

# COMMUNITY FORUM

## “PERSPECTIVES OF HOPE IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT”

(Sunday, January 30, from 3 to 5 p.m.)

**WHAT AND WHO:** Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains as one of the most vital issues to US foreign policy and world peace. The current period of transition, including elections of new Palestinian leadership, is providing an important window of opportunity for durable peacebuilding. You are invited to participate in a community forum which will provide a stimulating, informative & constructive presentation and dialogue on this vital subject. We are very fortunate to have four distinguished guest panelists who will endeavor to deepen our understanding, while focusing on the theme of hope. Rev. Robert Steinke will moderate the forum (Chaplain for Frederick Memorial Hospital, and Host/Moderator for a regional television program: “Faith in the Community”).

### EXPLORE:

- What are the underlying causes of the Israeli-Palestinian (I-P) conflict?
- Can Prime Minister Sharon overcome opposition to the disengagement plan?
- What are prospects/implications of new Palestinian leadership for reducing violence/promoting peace?
- How can a more balanced US foreign policy make a positive difference in promoting peace?

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 30, from 3 to 5 p.m. (refreshments will be served). No \$ charge.

**WHERE:** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (Directions: [www.frederickuu.org](http://www.frederickuu.org); From Fred. MD., take 340 W. and take the Mt. Zion Exit. Turn left back over the 340 freeway, then make your first right onto Elmer Derr Rd. Go down about 1 mile and the church will be on your right. From South or West, take 340 East. Take the Mt. Zion Exit and make two immediate rights onto Elmer Derr Rd. go 1 mile and church on your right).

### Bio Sketch of Guest Speakers/Panelists:

Imam Yahya Hendi, Palestinian, is the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University, and is also the Imam of the Islamic Society of Frederick. He also serves as a member and the spokesperson of the Islamic Jurisprudence Council of North America. He has written numerous publications and has presented a multitude of interfaith & general lectures in the USA & other parts of the world. He has appeared on many TV & radio shows as an expert on Islam. Imam Hendi often lectures at churches and synagogues hoping to create a new positive relationship between the followers of the three Abrahamic religions & is active promoting peacebuilding. He holds a MA degree in Comp. Religions from Hartford Seminary, & working on his PH.D.

Lewis Roth, Jewish American, is the Assistant Executive Director for Public Affairs of Americans for Peace Now ([www.peacenow.org](http://www.peacenow.org)), with overall responsibility for media and government relations. The Canton, Ohio native has been in Washington, D.C. for over nineteen years, having served three years as Deputy Press Secretary for Sen. John Glenn (D-OH) and, most recently, five years as Communications Director for Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA). In addition, he has worked in public relations and policy positions for the National Jewish Democratic Council and British Aerospace, Inc. Mr. Roth received B.A. and M.A. degrees in International Relations from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Eynat Shlein-Michael, Israeli, is a Counselor of Middle East Affairs at the Israeli Embassy. She was posted in the Israeli missions in Jordan and in Boston, as well as in various positions in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, focusing on Israeli-Arab affairs and American Affairs. She holds a B.A. in Middle Eastern History (Tel Aviv University) and a Master in Public Administration (KSG, Harvard University).

Philip Farah, born in E. Jerusalem to a Christian Orthodox family, emigrated from Palestine to the U.S. in 1978. He has lived and worked in several Arab countries, and is currently a Senior Economist at the U.S. GAO. He is active in Arab-American organizations and with the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle Peace. He has addressed audiences around the U.S., especially church and student groups, on Middle East peace issues.

### CO-SPONSORING GROUPS:

- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUC of Frederick)
- Ezekiel’s Place/Justice & Peace Academy (Middle East Peace Action Group), West Va.
- Islamic Society of Frederick
- Various community pastors and leaders are actively promoting the forum

For further information, please contact Michele Grove, from UUC of Frederick (301-473-7680), Khalil Elshazly (301-693-9010), Rev. Bob Steinke ([Rsteinke@fmh.org](mailto:Rsteinke@fmh.org)), Dick Anson ([www.ezekielsplace.com](http://www.ezekielsplace.com))