

Windows on Jerusalem

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Living Behind the Headlines

Headline news around the world draw attention to this city. But behind the headlines live more than three quarter of a million people. Muslims, Jews, Christians, east and west Jerusalem residents alike are entitled to a just, civil society, founded on democratic principles. These pages describe only a fraction of our coexistence programming that level the playing field, promote mutual respect among different groups, and advance inalienable rights for all.

The Jerusalem Intercultural Center (JICC), pictured above, was recently renovated thanks to Professor Dr. Jan-Philip Reemtsma, the Hamburg Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Culture. The JICC is instrumental in many of the coexistence programs featured in this edition.



Living Behind the Headlines

Silwan, situated on the outskirts of the Old City of Jerusalem is linked to the ancient city's holy sites. It is located on the ancient ruins of the earliest known civilizations in the Jerusalem area, making it a vital center of archeological exploration.

Silwan is a perfect example of the complexity of Jerusalem, a site that intensifies the debate and conflict over the city.

Yet, underlying that conflict are the day-to-day struggles of Silwan residents.

The neighborhood of Silwan is home to 70,000 Arab residents who struggle to exercise their rights and receive services due them.

The Jerusalem Foundation identified the Silwan neighborhood as one in need, with an overarching goal to empower Arab residents and build capacity among their leaders to improve basic services, from garbage collection to well baby clinics. With the support of donors in Switzerland and Canada, and in particular, the Dear Foundation, change is coming to Silwan.



Due to narrow roadways, garbage trucks cannot pass and strewn garbage has become a public health hazard, particularly when workers dump construction waste to avoid dumping fees. Silwan leaders, with the assistance of the Jerusalem Intercultural Center (JICC), started a grassroots campaign to increase awareness about the problem within the municipality. Their efforts paid off - the municipality recently agreed to strategically place additional dumpsters and to increase weekly pickups.

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With respect to health care, well-baby clinics have been sorely lacking in Silwan. Long known to modern medicine as critical to early detection of developmental delays and basic infancy care, children in Silwan have no well-baby clinic. There are conflicting claims about the creation of the clinic. The municipality asserts that a clinic was made available but was closed due to insufficient usage. Residents contend that the clinic was inaccessible and did not have convenient hours. Either way, residents currently have no clinic.

Silwan residents, with the help of the JICC, are now more empowered because they understand the vagaries of the municipality's often lengthy process in creating and funding a well baby clinic. And they understand their critical role in bringing this issue to

the forefront to secure what they rightfully deserve in their community. As of this writing, the Ministry of Health approved the opening of a well-baby clinic in Silwan.

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And, there is the decades-old problem of day laborers, teenagers from throughout the Jerusalem area who cart wares at the Mahane Yehuda market instead of books. These children lack schooling, social activities, hot meals and a proper framework for children their age. This year, the Handcart Children program provided children with enrichment and social activities, integrating them with Silwan youth and returning them to their childhood. A small group of these children also received special assistance with their studies, enabling them to improve their academic standing for entry to junior high school. Coordinators visit the children's homes and schools to ensure academic improvement and to attend to the overall well being of the family.

And, art has come to Silwan. Children can attend art workshops run by the Barbur Gallery, with the help of the Bezalel Academy of the Arts.

Grassroots community organizing skills are critical to improving the lives of Silwan residents and we will continue to work hard to empower them and assist them in securing equal access to services enjoyed by the rest of the city.



The Right To Understand



Imagine seeking medical care only to find that you are a stranger in a strange land, a place where you don't speak the language. You don't understand the doctors or nurses and they don't understand you. This is neither a theoretical problem nor a transient one.

Perhaps as much as a third of the population of this city lacks the language skills for basic medical care, let alone complex jargon of advanced medical terminology. This city is home to elderly Russian immigrants who never absorbed the language, Arabs who lack sufficient command of Hebrew, and Ethiopians whose culture is so vastly different that modern medicine is foreign to them. Recent studies show that 73% of Hadassah Hospital's own staff recognize that communication difficulties hamper good medical care.

The right to healthcare is a fundamental human right, and it includes your right to understand your medical condition and that of your loved one.





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Cultural competency programs, initiated by the Jerusalem Foundation and the Jerusalem Intercultural Center, are designed to address severe deficiencies in the hospital and health care provider systems. Using a multi-pronged approach, they provide language training for health care providers; sensitivity training on cultural issues that can hamper proper health care; initiate translation systems in large organizations; encourage form translation into multiple languages; and facilitate cultural adaptations to make the delivery of health care easier.

In 2010, with the support of the Jerusalem Foundation and the Sobell Foundation, the Jerusalem Intercultural Center trained staff from Clalit Health Services, Alyn Pediatric and Adolescent Rehabilitation Center, and the Hadassah Hospital. The training was focused on language and translation services, appreciating cultural differences and how they impact health care choices.

The issue has received significant press attention. In an investigative report, the Jerusalem Post noted the vacuum left by the Health Ministry in providing translating services. The JICC has leaped into the breach, finding solutions to this complex problem, giving every patient the inalienable right to understand.



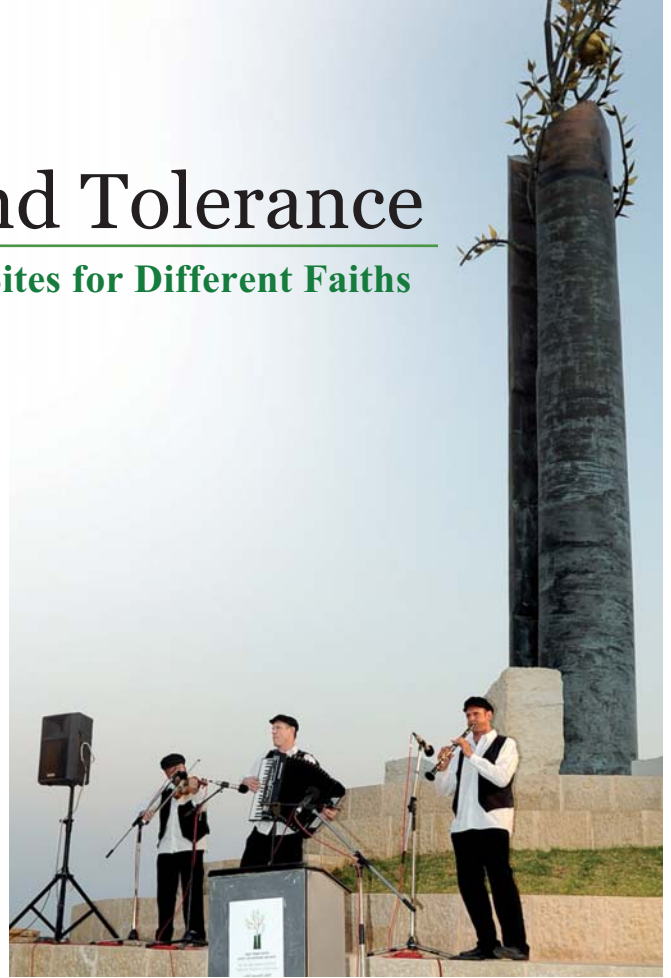
Interfaith Ethics and Tolerance

Pilgrimage and the Meaning of Holy Sites for Different Faiths

The Second Annual Interfaith Ethics and Tolerance Symposium was held in Jerusalem, likely the only city that attracts worldwide pilgrims from Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Held on October 19, 2010 at Mishkenot Sha'ananim, with the generous support of Mr. Aleksander Gudzowaty, the conference focused on ethical and environmental aspects of pilgrimage and the meaning of holy sites for different faiths.

Roundtables touched on the importance of protecting the environment during pilgrimages, making pilgrimages accessible for all and not just the wealthy, and the commercialization of pilgrimages.

The afternoon panel session of religious leaders from various faiths, attended by 250 people, was opened by Mrs. Danuta Gudzowaty, reading remarks on behalf of her husband.



Abraham Foxman, Director of the Anti-Defamation League, drew on the poetic symbolism of his friendship with Mr. Gudzowaty - for Foxman himself is a Polish Jew and Mr. Gudzowaty is a Polish Catholic, both heralding from a country with a painful past.

Mr. Maciej Kozlowski, deputy director of the Middle East Department in the Polish Foreign Affairs Ministry and former Polish ambassador to Israel, noted that words and monuments together, like the Tolerance Monument sponsored by Mr. Gudzowaty, can lead to a revolution.

The public panel discussion that followed focused on the meaning of holy sites for the Bahai, Islam, Christian, and Jewish faiths, with an animated question and answer session.

Participants made their way to a moving closing ceremony at the Tolerance Monument situated in Armon Hanatziv, between the Jewish neighborhood of East Talpiot and the Arab neighborhood of Jebel Mukaber. As the sun set over the Old City and the holy sites of the Kidron Valley, participants enjoyed music from different faiths: from the Telmus a capella vocal quartet, to the Noam Threesome, a Jewish-Arab music ensemble, from the Yerushalmim klezmer band and "Sounds of Peace", to the Neveh Shalom Arab-Jewish School band.

Speaking Art – Quietly

The 7th Annual Speaking Arts Conference brought Jewish, Muslim and Christians artists together, and gave them the freedom to create and to dream.



Thanks to the continuing support of the Dear Foundation of Switzerland, the conference was held in November, and for the first time, included workshops and events at the Paley Arts Center in east Jerusalem, The Lab, and the studios of the Vertigo Dance Troupe.

Seventy two performing artists in the fields of music, dance and theater participated. They came from all over – north, center, east and west Jerusalem, and even Nablus. "This is the first time I've heard Hebrew in a conversation, rather than from a soldier at a military checkpoint," said one participant from Nablus.

Participants enjoyed 2 days of workshops led by acclaimed actress Salwa Nakara, internationally renowned musician and teacher Sameer Makhoul, and dancer/choreographers Ilanit Tadmor and Rabaa Mourkous. Many were so enthusiastic about their experience they expressed a desire to continue to work together throughout the year.

The theme of the conference, *Quiet*, refers to a state of mind that "can help us to look inward, [giving us] the freedom to create, to dream, as artists without borders," said Hanan Ohana, conference coordinator.

Movement artist Noam Carmeli led a workshop on improvisation through movement. Shmulik Hadjes, of the Psik Theater in Jerusalem, led

a special session on masks and characterization. Raida Sa'adeh, Director of the Paley Arts Center in east Jerusalem explained the arts situation in east Jerusalem.

Dancer and choreographer Arkadi Zeides and Eyal Danon, curator at the Israeli Center for Digital Art, showed how art effectuates change. Zeides discussed his show *Quiet*,

where 2 Jews and 2 Arabs use movement and touch to express aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Danon discussed his project *Liminal Spaces*, which uses art to advance issues where politics failed. Prominent musicians Mira Awad and Shlomi Shaban closed the conference, performing in Hebrew, Arabic and English to a full house, their first time sharing a stage.

"When we look for the humanity in Jews and Arabs, we discover treasures and richness that bring more satisfaction than agreements signed behind closed doors," said Nadim Sheiban, the Jerusalem Foundation's Director of the Projects Department.

The Jerusalem Intercultural Center is instrumental in the Speaking Art conference every year.



ARTS *for* Everyone

No matter who you are or where you live, the Jerusalem Foundation believes that all communities should have access to the arts.

More than 30 years ago, the Paley Arts Center was founded in east Jerusalem by the **Paley family**, giving residents equal access to the arts. Since then, it has become the preeminent cultural institution in east Jerusalem, offering art, dance, music, photography, drawing, sculpture, calligraphy, computer classes, after school, and summer activities for east Jerusalem residents. Thanks to the Weinbaum Foundation of Canada, the facility now has a state of the art photography lab, new equipment and a new auditorium. And, there is a photography course with 15 participants.

Summer of 2010 proved an exciting time for east Jerusalem's children. In June, they had access to an intensive art program run over three weeks for 7 hours a day, and the July program continued for a full month. Activities included gardening with recycled materials, soap bubble workshops, musical instruments, computers, theater, face painting, sculpture, pyramid building, movies, animation, balloon art, magic shows, dance, mask-making, acting, jewelry-making, swimming, sports and more.

But the pictures tell the story best.

