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Rivier will host peace conference

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NASHUA - Rivier University plans to host a peace conference Saturday to discuss the tolls of war, and a future of peace between Israel and Palestine.

"This conference creates a space for different narratives and dialogue on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Professor Brother Paul R. Demers, said in a press statement.

The conference, called "Israel/Palestine: Shadows of the Past-Visions of the Future," runs from 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m., with registration starting at 8:15 a.m. at the Dion center on campus. The conference is free and open to the public, with lunch available for \$7.

"Participants will examine the past and gain an understanding of the present in hopes of creating a more positive future," Demers said.

The conference features internationally renowned speakers, activists and artists who will lead discussions and workshops throughout the day. The conference also includes a photo exhibition and a film screening geared toward giving a range of perspectives on the Middle East and conditions in Israel and Palestine.

The event includes a documentary film screening by keynote speaker, Dr. Alice Rothchild, called "Voices Across the Divide," followed by a question-and-answer session.

Rothchild's presentation describes her March delegation to Gaza with the Washington arm of Physician's for Social Responsibility, a U.S. affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Her presentation, "Gaza Eyewitness Report: From Disaster to Resilience," goes into the impacts of war, and trauma and resilience experienced by civilians and health and human rights workers.

Other presenters will discuss current issues and the future of the region. Presenters include Palestinian rights advocate Nancy Murray, photographer Skip Schiel, Jewish Voice for Peace Organizer Liza Behrendt, the Rev. John Buttrick and photojournalist Robert Azzi. Presentations will cover a range of topics.

The conference is sponsored by the Rivier "Reconciliation and Peace" classes, the Palestine Education Network and New Hampshire Peace Action.

The Rivier Reconciliation and Peace classes cover the human and economic costs of violence and non-violent alternatives and conflict resolution, as well as the role of the individual, fam-

ily, school, and organized religion can play in developing peace.

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