



AND STILL WE RISE

Program / Washington, DC / June 17-19, 2018

CEMP 2018 Congressional Award



Churches for Middle East Peace's Congressional Award is presented annually to a member of Congress who best exemplifies CMEP's commitment to work for just and lasting resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East with special attention to Israel-Palestine.

CMEP's Congressional Award 2018: Presented to Representative Betty McCollum (MN) for her courageous leadership on behalf of the rights of Palestinian children and commitment to working on behalf of a just and lasting resolution to the conflict in Israel-Palestine.

Learn more about Representative Betty McCollum's (MN) career at cmep.org/2018-cmep-congressional-award

Keynote Speakers



FEDA ABDELHADY-NASSER

Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

Ms. Feda Abdelhady-Nasser has been the Deputy Permanent Observer since January 2013. She received the rank of Ambassador in May 2013. Ambassador Abdelhady-Nasser represents the State of Palestine at the Security Council and at the General Assembly and its Main Committees, particularly the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (4th Committee), with specific focus on the issue of UNRWA and the Palestine refugees. She is a speech-writer for the Mission and is responsible for the drafting and negotiation of Palestine's annual package of General Assembly resolutions. She often represents Palestine at meetings of the Arab Group, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Group of 77 and China, and the Asia-Pacific Group.

Among other responsibilities and initiatives during her tenure at the Mission, she was a member of Palestine's legal team to the International Court of Justice on the case of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (December 2003 – July 2004).

Ambassador Abdelhady-Nasser holds a Masters Degree in Educational Administration (2000) from Rutgers University and a Bachelors Degree in Political Science/International Relations from New York University (1992). She is fluent in English and Arabic and conversational in Spanish. She is married and the mother of two sons.

REV. DR. MAE ELISE CANNON

*Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
Ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC)*

Cannon formerly served as the senior director of Advocacy and Outreach for World Vision U.S. on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC; as consultant to the Middle East for child advocacy issues for Compassion International in Jerusalem; as the executive pastor of Hillside Covenant Church located in Walnut Creek, California; and as Director of Development and Transformation for extension ministries at Willow Creek Community Church in Barrington, Illinois. Mae is the editor of *A Land Full of God: Christian Perspective on the Holy Land* (Wipf & Stock, 2017) and the author of *Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World* (IVP, 2009), *Just Spirituality: How Faith Practices Fuel Social Action* (IVP, 2013), and *Forgive Us: Confessions of a Compromised Faith* (co-authored, Zondervan, 2014).



LARA FRIEDMAN

President of Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP)

Lara Friedman formerly served as the Director of Policy and Government Relations for Americans for Peace Now. As a former US Foreign Service Officer, Lara Friedman served in Jerusalem, Washington, Tunis, and Beirut (and briefly in Khartoum).

Widely recognized as an authority on US policy in the Middle East, Congress and the Middle East, Israeli settlements, and Jerusalem, Lara meets frequently with Members of Congress and congressional staff, Administration officials, foreign diplomats, and other members of the foreign policy community. She regularly publishes opinion and analysis pieces in the US and Israeli press, including at the Times of Israel, Huffington Post, Newsweek/the Daily Beast, The Forward, Haaretz, and LobeLog. She also works closely with Jerusalem expert Danny Seidemann and has participated in Track II peace efforts, including the Jerusalem Old City Initiative. Lara has a BA from the University of Arizona and a Master's degree from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service. She speaks French, Spanish, Arabic, and rather poor Italian.





REV. NAJLA KASSAB

President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC); Director of the Christian Education Department for the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL)

Rev. Najla Kassab obtained her B.A. in Christian education from the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in 1987 and her Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1990. In 1993 Rev. Kassab received the first preaching license offered to a woman by NESSL. In March 2017, she became the second woman to be ordained as a minister in NESSL. For the past two-and-a-half decades Rev. Kassab has worked with NESSL's women and children's ministries, including as Director of Christian Education. She was elected to the WCRC Executive Committee at the 2010 Uniting General Council. She lives with her husband, Joseph Kassab, and three children in Beirut, but her work takes her frequently to Syria.



REV. DR. BRENDA SALTER McNEIL

Associate Professor of Reconciliation Studies at Seattle Pacific University and Director of Reconciliation Studies program

Dr. Brenda earned a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, a Doctorate of Ministry from Palmer Theological Seminary, and was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters from both North Park University and Eastern University. She is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church and serves as a member of the pastoral staff of Quest Church in Seattle, WA. For 14 years, she was on staff with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship as a Multiethnic Ministries Specialist. Currently she serves on the board of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA, and was previously on the Board of Directors for Wycliffe USA and Christians for Biblical Equality.

Dr. Brenda is known as an international trailblazer, leading individuals, communities, and organizations to biblical reconciliation. She was featured as one of the 50 most influential women to watch by Christianity Today in 2012. She is the author of *Roadmap to Reconciliation* (2016), *A Credible Witness: Reflections on Power, Evangelism and Race* (2008), and *The Heart of Racial Justice: How Soul Change Leads to Social Change* (2005), coauthored with Rick Richardson. Dr. Brenda resides in Seattle with her husband, Dr. J. Derek McNeil as proud parents of two young adult children.

Panelists & Middle East Delegates



SHIREEN AWWAD

Dean of Students at Bethlehem Bible College

Shireen is an active leader in Musalaha's reconciliation programming, facilitating and leading women's groups in the Bethlehem area. She is the Dean of Students at Bethlehem Bible College where she teaches educational and leadership courses.

FARAH BAYADSI

Palestinian Lawyer for Defense for Children International (DCI) in Palestine

Farah specializes in Child Arrest cases in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. She has tackled different cases of political arrests of Palestinians (minors/adults) by Israeli forces, administrative detentions, hunger strikes of Palestinian prisoners, among others in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.



CHELSEY BERLIN

Director of B'Tselem USA

B'Tselem USA is a non-profit that builds support in the US for the protection of human rights in the Occupied Territories. Chelsey previously spent three years in the northern West Bank city of Nablus directing a service-learning program at Tomorrow's Youth Organization and one year in Tel Aviv as the recipient of a Dorot Fellowship in Israel. Chelsey is the vice chair of HEKDESH, a national giving circle.



JENNIFER BING

Directs the Palestine-Israel program for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Chicago

Jennifer has worked at AFSC since 1989. She currently works with Defense for Children International-Palestine on their joint campaign, "Israeli Military Detention: No Way to Treat a Child." She also co-leads the educational project "Gaza Unlocked" with her AFSC colleagues in the US and Gaza.



KATE GOULD

Legislative Director for Middle East Policy

for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

FCNL is a Quaker lobby in the public interest represented by Kate on CMEP's board. Kate has spent nearly a decade as one of only a handful of registered lobbyists in DC working to advance human rights objectives and support diplomatic solution in US policy toward the Middle East. Kate's analysis has been cited by the New York Times, the Washington Post and other national outlets.



HEDVA HAYMOV

Programs Director for Musalaha's Reconciliation and Bridge-Building Work

Hedva studied at the University of Maryland and is certified in Israel in Accounting. She has taken various courses of study in Program Management and Reconciliation and Trauma Training. In 2002, Hedva joined Musalaha looking for answers as to why society was so segregated. Hedva is married and has two daughters.



DR. MIMI HADDAD

President of CBE International

Dr. Mimi Haddad is a graduate of the University of Colorado and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (Summa Cum Laude). She holds a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from the University of Durham, England. Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University awarded Mimi an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity in 2013. She is author of *Is Gender Equality a Biblical Ideal?* with Sean Callaghan. Mimi and her husband, Dale, live in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.



MARA LEE

Executive Director of the OneVoice Movement in New York

Mara majored in Politics and History at the University of California, San Diego and earned her Master's degree in Political Science from the University of London, graduating with distinction. She also served as an Associate Professor at George Washington University where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses on global politics and campaign management.

LISA LODEN

Co-founder of Messianic congregation Beit Asaph in Netanya, Israel and Co-chair of the Lausanne Initiative for Reconciliation in Israel-Palestine

Lisa is a Messianic Jew living in Israel since 1947. She served on the faculty of the Nazareth Evangelical Theological Seminary from 2008-2012 and created their Leadership Development Program. She is a member of Musala Reconciliation Ministries Advisory Board. With Salim Munayer, she co-authored *Through My Enemy's Eyes: Envisioning Reconciliation in Israel-Palestine*. She is a founding member and co-leader of In His Image – Women for Change and has written for Another Voice.



SARAH ARND LINDER

Established a Feminist Forum at the IDC in 2009 and Political is Personal in 2015

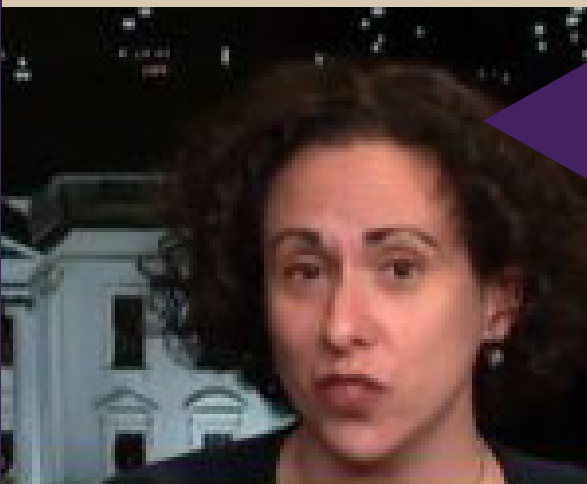
Sarah grew up in Denmark, Switzerland, France and Belgium. After a year spent studying History, Sociology and Writing at the New School in New York, she moved to Israel in 2006. Sarah swiftly developed an interest for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a gender perspective.



SUZANN MOLLNER

Executive Director of Beirut and Beyond, an organization dedicated to benefit Palestinian refugee communities

Suzann has over 19 years of cross-cultural work serving the most vulnerable populations in Africa, Thailand, the Middle East, and the US. For the past 14 years, she served Palestinian refugees in refugee camps across the Middle East. Suzann is a gifted speaker, writer, and advocate for Palestinian refugees.



DR. DEBRA SHUSHAN

Responsible for policy formulation at Americans for Peace Now (APN) and directs APN's relations with Congress

Formerly, Dr. Shushan was an Assistant Professor of Government at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, specializing in the politics of the Middle East, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Gulf states. Dr. Shushan also served as a research fellow at the Center for International and Regional Studies at Georgetown University's Qatar campus.



SHADIA QUBTI

Involved in initiatives advocating for peace such as In His Image - Women for Change, and Another Voice

Shadia is a Christian Palestinian Israeli born and raised in Nazareth. She finished her undergraduate degree at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in International Relations and English Language, and her postgraduate degree in Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent action at Trinity College University in Dublin, Ireland.

SAHAR VARDI

Coordinator of American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) Israel program in East Jerusalem

Sahar is an Israeli peace activist and is a board member for the Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF). As a secular Jew, she works alongside Israelis, Palestinians, and Internationals to focus on equal rights and demilitarization. Sahar served three prison sentences for her refusal to be conscripted into Israel's military service.



HELEN YANOVSKY

Video Archive Manager of B'Tselem

A documentary filmmaker, Helen's films include *Neve Shaanan Street* (2008), *Jerusalem Boxing Club* (2015), and *The Boy from H2* (2017). Her work has been screened at the Jerusalem Film Festival, the Berlinale, the Other Israel Film Festival, and others. Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, Helen studied theatre and film at Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film University and completed an MFA in film directing at Tel Aviv University in Israel.



EILDA ZAGHMOUT

Worked in the business and non-profit sectors for 10 years; certified Yôga Teacher (2013)

Eilda was born and raised in Amman, Jordan to a Palestinian Refugee family from Beit Jala, and moved to Palestine in 1999. Eilda is a mother of two boys, Jude and Jilan. She aspires to take people on a journey of self discovery through yoga to see a new way of being and making change in the Holy Land.

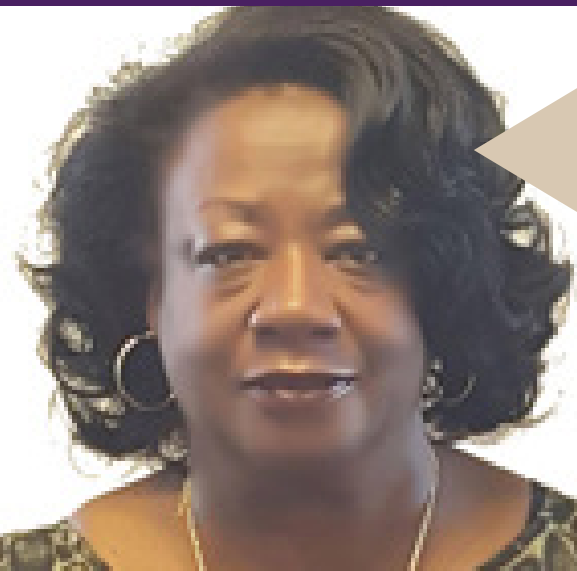
RIMA ESSA

Camera Project Coordinator at B'Tselem

Rima has contributed her expertise in film at B'Tselem since 2016. She is an activist and filmmaker focused on the Palestinian-Israeli context. Her award-winning films include *Under the Blue Sky* (2005), *The Garbage Cage* (2006), *My Name Is Ahlam* (2010), *Ashes* (2011), and *Train Rails* (2012). Rima's work has been screened at the Jerusalem Film Festival, the DocAviv Film Festival, and others. From Kufir Bir'im, Rima graduated from the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem in 2003.



Spiritual Leaders for Closing Prayer Service



REV. JULIA BROWN KARIMU

President of the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada

Rev. Karimu provides leadership for the Disciples' overseas ministries and is accountable for DOM's program development, planning and evaluation, as well as for its organizational, financial and personnel managements. She is also the Co-Executive of Global Ministries, a common witness with the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.



DONITA KEISTER

Ordained minister serving in denominational leadership as 2018-2019 Moderator of the Church of the Brethren

Donita is a full-time pastor at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren near Mifflinburg, PA. She and her husband, Brian, are the parents of five grown daughters and grandparents of three grandsons. A peace pilgrimage to Israel-Palestine in 2015 has sparked a desire in her heart for the Church of the Brethren to be an active voice for Middle East peace.

Thank You 2018 Delegates & Speakers

Read complete speaker bios at cmep.org/werise2018-speakers

And Still We Rise Schedule

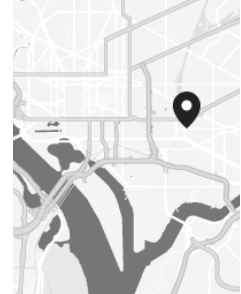
Sunday, June 17th

- 4:30 pm: **Doors Open for Check In**
- 5:15 pm: **Welcome from CMEP's Executive Director,
Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon**
- 5:30 pm: *Susan Hayward, Senior Advisor for Religion and Inclusive
Societies at the U.S. Institute of Peace*
- 6:00 pm: **Keynote Address: "Rise Up!"**

*Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, Associate Professor
of Reconciliation Studies at Seattle Pacific University
& Director of Reconciliation Studies Program*

Lutheran Church of the Reformation

212 East Capital St. NE
Washington, DC 20003



Monday, June 18th

Summit Location

- 8:30 am: **Doors Open, Coffee & Introductions**
- 9:00 am: **Welcome from Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon**
- 9:15 am: **Keynote Address**
*Rev. Najla Kassab, President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) & Director of the
Christian Education Department for the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL)*
- 10:00 am: **Unique Contributions of Women in Peacebuilding**
Dr. Mimi Haddad, President of CBE International
Dr. Debra Shushan, Policy Formulation at Americans for Peace Now (APN)
Mara Lee, Executive Director of OneVoice Movement
- 11:15 am: **Christian Contributions to Peacemaking Panel**
Shireen Awwad, active leader in Musalaha's reconciliation programming
Lisa Loden, Co-chair of the Lausanne Initiative for Reconciliation
Shadia Qubti, advocate for peace for In His Image - Women for Change and Another Voice
- 12:30 pm: **Lunch on your own, see map of nearby restaurants**
- 1:45 pm: **Naila's Uprising Trailer**
- 2:00 pm: **Human Rights and Peacebuilding**
*Sahar Vardi, Israeli peace activist, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
and board member for the Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF)*
Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
- 3:00 pm: **Child Detention Panel 1:**
Chelsey Berlin, Director of B'Tselem USA
Rima Essa, Camera Project Coordinator at B'Tselem
- Child Detention Panel 2:**
Farah Bayadsi, Palestinian lawyer for Defense for Children International (DCI) in Palestine
- 4:45 pm: **Keynote Address**
Feda Abdelhady-Nasser, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations
- 5:30 pm: **Instructions for Tuesday**
- 6:00 pm: **Dismissal**

Tuesday, June 19th

8:30 am: **Introduction to Advocacy**

9:00 am: **Keynote Address**

*Lara Friedman, President of
Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP)*

9:45 am: **Advocacy Tables**

10:00 am: **Congressional Panel**

*Kate Gould, Legislative Director for Middle East Policy
for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)*

11:00 am: **Advocacy Training**

Rebecca Blachly, Director of Office of Government Relations (OGR) for the Episcopal Church

12:15 pm: **Dismissal and lunch on your own - Transition to Capitol Hill**

See map of nearby restaurants

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: **Congressional Visits**

Location and more info will be provided

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm: **Closing Ceremony & Prayer Service**

Location: *West Front Capitol Lawn*

**No chairs are available, we will be standing or sitting on the grass*

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm: **Naila and the Uprising**

A film screening and discussion with Just Vision's Suhad Babaa

More info at cmep.org/event/naila-and-the-uprising

Share on Social Media!

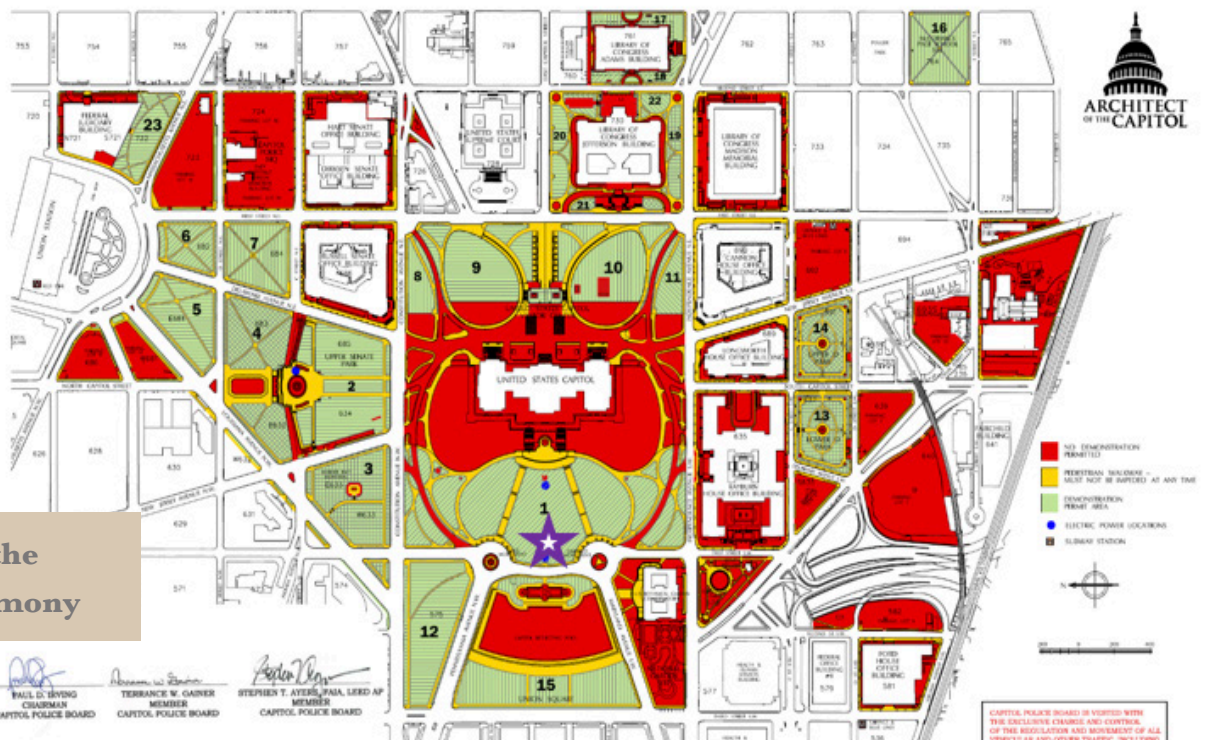


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Read complete speaker bios at cmep.org/werise2018-speakers



**Location for the
Closing Ceremony**

**UNITED STATES CAPITOL GROUNDS
DEMONSTRATION AREAS MAP**

NOVEMBER 2012

Nearby Restaurants



A – Good Stuff Eatery – Burgers, fries, shakes & salads. 303 *Pennsylvania Ave SE* (2 blocks away) \$\$

B – We the Pizza – NYC-style pizza. 305 *Pennsylvania Ave SE* (2 blocks away) \$

C – Mr. Henry's Restaurant – Neighborhood pub style. 601 *Pennsylvania Ave SE* (4 blocks away) \$\$

D – Aatish on the Hill – Indian and Pakistani favorites. 4322, 609 *Pennsylvania Ave SE* (4 blocks away) \$\$

E – Sanphan Thai Cuisine – Thai Cuisine. 653 *Pennsylvania Ave SE* (5 blocks away) \$\$

F – Sizzling Express – Quick bites and comfort food. 600 *Pennsylvania Ave SE* (4 blocks away) \$\$

G – District Taco – Yucatan-style Mexican. 656 *Pennsylvania Ave SE* (5 blocks away) \$

H – Montmartre – Parisian-inspired bistro. 327 *7th St. SE* (6 blocks away) \$\$\$

I – Dorjee Momo – Himalayan/Nepalese. 317 *7th St. SE* (6 blocks away) \$\$

J – The Market Lunch – American breakfasts and lunches. 225 *7th St. SE* (6 blocks away) \$\$

← 0.5 miles to **Lutheran Church of the Reformation** - 212 *East Capital St. NE*

AND STILL WE RISE

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Beirut and Beyond

RELIEF | RECONCILIATION | RELATIONSHIP



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CMEP expresses our great appreciation for the donors who directly contributed to *And Still We Rise* and helped cover expenses of many of the Middle East delegates.

This advocacy summit would not have happened without their support.