

Conference Schedule

Friday ~ February 19th

8:00 Registration

09:00

Welcome

Rebecca McClain, Canon ~ Saint Mark's Cathedral

Stan Fowler, conference moderator -

(Cathedral Sanctuary)

9:15 Opening Panel

Whose God? Whose Land?

Mark Braverman, Naim Ateek, and Jamal Rahman

Moderator: Bishop Greg Rickel

(Cathedral Sanctuary)

10:00 - 11:00 Lecture

The U.S.-Israeli Partnership and the Impact on Palestine

Kathy and Bill Christison

(Cathedral Sanctuary)

11:15 - 12:15 Workshops /Seminars including:

Palestine Fragmented, Justice Denied Kathy and Bill Christison

A discussion of how U.S. support for Israel enables Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territory and its oppression of the Palestinian people, with details on the cantonization of Palestinian territory through the Separation Wall, Israeli settlements, checkpoints, Israeli-only roads, and Israeli military controls.

(Cathedral Sanctuary)

One Land, Two Peoples: Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Today Steve Niva

Niva will provide a broad overview of the history and geography of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a focus on current realities on the ground today, including Israeli settlements, checkpoints and its wall/barrier. He will use maps and slides to illustrate the core geographical and political issues in the conflict and discuss prospects and plans for peace today. This workshop is essential for anyone new to the issue.

(Bloedel Hall)

Gaza through the lens of U.S. policy Cindy and Craig Corrie

Explore together the current situation in Gaza and the responsibility of the U.S. in the creation and perpetuation of this crisis. How can we, as U.S. citizens take a constructive role in creating a foreign policy in line with universal human rights? Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by an Israeli military bulldozer while protecting the home of a Palestinian family. Her parents, Cindy and Craig Corrie have since visited Gaza four times, twice in 2009. They have worked to support human rights in the Middle East through impacting American foreign policy. The Corries' deep personal connections with Gaza provide the human context for this effort to look at what the U.S. has done to foster the current situation, at how U.S. officials are responding to Gaza issues now, and at what we should expect and demand of our policy-makers moving forward.

(Leffler Living Room)

Breaking Walls to Create a Viable Future: Education for Peace in Israel/Palestine Neve Gordon

Neve will describe the Jewish-Arab bilingual kindergarten and school that he helped co-found with other members of the Beer Sheva community. He will outline his rationale for why this is the best model for co-existence in Israel and discuss some of the school's challenges and successes as well as how Americans can support this project. (Skinner Hall)

Advocating for Peace and Justice: Where do we go from here? Jeff Halper

At this particular juncture, which strategies will help us move forward -- and closer to a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict? 'Jeff comes with the most immediate information on the ground and looks at it through his lens of experience with the matrix of control and the warehousing of people. (Conference Room - Cathedral Upstairs - Stairs required!)

Water Conflict in the Holy Land: Hurdle and Hope Hank Landau

This issue alone has a profound political and environmental impact on the future of Israel/Palestine. It is both the cause of great conflict and the source of much cooperation. (Leffler Boardroom - Upstairs - Stairs Required!)

12:15 - 1:15

Lunch

sack lunches provided
(Bloedel Hall)

1:15 - 2:15 Lecture

Prospects for Peace in Israel/Palestine

Neve Gordon
(Cathedral Sanctuary)

2:30 - 3:30 Workshops / Seminars including:

What can I do to stop the colonization project? Neve Gordon

In this workshop Neve will discuss the political obstacles facing any future agreement in Israel/Palestine and some strategies that can be deployed to surmount them. (Skinner Hall)

Theology of the land: Opening Up the Conversation Mark Braverman

The confrontation with the Nazi genocide produced a radical re-evaluation of Christian theology with respect to Christianity's relationship to the Jewish people and the rights of the Jewish people to historic Palestine. The revised theology supported the primary claim of the Jewish people to the Holy Land and overturned Christianity's spiritualization of the land. This and other theologies have profound implications for the current discourse on the political situation in historic Palestine. It directs and frames "interfaith" conversations in the West and supports policies and practices of church denominations that are designed to protect relationships with the Jewish community even when this conflicts with the church's commitment to social justice. We'll review some writing and cases illustrating this tendency, consider an alternative theology that can unite the faiths in a commitment to social justice, and discuss the experiences of workshop attendees. (Cathedral Sanctuary)

Hollowing Out the Holy City: Israel's Silent War in Jerusalem and the Implications for Peace Steve Niva

Steve will outline Israel's current strategies to prevent any future effort to divide or share the city between the two peoples. He will provide an overview of Israeli settlement policies in the city since 1967 but the focus of the talk will be on the recent escalation of Israeli settlement within and around the city and the impact of sealing off Jerusalem from the West Bank by Israel's wall/barrier. He will use a number of maps and slides to illustrate the current threats to Palestinian life in Jerusalem. (Conference Room - Cathedral Upstairs - Stairs required!)



The Goldstone Report: War Crimes and the U.Ss Tom Nelson

Those places where international law has been violated are where civil society has broken down. Tom has experience investigating places where international law has been violated and civil society has broken down. Based upon his observations in Gaza, this workshop will focus on the Goldstone Report and U.S. complicity in the crimes mentioned in the report.

(Bloedel Hall)

Crisis on Crisis in Gaza Anne and David Hall ~ Physicians for Social Responsibility

An eyewitness account of the physical and psychological impact of Israel's attack on Gaza one year ago and the subsequent border closures, as well as a picture of the resiliency of the Gazan people. Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility engages the community in support of creating a healthy, peaceful, and sustainable world by positing solutions to the gravest threats to human health and survival. Since 1979 WPSR has worked, as the medical and public health voice, for policies to prevent nuclear war and proliferation and to slow, stop and reverse global warming and toxic degradation of the environment.

(Leffler Boardroom - Upstairs - Stairs Required!)

U.S. Media Coverage of Israel-Palestine: Diagnosis and Treatment Alison Weir

Inaccurate, distorted news coverage of Palestine is at the heart of the profoundly misguided US policies that enable Israeli oppression and militarism. An informed American public would -- and will! -- demand enlightened, moral, and pragmatic policies on this issue. Former journalist Alison Weir, whose work is cited widely both nationally and internationally, will analyze U.S. media coverage of Israel-Palestine, discuss the causation of its profound deficiency, and suggest ways to overcome the obstacles. Workshop members will be invited to share their own experiences, successes, and strategies.

(Leffler Living Room)

3:45 - 5:00 Afternoon closing:

dramatic reading of *Seven Days from a Gaza Diary*

A performance for three voices adapted by Edward Mast from the diary of Khulood Ghanem, Gaza, 2008-2009
Performed by Meg Savlov, Teresa Kennedy, Juliana Meira Do Valle; with music by Clovis de Milo
(Cathedral Sanctuary)

Friday Evening at University Presbyterian Church 4540 15th Avenue NE, Seattle

6:00

DINNER

Guest of Honor: Amin Odeh

6:45 ***The Hajj*** A Karagöz Turkish Shadow-Puppet show.

The Turkish shadow-puppet show, known as Karagöz after the principle character, is a widespread tradition once popular throughout the Ottoman Empire. Shadow puppetry, employing a mix of magic and humor, has for centuries served as a lively and instructive form of entertainment, playfully teasing deeper understanding and healing into the community. The play invites us to find a new spaciousness in ourselves: space for laughter; space for hospitality, space for new thoughts - even wise thoughts - to form as cultures bump up against each other.

Tonight's show is written and performed by Craig Jacobrown. Born in Turkey, Craig was exposed to Karagöz during his childhood and became a puppeteer thirty years ago. He creates the puppets and sets for his shows as well.

Musical accompaniment for the Hajj is provided by Yeni Ses (Turkish for "New Voice"), with Kim Goldov, Sedat Uysal and Peter Lippman.

7:15 Keynote Address ***Choose Life*** Naim Ateek

Saturday ~ February 20th

8:00 Registration

9:00 Opening

What is Sabeel? Dick Toll
(Cathedral Sanctuary)

9:15 - 10:15 Lecture

No Partner for Peace: Our American Problem Jeff Halper
(Cathedral Sanctuary)

10:30 - 11:30 Workshops / Seminars including:

Apartheid or Confederation? Jeff Halper

How have the facts on the ground created by Israeli government policies led to apartheid? What are the ways out of this? In addition to the one-state and two-state possibilities, there are other configurations we can imagine and explore, such as a Middle East confederation.
(Bloedel Hall)

The Goldstone Report: War Crimes and the U.S. Tom Nelson

Those places where international law has been violated are where civil society has broken down. Tom has investigated those places on the ground in the Gaza, and will look at the Goldstone Report on the basis of his own experience. US complicity in the crimes will be examined.
(Leffler Livingroom)

The Hidden Price of Occupation Ibrahim Hamide and Rajiv Kapoor

Tanks and rockets make headlines. But the real cost of occupation is revealed in the lives of children and teachers trying to get to school, laborers trying to get to work, ill people trying to get medical care, farmers trying to get to their fields and then to market, doctors trying to reach their own hospitals. Passing through checkpoints inside the West Bank have become an irrevocable routine task like brushing your teeth or eating breakfast. Special focus will be on Ib's hometown, Bethlehem. The hidden price is the price that needs our witness.
(Cathedral Sanctuary by photography exhibit)

Jonah: the First Palestinian Liberation Theologian Naim Ateek

The theology of Jonah regarding God, people, and land express the climax of Old Testament theology; and is very relevant for inspiring us to find a solution for the Israel/Palestine conflict.
(Skinner Hall)

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(Conference Room - Cathedral Upstairs - Stairs Required!)

11:45 - 12:45 Lecture

Beyond Interfaith Dialogue: The Role of the American Church in Bringing Peace to the Holy Land
Mark Braverman
(Cathedral Sanctuary)



1:00 - 2:00

Lunch

sack lunches provided
(Bloedel Hall)

2:00 - 3:00 Lecture

Shaping Hope into Action: Strategies to End Israel's Occupation Steve Niva
(Cathedral Sanctuary)

3:15 - 4:15 Workshops / Targeting strategies including:

Changing the Tide: churches as a force for peace in the Holy Land Mark Braverman

Achieving a just peace in historic Palestine will require a change in U.S. policy toward the State of Israel. The churches in the U.S., at ecumenical, denominational, and congregational levels, are poised to drive that policy change by changing the political wind. The greatest barrier to the churches' pursuit of this mission is the perception that anything short of unconditional support of Israel's policies is anti-Semitic and damaging to the citizens of Israel. This is a fear that is exploited by interests within the Jewish community as well as within church organizations to muzzle the conversation and thwart action. The workshop will pursue two goals:

- (1) Consider how to help church members and church organizations understand and overcome this barrier, and how to avoid the "interfaith trap."
- (2) Through examples and discussion learn about specific actions and programs including education, awareness building and activism at the grass roots, mobilization of religious leadership, solidarity with civil society movements here and in the region, and direct legislative advocacy. Case examples, group discussion.
(Cathedral Sanctuary)

Lobbying: Connecting with our Government Cindy and Craig Corrie with the Gaza Campaign

Efforts to lobby our representatives have gained traction this year. This workshop will look at case studies of what has been learned to date; share experiences and explore strategies and techniques for lobbying officials in our state and federal government; discuss how to form a lobbying group and message that is effective; learn what you can do to ensure a constructive meeting and that you and your group become a resource for government officials. The Corries bring seven years experience talking to members of Congress, the Departments of State and Justice, and Washington State lawmakers and officials about Middle East foreign policy, as well as justice for their daughter Rachel.
(Skinner Hall)

BDS - A how-to workshop Judith Kolokoff with Jeff Halper

The goals of this workshop are:

- 1) To achieve understanding from the attendees at the Sabeel Conference that a coordinated national/international Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign taking its leadership from the the Palestinian call for BDS is the most effective way to end the illegal, racist and apartheid occupation of Palestine and to restore justice and peace.
- 2) To understand that our work toward this end must be geared to building a strong grassroots movement; developing participation from diverse communities; and developing new effective organizing strategies and educational tools to best reach out to these communities....labor, people of color, churches, youth. It is only through the development of a strong grass roots movement that we will be able to effectively impact on and change the policy of the US government...and ultimately bring sanctions against Israel.
(Bloedel Hall)

Seeing is Believing: Travel to the Holy Land Bishop Chris Boerger, Stan Fowler and John Berg

Stan Fowler and John Berg will give an illustrated presentation about the value of visiting the Holy Land and seeing for oneself the facts on the ground and meeting with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists. Both have participated and led such "alternative tourism" experiences and will provide information about other witness trips being offered this year.
(Leffler Livingroom)

Tolerance Training - a case study of Homeland Security and the Muslim community in Seattle

Amin Odeh and Arsalan Bukhari

When the Seattle Police Department purchased a tolerance training program from a group which invests in films and other media to promote anti-Muslim hate and fear, the Muslim and Arab community along with many interfaith organizations used several strategies to lobby against the use of the program. The effort failed. But the process revealed the extent to which Homeland Security efforts have included strategies and programs harmful to Muslims. And the need to continue and improve the work to protect Muslims in our community. Examples of what is underway will be given. Participants will be invited to consider the ways this might be accomplished. (Leffler Boardroom – Upstairs – Stairs Required!)

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Media Coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Richard Silverstein, Larry Johnson, Bruce Ramsey

The panel will examine the nature and quality of reporting on the conflict in both the U.S.:

1. How do we get more & better coverage into the media?
2. How do we make such coverage more accessible to the average American?
3. How does the collapse of print media alter the landscape for coverage?
4. Where do people get their coverage of the conflict?
5. Critique of media coverage of I-P conflict
6. What political issues should be covered that aren't being covered?
7. How to improve communications between Israeli, Palestinian and U.S. media and peace activist communities
8. Role of digital media, social networking in expanding access to news about the conflict

(Conference Room - Cathedral Upstairs - Stairs required!)

4:30 Closing

Kites Fly Free

Dick Toll