

Reflection: Seminar with Dr. Hazza Abu Rabia, Trip to Palestine Museum US, and Sanctuary Kitchen
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I really liked the Palestine Museum US which is located in Woodbridge, Connecticut, art pieces were made by Palestinian artists that were displayed including 2D art - painted and graphic art, 3D art - traditional Palestinian costumes, dress sculptures, and symbolic pieces of art. They all had meaning behind them, for example, a bullet cake (pictured below) with bullets lined up inside of the cake with frosting on the outside, on Palestinian youth's 14 - 16th birthday, an age where they become more aware of the world and their descions, they start to throw rocks at Israeli soliders which ends up in them being killed due to the current situation between the two countries fighting over land, this is how they voice how they feel to the opposing side. Another (shown below), has an older picture in the background of a bridge, keys sewed onto the canvas, and a modern comic. These each have an important piece to share, the bridge symbolizing the transportation of the Palestinians not being able to stay in their homes, the key is very similar, these people being told that they were coming back in two weeks to their homes so they would just lock up their homes and expect to be back and rarely any of them made it back their homes. This piece of art really spoke to me with all of these different meanings that show what is going on in the current day Palestine/Israel situation.

I think having museums just like this one, preserves culture and is a way to show off the culture so people not of the dissent are able to learn and see a piece of it. This is critical right now for Palestinians so that it never gets forgotten, remembering what Dr. Hazza Abu Rabia said that if you do not have a land, you do not have an identity, he believes that everyone belongs to a land. If the Palestinians were to ever lose all of their land they are on their way to lose who they are - their cultural identity and place of home, which is a huge thing to just lose. I agree with this and I can relate this to Armenia and loss of land.

Diving deeper into what Dr. Rabia said, I think it is really interesting how he said if there are 10-15 siblings in the family only 1 or 2 of them have the opportunity to receive higher education and he blamed it on the policies made by the Government. I wonder why this is? And what specific policies? In his case, it was luck and the connections he knew. I am curious about others' stories and how many of these students really wanted to pursue higher education?

All in all, I really enjoyed the trilogy of events we had to dive deeper into this culture especially the different ways information was given to us as students - verbal, visual, and kinesthetic. I really learned a lot about the current day Palestine/Israel conflict and I knew very little at the beginning. I would be interested in doing something like this with other cultures/big issues as well.

