict Northern Ireland. Dr O'Lone argues that we can better understand peace by exploring the patterns surrounding how people think about reconciliation, forgiveness and justice in the aftermath of violent conflict. In Northern Ireland, despite the passage of twenty-five years since the GFA, the scars of 'The Troubles' continue to influence how people reason and think about moral issues, such as fairness, harm and justice. The conflict has ended but this talk suggests the ghosts are still there.

The talk will be followed by questions and discussion, and a reception to which all are welcome.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FLORA MOFFIE



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THE POLITICS OF MUSIC

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

IN THE BLUE CORNER: NATIONAL ANTHEMS
AND MILITARY MARCHES; IN THE RED
CORNER: PROTEST SONGS. POLITICS AND
MUSIC OFTEN COINCIDE...



PODCAST: THE POLITICS OF MUSIC

In the blue corner: National Anthems and military marches; in the red corner: protest songs. Politics and music often coincide.

Music - that most abstract of arts - can of course express religious feeling but it can also be directly or obliquely political, especially when lyrics are involved. Think, National Anthems or protest songs. Ed Kessler, Dunya Habash and Jonas Otterbeck reflect.

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COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

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