ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS IN DIALOGUE

Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad: “Seeing the Humanity in Your Enemy”
Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm in Macmillan 117

Hanan Schlesinger is an Orthodox rabbi and a resident of the West Bank. He serves as the Director of International Relations of Roots/Shorashim/Judur, a local Israeli Palestinian initiative for understanding, nonviolence, and transformation.

Ali Abu Awwad is a leading Palestinian activist and Co-Director of Roots/Shorashim, Judur. He teaches his fellow Palestinians non-violent resistance and reaches out to Jewish Israelis at the heart of the conflict. He tours the world to tell his riveting story of the personal impact of violence, imprisonment, bereavement, and discovery of the path of non-violent resistance.

Roots/Shorashim/Judur is an initiative led by a joint Palestinian and Israeli committee based in the West Bank. The initiative works within the communities at the heart of the conflict shifting hatred and suspicion towards trust, empathy, and mutual support. Through their projects and workshops they endeavor to lay the groundwork for a reality in which future agreements between Israelis and Palestinians can be built. In just two years of rapid growth their work has reached nearly 10,000 people.

http://www.friendsofroots.net/index.html

Sami Adwan and Shifra Sagy: “The Search for Mutual Understanding”
Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:30 pm in Smith-Buonanno 106

Professor Sami Adwan has served on the faculty of Bethlehem University. He is the Director of Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME), which has pioneered an educational model that enables both Palestinian and Israeli educators to create school history curricula that include both historical narratives in a single textbook http://www.vispo.com/PRIME/. He has published widely on the role of education in peace building. His encounter with Israeli soldiers while in prison for being a member of Fatah during the first intifada made him realize that denial and avoidance would not help to improve the situation, but rather discovering the other was the key to peace. For an interview of Professor Adwan, see http://www.justvision.org/portrait/846/interview.

Professor Shifra Sagy has been a faculty member in the Department of Education at Ben-Gurion University since 1991. Her research has included studies of the psychological and educational dimensions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, especially among youths. She is the Director of the Martin Springer Center for Conflict Studies, established in order to conduct research and to train advanced professionals and researchers in the field of conflict studies who will be able to find new ways to manage and resolve conflicts.


In 2014, she conducted a study titled “An Encounter with the Suffering of the Other,” in which Israeli Jewish students were challenge to understand the Palestinian narrative of the conflict.