

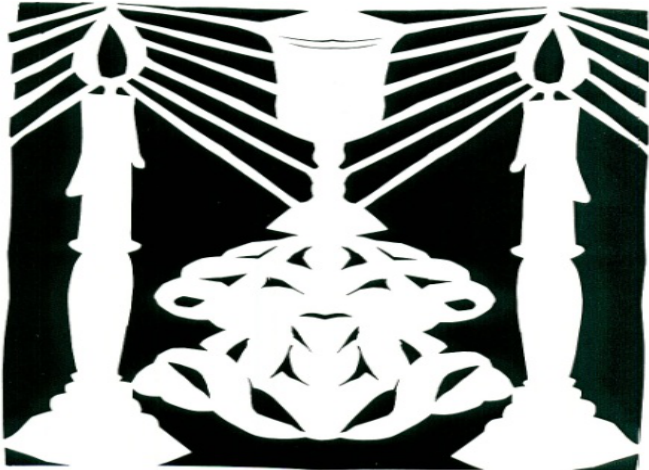
JEWISH-MUSLIM SHABES: Drawing Upon Our Traditions of Resistance, Mutual Support & Justice

6:55-7:05 Music

1. Leila Mourad: Malish Amal Fidonya Di, 5:16
2. Arooj Aftab: Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen cover), 5:02

Gut Shabes! Good Shabes! שבת גוטה!

As-salāmu ‘alaykum السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ



Welcome to our Friday Shabes gathering!

This event has been organized by the Jewish Muslim Solidarity Committee of the Boston Worker’s Circle for the past few years. Our last annual gathering almost took place in 2020 before COVID descended upon us.

We’re so glad to be here tonight as Jews, as Muslims, as friends and families, to think about our traditions of resistance, mutual support, and justice. We’re going to share some blessings, readings, and hear from two very powerful speakers tonight, then we’ll have a chance to talk to each other in breakout groups.

Mona and Riz introductions: 6-10 min

Readings

This is a statement from Aziza Hasan and Andrea Hodos, from NewGround: a Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change. They wrote this after the Colleyville, Texas Synagogue Hostage situation.

As members of this society and this world, we swim in antisemitism. We swim in Islamophobia. Many of us will dip in without realizing it. When we move forward without thinking about our own contribution or inaction, we will be less effective in addressing hate, and we will cede our power to those who would propagate violence against us. The way forward is to hold up a mirror to ourselves, mindful of our foibles and biases.

And here's a statement from Ginna Green, of Bend the Arc.

The common thread that connects these tragedies, such as the Pittsburgh [synagogue] shooting on October 27th and the Christchurch shooting, is a hateful, destructive, violent white nationalist ideology that targets all of us. In this moment we are not safe unless we are together.

Responsive Reading

The bold text is read together (on mute).

Sometimes the greatest act of courage is to open our hearts to another human being.

I choose to open my heart.

Sometimes the greatest act of love is to dare to speak out against another's mistreatment.

I pledge to speak out.

Sometimes in the midst of a loud and busy world, it is important to slow down and listen.

I promise to listen to stories that may be difficult to hear.

Sometimes amidst a world rife with oppression, discouragement and despair can take over.

I commit to noticing and standing up to injustices large and small.

I will do my best to open my heart, to use my voice, to hear your voice, and to challenge oppression of all kinds.

Blessing over the Shabes candles

The lighting of the Shabes candles marks the transition from the every-day to a special moment, from struggling to create the world as it should be to enjoying the beauty in the world as it is. It is a moment rich with spiritual reflection.

For the **Hebrew** blessing, we sing:

Boruch atah Adonoi elohenu melech ho'olom
asher kedshanu b'mitzvasov vetsivanu l'hadlik ner shel shabbat.

In **Yiddish**, we say:

Mir bagrisn shabes.
Zol di likht bashaynen undzer velt mit sholem un sheynkayt.

In **Ladino**, we say:

Kun estas candelas arrogamos al Dyo
El Dyo de nuestras Madres de Israel, Sara, Rifka, Lea i Rahel
Ke muz de vida saludoza, paz, i amor a todus nuestrus keridus i al mundo intero
Amen.

In **English**, that means:

We welcome the week's end in the tradition of our people.
May these candles bring warmth and light into our lives.

SPEAKER: NIDAL AL-AZRAQ

Nidal Al-Azraq is the Executive Director of 1 for 3 organization and a Board member of Grassroots International. He was born and raised in the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlem, West Bank, Palestine where he has worked to support human rights, empowerment, and political education projects. The 1 for 3 organization supports these Palestinian rights by developing four programs. They meet refugee communities at the nexus of Water – Food - Health – Education.

Song: Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu (Peace is possible!)

Od yavo' shalom aleinu (3x)
Ve al kulam

Salaam
Aleinu ve al kol ha olam
Salaam, Salaam
Aleinu ve al kol ha olam
Salaam, Salaam

Blessing over the fruit of the vine (wine or grape juice)

For the **Hebrew** blessing we sing:

Boruch atah Adonoi elohenu melekh ho'olom
Bo're pri hagofen.

In **Yiddish**, we say:

Tsum sof-vokh, freyen mir zikh tsu nemen a glezele vayn tsuzamen.

In **Ladino**, we say:

Bendicho el Dio alto con su gracia mos manque vino a nos y a todos Yisrael.

In **English** we say:

As we come to week's end, we are grateful that we can share the fruit of the vine together.

SPEAKER: JEN KIOK

Jen Kiok (she/her/s) is a white Ashkenazi Jew of Polish and Lithuanian descent, co-conspiring with her ancestors on the path to collective liberation. Jen is a mother, a daughter, an ancestor in training, as well as an educator, a community leader, a dancer and a healer. For the past two decades Jen has been working to build intergenerational communities, rooted in arts and culture with an explicit commitment to racial justice. She is the founder of In the Bones of Our Ancestors, a project dedicated to healing at the intersection of anti-semitism, racism and white supremacy and served as the Executive Director of Boston Workers Circle, Center for Jewish Culture & Social Justice from 2015-2021.

Quotes

“True resistance begins with people confronting pain ... and wanting to do something to change it.”

- bell hooks

“Love is something that is extremely beautiful, but I would settle for justice.”

- Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Al-Ghazali's Work at the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque & Al-Quds University

Blessing over the challah

For the **Hebrew** blessing we sing:

Boruch atah Adonoi elohenu melekh ho'olom
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.

In **Yiddish** we say:

Loytn yidishn mineg, teyln mir khale, di frukht fun der erd.

In **Ladino** we say:

Bendicho sos Tu, Sinyor, ke azes salir pan de la tierra.

In **English** we say:

In the tradition of our people, we share bread, the fruit of the earth.

Song: Olam Chesed Yibaneh

Olam chesed Yibaneh
Yai dai dai
(x4)
We will build this world with love
Yai dai dai



“May our hope be radiant, nourished by the guidance of our ancestors and elders, stirred by rightful rage and abundant love. May we be a community that is historically and widely known to have raged and loved well.”

- Gabes Torres

Announcements/Upcoming Events

- April 29 shabes—Yiddish May Day
- Reminder to donate to 1 for 3
- IPC meeting March 8, 7pm, open community meeting to learn about and plug into I/P work at BWC, contact: Mona monapollack@gmail.com
- Join JMSC!! Contact: Laura laura.derman@gmail.com, Betsy, betsyabrams53@gmail.com

8:00: Shabes Sharing

Now we’re going to go into breakout groups and have some time to digest what we’ve heard tonight and connect about our reactions and what is on our minds about community and the important and potentially difficult conversations that come with it. We’d love to have you stay for this part of the program. If you can’t stay with us, feel free to wave and say goodbye in the chat! We’ll put the breakout groups together in 5 minutes.

Our Guidelines:

Respect, listening and hearing each other.

Breakout room questions:

- * Introduce yourself in a sentence or two
- * What inspired you or touched you tonight?
- * When has community showed up for you or your community? What did that look like?
- * Difficult conversations and respectful listening are integral to deepening our understanding and community bonds. What are some hard conversations you have had, wished you had, or feel inspired to try to have, and what have you/can you learn from these?