

Kehilla Synagogue, Jewish Voice for Peace and AFSC present:

Remembering 1948



Personal narratives by Palestinians and Jews about events surrounding the founding of Israel ...

- experienced by Jews as a liberation in the wake of the *Shoah*, the calamity of the Holocaust

- experienced by Palestinians as the *Nakba*, the catastrophe of expulsion from their homes

Narratives accompanied by poetry and music



At: Kehilla Community Synagogue
1300 Grand Ave
Piedmont, CA
Saturday, May 31, 7:30pm
(Doors open at 7:00)
Wheelchair Accessible

Suggested Donation: \$10
(no one turned away)
...refreshments following program

For Information:
Phylece: (510) 444-8103 or
Kehilla: (510) 547-2424
<http://www.kehillasynagogue.org/>

Remembering 1948:

Personal narratives by Palestinians and Jews

Welcome

Rabbi David Cooper, Kehilla Community Synagogue

Introduction to the program

Nabil Wahbeh, Joy Totah Hilden and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb

Narrator Elias Botto

Born in West Jerusalem in 1932. In December 1947, his parents took the family to Bethlehem to stay until they could return home. That was 60 years ago. In 1954, he came to the U.S. seeking a better life. Mr. Botto is active in the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group of San Mateo and San Francisco.

Narrator Tsvi Meidav

Born in Poland in 1930, his family moved to Palestine in 1935. He studied agriculture and then served in the Haganah in 1948-49. He came to the U.S. in 1950 to continue his agricultural studies but became a Ph.D. in Geophysics at UCB, despite never having earned a high school diploma. He was a professor of Geophysics at UCB for many years. He is married and has three children and has led a fulfilling life.

Narrator Nabil Wahbeh

Born in Jerusalem, Palestine during the British Mandate. Mr. Wahbeh witnessed the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars. He left Jerusalem, moving first to Canada and then to the Bay Area in 1970. He has extended family in the Occupied Territories and owns property in Jerusalem he is not permitted to live in. For the past 10 years, Mr. Wahbeh has been a peace activist seeking justice and equal human rights for both Palestinians and Israelis. He is a member of the East Bay Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue Group and the Middle East Peace Committee of AFSC.

Narrator Amalia Bergman

Born in Palestine in 1939 to European parents looking for a socialist secular state. Her family lived in a small farming village. She studied at Hebrew University and became a physicist. She moved to the U.S. in 1982, along with her children, because she didn't want to live through another war.

Narrator Manar Azriek

Born in Israel in 1975 to a Palestinian family. She was the National Judo champion of Israel from 1988-94. She studied in the Bedouin and Jewish schools of south Israel (Beer Sheva) and speaks Arabic and Hebrew. Ms. Azriek has a B. Ed. in Waldorf Education and has taught Palestinian and Israeli children and youth. She is a trained conflict resolution facilitator and has worked in Israel and internationally.

Narrator Judith Agassi, read by Seema Dajani

Born in Germany in 1924. She and her family emigrated to Palestine in 1938 because of Nazism. As a child she lived with her grandfather, Martin Buber. She studied at Hebrew University and University of London and has been a professor in many countries. Ms. Agassi currently is active in the struggle to define all residents of Israel as Israeli nationals and to end laws discriminatory to non-Jews and women.

Candle lighting all narrators

Community voices facilitated by Joy Totah Hilden and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb

Light refreshments downstairs

Musical interludes woven throughout the program by Manar Azriek, John Erlich, and Daniel Esho

Manar Azriek, a Palestinian Israeli woman, has been connected to music (drumming and dance) since she's known herself. She started the 5Rhythm dance in 2003 in Tel Aviv and continued in Mill Valley. Today she is studying at CIIS the Sound, Voice and Music Healing Program in San Francisco.

John Erlich, a native of Sacramento, was inspired to take up the 'ud by a 1993 six-month stay in Akko (Acre), Israel among Israeli Arabs/Palestinian-Israelis and Israeli Jews with roots in North Africa. He is a founding member of the Berkeley-based ensemble, Za'atar: Music of the Jews of Arab and Muslim Lands, and is an 'ud student of Necati Celik and Naser Musa.

Daniel Esho is from Turlock CA, of Assyrian-Armenian ancestry. He's been playing Middle Eastern music since 1968; he studied Kanun with Halil Karaduman and Goksel Baktagir, and the Turkish Oud with Necati Celik. He has performed with many groups including Za'atar, Basilon D'Babylon, Estreya d'Oro and the Almas Arabic Ensemble.

Speakers/Facilitators

Rabbi David J. Cooper helped co-found Kehilla in 1984 and has served as rabbi since 1999. He has been a guide for its members on issues dealing with Israel/Palestine peace and justice issues.

Nabil Wahbeh: See biographical notes in Narrator Section

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb was one of the first ordained female rabbis. She is a co-founder of the Muslim-Jewish PeaceWalk, and a founder of the newly-formed, Shomer Shalom Institute for Jewish Nonviolence.

Joy Totah Hilden is from Ramallah, Palestine. Her family came to the USA in 1944 on a Liberty Ship. She was co-facilitator of the East Bay Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue Group for almost a decade. She is a teacher, artist and writer.

Seema Dajani is from a Palestinian family with a 500 year history in Jerusalem. In 1948, her family left to Jordan, where she was born. She's a co-facilitator of the East Bay Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue Group and an RN.

This program has been a joint effort of Kehilla Community Synagogue, Jewish Voice for Peace and American Friends Service Committee. We thank all three organizations for their support.

There are many people to thank and acknowledge . . .

- All the narrators for their willingness to share their personal stories with us in a spirit of hope for the future through understanding
- The musicians for bringing the culture to us in the most universal of ways
- Rabbi David Cooper for his thoughtful and calm input
- Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb and Joy Totah Hilden for facilitating heartfully and mindfully
- The Planning Committee, who met weekly and worked so hard to put it together ... Especially Judy Gussmann, who went above and beyond ... And especially Joel Brody for creating the beautiful flyer.
- Kehilla Middle East Peace Committee
- Rainbow Grocery Cooperative for food donation
- Tom McAfee, videographer

There are literature tables downstairs with more information from the sponsoring organizations after the program.