

New perspectives on Middle East culture, issues goal of 3 local talks

By Johanna Willett
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

When considering issues in the Middle East, Americans need to review culture, history and religion.

Those are the perspectives **Eytan Gilboa**, the chair and academic director of the Israel Public Diplomacy Forum, will challenge Tucsonans to adopt at three local presentations this week.

The Israel Public Diplomacy Forum is a nonprofit organization based in Israel that provides scholarly insight into Middle Eastern conflict.

For several years, academic experts with the forum have partnered with organizations primarily in North America and Europe to bring a delegation to local communities.

In addition to stopping in Tucson on Tuesday, Nov. 3 and Wednesday, Nov. 4, this tour also includes presentations in Phoenix, Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Denver.

“What we are trying to do is bring new perspectives and perspectives that are usually not presented in the United States,” Gilboa said by phone from New Mexico. “We are trying to put events into historical and strategic context, and we come to have a dialogue that engages the public.”

In Tucson, the Israeli delegation will discuss issues such as the Iran nuclear deal, terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Water technologies are also a topic on this tour of the Southwest. **Sharon Megdal**,

IF YOU GO

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

- **What:** “Shifting Alliances in the Middle East and Their Impact on Global Terrorism,” presented by Eytan Gilboa, the chair and academic director of the Israel Public Diplomacy Forum, and Ely Karmon, a Senior Research Scholar for the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism and a Senior Research Fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya in Israel.
- **When:** 6:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Unitarian Universalist of Tucson, 4831 E. 22nd St.
- **Sponsors:** Southern Arizona Council for International Visitors and the Secular Humanist Jewish Circle of Tucson.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4

- **What:** “The Effects of the Nuclear Deal with Iran on

the Balance of Power in the Middle East,” presented by Karmon.

- **When:** 10 a.m.
- **Where:** University of Arizona, 1009 E. South Campus Drive, Room 129 in the Haury building.
- **Sponsors:** The UA Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4

- **What:** “Living and Thriving in a Protracted Conflict: The Story of Israeli Society,” presented by Miriam Haran, the head of the MBA Environmental Management Program at Ono Academic College in Israel and Karmon.
- **When:** 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- **Where / sponsor:** Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church, 5360 E. Pima St.
- **All talks are free.**

the director of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona, will join the conversation on Nov. 2 in Phoenix, according to press materials.

Understanding any of these issues clearly, Gilboa said, requires a lens broader than a general, American understanding.

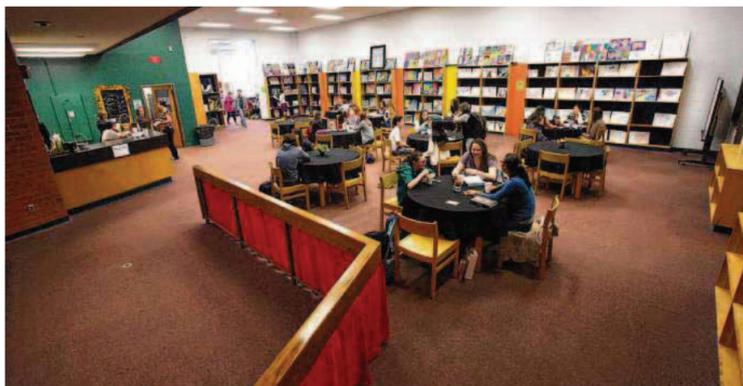
For example, “In order to deal with challenges such as the Islamic State, you need to know where they come from and what makes them so popular,” said Gilboa, who is also a professor of communications and politics at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. “If you ignore, as

I mentioned, those components of history, religion and culture, you wouldn’t understand what they do and would not have an effective strategy to diminish their influence.”

But this isn’t just at lecture. Questions are welcome. So are disagreeing opinions.

“We don’t need everybody to agree with what we say,” Gilboa said. “We accomplish our mission if we are able to present the arguments and have a debate.”

Contact reporter Johanna Willett at jwillett@tucson.com or 573-4357. On Twitter: @JohannaWillett



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The Common Grounds Cafe is in a previously underutilized part of the library and includes a student art gallery, a stage area and space for students to hang out and enjoy their drinks.

COFFEE

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surprised by the amount of support the library club received, he said.

“Because it benefited the school there really was not much opposition,” Sohn said. “What was difficult was getting everything organized because there were so many ideas always being introduced that had to be formalized.”

The students in the after-school club also worked to make the library more inviting. They revitalized the space to create a meeting room, to display students’ art work and spruced up a stage where the schools’ poets, musicians and performers can hone their craft.

Given that there is no money for books, students accomplished the renovations by collecting materials they could find, fundraising and reaching out to their parents and community members to help make the coffee bar, dubbed Common Grounds, a reality.



A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Mamie Watt updates the student-run coffee shop’s menu.

Donations of coffee pots, milk frothers, ground coffee beans and other supplies poured in.

Operating before and after school on Mondays and Tuesdays and after school on Thursdays, students who usually have made early morning runs to Starbucks have expressed excitement over the more convenient on-campus offering and for the opportunity to support classmates, said Makus, who is responsible for the iced-coffee recipe.

Students will be responsible for taking orders, collecting payment, making

drinks and keeping tabs on the inventory.

As impossible as the feat seemed at the start of the year, Clark would encourage other students who want change to go after it.

“It really helps to have one adult on your side because that can give a new level of confidence and connections,” she said.

Added Makus: “A lot of the time, most people don’t ask and that’s the big key — we started asking.”

Contact reporter Alexis Huicochea at ahuicochea@tucson.com or 573-4175. On Twitter: @AlexisHuicochea

LAW & ORDER BRIEFS

Police arrest 2 men in homicide inquiry

Police arrested two men in connection with a Sept. 13 homicide in midtown Tucson.

Charles Allen Cole, 23, and Marcell Cobb, 21, were arrested Oct. 29 as a result of an ongoing investigation into the shooting death of Michael Oleisky, 42.

The shooting occurred in the 2300 block of North Northway Avenue, the Tucson Police Department said Sunday in a news release.

The investigation is ongoing, police said. Anyone with information can call 88-CRIME.



Marcell Cobb



Charles Allen Cole

Arizona Daily Star

70 sex offenders arrested in sweep

Federal and local authorities arrested 70 sex offenders during a statewide sweep in October.

Through Operation Safe Treat 2015, authorities made 32 arrests for sex offenses or assault, 23 arrests for failure to register as a sex offender, eight arrests for child molestation and one arrest for aggravated assault. Two convicted sex offenders were arrested for other offenses, the U.S. Marshals Service said Monday in a news release.

“An operation such as this truly hits home when the focus is on keeping our most innocent citizens out of harm’s way this Halloween season,”

David P. Gonzales, U.S. marshal for the District of Arizona, said in the news release.

The Tucson Police Department made 556 compliance checks and arrested

seven absconders, Chief Roberto Villaseñor said in the news release.

“Operation Safe Treat helps ensure that the Halloween season’s celebrations are safe and enjoyable for Tucson families,” Villaseñor said.

Curt Prendergast

RADAR VAN LOCATIONS

Tucson police radar vans are snapping photos at these locations Tuesday:

- **7 to 9 a.m.** on Craycroft Road near 16th Street; and near Tully Elementary School, in the 1700 block of West El Rio Drive.
- **9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** on 29th Street between Craycroft and Swan roads; and on Main Avenue between Speedway and Fourth Street.
- **1:30 to 4 p.m.** near Peter Howell Elementary

School in the 4100 block of East Fifth Street, between Alvernon Way and Columbus Boulevard; and near St. Ambrose School on Tucson Boulevard near Broadway.

- **4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** on Pima Street between Sahuara Avenue and Tanque Verde Road; and on Campbell Avenue between Broadway and Sixth Street.

“When you look at the map itself, there’s no real partisan advantage to the Democrats.”

Mary O’Grady,
Attorney for the Independent Redistricting Commission

REDISTRICT

Continued from Page A2

which prohibits diluting minority voting strength — and not primarily to give Democrats a political leg up.

That point was emphasized by attorneys for the Navajo Nation, who filed their own briefs Monday, asking the Supreme Court to reject the challenge.

Attorney Judith Dworkin said the maps meet constitutional requirements, even with the population differences among districts. But she also said there was a good reason, at least from the perspective of the tribe, for the commission to be concerned about minority voting strength.

“Historically, Arizona has failed to protect minority voting rights when redistricting,” she told the court, citing the years when the lines were drawn by lawmakers. She said that’s why Congress included Ar-

izona in the requirements to get “pre-clearance” from the Department of Justice for new districts, one of the stated goals by commissioners in moving around populations.

That 2014 ruling, however, was not unanimous. Judge Neil Wake concluded the population differences were motivated by partisanship.

O’Grady told the justices they should not intervene, even if they do find partisanship along with the admittedly unequal districts, saying it would have nationwide ripple effects.

She pointed out to the justices that they have previously concluded that both partisan considerations and unequal districts are “pervasive” in redistricting decisions, including those made by legislators.

She said if the high court throws out the Arizona maps, “nearly every legislative map nationwide would be at risk.”

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