

SABEEL CONFERENCE

Pursue Justice--Seek Peace Framing the Discourse - Mobilizing for Action

October 1—3, 2009

**Shiloh Baptist Church
1500 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC**

“The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.”
Martin Luther King



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THURSDAY OCTOBER 1

5:00 - 5:45 pm (Resource Room)

Art on display, "Peacemakers": Conversation with the artist, Lee Porter

6:00 - 7:00 pm (Sanctuary)

Opening Interfaith Service: *Rev. Wallace Charles Smith, Rev. Naim Ateek, Imam Yahya Hendi, Rabbi Brian Walt, and Ms. Ruba Estephan, cantor in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian tradition*

7:10 - 8:30 pm (Sanctuary)

Dr. Richard Falk, *UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories*
Hope for the Future: Overcoming the Failures of the Peace Process

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

8:00 - 8:50 am (Sanctuary)

Bible Study - **Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins**, *Senior Pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, Washington DC*

9:00 - 10:15 am (Sanctuary)

Moderator: Rev. Carletta Allen

Understanding the Present, Framing the Future

Jeff Halper, *Coordinator of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Jerusalem*

Nadia Hijab, *Senior Fellow, Institute of Palestine Studies, Washington, DC*

10:30 -11:45 am - **Parallel Workshops**

Workshop Room 1	Rebecca Vilkomerson – <i>The American Jewish Community – Where to?</i>
Workshop Room 2	Nadia Hijab – <i>Answering Questions, Taking Action</i>
Workshop Room 3	Maher Bitar and Zachary Wales – <i>Palestine Online - Wired for Justice</i>
Workshop Room 4	Josh Ruebner – <i>Lobbying for a Just Foreign Policy</i>
Workshop Room 5	US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation – <i>Palestine for Beginners</i>
Film Room	<i>This Palestinian Life</i> a documentary by Philip Rizk

12:00 - 1:45 pm (Heritage Hall – Box Lunch)

Andrew Whitley, *Director, UNRWA Representative Office, NY, Averting Further Tragedy in Gaza*

2:00 -3:30 pm (Sanctuary)

Moderator: Dr. Mark Braverman

The Exodus, the Promised Land and a Promised Peace: Are Religious Texts Holding Back our Voices?

Dr. Rosemary R. Ruether, *theologian and scholar, visiting Professor of Feminist Theology at Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University*

Rev. Bea Morris, *Womanist theologian, Ph. D. candidate, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA*

Dr. Andrea Smith, *Cherokee intellectual, feminist, and anti-violence activist; Assistant Professor in the Department of Media and Cultural Studies at the University of California, Riverside*

Rabbi Brian Walt, *Co-coordinator, Ta'anit Tzedek - Jewish Fast For Gaza*

3:45 - 5:00 pm - Parallel Workshops

Workshop Room 1	Mark Braverman, Rosemary Ruether – <i>Changing the Theological Discourse</i>
Workshop Room 2	Andrea Smith, Naim Ateek – <i>The Impact of Global South Theologies on World Politics</i>
Workshop Room 3	Jeff Halper - <i>Thinking Out of the Box: Where To Go From Here</i>
Workshop Room 4	Maher Bitar – <i>Who are the Palestinians?</i>
Workshop Room 5	Rev. Susan Wilder – <i>What are the churches doing? What should they be doing?</i>
Workshop Room 6	David Hosey – <i>A Tool Kit for Church Advocacy</i>
Film Room	Bill Plitt presenting <i>Steadfast Hope</i>

5:15 pm (Resource Room)

Book signing with authors Naim Ateek, Mark Braverman, Mary King, Phyllis Bennis and Jeff Halper

6:00 pm (Heritage Hall - Dinner)

Rev. Naim Ateek, *President and Director of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem*

8:15 pm (Sanctuary)

Najla Saïd reading her play, **Palestine**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3

8:00 - 8:50 am (Sanctuary) Bible Study with Rev. Avery Blakeney, *Lighthouse Ministries*

9:00 -10:30 am (Sanctuary)

Moderator: Tom Getman

Lessons from the Civil Rights Movement, the Intifada and the Anti-Apartheid Movement

Dr. Bernard Lafayette, *Civil Rights Movement activist, co-founder of Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee, currently Distinguished Senior Scholar at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia*

Dr. Mary King, *Distinguished Scholar with The American University Center for Global Peace, a Rothermere American Institute Fellow, University of Oxford, U.K., and author of **A Quiet Revolution***

Dr. Charles Villa-Vicencio, *Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (Cape Town); currently visiting Professor, Conflict Resolution Program, Georgetown University*

10:45 -11:45 am - Parallel Workshops

Workshop Room 1	Phyllis Bennis – <i>The Obama Administration and Prospects for Peace</i>
Workshop Room 2	Amjad Atallah – <i>What Can We Expect? Peace Plans 101</i>
Workshop Room 3	Ali Abunimah – <i>Prospects for Peace – One State or Two?</i>
Workshop Room 4	David Wildman – <i>Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS), A Justice-Based Strategy of Solidarity</i>
Workshop Room 5	Don Wagner – <i>Dispelling Christian Zionist Arguments</i>
Workshop Room 6	US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation – <i>Palestine for Beginners</i>
Film Room	Landrum Bolling presenting his latest documentary, <i>New Hope For Peace</i>

12:00 -1:15 pm (Heritage Hall - Box Lunch)

Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision: Jala Basil Andoni, Hekmat Besisso-Naji and Ruth El Raz

1:30 - 3:00 pm (Sanctuary)

Moderator: Rev. Steve Huber
Raising the Voices of Conscience

Dr. Tyrone Pitts, *General Secretary, the Progressive National Baptist Convention*

Dr. Rosemary R. Ruether, *theologian and scholar, visiting Professor of Feminist Theology at Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University*

Jim Fine, *Board Chairman, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)*

David Wildman, *Executive Secretary for Human Rights and Racial Justice, General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church*

3:15 - 4:15 pm: Parallel Workshops

Workshop Room 1	Reverend Graylan Scott Hagler – <i>Holy Scriptures as a Justification for Oppression and a Silencer to Outrage</i>
Workshop Room 2	Naim Ateek and Gaby Habib – <i>Arab Christians: Past, Present and Future</i>
Workshop Room 3	Don Wagner – <i>Engaging with Evangelicals on Israel/Palestine</i>
Workshop Room 4	Jeff Halper - <i>Thinking Out of the Box: Where To Go From Here</i>
Workshop Room 5	Mike Daly – <i>Travel as Witness</i>
Workshop Room 6	Noura Erakat – <i>Lobbying for Gaza and Beyond</i>
Film Room	Irene Nasser introducing <i>Encounter Point</i>

4:30 - 5:15 pm (Sanctuary)

Moderator: Philip Farah
Where do we go from here?

Phyllis Bennis, *Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC, and author of Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer*

Ali Abunimeh, *co-founder of the Electronic Intifada, author of One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

5:30 pm (Sanctuary) **Closing - Rev. Naim Ateek**

FILM SCREENINGS

Sabeel Conference
(Film Room is adjacent to Resource Room)

THIS PALESTINIAN LIFE — Friday October 2nd from 10:30 – 11:45 am

A documentary film about nonviolent struggle in the face of Israeli occupation and the ongoing, illegal annexation of Palestinian land. The film uses an oral history approach to document the stories of Palestinian farmers who struggle to maintain their very existence in the villages of Hebron, the Jordan Valley, and the Gaza Strip.

STEADFAST HOPE— Friday October 2nd from 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Introduced by Bill Plitt

The assemblies of the World Council of Churches, in June 2007, met to agree on a new effort to re-energize the world-wide church's response to the 60 years of turmoil following the establishment of the state of Israel. The Presbyterian Church USA endorsed this ecumenical statement, instructing that it be considered in any study processes of the church. This film and the accompanying book is used to educate in these efforts.

NEW HOPE FOR PEACE — Saturday October 3rd from 10:45 – 11:45 am

Introduced by Landrum Bolling

Timely and authoritative policy recommendations by four American statesmen who have been deeply moved by the issue: Jimmy Carter, James A. Baker, Brent Scowcroft, and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

ENCOUNTER POINT — Saturday October 3rd from 3:15 to 4:15 pm

Introduced by Irene Nasser (Just Visions)

A former Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, a bereaved Israeli mother and a wounded Palestinian bereaved brother risk their lives and public standing to promote a nonviolent end to the conflict. The film explores what drives them and thousands of other like-minded civilians to overcome anger and grief to work for grassroots solutions.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Ali Abunimah is a Palestinian political activist and co-founder of the leading on-line analytical forum on Israel-Palestine, "Electronic Intifada". He is the author of many related studies and essays, and the book *One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse* (2006). Ali co-authored *The Palestinian Right of Return* (2001).

Jala Basil Andoni, a former English teacher, lives in Beit Sahour, a town also called the Shepherds' Field. The busy mother of four children was appointed supervisor of English Language at The Directorate of Education in Bethlehem District in 1996. She retired early from the School District in 2003 to have more time to participate in peace building activities. She currently works with the Wi'am Center for Reconciliation and the Arab Educational Institute (AEI) in Bethlehem, and is a leader of the women's group at the Alternative Information Center (AIC) in Beit Sahour. Her work includes supporting and empowering women.

Amjad Atallah is the Co-Director of the Middle East Task Force at the New America Foundation and also a Senior Affiliated Expert with the Public International Law and Policy Group. Prior to working at the New America Foundation, he headed Strategic Assessments Initiative, a nonprofit organization committed to providing legal and policy assistance to parties involved in negotiations in conflict and post-conflict situations. His efforts included running the international policy and advocacy efforts of the Save Darfur Coalition, advising the Kosovar constitutional process, and preparing scenario planning exercises for the Palestinians and Israelis. Prior to that, Mr. Atallah advised the Palestinian negotiating team in peace negotiations with Israel on the issues of international borders, security, and constitutional issues. Mr. Atallah received a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Virginia and received his J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law.

Naim Ateek was born in the Palestinian village of Beisan, south of the Sea of Galilee. His family went to live in Nazareth after Zionist troops occupied Beisan in 1948. He was ordained in the Anglican (Episcopal) Church in 1967. He holds degrees from Hardin-Simmons University (TX) and the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CA). He earned a Doctor of Divinity degree from the San Francisco Theological Seminary (CA) in 1985. Ateek received the Episcopal Peace Fellowship Sayre Award and Distinguished Alumnus awards from San Francisco Theological Seminary and Hardin Simmons University. He holds Honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and the Episcopal Divinity School of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Ateek established the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem in 1991. Previous to that, he served as Canon of St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem and also served as parish priest in Haifa and Nazareth. He is author of *Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation* and *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation* (Orbis Books, October 2008).

Phyllis Bennis is a Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies and of the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam. She serves on the steering committee of the U.S. Campaign to End Israeli Occupation. Her books include the updated edition of her best-selling *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer* as well as *Ending the Iraq War* and *Understanding the US-Iran Crisis*.

Hekmat Besisso-Naji is from Gaza and currently lives in Ramallah. She has worked for American Friends Service Committee, Save the Children USA, Defense for Children International, and the Jerusalem Media Communication Center. After earning diplomas from Al-Azhar University and Kann'an Educational Development Institute in Gaza, she is currently working on a B.A. in Social Work from Alquds Open University. During 2005 she spoke to audiences in the U.S. and Europe through Peace x Peace, Joining Hands Against Hunger (a Presbyterian Church initiative) and the Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. She currently works as a Community Trainer on nonviolence.

Maher Bitar is a doctoral candidate in International Relations at Oxford University and is concurrently pursuing a law degree at Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C. He received a Master of Science (MSc) in Forced Migration from the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford while on a Marshall Scholarship. He has worked with the UN's Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Mark Braverman is a clinical psychologist specializing in crisis management and trauma intervention. The grandson of a fifth-generation Palestinian Jew, Braverman has lived in Israel and has traveled in Israel and the West Bank on interfaith fact-finding delegations. Braverman is the executive director of the Holy Land Peace Project, an organization that promotes education about and action for Middle East peace in the U.S. faith communities. He is a cofounder of Friends of Tent of Nations North America, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting Palestinian land rights and coexistence in historic Palestine. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions-USA, the steering committee of Friends of Sabeel North America, and the advisory council of the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace. Braverman's article "Zionism and Post-Holocaust Christian Theology: A Jewish Perspective" appeared in the May 2009 *Journal of Holy Land Studies*. His book, *Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land* was published by Synergy Books in October, 2009.

Mike Daly is Program Coordinator for Interfaith Peace-Builders (IFPB), a program that leads delegations to Israel/Palestine and supports post-delegation efforts to educate local communities and advocate for a more just US foreign policy. Before coming to IFPB, Mike studied in Damascus as a Fulbright Scholar, worked as a public relations consultant with the United Nations Development Programme in Ramallah, and completed a year of intensive Arabic at the American University in Cairo. Mike co-led two IFPB delegations (March 2006 and 2008), has presented at numerous conferences and workshops and taken on leadership roles in national, regional, and local organizing initiatives and coalitions.

Ruth El-Raz has a masters degree in social work from Rutgers University. She works as a therapist at the Counseling Center for Women in Jerusalem, which she helped found. She is also a board member of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD), and Bat Shalom, the Israeli side of Jerusalem Link, a joint Israeli/Palestinian women's peace organization. She is a founding

member of Women in Black. As an active member of Checkpoint Watch, she goes with others twice a day to monitor the attitude of soldiers towards the Palestinians as they pass through various checkpoints between Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Noura Erakat, a Palestinian attorney and an adjunct professor of international human rights law in the Middle East at Georgetown University. She served as Legal Counsel for a Congressional Subcommittee in the House of Representatives. Prior to her time on Capitol Hill, Noura received a New Voices Fellowship to work as the national grassroots organizer and legal advocate at the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation where she helped seed BDS campaigns nationally as well as support the cases brought against two former Israeli officials in U.S. federal courts for alleged war crimes. Noura has appeared on Fox's "The O' Reilly Factor," NBC's "Politically Incorrect," MSNBC, and Al-Jazeera International.

Ruba Estephan was born in Lebanon where she obtained a degree in dentistry from the Jesuit University. At the same time, she studied Byzantine music in the Antiochian Orthodox Archbishopric of Tripoli. In 1993 she married and moved with her husband, an Orthodox priest, to serve a parish in Brazil. Nine years later, she moved with her husband and three children to the USA to serve the parish of Saints Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church in Potomac, Maryland. Ruba is the cantor and serves as a volunteer with the Orthodox Youth Organization and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Richard Falk is United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He is Albert G. Milbank Professor Emeritus of International Law at Princeton University and Visiting Distinguished Professor in Global and International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His most recent book, *The Great Terror War* (2003) considers the American response to September 11, including its relationship to the patriotic duties of American citizens. In 2001 he served on a three person Human Rights Inquiry Commission for the Palestine Territories that was appointed by the United Nations, and previously, on the Independent International Commission on Kosovo. Falk serves as Chair of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Board of Directors and is honorary vice president of the American Society of International Law.

Jim Fine is Legislative Secretary for Foreign Policy at the Friends Committee on National Legislation and Board Chair for Churches of Middle East Peace (CMEP). Jim has lived in Beirut, Jerusalem, Ramallah, and, briefly, in Baghdad. For over three decades he has traveled extensively throughout the region meeting with political, social, and religious leaders and developing relationships of trust and confidence. He has served as the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) International Affairs representative in the Middle East traveling to Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. He has also worked with a Quaker high school in Ramallah, and with the Middle East Council of Churches.

Gabriel Habib studied law at St. Joseph University in Beirut. In 1961 he volunteered through the World Council of Churches (WCC) to serve the Algerian refugees in Tunisia. Between 1962 and 1974 he worked for the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) and World Council of Churches as their Joint Youth and Student Secretary for the Middle East. In 1970, he was voluntary General Secretary of the World Conference of Christians for Palestine (WCCP). In 1974 and until 1977, he worked as Director of the Near East Ecumenical Bureau of Information and Interpretation. From 1977 to 1994, he was General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches that he participated in founding. In 2005, he became director of Cultural and Religious Relations of the Middle East Fellowship.

Graylan Scott Hagler is Senior Minister, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Washington, D.C. and National President, Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ). He is on the Steering and Administrative Committee of United for Peace and Justice, a national coalition working to oppose aspects of U.S. foreign policy that the group believes contribute to war and aggression.

Jeff Halper is Director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHN), professor of anthropology, distinguished author, and internationally acclaimed speaker. In 2006 he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the American Friends Service Committee. He is the author of a widely used resource manual of articles and maps (revised in 2009) *Obstacles to Peace: A Re-Framing of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*. His book, *An Israeli in Palestine: Resisting Dispossession, Redeeming Israel* chronicles his work against the Israeli Occupation.

Derrick Harkins has served as the Senior Pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in Washington DC since 1997. He was the Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church of Dallas Texas. During his tenure there, he served as President of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches and was a founding board member of both The Dallas Leadership Foundation and the Morals and Values Project. He also was the host of *Faith Focus*, a weekly television program aired throughout North Texas. He has been a frequent guest on National Public Radio.

Nadia Hijab is Senior Fellow at the Institute for Palestine Studies, a syndicated columnist for Agence Global, and a frequent public speaker and media commentator. Hijab's first book is *Womanpower: The Arab debate on women at work*, published by Cambridge University Press. She co-authored *Citizens Apart: A Portrait of Palestinians in Israel* published by I. B. Tauris. She was Editor-in-Chief of the London-based Middle East magazine before moving to New York to join the UN. In 2000 she established her own consulting business on human rights, human development, and gender. She has served as co-chair of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.

David Hosey is a young adult missionary with Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. From September of 2007 until December of 2008, he lived and worked in East Jerusalem with the Sabeel Center. During that time, he had the privilege to travel throughout the West Bank and Israel, and to meet and work with Israelis, Palestinians, and internationals dedicated to the cause of a just peace for all people of the Holy Land. He now lives in Washington, DC, where he works with the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.

Mary King is Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, University for Peace. She is also Distinguished Scholar with The American University Center for Global Peace in Washington, DC and a Rothermere American Institute Fellow, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Since 1984, she has served as a special adviser to former president Jimmy Carter, and has worked closely with him on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As a young student, she worked alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. (no relation) in the U.S. civil rights movement. Her book on that epochal four-year experience, *Freedom Song: A Personal Story of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement*, won her a Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Book Award in 1988. Her latest book is *A Quiet Revolution: The First Palestinian Intifada and Nonviolent Resistance*.

Bernard Lafayette, an ordained minister, is a long-time civil rights activist, organizer, and an authority on nonviolent social change. He co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960, and he was a core leader of the civil rights movement in Nashville, TN, in 1960 and in Selma, AL, in 1965. He directed the Alabama Voter Registration Project in 1962, and he was appointed by Martin Luther King, Jr. to be national program administrator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and national coordinator of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign. Dr. Lafayette is currently a Distinguished Senior Scholar-in-Residence at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Prior to that he served as Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island.

Bea Morris serves at the Center for Social Ministry at Plymouth United Church Of Christ, in Oakland CA. She studied at the Graduation Theological Union, Berkeley, California where her area of study was Post-colonialism and Ecofeminist theology/spirituality. Bea is also a clinician, and has had nearly 20 years experience in the HIV/AIDS epidemic under many guises (usually simultaneously): County HIV Testing Coordinator, primary medical provider, clinical trials coordinator, and grant-writer.

Tyrone S. Pitts currently serves as the Vice-Moderator of the US Conference for the World Council of Churches as well as holding a position on the WCC's Executive and Central Committees. As Former Director for Racial Justice, Division of Church and Society, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) Dr. Pitts worked with NCC member communions, the World Council of Churches, the All African Conference of Churches, other ecumenical agencies and community groups to combat racism in the US and throughout the world. He now serves as General Secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Lee Porter—Lee's quilt-art has been story telling since 1991, interpreting her personal life or a biblical story or dealing with social issues like homelessness, Nicaraguan poverty, or peace building. Lee's work has been shown in many group exhibitions. She has had one-person shows at Smith College in Northampton, Mass., IAO Gallery in Oklahoma City, and The Dadian Gallery at Wesley Seminary in Washington DC. Her work is part of individual and institutional collections including: The Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C., University of VA Medical Center in Charlottesville, Va.; The Global Education Fund in Santa Fe, NM, and World Hope International in Arlington, VA.

Josh Ruebner is the National Advocacy Director for the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, a national coalition of more than 300 organizations, including Friends of Sabeel--North America, working to change U.S. policy toward Israel/Palestine to support human rights, international law, and equality. He is a former Analyst in Middle East Affairs at Congressional Research Service and holds a graduate degree in International Affairs from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, a renowned Roman Catholic scholar and theologian, is currently visiting Professor of Feminist Theology at Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University. She formerly was Carpenter Professor of Feminist Theology at the Pacific School of Religion and Graduate Theological Union, and also taught at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Ruether is the author of *The Wrath of Jonah: The Crisis of Religious Nationalism in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* and *Amerika, Amerika: Elect Nation and Imperial Violence*.

Najla Saïd is an award-winning actress, comedian and writer. As an actress, she has appeared Off-Broadway, regionally and internationally, as well as in film and television. Recent credits include Heather Rafo's solo show "Nine Parts of Desire" at Seattle Repertory Theater (winner, Seattle Times Footlight Award, "Most Dazzling Performance") and the world premiere of "Prophecy" at The New End Theatre in London. Najla is a member of New York Theatre Workshop's Usual Suspects, a founding member of Nibras Arab-American Theatre Collective, and served as its artistic director from 2005-2006. Her play, "Palestine" premiered at the "New Works Now" festival at The Public Theatre in 2006.

Andrea Smith is a co-founder of Incite! Women of Color Against Violence and the Boarding School Healing Project. She is the author of *Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances* (Duke) and *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide* (South End Press). She is also editor of *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*. She is currently the US Coordinator of Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians. She teaches in Media and Cultural Studies at UC Riverside.

Rebecca Vilkomerson is National Director, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). She has over 15 years of experience in community organizing, advocacy, program development and fundraising in the U.S. and Israel, has been an active member of JVP since 2002 and lived in Israel with her family from 2006-2009. Most recently Rebecca worked for a Palestinian Israeli public policy center and a Bedouin-Jewish environmental and social justice organization. Her study, *Public Policy in Divided Societies: The Case for a Civil Rights Institution* was published in July, 2008.

Charles Villa-Vicencio is visiting professor in the Conflict Resolution Program at Georgetown University. As Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in South Africa, his research addressed peace building in conflict situations and

transitional justice in Africa. He was the National Research Director at the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (1996-1998). His most recent publication is *Walk with Us and Listen: Building Sustainable Reconciliation in Africa*, Georgetown Univ. Press, Oct. 2009

Donald Wagner is a professor and for the previous 15 years the Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at North Park University in Chicago. He is the author of 4 books, including "Anxious for Armageddon" and "Dying in the Land of Promise: Palestine and Palestinian Christianity from Pentecost-2000." He previously served as the national Director for the Palestine Human Rights Campaign. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister.

Zachary Wales is a Director of Internet Services for Changing Our World, Inc., a philanthropic consulting firm for nonprofits. He brings 12 years' experience in journalism, grassroots campaigning, and online strategy, fundraising and production. His social awareness is rooted in post-Apartheid South Africa, where he served as U.S. correspondent for Untied Press International. Zachary moved into the nonprofit arena after receiving his masters in public administration from Columbia University. Before joining Changing Our World, Zachary worked with the American Association for Palestinian Equal Rights and United Palestinian Appeal, helping them launch their online campaigns and websites.

Brian Walt was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where he was active as a student in the struggle against Apartheid. In 1988, Rabbi Walt founded Mishkan Shalom, a progressive synagogue in Philadelphia, PA. dedicated to the integration of spiritual life and social activism. In 2003 Rabbi Walt became Rabbi Emeritus of the synagogue and assumed the position as the founding Executive Director of Rabbis for Human Rights--North America. In August 2009 Rabbi Walt founded Ta'anit Tzedek: Jewish Fast for Gaza. He is co-author of *The Seder of the Children of Abraham*, a Passover Haggadah dedicated to Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation.

Sturgis Warner has directed productions at The Kitchen Theatre (Ithaca, NY), New Jersey Rep, Adirondack Theatre Festival, 29th Street Rep, Barrington Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville (Humana Festival), Abingdon Theatre Company, Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, Wings Theatre, Encore Theatre (San Francisco), Immigrant Theatre Company, Twilight Theatre Company, Peculiar Works Project, among others. He is Co-Artistic Director of Twilight Theatre Company. A long time actor, he works with many playwrights developing new scripts and projects. He is a member of New York Theatre Workshop's Usual Suspects and is active with The Lark Play Development Center.

Andrew Whitley is Director of the New York Representative Office of UNRWA where he is responsible for the Agency's relations with the UN System and with the US and Canadian Governments. In the course of a 14-year career with the UN, Mr. Whitley served with the Geneva-based trade and development organization UNCTAD, as Chief of the Secretary-General's Office, and then with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, holding senior posts in the UN Missions administering East Timor and Kosovo. During his work with the UN, the intersection between refugee humanitarian issues and inter-ethnic political conflict has been a recurrent theme. Mr. Whitley was founding director of Middle East Watch, now Human Rights Watch/Middle East and North Africa, whose program and staff he built and managed for four years.

Susan P. Wilder is the Director for Middle East Policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and represents the ELCA on the Board of Churches for Middle East Peace. She serves on the Advisory Council for the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace and has led Christian pilgrimage tours to Israel and Palestine. An ordained Presbyterian minister, she has served several churches in the DC area, including Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Virginia where she was associate pastor from 1989 to 1996. She continues to lead Grace's Middle East Working Group which has developed a church-to-church partnership with Palestinian Anglican parishes in the West Bank town of Nablus.

David Wildman is executive secretary for Human Rights & Racial Justice with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He also relates on behalf of GBGM with partners in the Middle East and Afghanistan. He has helped organize and lead justice & peace delegations to Palestine/Israel. He visited Gaza in January 2007 and February 2008 and was most recently in Palestine/Israel in February 2009. David helped found the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and has served on its Steering Committee since 2001.

Special Thanks To:

Candace and Odeh Aburdene
Yvonne Haddad
Omar and Nancy Kader
Jochen and Huda Kraske
Michael and Mona Malouf
John and Dariel Van Wagoner