

Israel and the Middle East

THE CHALLENGE OF PEACE

It's a long, complex history

To fully understand the story of the Arab-Israeli conflict, one should look at the region's history, both ancient and modern, and then move forward to the events that shape today's reality. Sound bites and one-dimensional viewpoints cannot convey the complexity and texture of the challenges in the region, nor can they move us toward peace.

- How can I understand the Arab-Israeli conflict when I don't know where to begin?
- Why has peace been so hard to achieve?
- Understand the geography and historical timeline of the region
- Educate our community to give context to the nightly news
- Gain insight into the challenges facing the region

INTERESTED?

For more information or to schedule a presentation for your organization or group:

JCRC of Minnesota and the Dakotas
612-338-7816
holly@MinnDakJCRC.org



The Jewish Community Relations Council...
*the public affairs voice of the Jewish Community,
protecting Jewish interests and promoting Jewish ideals.*

12 North 12th Street
Suite 480
Minneapolis, MN 55403

www.MinnDakJCRC.org

Jewish Community Relations Council SPEAKERS BUREAU



Judaism on One Foot

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH BELIEF AND PRACTICE

Have you ever wondered?

When Yiddish words are part of American speech, and bagels and lox are standard breakfast fare, Jewish culture has truly gone mainstream. But what are the beliefs, values, and religious traditions upon which the Jewish faith is based? How do Jews express that faith in their everyday lives? Come learn from your Jewish neighbor, a fellow Minnesotan, who will explain what Jewish life is like.

- Connect the people Israel to the land Israel
- Learn about keeping kosher, Torah, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Holidays and Sabbath observance.
- Explore life cycle rituals related to birth, adulthood, marriage and death.
- Build bridges of understanding and religious tolerance
- Answer YOUR questions about Judaism

Multimedia presentations by community volunteers on Israel, Judaism and more.

LET US FIND SOME ANSWERS TOGETHER.



It's a concise, informative program

The Jewish Community Relations Council has created a community education program appropriate for a wide variety of organizations and schools. Our trained volunteers will come to you (or your meeting place) and share a multi media presentation. Our two areas of specialization are Judaism on One Foot: Introduction to Jewish Belief and Practice; and Israel and the Middle East: The Challenge of Peace.

Judaism on One Foot explains how Jewish values and traditions are expressed in every day life. Israel and the Middle East focuses on biblical history as well as current events, and is a good fit for anyone who wishes to put the nightly news in context. We are also open to speaking on the topic of your choice. Our presentations encourage questions and explore complex topics.

We feel that this is our community at its best – appreciating one another for both our similarities and our differences. We look forward to teaching and learning together.

Attendees have had this to say:

“While the love of American Jews for the state of Israel is evident in these presentations, it is accompanied by a genuine sense of compassion for the Palestinian people and the urgent desire for a just resolution of the tragic conflict between these two peoples. I strongly recommend these presentations as informative and helpful resources for Christians who also want and pray for peace in the Middle East.”

–Dr. Wayne C. Stumme, retired Lutheran pastor and seminary professor

“I hope that whoever may read this letter would give serious thought to have you come and share your presentation, your questions, and your personal insights. I know you have helped the members of our church with these difficult, confusing and often hopeless issues; you have helped us to be hopeful!”

–Pastor, Lutheran Church

“By supporting this forum, we are modeling one of the highest values – ostensibly held by the world community – that of education. The information, presented in a well-organized and varied format, by knowledgeable and engaging facilitators, was thought-provoking and interesting. It is this type of forum, which holds out the hope for understanding and tolerance.”

–Attendee, a home parlor meeting

“Puts a human face on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.”

–Attendee, Catholic Church

“I learned a lot and at the same time was entertained. I thought the presenter was delightful and very informative and interesting – without being preachy. The presenter covered what a non Jew might want to know. I would highly recommend her as a speaker to any group.”

–Attendee, adult education presentation

“This Judaism training was presented very well with a speaker who was obviously comfortable with the audience, topic, and showed a willingness to answer any question or veer the conversation where the audience wanted it to go. She made it very clear that she was presenting information for us as a group and wanted to make it relevant for us.”

–Attendee, adult education presentation

“The insight gained from JCRC speakers has added qualitative depth and perspective to my teaching and by extension to my students. I find the academic integrity of JCRC presentations to be most refreshing”

–Tom Klein, Hopkins High School

“My students thoroughly enjoy the professional, engaging presentations and love being able to look at the various books and items the speaker brings. The speaker is always willing to answer questions and is never offended by the students' curiosity. The only problem we ever have is running out of time! I highly recommend using JCRC speakers in the classroom.”

–Brigitta Bergquist, Buffalo High School