



25th

WASHINGTON JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 1

5TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY
EDUCATION DAY ON
ARAB CITIZENS OF ISRAEL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1:30PM-5:00PM
AT THE WASHINGTON DCJCC

- 1:30pm** Keynote Address by Dr. Dalia Fadila, President of Al-Qasemi College of Engineering and Science, Israel
- 2:00pm** Panel discussion: **Dr. Dalia Fadila; Dan Arbell**, Scholar-in-Residence, Center for Israel Studies at American University; **Safa Garb**, JDC, Division Director, Arab Society and Infrastructure; moderated by **Rabbi Sid Schwarz**, Co-chair of the Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues.
- 2:30pm** DC premiere screening of *Dancing Arabs* by filmmaker Eran Riklis
- 4:30pm** Reception and Roundtable "World Café" discussion

The keynote, panel and World Café are free, but reservations are required.
Tickets for the film are \$12. WJFF.ORG/DayOfEd

Sponsored by the Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues & the Washington DCJCC

Lead support provided by the Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
and the Lois and Richard England Family Foundation

Co-presented by: Adas Israel Congregation, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Ameinu, American Jewish Committee, Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Community, American University Center for Israel Studies, Anti-Defamation League, Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation, Lois and Richard England Family Foundation, Embassy of Israel, Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues, The Israel Action Center at the JCRC of Greater Washington, JCC of Greater Washington, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, New Israel Fund, Temple Shalom, University of Maryland Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies, Washington Hebrew Congregation



THE GREATER WASHINGTON FORUM ON ISRAELI ARAB ISSUES

MISSION

The mission of the Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues (GWFIA) is to educate the Washington Jewish community about:

- Jewish Arab relations in Israel, including the economic, educational and social challenges faced by Arab citizens of Israel; and
- the efforts of the Israeli government, the private sector, and the NGO community to address these challenges and achieve full civic equality for all Israeli citizens.

MEMBERSHIP

The GWFIA is a coalition of community organizations, synagogues, philanthropic foundations, and individuals, located in the Greater Washington metropolitan area. The GWFIA welcomes all who support the vision expressed in the Declaration of Establishment of the State of Israel:

THE STATE OF ISRAEL *will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.*

BACKGROUND

Approximately 20% of Israel's 7.5 million citizens are Arabs, including Muslims, Christians, Bedouin and Druze. Since 1948, the relationships of these several communities to the Jewish majority have been complex, varied, and constantly changing. However, following the historic demonstrations by Israeli Arabs in October 2000, a commission of inquiry established by the Government of Israel engaged in a rigorous examination of the circumstances of the Israeli Arab community. Acknowledging a history of discrimination, the commission called for a wholesale review of state policies affecting its Arab citizens. The report called the issue "the most sensitive and important domestic issue facing Israel today."

[Report of the Or Commission, 2003, par. 24].

In response to growing awareness of the importance of this issue to the future of the State of Israel, leading national organizations of the American Jewish community created the "Inter Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues." The Task Force is composed of over 100 member organizations including foundations, Federations, direct service programs, and umbrella groups from across the political and religious spectrum of the organized American Jewish community. The IATF mission includes educating the American community about majority/minority relations in Israel and coordinating activities among its members so that they can more effectively carry out their respective activities in North America and in Israel. For more information about the IATF, visit www.IATaskForce.org.

The GWFIA works closely with the national IATF to educate the Greater Washington community about the complex issues of majority and minority relations in Israel—recognizing both Israel's commitment to Jewish and democratic values as well as the challenges faced in the full realization of those aspirations. The GWFIA assists community organizations, synagogues, and foundations in their respective educational and philanthropic activities that address issues within the GWFIA mission.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Anne Clemons, Wendy Rudolph and Rabbi Sid Schwarz, Co-Chairs
Adas Israel Congregation
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation
Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Community of Greater Washington
American Jewish Committee, Washington Region
American University Center for Israel Studies
Anti-Defamation League, Washington Region
Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
Embassy of Israel
Lois and Richard England Family Foundation
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
New Israel Fund
University of Maryland Gildehorn Institute for Israel Studies
Washington DC JCC
Washington Hebrew Congregation