

Request to Cancel the Screening of the Film Israelism

Inna Feldman-Gerber [REDACTED]

Wed 9/11/2024 3:23 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>; Mary Beth Harper <MaryBeth.Harper@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Dear Library Director MaryBeth Harper and Elmhurst Board of Trustees,

I am a concerned citizen who vehemently opposes your proposed showing of the anti Israel film, Israelism, created by a group of Jew haters and produced by public anti Israel and anti Jew propagandists. The film promotes Jew hatred and an anti Israel agenda. The sponsors of the event should be concerning to you. The fact that you are permitting Jewish Voice for Peace, JVP, to be part of your public space is shocking. JVP was founded by and is run by Hatem Bazian, a Jew hating Muslim who is pro Hamas and very much pro the extinction of Jews worldwide. You have permitted a hate group to hold an event at our beautiful library. Please cancel this film viewing and do not allow a hate group to host events in our public spaces.

Yours sincerely,

Inna Feldman-Gerber
[REDACTED]

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Concerns Regarding the Screening of "Isrealism" at Elmhurst Public Library on September 27th

Ina Bochian [REDACTED]

Wed 9/11/2024 4:30 PM

To: Mary Beth Harper <MaryBeth.Harper@elmlib.org>; EPL Board <epboard@elmlib.org>; policeinfo@elmhurst.org <policeinfo@elmhurst.org>

Cc: Marcy Rodriguez <Marcy.Rodriguez@elmlib.org>; Bryan Blank <bryan.blank@elmlib.org>; Will Cotton <will.cotton@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Dear Ms. Harper, Chief McLean, and Members of the Elmhurst Library Board,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the scheduled screening of the film "Isrealism" in Meeting Room A/B at the Elmhurst Public Library on September 27th. This event, advertised through fliers linking to a social media group named Chicagoland for Palestine, raises significant issues regarding the content of the film and its potential impact on community safety and inclusivity.

Firstly, "Isrealism" has been identified by various groups and community members as a piece of propaganda that promotes hate speech against Jewish individuals and communities. The film's content, as described by those who have reviewed it, does not merely present a viewpoint but actively engages in rhetoric that could be construed as hate speech, potentially inciting violence or discrimination. This is particularly concerning given the American Library Association's (ALA) guidelines which suggest that hate speech, when it targets individuals or interferes with library use, should be critically evaluated in library settings.

Moreover, the film has been criticized for:

* **Misrepresentation:** Critics argue that "Isrealism" grossly misrepresents the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by withholding crucial context and presenting a one-sided narrative that could mislead viewers about the complexities of the situation.

* **Emotional Manipulation:** The film focuses on the emotional journey of Jewish Americans who revise their views on Israel, potentially exploiting these narratives to foster a biased view against Israel without providing a balanced perspective on the historical and political context.

* **Conflation of Issues:** There's a noted conflation of criticism of Israel with antisemitism, which not only misrepresents the conflict but also contributes to a climate where legitimate concerns about antisemitism might be dismissed or overlooked.

* **Campaigns Against Screenings:** The film has faced numerous cancellations and reinstatements at various venues, often due to organized campaigns accusing it of antisemitism. This itself suggests the film's content is seen as divisive and potentially harmful by significant portions of the community. The cancellation of the scheduled film by the Northbrook Public Library has set a significant precedent, highlighting the unrest generated by this propagandist. This action reflects an ongoing concern within the community regarding the influence of divisive narratives on public perception. By taking a firm stance against the film, the library has established a crucial benchmark that indicates a growing intolerance for such messaging, suggesting that their actions are part of a broader movement to safeguard societal cohesion.

* **Lack of Context:** Critics have pointed out the film's failure to address the broader geopolitical dynamics, including the roles of neighboring countries and the internal politics of Palestinian leadership, which are

crucial for understanding the conflict's complexity.

Given these points, I urge the library administration and the police department to reconsider the appropriateness of hosting this film screening on September 27th. If the decision is to proceed with the event, I strongly recommend that it be accompanied by balanced discussions, perhaps including representatives from Jewish community organizations, to provide context and counter-narratives. This approach would align with the library's commitment to education and dialogue rather than division.

I trust that the Elmhurst Public Library and its partners will consider these concerns seriously, aiming for a resolution that upholds the library's values of inclusivity, education, and community safety.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response on how you plan to address these concerns.

Sincerely,
Ina Bochian

Sent from my iPhone

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Concerns Regarding the Screening of "Isrealism" at Elmhurst Public Library on September 27th

Teri Robins [REDACTED]

Wed 9/11/2024 4:34 PM

To: Mary Beth Harper <MaryBeth.Harper@elmlib.org>; EPL Board <epboard@elmlib.org>; policeinfo@elmhurst.org <policeinfo@elmhurst.org>

Cc: Marcy Rodriguez <Marcy.Rodriguez@elmlib.org>; Bryan Blank <bryan.blank@elmlib.org>; Will Cotton <will.cotton@elmlib.org>

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Sincerely,

Teri Robins, JD, MBA

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Concerns Regarding the Screening of "Isrealism" at Elmhurst Public Library on September 27th

Alison Small [REDACTED]

Wed 9/11/2024 4:28 PM

To: Mary Beth Harper <MaryBeth.Harper@elmlib.org>; EPL Board <epiboard@elmlib.org>; policeinfo@elmhurst.org <policeinfo@elmhurst.org>

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Sincerely,

Alison Schmidt

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