

PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers

Volume 32, February 2022

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



The March to General Convention in Baltimore Continues ...

Palestine/Israel Resolutions supported by PIN are currently being posted to Legislative Committee 07: Social Justice and International Policy

PIN leaders are laser-focused these days on the General Convention Virtual Binder, where posting of resolutions to legislative committees is on-going. Right now, there are four resolutions posted to Committee 07 that address TEC policy on Palestine/Israel.

- **Resolution** [C001: Regarding Anti-Semitism and Palestinian Christians](#)
- **Resolution** [C012: Confronting Christian Zionism](#)
- **Resolution** [C013: Freedom of Speech and the Right to Boycott](#)
- **Resolution** [C025: Recognizing Apartheid in Israel/Palestine](#)

Committee 07 will hold a first round of hearings in March, addressing these four resolutions. The Local Organizing Work Group, led by Tom Foster, has assembled testimony teams for each of these, preparing 2-minute arguments to support (C012, C013, C025) or oppose (C001) adoption by General Convention.

The date and time for this first hearing are not yet posted. However, observers are invited to attend all on-line hearings. If you would like to attend, this Episcopal News Service [article](#) provides more information on the zoom hearings and how to register to attend.

More resolutions are on the way to Committee 07, submitted by the dioceses of Olympia, Chicago, Vermont, and Washington D.C. There are several Memorials supported by PIN, as well. You can keep track of future hearings in the Virtual Binder, as explained in the ENS article.



The Mideast Focus Ministry of Saint Mark's Cathedral works through mission, prayer, education, and action to bring understanding and to promote advocacy for justice and peace in the Middle East region, both within the Saint Mark's congregation and to the greater Seattle community.

The Mideast Focus Ministry is happy to announce the opening of our Ninth Annual Film Series!

**BEGINNING FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022,
AND CONTINUING THROUGH FRIDAY, MAY 13.
*Film screenings and discussions offered online only.***

Beginning March 11, we will offer six film discussions every other Friday. Viewers will have a 48-hour window, beforehand, in which to view the film on their own. They can then join us for an online discussion about the film. We often have filmmakers or guests with special knowledge about the situations in the films joining us for these discussions!

Send an email to seattlemideastfocus@gmail.com to get the links for the films and discussions.



The first film in the 2022 Film Series is titled *Blind Trust: Leaders and Followers in Times of Crisis*. The film documents the work of Professor Vamik Volkan, a psychoanalyst who has spent a lifetime bringing enemy groups together for dialogue in traumatized regions of the globe.

The director, Molly Castelloe, and author Jonathan Kuttab (Executive Director of Friends of Sabeel North America) will join us for the zoom discussion after the film.

List of Films in the 2022 Film Series:

March 11: *Blind Trust*

March 25: *Objector*

April 8: *Gaza*

April 22: *Mission Hebron and Skies Above Hebron*

May 6: *Little Palestine*

May 20: *200 Meters*

IS “SUMUD” SUFFICIENT ?

At Saint Mark’s Cathedral, in Seattle, we are about to launch our ninth Mideast Focus Ministry Film Series. We are asking ourselves: *Is “Sumud” Sufficient? Is a Film Series Sufficient?* “Sumud” is a cultural value for Palestinians. It means to be steadfast in the resolution to resist/endure through a non-violent response to Apartheid.

What is needed to make a real difference for the lives of Palestinians who live under Apartheid? Ten years ago, the Mideast Focus Ministry took up the task of educating our congregation and community about the reality on the ground in the West Bank and Gaza, through films. We felt the medium of film could inform and touch people’s hearts to bring about change. Here we are, older and wiser, but as committed to the task as ever – and committed to trusting “God’s slow time” – despite our frustration with it.

We have much to learn from Palestinians’ “obedience to reality” that *chooses* to resist peacefully in a situation that only grows worse. But, oh, that we could rouse the church to action!

In this 2022 Film Series we will begin with a film (**Blind Trust**) that documents Vamik Volkan’s work exploring what it is that unites a people in times of crisis. Our series will visit many stories of “Sumud” lived out by Palestinians in Gaza, Hebron, and Yarmouk (Palestinian refugee camp in Syria). In another film we will meet the “sumud” of a young Israeli woman who refuses to serve in the IDF. And in the sixth film of the series, that of a mixed Palestinian/Israeli family that must live on opposite sides of Israel’s great wall.

What will we find? That “sumud” is sufficient to get through the day? Or can it change the situation? Does it make any of the suffering go away? Or, does it call the people of God who *can*, to rise up and move their government to *stop* supporting a government that enforces the injustice, the harm, of Apartheid?



EPF PIN COTTON FITE AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

This summer on July 5th at the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) reception during the Episcopal Church's General Convention in Baltimore, EPF Palestine Israel Network (PIN) will present the second Cotton Fite Award. The Rev. Dr. Cotton Fite, who died in 2017, was a founding member of PIN and its first convener. He had a deep commitment to Palestine and the Palestinian people. An Episcopal priest and clinical psychologist, Cotton was an outspoken advocate for justice and peace in Palestine. As part of his ministry he helped establish the Seraj Library program which creates

children's libraries in refugee camps in Palestine.

PIN is seeking nominations for the Fite Award. Do you know an Episcopalian who is passionately working for a just resolution in Palestine/Israel? Please send nominations by March 7th to the Executive Director of EPF, Melanie Atha (epfactnow@gmail.com), including the person's name and why you believe they are worthy of this award.

The PIN Steering Committee recommends this short video:

<https://fb.watch/bla3zCbetH/>

"Ongoing Annexation in the North Jordan Valley"



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