

The Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew
263 West 86th Street
New York, NY 10024



THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL & ST. ANDREW
BROADWAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
WEST PARK PRESBYTERIAN
ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH



TREE OF LIFE

Conference on Israel and Palestine
The New Generation of Peacemakers

NOVEMBER 7-14, 2010
NEW YORK, NY

nyc.tolef.org
(646) 389-4627

THE TREE OF LIFE CONFERENCE

Seeks to amplify voices of conscience—Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Druze—who are committed to finding justice and peace together in Israel and Palestine through education and non-violent action. All are concerned with a fundamental question: How can people of faith help make the Holy Land the holy place it could be? At the conference, representatives of different faiths will address that question, and consider:

- 1) the importance of faith traditions' emphasis on justice as essential to peace;
- 2) the importance of connectivity and solidarity between our communities here and communities in the Holy Land;
- 3) the role in political advocacy of faith communities here in the U.S.

A NEW GENERATION OF PEACEMAKERS

Particularly noteworthy will be the participation of a new generation of peacemakers – a number of remarkable young people whose convictions and compassion are exemplary - parables of hope in our troubled world. They are demonstrating what the prophet Jeremiah meant when he said, “Do not say I am only a youth!” Thanks to the courage and the convictions of these youth, someday the Holy Land will be the “light unto the nations” envisioned by the prophet Isaiah.

THE TREE OF LIFE BRANCHES OUT...

The year's speakers and performers will also make presentations in Old Lyme, Hartford, Cape Cod, and Philadelphia.

THE TREE OF LIFE

The Tree of Life Conference is a major activity of the Tree of Life Educational Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In addition to amplifying voices of conscience, the educational fund also leads annual trips to the Middle East. TOL has a partnership with Beit Sahour and every year brings young people and families to the U.S. as ambassadors to show the human face of those living under the occupation.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Sunday, November 7—10:45AM
The Riverside Church
490 Riverside Drive at 120th Street
Worship Service

Preaching, The Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek is the Director of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem. In 1948, his family were forced by Zionist troops out of their ancestral home in Beisan, and relocated in Nazareth. An Episcopal priest, and former Canon of St. George's Cathedral Church, Rev. Ateek holds degrees from Hardin-Simmons University, the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is author of many books, including *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*.



Friday, November 12—7:30 to 9:30PM
The Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew
West Park Presbyterian
263 West 86th Street at West End Avenue
Conference Presenters



Ann Wright is a retired U.S. Army colonel and former official with the U.S. State Department who resigned in protest over the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Last May, as a passenger on the Challenger 1, which was part of the Gaza flotilla, Ann was taken into custody by the Israeli government. She will describe her experience of that raid and the aftermath.

Martin John Nicholls is a British singer, songwriter and peace campaigner. He has traveled extensively with humanitarian organizations in Africa and the Middle East and has composed wonderfully prophetic songs based on what he has seen and heard. His compositions give voice to the hopes and fears of all those who yearn for “peace on earth, good will to all.” In one of his songs, he says, “I don't want a faith that takes me deeper into myself...I want a faith that makes a difference!”



Saturday, November 13—9:30AM
Broadway United Church of Christ
Advent Lutheran Church
2504 Broadway at 93rd Street
Conference Presenters



George and Najwa Saadeh offer accounts of life in an occupied Palestinian community. They are residents of Beit Sahour, where Mr. Saadeh is the Principal of the Shepherd's Field Greek Orthodox School. When their daughter Christine, age 9, was fatally shot at an Israeli checkpoint in Bethlehem, the family became members of the Parents' Circle, an organization of bereaved Jewish, Christian and Muslim parents of children killed in the conflict.

Jane Hillal from Beit Sahour, is a water and environment unit director of the Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem. Jane will describe the work of her organization, which documents the impact of the Separation Wall and water restrictions.



Rebecca Vilkomerson is Executive Director of Jewish Voice for Peace, a national U.S. grassroots organization working for a just peace, self-determination and full equality for all people of Palestine and Israel. A graduate of Connecticut College, Rebecca lived in Israel from 2006-09, and now lives in New York City.

Musical interludes will be provided by Martin John Nicholls and Enas Massalha.

Saturday, November 13—1:30PM
The Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew
West Park Presbyterian
263 West 86th Street at West End Avenue
Conference Presenters



Dr. Taiseer Maray helped establish and directs Golan for Development, an organization dedicated to building a democratic modern society in the Golan Heights as a way of resisting the occupation. Dr. Maray will describe the human rights issues of his community, their limited access to water, the open mine fields, as well as the extraordinary medical services his organization provides.



Maya Wind and Sahar Vardi typify the spirit of "The New Generation of Peacemakers." These young women have been imprisoned for their refusal to serve in the Israeli army



(IDF). They will report on their experiences and involvement with Shiministim, an organization of youth conscientious objectors who protest the IDF's policies of occupation. They will also talk about their work with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions.



Marian Saadeh is a graduate of the University of Bethlehem with a degree in Psychology and Sociology. She is extensively active in youth-oriented peace initiatives and has published many articles. She was a host for Radio Bethlehem 2000 and is manager of a project at Bethlehem University called "Palestinian Voices."

Allison McCracken is a recent graduate from Hobart and William Smith Colleges where she majored in Political Science and Religious Studies. She participated in the March 2010 Tree of Life Journey and returned to Beit Sahour in the West Bank in June. Allison kept an online blog of her day to day life in Beit Sahour at www.allimccracken.blogspot.com.



Zead Ramadan is the Board President of the Council on American Islamic Relations-New York. CAIR-NY is the local chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the nation's largest Muslim civil rights group, dedicated to empowering the NY Muslim community through relentless advocacy, media engagement, coalition building and grassroots mobilization.



Mark Braverman, traveling ambassador for the Tree of Life Educational Fund, is the author of *Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land*. Mark speaks out of the great prophetic tradition of Judaism with a critical message for the Christian churches of America.



David Wildman is the Executive Secretary, Human Rights and Racial Justice, General Board of Global Ministries. Global Ministries, like the United Methodist denomination, supports international law calling for an end to the violence of the military occupation of Palestine.



Saturday, November 13—8:00PM
The Riverside Church
490 Riverside Drive at 120th Street
Tree of Life Concert



Enas Massalha, a Palestinian operatic soprano, born in Deboriah Israel. She graduated from the Jerusalem Academy of Music where she studied with Gila Yaron, Miriam Meltzer and Marina Levit. During her studies she performed the role of Mazenka in *The Bartered Bride* (Smetana), recorded three Psalms by Aharon Harlap for the Voice of Music radio network, and performed with members of the Israeli Philharmonic and with Arab musicians in Carnegie Hall.

Jeanne-Minette Cilliers has received numerous awards and prizes since she began playing at age three. A native of Bloemfontein, South Africa, she won her first national competition in 1990. Grand prizes include the Indianapolis Matinee Musicale and the Kalamazoo Young Artists Bach Competition, as well as the silver medal in the 2000 Nena Wideman Concerto Competition. She has won prizes in all of South Africa's major competitions, including the 1999 Unisa Overseas Music Scholarship Competition and two special prizes at the Ninth Unisa International Piano Competition (2000).



Sunday, November 14—11:00AM
The Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew
263 West 86th Street at West End Avenue
Worship Service

Mark Braverman, Preaching, Tree of Life Ambassador.



CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The Tree Of Life Educational Fund, The Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, Broadway United Church of Christ, The Riverside Church, Advent Lutheran Church, West Park Presbyterian, Judson Memorial Church, Jewish Voice for Peace, Sabeel, Friends of Sabeel, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations.



Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Plan to attend:	Price	No. persons	Total
Sun., Nov. 7, 11:00AM Worship Service The Riverside Church			
Fri., Nov. 12 7:30 to 9:30PM St. Paul & St. Andrew	\$20		
Sat., Nov. 13 9:30 to 11:30AM Broadway UCC	\$20		
Sat., Nov. 13 1:30 to 6:30PM St. Paul & St. Andrew	\$20		
All day Saturday	\$30		
Sat., Nov. 13 8:00 to 9:30PM Tree of Life Concert The Riverside Church			Free
Sun., Nov. 14, 11:00AM Worship Service St. Paul & St. Andrew			

Students are free with ID

I am enclosing an additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to help sponsor the Conference and grow the Tree of Life.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail registration form and make checks payable (with "TOL" in the memo line) to:
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