

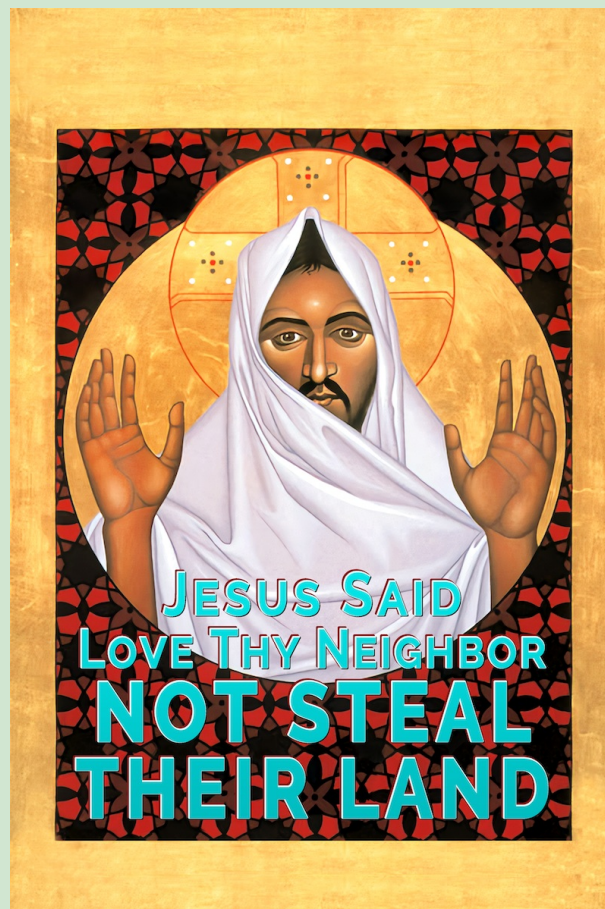
# *PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers*

Volume 50, September 2023

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



**EPF PIN to Launch a New Poster Series  
HERE'S A SNEAK PEAK AT 2 IMAGES:**







## Practice Responsible Pilgrimage to the HOLY LAND



**PIN's ad hoc Travel Group has commissioned a set of posters to promote responsible travel to the Holy Land. We anticipate making the files available for downloading and printing soon at the [Travel](#) section of PIN's website. Posters would be useful at diocesan conventions, solidarity events, in newsletters, etc. The themes are expansive and evocative, not narrowly focused on responsible travel.**

**Our new poster series complements the PIN website [travel page](#), "Traveling to the Holy Land: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus" and the PIN travel brochure. Both offer helpful guidance for planning a responsible journey, such as:**

- \* Walk in Jesus' Footsteps: visit the traditional sites but then consider where and with whom would Jesus walk in the Holy Land today, in his ministry of justice and healing love?**
- \* Meet and get to know Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Attend a worship service to pray with Palestinian Christians.**
- \* Visit the Institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.**
- \* Listen and Learn about Palestinian - Israeli relationships 'on the ground,' with eyes wide open.**

**The PIN Travel Brochure can be ordered: [email us!](#)**



**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

## **A Postcard from *Palestine Writes*: by Steve France**

### **“Literature Festival” Opens a New Chapter in Palestinian Cultural Resistance**

Those who opposed the Palestine Writes Literature Festival, held in Philadelphia September 22-24, were correct to predict that the festival would delegitimize Apartheid Israel – and give aid and comfort to Palestinians and their allies, struggling for justice and equality in their homeland. Yet it’s doubtful that they imagined just how big and energizing this festival would turn out to be.

Long-awaited, the first-ever, live-in-person event sold out its 1,400 tickets early and had to turn away many who were eager to hear more than a hundred speakers and panelists, including legendary icons of resistance, and new lights and stars of literature, journalism, political analysis, and historical research, ranging in age from 19 to 90. Children also were there in force to enjoy a continuous program of goings-on in the Kid Room, with lots of storytelling and writing in the mix.

As the literature festival approached, die-hard defenders of Israel had mounted furious, last-minute attacks on the University of Pennsylvania for allowing the event to take place. UPenn officials went so “wobbly” in their response that many doubted the festival would come off. But the indefatigable organizers, led by novelist Susan



Abulhawa, stood their ground, supported by UPenn faculty and students – led by Professor Huda Fakhreddine (Middle Eastern languages and civilizations) – and buttressed by a huge contingent of volunteers. The opponents succeeded only in pressuring university officials to bar Roger Waters of Pink Floyd from the campus (Waters participated virtually – and his soulful eloquence brought down the house).

Outside Irvine Auditorium, campus security and city police ringed the festival venue, while a little truck moved about, emblazoned with huge photos of Roger Waters, looking scary in a Nazi-style uniform. The photos were taken from one of Waters's many concert performances that attack fascism wherever it may be. Misleadingly, the caption on either side of the truck read, "WHY IS UPENN SPONSORING ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS?"

Inside, the venue buzzed like a hive of happy honeybees producing and consuming Palestinian literature and reveling in community. Some people called it a conference. Others called it a festival. It was both those things and something much more unusual: the gathering of a scattered People coming from Palestine and all parts of the Diaspora, along with friends and allies in a creative quest for justice.

Together they wrote a new chapter in Palestinian culture and resistance. It surely won't be the last and the next one surely will be even bigger. For now, the organizers are forming a permanent structure for *Palestine Writes* and have already started a publishing venture.

*Steve France is an EPF PIN leader whose reviews and commentary appear frequently in Mondoweiss.*

Here is a link to the opening ceremony for Palestine Writes:  
<https://fb.watch/nhcmAFIAX1/?mibextid=Nif5oz>

## REMEMBER GAZA



# The perennials



A Poem by Eman Ashraf Alhaj Ali  
Gaza Strip

Dreams and homes lie together beneath rubble,  
dust muting the bright greens and blues of a dream and a child's  
sweater.

Blood is the color of a soul-scar. Only the bombs bloom now, red,  
orange and yellow poppies rising over the desolation.

Sirens and the sound of missiles wake us, echoing through vacant  
streets, as if shouting for people.

Mothers and kids crouch or fall to their knees, their hands and  
faces pale as the martyrs'.

Waiting through the silences ravages our hearts . . .  
two hours? two minutes? two seconds?

Cheerful moments are pages torn from a book.

Sorrow is one long chapter in every Gazan story.

Another bomb explodes. Sharpnel flies.

Another home collapses. Another martyr leaves without farewell.

The artilleries fall silent,

but we exhaust our minds again with counting, two hours? two  
minutes? two seconds?

Today, a man walks in his friend's funeral.

Tomorrow is his own funeral.

Breezes come from the sea.

Gaza cannot breathe.

The Great Omari and St Porphyry rise above green parks.

Gaza cannot see.

In Gaza, we smell only the smoke of rockets and bombs and the  
blood of martyrs.

Still, we hold our defiant and desperate smiles.

We claim the land shuddering under our feet and the sea with its  
waves of aching.

*Please note - EPF and EPF PIN are now on a new platform for giving!  
Whether you are a monthly giver or a first time giver, please visit our  
new platform to make your gift. Consider increasing your monthly  
donation to support our efforts for peace and justice.*



Visit our website



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