

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?



PIN Bulletin for Local Organizers

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How to Organize a Palestine Film Event



by Tom Foster, PIN Steering Comm. member
from Diocese of Rochester

This fall, Palestine advocates in Rochester, NY, will host the eighth annual [Witness Palestine Film Festival](#). From October 14 - November 9, the festival will present five films and will end with a

Celebrate Palestine event. The first of the films will be shown at St John Fisher College. The other four will be screened at The Little Theatre, Rochester's finest and best-known independent film venue.

The festival was born in 2012 as a project of Rochester's ecumenical group, [Christians Witnessing for Palestine](#). The festival planning committee is open to members of our local chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, the Muslim community, and secular activists. Committee members contribute as they are able to a wide range of tasks, including evaluation of possible films for the following year, securing licensing agreements, recruiting panelists (whenever possible, a person associated with the creation of the film), fundraising, publicity, coordination with the venues, and logistics at the showings. It's a significant effort spanning many months that is made manageable by a dedicated mix of experienced and more recent volunteers. The festival is the largest advocacy effort of Christians Witnessing for Palestine.

At the festival's [website](#), we have descriptions of this year's films along with the dates, times, and location of the screenings. The [archive](#) section lists films shown each year since the festival's inception in 2012. Where do we find the films? In a variety of places! Festivals in larger cities such as Boston and Toronto are often helpful resources. One of the films we'll show this year was mentioned in a footnote of a book that one of us was reading. When one starts to look, ideas emerge! And, now that we're somewhat established, film makers and distributors reach out to us suggesting that we consider a new film of theirs. Once we've identified a number of possibilities, we contact the distributors and request "screeners", which provide us with links and passwords

enabling committee members to view the films privately for evaluation. When we've made our selections, we then proceed to work out a licensing agreement to show the films publicly and charge for admission.



Panel discussion after a film.

Celebrate Palestine this year is an example of a special event we attempt to include each year. It will feature an afternoon workshop on storytelling, led by Boston-based, Palestinian American Nadia Abuelezam, creator and host of [Palestinians Podcast](#). Our hope is that the workshop will offer members of Rochester's Palestinian community an opportunity to tell and share their stories. That evening, we'll host a dinner

open to the public where Nadia will speak. In recent years, the special events of our festival have featured Palestinian human rights attorney, author, and activist Noura Erakat and author Susan Abulhawa.

[Read more](#) to learn about budget and fundraising for the film festival.

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NEED MORE HELP to organize a film event or find sources for films?

The **Film Partnering Program** offered by [Voices from the Holy Land Film Series](#) will help you. The Film Partnering Program has a library of 25 - 30 films which can be sent, free of charge, anywhere in the U.S. (donations to cover postage are welcomed!). The Program will work with you to plan, organize, publicize and host a series comprising 3 - 5 selected documentaries. If you want to start small, viewing a single film in your parish or diocese, the Program will make recommendations.

Visit the VFHL [website](#) today! Click the 'resources' tab for information on The Film Partnering Program.

Voices From the Holy Land Film Series is sponsored and supported by a coalition of forty-one interfaith (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian) and interdenominational organizations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region whose members feel called by their faith to work for justice, human rights, and peace in the land that is holy to all three Abrahamic faiths.



MORE RESOURCES FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTIONS



PIN's Local Organizing Work Group has designed a flyer and poster for use at your convention table. The theme is **40 Years of Episcopal Church Policy on Palestine-Israel**. You can download and print copies at home or head to Kinkos!

[Here](#) is the Flyer as a pdf to download
[Here](#) is the Poster as a pdf to download

Remember to contact Shannon [shannon@epfnational.org.] to **order your**

convention packet. For the price of postage, you will receive copies of *Steadfast Hope* with DVD, brochures, PIN's 2018 General Convention bookmarks presenting the 6 successful Pal/Is resolutions, and more.



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