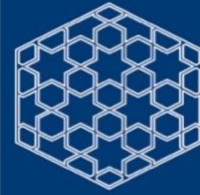




GABR FELLOWS WITH CHARIMAN SHAFIK GABR AT THE 2018 ANNUAL EAST-WEST: THE ART OF DIALOGUE DINNER RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON, DC.



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

May 2021, Issue 46

IN THIS ISSUE

Eid Mubarak

I would like to take this opportunity to wish a Happy Eid to everyone celebrating.

I see religious holidays as a way not only to celebrate one's own religion, but an opportunity for others to learn about cultures and religions they may not be as familiar with.

Religion should bring people together, not tear them apart. The current situation between Israel and Palestine is a sad example of what happens when non-tolerance and one-sidedness reign instead of mutual understanding and respect.

This is one of the reasons I invest so much in my Fellows – brilliant young people that will soon become, or already are, leaders in their respective fields.

If we are to make this world a better place, sometimes differences need to be cast aside (even those with deep roots) and a fresh start needs to take place, free of past misgivings. It is only through open minds and open hearts that we can make meaningful connections to the benefit of all.

M. Shafik Gabr

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News and Updates...

John Ryan Becomes Senate Director



Later this month, **2016 Gabr Fellow John Ryan** is leaving the U.S. Senate to become Senate Director at the State Department's Legislative Affairs Bureau.

He also became engaged to Tara Tighe, a former Assistant U.S. Attorney who is Of Counsel at the D.C. law firm Schertler Onorato Mead & Sears.

Suzanne Youngner's Health Anniversary



2014 Gabr Fellow Suzanne Youngner is now one year cancer-free!

Congratulations to Suzanne, we could not be more thrilled for her amazing recovery, and wish her continued health and success.

Judson Moore Founds OneWeek



2015 Fellow Judson Moore founded OneWeek, an early-stage venture currently ramping up production to bring long-overdue disruption to the online event ticketing market.

OneWeek is a ticketing platform that helps venues, artists, promoters, and fans all have a better experience. They use a unique auction design that optimizes ticket pricing for buyers and sellers while also reducing the secondary markets' incentives. Learn more at <https://www.oneweektickets.com/>

Alexis Taylor Graduates from UPenn



2016 Gabr Fellow Alexis Taylor graduated from the UPenn Executive Graduate Program in Social Innovation Design in April and is looking forward to the next step in her career.

She recently became the Co-Chair of the Davos Lab Taskforce, an initiative of the World Economic Forum and the Global Shapers Community dedicated to building a post-pandemic recovery plan by August 2021.

Morgan Williams and Climate Robotics



Climate Robotics, an Austin, Texas based start-up co-founded by **2013 Gabr Fellow Morgan Williams**, closed a \$4.5 Seed Round led by VCs in the US and UK. The company designs automated agricultural equipment for the in-field conversion of crop residues to amendments that improve soil health and remove CO2 from the atmosphere. At scale, the technology can remove billions of tons of CO2 per year while improving the productivity of farm land at costs equivalent to conventional land management.

In addition, Morgan started working with RSI EnTech, LLC, a Contractor to U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management. Within the company, Morgan works with the Applied Studies and Technology Group to develop and advance innovative approaches for the long-term management of legacy wastes from WWII and Cold War projects. He investigates how engineered landforms change through space and time and develop strategies to improve the long-term performance of these environmental remedies.

Erika Witt Defends Doctoral Prospectus



2014 Gabr Fellow Erika Witt defended her doctoral prospectus for the Doctor of Design in Cultural Preservation program for the College of Art and Design at Louisiana State University. She will defend her thesis by October of 2021 and graduate by December 2021.

Also, on May 16th, she will be participating in a panel titled "African Influence in Black Masking Traditions: A Conversation with Curators at the Musee du Quai-Branly- Jacques Chirac of Paris and Southern University at New Orleans." Information can be found in the link below:

<https://frenchculture.org/events/13230-african-influence-black-masking-traditions>

Sarah Badr Speaks at ECOSOC Forum



2017 Gabr Fellow Sarah Badr participated as the Regional focal point for MENA with the UN's major group for children and youth as a speaker in the 10th ECOSOC Forum in April. This was under the Arab regional breakout session. Sarah's intervention was about youth innovation and inclusion in the Arab region. The session was moderated by ESCWA, UNESCO and UNFPA.

The event was live broadcasted on UN TV and you can watch it here: <http://webtv.un.org/search/arab-states-region-regional-breakout-session-10th-economic-and-social-council-youth-forum/6247557725001/?term=&lan=english>

Sponsor a Gabr Fellow



Sponsoring a Gabr Fellow for the Fellowship Program helps build bridges of cross-cultural understanding between the East and the West.

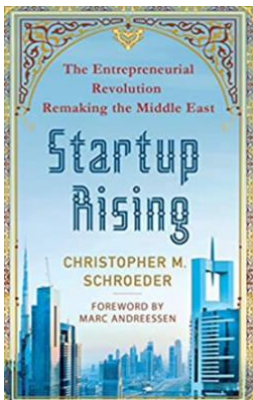
The sponsorship package costs \$35,000 which includes the sponsoring of a Fellow who can carry the name of the individual, organization or corporation making the contribution.

Sponsors will be recognized in all Foundation publications, marketing materials, and events. Contributions of any amount, big or small, are encouraged and welcomed with sincere gratitude.

More information can be found here:

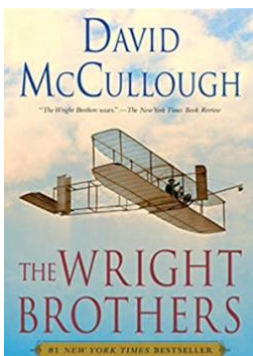
eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-support

Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



The Foundation Reading Corner encourages Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended to them in each issue. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends *Startup Rising: The Entrepreneurial Revolution Remaking the Middle East* by Christopher Schroeder and *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.

Startup Rising takes a look at the surge of entrepreneurship that has accompanied the uprisings in the Middle East, and why it's the new best place for Western investment and opportunity. Travelling across the Middle East, seasoned investor Christopher Schroeder met thousands of talented, successful, and intrepid entrepreneurs, who promise to reinvent the region as a centre of innovation and progress.



The Wright Brothers by David McCullough, two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, is the dramatic story-behind-the-story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly - Wilbur and Orville Wright. McCullough draws on the extensive Wright family papers to profile not only the brothers but their sister, Katharine, without whom things might well have gone differently for them.

A Nightmare of Terror Across the Landscape of Palestine

By Yousef Munayyer
The Nation

I have been trying to think of a moment since 1948 when so broad a range of Palestinians have been exposed to as great a level of Israeli violence as they have been these last few days—and I don't think I can.

In towns throughout Israel, Palestinians have been beaten and terrorized by rampaging mobs; one man was dragged from his car and brutalized in what many are describing as a lynching. In the West Bank, Palestinians have been shot and killed in raids by the Israeli military. In Jerusalem, Palestinian families, facing the ongoing threat of expulsion, have been harassed by settlers and military alike. And across Gaza, Israeli war planes have dropped bomb after bomb, destroying entire apartment buildings. Many have died, many more have been injured. If they manage to survive, they will witness their society shattered when the smoke clears.

The origins of this moment are as obvious as they are painful, but they bear explaining and re-explaining for a world that too often fails—in fact, refuses—to see the true terms of Palestinian suffering.

To understand how we've arrived at this moment, it is essential to start with the story of Sheikh Jarrah. That small Jerusalem enclave, from which several Palestinian families have been under threat of expulsion, is perhaps, the most immediate proximate cause of this latest crisis. It is also just the latest targeted dispossession of Palestinians by Israel, which has been part of a more than 70-year process.

Since occupying the West Bank in 1967, the Israeli government has pursued various policies aimed at demographically engineering the city of Jerusalem—again, all with an eye toward ensuring its perpetual dominance over the city. Among such policies are the building of illegal settlements around the city to cut it off from the rest of the Palestinian population in the West Bank; the restriction of movement to deny Palestinians access to and within the municipality itself; the revocation of Palestinian residency status, which is tantamount to expulsion; and the demolition of Palestinian homes. The Israelis also expel Palestinians from their homes, as we are witnessing in Sheikh Jarrah, so that they can be handed to Israeli settlers.

Such policies have created a uniquely potent set of threats, humiliations, and injustices targeting Palestinians in Jerusalem. Yet what is happening in Sheikh Jarrah is not just about Jerusalem but is also reflective of the entire Palestinian experience. Since the start of Zionist settler colonialism in Palestine, the aim has been to slowly and steadily expand control over the territory, pushing the indigenous population out in a continual process of replacement. The single biggest episode of this was the Nakba of 1948, during which Jewish militias and then the state of Israel depopulated hundreds of towns and villages, made nearly two-thirds of the Palestinian Arab population refugees, and subsequently denied their return, first by military force and then by force of law. But the process did not stop there. In the decades since, the settler colonial process has moved forward in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza through the building of settlements, land theft, and brute military force.

All of this would be tinder enough for this moment, but it also happens to be taking place in a broader immediate context, one in which the vise

grip of accelerating right-wing, theocratic nationalism is tightening across Israel. Recent Israeli elections brought outright Kahanists—Jewish theocratic extremists who seek to deny any rights to Palestinians and embrace ethnic cleansing—into the parliament in their most significant numbers ever. Right-wing ideologues have long dominated the Knesset, but as Israeli politics shifts ever right-ward, enabled by internationally ensured impunity, there is now increasing political space for the most open and direct racism we have seen. (It should therefore come as no surprise that it has burst out into the streets in the shape of lynch mobs.)

These new depths of depravity have coincided with the possibility that the Likud party, whose leader Benjamin Netanyahu has dominated Israeli politics longer than any other, risks losing power. This is not due to a challenge by those to his left, but those to his right who seek to replace him.

What makes the threat to Netanyahu's grip on power particularly dangerous is that he is perhaps the most seasoned Israeli politician when it comes to riling up violence by his followers in moments of political turmoil. It is a tactic he has often deployed, perhaps most famously just before of the assassination of his political rival Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Israeli in 1995. Since the election in March, these violent extremists have escalated their attacks on Palestinians throughout the West Bank and have rampaged in Jerusalem, shouting "Death to Arabs" as they marched through the Old City. These attacks, fully tolerated if not outright supported by the state, further escalated during the holy month of Ramadan, culminating first with efforts by the Israeli government to shut down the Damascus Gate and then, ultimately, with the brutal raids we have seen this week by the Israeli military inside Al-Aqsa mosque.

The representative vehicles for Palestinians, throughout all of Palestine, have broken down irreparably. But that may not be a bad thing, since those vehicles have effectively driven them to a dead end of greater fragmentation and occupation. While many had come to this conclusion long ago, the mass mobilizations we began seeing several days ago in the streets, from Jerusalem, to Haifa, Nazareth, al-Lyd, Umm al-Fahem, Ramallah, Gaza, in refugee camps, and in the diaspora around the world have showed that a new generation not only recognizes this but that they are starting to act on it. These mass mobilizations that have united Palestinians show a shared understanding of their struggle and perhaps even the embryonic form of a united, coordinated effort against Israeli settler colonialism in all its manifestations.

The struggle for freedom is a constant journey, with stops called hope and despair along the way. While the last few days have given me incalculable reasons to despair, it is in the possibility of a united Palestinian effort, glimpsed these last few days, that I have seen a shard of hope. When freedom comes, and when the history of the struggle for it is being written, I hope this moment will prove to be a transformational one. To this end, we all have a role to play, and it is incumbent on people who believe in justice to stand in solidarity with Palestinians today and until the journey ends.

To read the full article, please visit <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/israel-palestine-reign-of-terror/>

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.

How to stop an unnecessary war

By Dov Zakheim
The Hill

At the time of writing, the increasingly bloody war between Israel and Hamas continues apace. At some point Egypt will mediate a truce, as it has done in the past. The real question is whether this war ever needed to happen.

It all began with the Israeli government's decision to evict several Arab families living in an East Jerusalem district called Sheikh Jarrah. The decision followed a ruling from Jerusalem's district court that the homes in question actually belonged to Israeli Jews. The claimants argued before the court that a number of properties in the district had been acquired by Jews well before 1948, when Israel came into being.

It is indeed the case that the neighborhood once had been called Shimon HaTzadik, named for a leading ancient rabbi who figures prominently in the Talmudic tractate popularly known as "The Ethics of the Fathers." Moreover, it is also true that when Jordanian forces overran the neighborhood during Israel's 1947-1949 War of Independence, all Jews were evicted or escaped to Israeli-controlled territory.

In 1956, Jordan moved 28 Palestinian families into the area; these were families that had been displaced in the war. The families were subsequently given title to their residences, though the Jewish owners never renounced their original title to these homes.

The newly displaced Arab families have appealed the district court's decision to Israel's Supreme Court, which has often ruled in favor of Palestinian claims against the government. As a result of both the ongoing hostilities with Hamas and riots in Jerusalem, however, the court delayed its decision. It might be argued that the Jewish claimants have a strong case; after all, they were prior owners of the properties in question.

On the other hand, the Arabs families have been living in these homes for some 75 years, and it arguably is cruel to evict them over sins committed by a Jordanian government that has long since made its peace with Israel.

It is clear that the war has benefitted no one, other than the cynics on both sides. Gaza-based Hamas, with help from the even more radical Islamic Jihad, has seized upon an excuse to demonstrate that it, not the rival Palestinian Authority, is the true defender of Palestinian rights.

Yet those so-called defenders operate from civilian homes, using their residents as human hostages. And many of the Hamas leadership have moved their families — and, in many cases, themselves — out of Gaza and away from danger while the conflict continues.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu likewise has seized upon the conflict for his own political purposes. He is seeking, once again, to demonstrate that he — not the leaders of opposition parties who have been asked to form a new government — is best positioned to defend the Jewish state. It is his last desperate attempt to remain in power, and to avoid criminal prosecution for corruption and bribery.

Netanyahu's cynicism was quite recently on display, when he bowed to ultra-Orthodox demands that there be no limit to the number of celebrants at a festival held at a rabbinical gravesite on Mount Meron 10 days ago. As a result, instead of the 9,000-person limit recommended by the health authorities, 100,000 people took part in the festivities; sadly, 45 people died and scores more were injured in a stampede that took place at the gravesite.

Washington has voiced its support for Israel, and has called for a speedy end to the conflict. It is supporting Egypt's mediation efforts. But the Biden administration could, and should, do more. It should begin with the recognition that this conflict need not have taken place.

The government of Israel could have announced that it was compensating the Jewish claimants for their losses. Moreover, though it is late in the day, the government still could allow those Palestinians who were evicted to return to their homes, and compensate the Jewish owners for the loss of their property. Doing so might just tamp down emotions sufficiently to enable Egypt to broker a truce more quickly.

Washington should, therefore, immediately press the Israeli government to announce that it will compensate the Jewish claimants, while permitting the Palestinians to return to their homes.

At the same time, it should continue to work with Egypt toward a quick cessation of hostilities. In so doing, the Biden administration can spare both Israelis and Palestinians additional losses of life and limb. Surely that objective should far outweigh the material benefits of property ownership, not to mention the political machinations of both Netanyahu and Israel's arch enemies, Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

To read the full article, please visit <https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/553293-how-to-stop-an-unnecessary-war>

Disclaimer: *The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.*

Question of the Month: A Pulse of the Gabr Fellowship Community



As the Gabr Fellows enter into leadership roles—in business, diplomacy, government, finance, and more—they will continue to grapple with significant challenges, magnified by an increased pace in technological advancement, the potential for ramped up global inequalities, and changes in governance and economic structures.

To better understand the pulse of the Gabr Fellowship community and to begin to articulate substantive dialogue, the Foundation polls the Fellows each month on the key issues facing their respective countries and the global community at large.

1. Do you support President Biden’s recognition of the killing and deportation of up to 1.5 million Armenians during World War One by the then-Ottoman government as genocide?

Yes: 94%

No: 3%

I don’t know: 3%

2. Do you think the United States should step in to help Egypt with the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam issue and facilitate the talks on GERD?

Yes: 52%

No: 19%

I don’t know: 29%

3. Do you think Egypt and Turkish relations can improve during President Erdogan’s tenure?

Yes: 29%

No: 32%

I don’t know: 39%

Stay tuned for next month’s question of the month and the Gabr Fellows’ takes on current events, as our community of future leaders grapple with the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



1 May: Ola Ali, 2015 Gabr Fellow



7 May: Ahmed El Habibi, 2013 Gabr Fellow



10 May: Hayley Rose, 2018 Gabr Fellow



10 May: Nayra Gadallah, 2016 Gabr Fellow



11 May: Hani El Zoumor, 2016 Gabr Fellow



18 May: Kristina Ryan, 2017 Gabr Fellow

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



19 May: Hanan Khayal, 2018 Gabr Fellow



22 May: Chase Bowman, 2014 Gabr Fellow



23 May: Michelle Matus, 2015 Gabr Fellow



25 May: Courtney Joline, 2017 Gabr Fellow



30 May: RJ Johnson, 2018 Gabr Fellow



30 May: Yasser El Zahhar, 2016 Gabr Fellow

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

For more information on the Shafik Gabr Foundation and its *East-West: The Art of Dialogue* Initiative, please visit the website <https://eastwestdialogue.org/>.

For earlier itineraries of the program, please see the previous years' reports at <https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/>



Gustavo Simoni, *The Musicians*, pencil and watercolour on paper, The Shafik Gabr Collection

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