

FRIENDS OF WADI FOQUIN

United Methodist partners for justice and economic sustainability in the West Bank

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Bay Area Palestinian Multimedia Exhibit Opens in Alameda on February 11

ALAMEDA, CA, Feb. 2, 2018—Bay Area documentary photographer Najib Joe Hakim’s beautiful and compelling multimedia storytelling project “Home Away from Home: Little Palestine by the Bay” opens at the Alameda Free Library on February 11. The exhibit combines black-and-white portraits of 26 members of the Bay Area Palestinian community—the second-largest in the United States—with recorded interviews with them about home, identity, and the complexities of living with hopes for Palestine in a country often hostile to those aspirations. Viewers with smart phones can scan QR codes next to the portraits to listen to interviews in the subjects’ own voices. Written transcripts are also provided.

“[The concept of] ‘home’ transcends national allegiances and other barriers people erect,” says Hakim. “‘Home’ is a place where past, present, and future reside. And for people who live at home, it is a place to love and hope and remember in freedom and security.”

An opening reception with the artist will be held in the library’s Stafford room from 1:30 to 4pm on Feb. 11. The exhibit will be displayed throughout the first and second floors until March 11. The library is located at 1550 Oak St., Alameda.

Hakim is an award-winning San Francisco-based freelance photographer and photojournalist whose work has been published in national and international newspapers and magazines. Recognitions include Best Photo Essay (California Newspaper Publishers Association), Photo of the Year, twice (Peninsula Press Club), and Best Portrait and Best Feature Photo (East Bay Press Club). In 2007 Hakim was nominated for a US Artists Fellowship. He has also exhibited his personal work in San Francisco; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; The Center for Fine Art Photography in Fort Collins, CO; the Vermont PhotoPlace Gallery; India; and Vietnam; and he has been invited to submit part of the “Home Away from Home” project and other work for the grand opening exhibition of the Palestine Museum US in Connecticut this April.

Funding for “Home Away from Home” comes from a San Francisco Arts Commission’s Cultural Equity Grant and the Arab Fund for Art and Culture (Beirut).

The exhibit at the Alameda Free Library is cosponsored by Friends of Wadi Foquin and the Arab Cultural and Community Center, San Francisco.

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