

PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers

Volume 42, January 2023

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



PIN Travelers to the Holy Land Share Stories on an All-PIN Zoom

"It wasn't what I expected." That was the first impression that three travelers shared on a Jan. 17 All-PIN Zoom for members of PIN focus groups. Marina Buhler (Diocese of Washington), Elis Lui (Diocese of New York) and Priscilla Read (Diocese of Chicago) joined a Friends of Sabeel N.A. trip in December. For Marina and Elis, it was their first such journey; PIN sponsored their trip with scholarships. Priscilla, a PIN leader, is a repeat traveler, but agrees: each trip to the Holy Land presents the unexpected.

Marina was struck by the barren, mountainous terrain of the West Bank, with cities and villages clinging to the hills. It is a land of muted browns and dusty gray-green. It is also a land of surprising hospitality in the midst of hardship and repression.

The dire situation for Palestinians in their homeland was vividly presented to Elis during the group's time in Hebron, walking in Shuhada Street. Hebron, a West Bank city, is home to roughly 200,000 Palestinians, with a hardcore group of 700 or so

Jewish settlers living near the contested Cave of the Patriarchs. To protect the settlers, 20% of the city is under Israeli military control, policing with check points and bans on Palestinian access to several main streets, including Shuhada St. Once a thriving street, the doorways of Palestinian homes on Shuhada are now bolted shut; owners can enter only from the rear alleys. It is a 'ghost street'. In nearby Palestinian market streets of the old city, settlers throw garbage and feces into the street from their overhead balconies, so Palestinians have strung netting over the streets to protect themselves.



Elis' family in Hong Kong own a thriving street market where she helped out growing up. The sight of the shuttered market and soldiers at the check point left an indelible impression. She had to see it to truly grasp the situation.

The 'unexpected' in Priscilla's trip report centered around four themes that emerged during daily meetings with various Palestinian civil society groups. These emerging themes are the Palestinian craving for national unity; a concern to develop youth leadership; an increase in women's involvement in the unity project; and a growing commitment to secular, democratic thinking.

All three PIN travelers proved the truth of the axiom: **GO AND SEE.**

However, **not all Holy Land travel is equal.** Every year parishes and dioceses sponsor trips that will not see the West Bank or Shuhada Street. They will not hear a variety of voices sharing the Palestinian experience. These trips help to normalize Israel's apartheid system, its military occupation and ever-expanding settlements on stolen land.

If your parish or diocese is planning a trip, **DO THIS:** distribute copies of **PIN's travel brochure** (left) to the planners. The brochure promotes responsible travel. Share the link to the **travel section of PIN's website**, with all its resources:

<https://epfnational.org/pin/travel/>

The website offers tips on making a responsible pilgrimage, which will help planners create a more meaningful and balanced experience.

Take responsibility and speak out for responsible travel, travel that genuinely follows 'in the footsteps of Jesus.'
GO AND SEE

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS
OF JESUS:
A GUIDE TO HOLY
LAND TRAVEL**



**Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Palestine Israel Network**

<https://epfnational.org/pin/>
or find us on Facebook

So visit the travel section on PIN's website. Request PIN's travel brochures by emailing *The Bulletin* at

epfpin@epfnational.org

**Consider joining a responsible travel group.
Invite members of your parish. Then come home
and tell your stories.**

GO AND SEE!

*Voices from the
Holy Land*

**EPF PIN IS CO-SPONSORING A
VFHL FILM SALON
on
Christian Zionism**

REGISTER TODAY

**Share this invitation with fellow activists, your parish, clergy & bishop.
A resolution, 'Rejecting Christian Zionism,' was assigned to an interim body
for consideration after General Convention 2022. PIN supports the resolution
and hopes to see an edited version become church policy at G.C. 2024. Now is
the time to educate ourselves and the church on Christian Zionism.**

Til Kingdom Come



Voices From the Holy Land Online Film Salon

SUNDAY Feb. 12, 2023 3 pm ET • 12 noon PT

Watch the film for free at your convenience; then join the Q&A Discussion with:

Mark Braverman: Author, Executive Director of Kairos USA

Maya Zinshtein: Israeli Filmmaker and investigative journalist

Bruce Fisk: Author, Senior Research Fellow, Network of Evangelicals for the Middle East

Don Wagner: Author, Presbyterian Minister, former National Program Director at FOSNA

Lara Friedman (moderator): President of Foundation for Middle East Peace



YOU MUST REGISTER to join the discussion & receive access to the film: tinyurl.com/VFHL-February2023

Watch the Trailer: tinyurl.com/VFHL-KingdomTrailer

Millions of American Evangelicals are praying for the State of Israel. Among them are a dynasty of Kentucky pastors and their Evangelical congregants in an impoverished coal mining town. They donate sacrificially to Israel's foremost philanthropic organization, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, because they fervently believe the Jews are crucial to Jesus' return. This film traces this unusual relationship, from rural Kentucky to the halls of government in Washington, through the moving of the American Embassy in Jerusalem and to plans for annexing the West-Bank. It exposes a stunning backstory of the Trump and Netanyahu administrations, where financial, political, and messianic motivations intersect with the apocalyptic worldview that is insistently reshaping American foreign policy toward Israel.



SUPPORTER Organizations: Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ♦ Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace ♦ Quaker Palestine Israel Network ♦ Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East ♦ Indiana Center for Middle East Peace ♦ Disciples Palestine-Israel Network ♦ Virginia Coalition for Human Rights ♦ Mennonite Palestine Israel Network ♦ Friends of Sabeel North America ♦ Center for Jewish Nonviolence ♦ Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions—USA ♦ Northern New Jersey Jewish Voice for Peace ♦ United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network ♦ Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service ♦ Kairos Puget Sound Coalition ♦ Pax Christi USA ♦

voicesfromtheholylan.org

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IF YOU MISSED IT ...

The January 12 webinar, **Confronting Israel's Apartheid**, hosted by the Peace and Justice Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship-Palestine Israel Network, was recorded. It is available for viewing at the [Chicago Peace and Justice Committee site](#).

PIN's 2022 Review can be found [here on our website](#).



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