

*Third Annual*  
**TREE OF LIFE CONFERENCE**  
**ON ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**

**Saturday and Sunday,  
November 3rd and 4th, 2007  
Old Lyme, CT**



*“The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”*  
*(from the Revelation of John)*

This third interfaith Tree of Life Conference will focus on people who exemplify what it means to be “leaves” on the sacred Tree of Life: Muslims, Jews, and Christians as well as other citizens of the world who have been tireless in their efforts toward a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Come hear how they've managed -- some even as victims of violence -- through the courage of their convictions, to project their visions of a more caring universe. Witness the unflagging optimism of people who, in the dark realities of occupation, are working, even dancing and singing, toward the healing of nations.

*Conference events are planned for Saturday and Sunday...all are welcome.  
Come when you can, one or both days!*

***Saturday, November 3, 7:30 pm***

**A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DANCE**

featuring

**English folksinger MARTIN JOHN NICHOLLS**

and

**The AL-GHAD FOLKLORE DANCING GROUP  
of Beit Sahour, Palestine**

place:

**The Church of Christ the King  
One McCurdy Road, Old Lyme**

The conference begins on Saturday evening, with a joyful celebration of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. At the parish center of our neighboring Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King, we will sample traditional Middle Eastern foods and listen to the folk music of **Martin John Nicholls**, a prolific songwriter, recording artist and accomplished musician from Exmouth, England. Martin has seven albums to his credit, including *Beyond Belief*, which reflects his recent experiences and encounters in Israel and Palestine. Martin's rich, warm voice and acoustic guitar playing underscore his messages of deeply held faith and total respect for the sanctity and fragility of all human life. He has appeared on BBC television and ITV and performed in concerts around the world. We are extremely proud to welcome him to Old Lyme.

We will also delight in the colorful and lively “Debbka” dances of the **Al-Ghad Folklore Dancing Group**, an exuberant young troupe from Beit Sahour in the West Bank, on their first visit to the U.S. Most of the members, who range in age from 17 to 26 years old, are students at schools in Beit Sahour, Bethlehem University, Beir Ziet University and Al Quds University. Their mission is to keep Palestinian folklore and culture alive, and they use dance as the medium for expressing their hopes and dreams for a gentler, peaceful future.

*Sunday, November 4, 1:30 pm – evening*

**VOICES OF CONSCIENCE AND HOPE**

place:

**First Congregational Church of Old Lyme  
Lyme Street, Old Lyme**

*In a series of presentations, we will have the honor of hearing  
from these prophetic voices:*

**Anna Baltzer** is a 27-year-old Jewish-American Columbia graduate, Fulbright scholar and the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors. She is a three-time volunteer with the International Women's Peace Service, where she documented human rights abuses in the West Bank and supported the nonviolent movement against the Occupation. Anna has spent most of the past few years in Palestine or on tour with her book, *Witness In Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories*. Anna will share her experiences as a peace advocate in the West Bank.

**Maria (Kouremenou) Khoury, Ed.D.**, author of *Witness in the Holy Land*, lives with her husband and three children in the village of Taybeh outside the Holy City of Jerusalem. Originally from Tripoli, Greece, Maria was raised in Denver and educated at Hellenic College, Harvard, and Boston University. In 1996, she served as the only female principal at the Friends Boys School of Ramallah. Maria has raised support for the Taybeh Orthodox Church Housing Project for needy families, and is currently helping to establish a Palestinian Art Academy in Ramallah. As in her books and essays, Maria will reflect with us on her personal experience of living in the Holy Land under military occupation.

**Hajo G. Meyer** is a Holocaust survivor of Auschwitz, who lives today in the Netherlands, where he works as a publicist and essayist. Following the war, Hajo studied theoretical physics, and in 1950 joined Philips Research Laboratories Eindhoven, first as a researcher in solid state physics, then in various managerial functions. In 1956, he received a PhD, and from 1974 to 1984 he held the position of Managing Director of that lab. After his career at the lab, until 2002, Hajo created over fifty violins and violas, and sold most of them to professional musicians. He will speak at the Conference on "The Occupation: How It Is A Violation of the Judaism I Love and In Which I Was Educated."

**Dr. Mark Braverman**, a clinical psychologist and organizational consultant from Bethesda, MD, will moderate the presentations and ensuing discussions. The grandson of a fifth generation Palestinian Jew, Dr. Braverman has lived in Israel and has deep family roots in the region. Recently he traveled to Israel and Palestine as the co-leader of a Fellowship of Reconciliation's Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation. Dr. Braverman is a member of the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace, a member of Jewish Voice for Peace and serves on the board of ICAHD-USA (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions).

The Sunday agenda will be enriched by more music from **Martin John Nicholls** and dancing from the **Al-Ghad Folklore Dancing Group**.

A prayer service at the end of the day will close the formal program. Attendees are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship as well as an arts, crafts, and information bazaar in the Community Room.

*See back panel for registration form.*

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to attend ...	Price	No. persons	Total
Both November 3 evening and November 4 program	\$35 per person		
November 3 evening only	\$20 per person		
November 4 program only	\$20 per person		
Any additional contribution you may wish to make			
Total enclosed			

- ( ) Sorry I can't attend but I'd like to support the program. Enclosed please find my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Please contact me about becoming a sponsor of the Tree of Life Conference.

*Make your check payable to FCCOL and mail with your registration to the address below.*

Registration on both days will also be taken at the door, to the extent that seating is available at that time.

More information:  
**The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**  
**2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371**  
**860-434-8686**  
**email: fccol@snet.net**  
**website: www.fccol.org**

**Directions to the Church of Christ the King**  
 From I-95 N, Exit 70, right to the blinking light, left onto Ferry Road, right at T-intersection with Lyme St., around left curve onto McCurdy Road, look for Church of Christ the King driveway on your right.  
 From I-95S: Exit 70, left onto Lyme St., around left curve onto McCurdy Rd. Look for Church of Christ the King driveway on right.

**Directions to the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**  
 From I-95N: Exit 70, right to blinking light, left onto Ferry Rd. to T-intersection with Lyme St. FCCOL on your right.  
 From I-95S: Exit 70, left onto Lyme St. to intersection with Ferry Rd. FCCOL on your right.