

# THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle WA

Spring 2001

Vol. 26 No. 3

## *KHALIL SHIKAKI: Noted Palestinian Intellectual, Speaks on the Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process*

**K**HALIL Shikaki, Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Ramallah, made a recent visit to the UW campus under the auspices of the Middle East Center. His trip to the United States was arranged by the Western Consortium of Centers of Middle Eastern Studies, of which the Center is a member.

While in Seattle, Shikaki met with local media and community leaders and gave a public presentation titled "The Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process: Conflict and Reconciliation."

Dr. Shikaki received his Ph.D. from Columbia and taught political science at Al-Najah University in Nablus. He has conducted dozens of surveys since the beginning of the 1993 peace process and is now considered the

leading authority on public opinion research in the West Bank and Gaza.

His research is has provided an objective and forthright representation of how Palestinian public opinion has changed over time and of its many different layers and shadings with regard to the Oslo peace process, violence, changes in Israeli Policy and the administrative practices of the Palestinian Authority. His research has led him to argue for a peace based on "soft separation—allowing for porous borders, access for each side to its



*Khalil Shikaki (right) with Ellis Goldberg (left), Director, Middle East Center*

'historical' land, some mixed Jewish-Palestinian neighborhoods, joint economic ventures, and mutually acceptable security arrangements—[which] promises a more durable solution than one which entails total and irreversible separation." ❧

## **SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: WAR, SANCTIONS, AND US POLICY—A Public Debate between Shafeeq Ghabra and Scott Ritter to Be Held May 4th in Kane Hall**

**O**N May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Kane Hall 210, a public debate will be held, which will focus on US policy and Iraq. Shafeeq Ghabra, Director of the Kuwait Information Office in Washington, D.C., will debate Scott Ritter, Former UN Chief Weapons Inspector. Each will have twenty minutes to present his position and five minutes for rebuttals. Following this formal

portion of the debate will be a thirty-minute session in which a panel of specialists will ask questions of each speaker. The panel will include Bert Sacks, Education for Peace Center in Iraq; Christopher Jones, Acting Director, Institute for Global and Regional Security Studies, UW; Resat Kasaba, Director, International Studies Center, UW, and Frederick Lorenz,

international lawyer and lecturer in the Jackson School, UW. An audience question-and-answer session will wrap up the event. The moderator for the evening will be Ellis Goldberg, Director, Middle East Center, UW.

This event is being organized through the efforts of the Jackson School Student Association, which is composed of undergraduate majors in the

## *Library Purchases Important Slide Collection of Middle Eastern Art*

THE University of Washington Libraries is purchasing a collection of slides compiled by the noted art historian of the Middle East, Walter B. Denny. This collection, which is intended as a teaching resource, consists of 3500 slides on Islamic art and architecture, specifically: ivory carving, metalwork, glass/rock crystal, stone carving/sculpture, wood carving, stucco, jade writing tools, ceramics, arms and armor, art process and techniques, architecture of Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Anatolia and Iran, carpets, Persian painting, Persian book arts, Ottoman miniature and other paintings, Central Asia, Mughal, and Arabic paintings, textiles, Isnik ceramics, Turkish tile, and art in context. The time period covered by the collection is from the 7th through the 20th century. The Libraries will gradually draw up a hand-list providing the name of each item, the place where it was made, its period, and its current location, and will post this information on a website. The slide collection will be housed in the Special Collections Division of Suzzallo Library, where a light table and projector can be used to examine slides. The slides will not be lent out, but a room in Special Collections can be reserved for classes. With advance notice, slides will be scanned on request for UW

## *First Annual Conference of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies*

NOW in its eighth year of existence, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies is organizing its first conference for graduate students. The conference, which will become an annual event of the program, will, this year, be devoted to the topic of "Religious Elites and National Politics."

Although the role of insurgent religious movements and politics has been the subject of extensive study and debate, almost no attention has been paid to the role of orthodox Muslim ulama, Christian clergy, and rabbis in national politics in the Middle East. The growing importance of religion in political discourse has, however,

strengthened the role of religious establishments. This conference will be the first to study their role in comparative perspective.

Participants giving papers will include Professor Malika Zeghal of the Institut d'Etude Politiques, Paris, whose work includes *Gardiens de l'Islam: Les oulémas d'Al Azhar dans l'Egypte contemporaine* (Paris, 1994); Professor Yitzhak Nakash, author of a path-breaking study on the Iraqi Shi'i community (*The Shi'is of Iraq* [Princeton, 1994]), and Patricia Woods, a student in the Ph.D. program who is now completing her dissertation.

The conference will be held Saturday, May 19, 8:30 a.m. to noon on the UW campus, HUB (student union building), room

### *Mellon/Sawyer Postdoctoral Position Available at the University of Washington*

Underwritten by a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Center for the Study of Ethnic Conflict and Conflict Resolution is offering a Sawyer Seminar in 2001-2002 on ethnic conflict in the modern world. Recent Ph.D.'s in any social science (including history) who are specialists in this area, covering any part of the world, are encouraged to apply.

Responsibilities will include assisting in the running of the seminar and teaching one quarter of a senior honors undergraduate seminar on the topic. Salary will be approximately \$30,000, plus benefits.

Applicants should submit: (1) cover letter (2) a description of research (3) writing sample and (4) two signed letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes. The appointment runs from September 15, 2001 to June 14, 2002. *Deadline for applications is May 15, 2001.*

Send applications to Professor Resat Kasaba, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

## New Majors Available in Dept. of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

THE Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization is inaugurating two new major options beginning with the fall term of 2001. The new options are: "Comparative Islamic Studies" (70 credits) and "Biblical and Ancient Near East" (73 credits). These two new majors reflect growing student interest in additional academic configurations. The Comparative Islamic major requires two years of a modern Middle Eastern language and focuses study in history, society and culture of Islam in a comparative context. The Biblical and Ancient major requires biblical Hebrew, which can be combined with other ancient Near Eastern languages. These new majors augment the existing majors, now known as "Languages and Civilization" (69 credits) and "Culture and Civilization" (73 credits). ❧

## *Colonialism in the Middle East Subject of March Workshop*

AN interdisciplinary workshop titled "The Middle East under Britain and France: Rethinking State-Society Relations in Late Colonialism" was convened on March 3 to bring together historians, political scientists, sociologists, and literary experts to compare patterns of British and French colonial rule in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Transjordan. The workshop sought to shed light on how and why different state-society accommodations developed in similar political and economic settings.

The workshop represented the culmination of three-years of meetings by the team of participants as they prepared their research for publication. Presentations were: "Tribal Shaykhs and the Limits of British Imperial Rule in Transjordan, 1920-46," Yoav Alon, Tel Aviv University; "Paper Empires: Property Rights

in the Colonial Imagination and Sir Ernest Dowson's Experience in Palestine," Martin Bunton, University of Victoria; "The Mandate System: The End of Imperialism and the Birth of the Iraqi State," Toby Dodge, SOAS; "The British Land Program, State-Societal Cooperation, and Popular Imagination in Transjordan," Michael Fischbach, Randolph Macon College; "The Limits of Hegemony" Contradictions of British Rule in Palestine," Niall O Murchu, University of Washington; "The Urban Bourgeoisie and the Colonial State: The Iraqi and Syrian Middle Classes between the Two World Wars," Peter Sluglett, University of Utah; "The Colonial Construction of Citizenship in Syria and Lebanon," Elizabeth Thompson, University of Virginia; "Refugees into Citizens: The Politics of Cooperation and Middle-Class Modernity in Inter-War Syria,"

## WINEMAN FELLOW, 2000-2001

### *Jeff McCarter Finishes His Year at the American University in Beirut*

JEFF McCarter, the 2000-2001 Wineman Fellow, is one of the first Americans to return to study at the American University in Beirut (AUB) since the end of the Lebanese civil war. He is just finishing his year at AUB, which has proved to be rewarding in many ways.

During his year at AUB he has taken Advanced Arabic (offered for the first time since the end of the war), International Law and Diplomacy, Politics in Lebanon, and Minorities and Politics in the Middle East. He has also been a participant in a graduate seminar sponsored by AUB's Center for Arab and Middle East Studies, which brought

noted experts on the Middle East to weekly discussion sessions with graduate students. McCarter reports that his time in Lebanon has been more enriching than he expected. He writes that he experienced the "ramifications of the volatile situation in Palestine and Israel, come into contact and interacted with excellent professors and students, advanced in my Arabic language skills, learned how business is conducted in the Middle, and traveled extensively throughout Lebanon and Syria."

McCarter will graduate this spring with an MA in Middle East Studies from the Jackson School. ❧

## VIDEO REVIEW

### *Living Islam, Volume 1: Foundations*

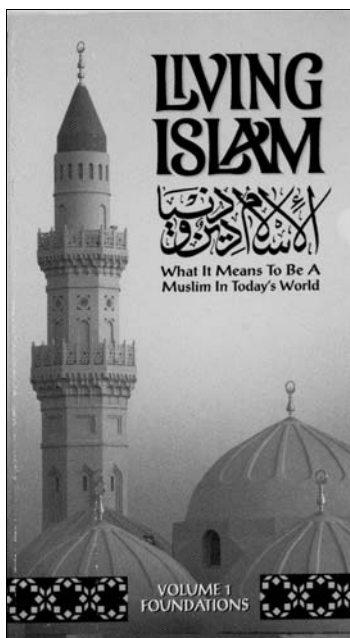
Patricia Woods

**V**OLUME One of *Living Islam: What It Means To Be A Muslim: Foundations* is directed toward a Western (Christian and Jewish) audience with little or no knowledge of Islam. It provides an excellent and unusual introduction to Islam. While presenting the basic Islamic traditions about Islam's origins and tenets, this volume of *Living Islam* is quite effective in portraying some of the ethnic, racial, cultural, linguistic, and geographic variety within the contemporary Islamic world. The viewer is introduced to village festivals in Mali, celebrations of the Prophet's birthday in Cairo, academics in Paris, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, a ritual play of the battle between the Zoroastrian rulers and the Muslim armies in Iran, a passion play of the Battle of Karbala in a rural Iranian village, and Sufis and saint veneration in Bukhara. The significant attention devoted to Africa and Central Asia makes this film particularly valuable.

The narrator of the film is an anthropologist who spends significant time explaining ritual festivals and practices, their relationship with the local culture, and their relationship with the wider tradition. He uses interviews with Muslim scholars like Muhammad Arkoun to explain connections between the Islamic religion and local cultures, as well as what the religion means for Muslims living in various places around the world today. Language is an important part of the film's anthropological portrayal of the Islamic world. Throughout the film, local religious leaders and community members are interviewed in a wide variety of languages about their religion. The film uses sub-titles, so the original languages remain

intact as an effective demonstration of the varied worlds existing within the Islamic world. A variety of Arabic dialects as well as Modern Standard are used by interviewees, as are other local languages. The significance of language and Quranic recitation are addressed from a linguistic perspective as well as through examples of Quranic recitation.

The link and specific relationship between religion and politics in Islam is addressed in some detail, beginning with the establishment of the first Islamic state by the Prophet Muhammad. The traditional history of the origins and development of Islam is presented in detail with vivid depictions of the appropriate landscapes as they exist today, as well as interviews and narrated history. The key players in the early community, as well as important battles and conflicts, are addressed. An interesting conceptual link is created between these histories and the contemporary world through the



filming of the contemporary places where events happened, and contemporary rituals and festivals, even as the traditional history is recounted.

The film provides a sympathetic but not apologist view of this early Islamic history. But the great success of this film is in the dramatic display—through the filming of these varied geographies, the sound of all the languages, the sight of villages and cities from western Africa to Central Asia—of the wide array of very different worlds that make up the world of Islam today.

*The Living Islam series is in six parts; each video is approximately 50 minutes. The set is available for instructional use from the Middle East Center.*

*Patricia Woods is a Ph.C. in the Near and*

**JSIS SUMMER TEACHERS SEMINAR  
FOR EDUCATORS, GRADES 7-12  
June 27, 28, 29, 2001**

*and is subject to change.*

**University of Washington  
Seattle, WA**

## *Spiritual Spaces Around the World*

### **About the Program**

This three-day seminar will explore arenas of spiritual encounter throughout the world. Through lecture presentations, panel discussion, and fieldtrips, participants will be introduced to temples, mosques, cathedrals, family altars, and other less structured zones of spiritual exchange. Discussion led by UW faculty will be coordinated with Seattle's diverse ethnic and religious communities to provide registrants with a unique and fascinating cultural education.

Specific lectures will explore:

- The Role of the Church in Russian Villages
- The Day of the Dead and Family Altars in Latin America
- Pacific Northwest Indigenous Peoples Spiritual Arenas
- Fundamentals of Mosques
- Medieval European Cathedrals
- Spiritual Zones in Today's Commercial World
- Javanese Sacred Sites
- The Role of Spiritual Zones in China

Fieldtrips will include visits to:

- White River Buddhist Temple
- Sakya Monastery of Tibetan Buddhism
- Islamic Idriss Mosque

*Please note this is only a preliminary program of activities*

### **General Seminar Information**

The first day of the seminar will be held in Kane Hall, Room 210; the second and third days of the seminar will be held in Mary Gates Hall, Room 241 on the University of Washington campus, Seattle. There will be two half-day fieldtrips (bus transportation provided) in the afternoons of the first and second day. Each day, sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m., and will aim to end at 4:30 p.m. However, on fieldtrip days, participants should anticipate that they may return to campus after 4:30 p.m., if traffic is particularly congested. Participants will be asked to dress conservatively on fieldtrip days, since religious sites will be visited. Pre-registrants will receive in advance a packet containing the final program, campus map, and tips concerning dress and lunch options.

### **Registration Information**

**Registration Deadline:** June 19, 2001

**Space Limitations:** Seminar is limited to 60 registrants

**Registration Fee:** \$95.00 (checks payable the University of Washington). No refunds.

**Clock Hours:** 24 WA State clock hours for teachers at no additional charge (must attend the entire seminar to be received)

**Registration Validation:** Registration can only be accepted by mail and must include payment in full.

**Mail Forms To:** Felicia Hecker, Middle East Center, Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3650.

**Questions:** Contact Felicia Hecker at 206-543-4227; email:

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive clock hours?     Yes                       No

## CALENDAR OF SELECTED UP-COMING EVENTS

*May 4*

"Security in the Middle East: War, Sanctions, and US Policy." 7:30 p.m., Kane Hall, room 210. Scott Ritter, former chief UN weapons inspector in Iraq; and Shafeeq Ghabra, Director, Kuwait Office of Information, Washington, D.C.

*May 9*

"Reflections on the Social and Political Roles of Bathhouses in Early Islamic Syria." 1:30-3:20, Thomson Hall, room 317. Lara G. Tohme, Aga Khan Fellow of Islamic Architecture, MIT.

*May 17*

"What Happened to the Oslo 'Peace Process'?" 3:30-5:30, Parrington, Forum (room 309). Joel Beinin, History, Stanford University.

*May 19*

"Religious Elites and National Politics" 8:30 a.m.-noon. HUB 309 (details inside, p. 2)

*May 26*

13th Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium on Central/Inner Asian Studies. 8:30 am-6:00 pm Denny Hall 215

*May 28*

"Visualizing Power: Illustrated Histories of the Ottoman Dynasty." 1:30-3:20, Parrington, The Commons. Serpil Bagci, Art History, Hacettepe University.

*June 27, 28, 29*

"Spiritual Spaces around the World." JSIS Summer Teachers Seminar (details inside, p. 5)

## The Middle East Center Newsletter

EDITOR

Felicia J. Hecker

ADDRESS

Middle East Center  
Box 353650  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195 USA

TELEPHONE

206-543-4227

FAX

206-685-0668

E-MAIL

mecuw@u.washington.edu  
[http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/  
programs/mideast/index.html/](http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/programs/mideast/index.html/)

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