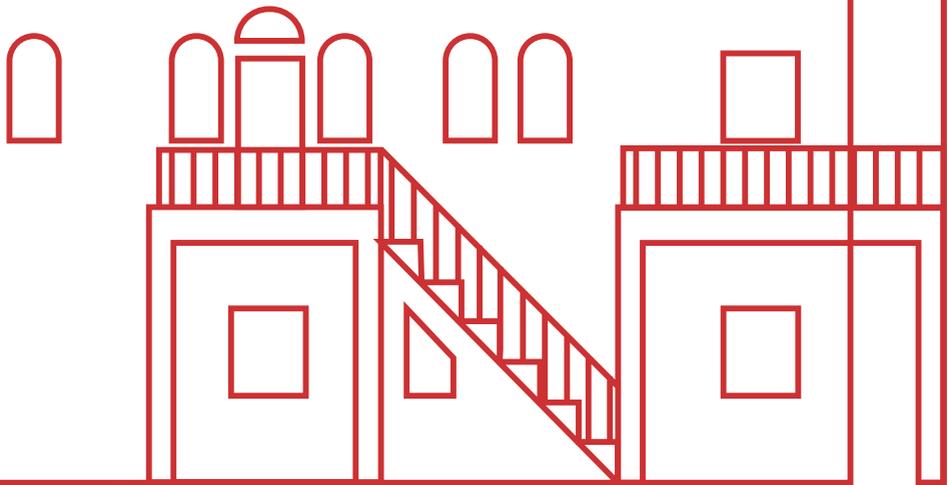


# WBC Annual Report 2019



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## Impressum

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Thanks to all photographers who took pictures during our events.

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## Table of Contents

|  |           |  |           |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| Introduction   | 3         |  |           |
| <b>Politics without borders</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>Social Art – Bridging the Gap</b>   | <b>17</b> |
| 5th Anniversary Celebration of “Achvat Amin” / January 10, 2019  | 5         | International Women’s Day / March 8, 2019  | 18        |
| Hans-Böckler-Delegation: Trade Unions and Social Justice / September 11-19, 2019   | 5         | Concert of the Tel Aviv Wind Quintet / March 29, 2019  | 18        |
| <b>Young Leadership</b>  | <b>7</b>  | “The Passenger” Panel at the WBC / April 8, 2019   | 19        |
| The German Political Foundations’ Work between Jerusalem, Ramallah and Tel Aviv: A Kaleidoscope of Different Perspectives / January 17, 2019 | 7         | WBC Visits the Barbur Gallery / April 14, 2019   | 19        |
| Juso-Leadership Visit at the WBC / April 16-17, 2019   | 8         | UNESCO International Jazz Day Celebration Jerusalem / April 27-30, 2019                                      | 20        |
| Update on the WBC Social Justice Project in Nablus   | 8         | An Evening dedicated to Therese Zauser / May 4, 2019   | 20        |
| WBC Joined the 50th anniversary of Jusos’ “Linkswende” Congress in Munich, Germany / July 5-7, 2019  | 9         | “Mulu and Tsegay”: A Puppet Theatre Project for Schools / June 16, 2019                                      | 21        |
| WBC Work & Study Delegation: Learning and Supporting our Partners / August 24-31, 2019   | 9         | Concerts and Workshops in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Taybeh with the Varietas-Ensemble / September 12-15, 2019 | 22        |
| WBC Summer Camp: Discussing Key Challenges in a Trilateral Camp / August 11-18, 2019   | 10        | An Evening Dedicated to Wilfrid Scawen Blunt / October 12, 2019  | 23        |
| Political Café: “Let’s Move Together” with Johanna Uekermann / September 19, 2019  | 11        | Jerusalem’s First Pop Up Ballroom Festival (five events) / October 27-31, 2019                               | 23        |
| Political Café: “50 Years Chancellor Willy Brandt” with Kevin Kühnert / October 17, 2019   | 11        | “Wind and Transience”: Music to lyrics of Thomas Bernhard / November 11, 2019                                | 24        |
| Jusos-Leadership Delegation / October 17-24, 2019  | 13        | Meitar Ensemble at the WBC: Movie Screening with a Live Contemporary Music Performance / December 17, 2019   | 24        |
| <b>Peace Education</b>   | <b>15</b> | Musicians without Borders Project with the Trio Klavis in Jerusalem and Bethlehem / December 18-22, 2019     | 24        |
| Political Café: Can Entrepreneurship be a Means of Empowerment for Bedouin Women? / May 2, 2019  | 15        | “My ReWriting”: Artistic Exchange Project between Jerusalem and Nuremberg / November 11-19, 2019             | 25        |
| Can Entrepreneurship be a Beans of Empowerment for Bedouin Women? Fieldtrip Negev/Naqab / July 13, 2019                                      | 15        | <b>Visits</b>  | <b>27</b> |
|  |           | <b>Tour</b>  | <b>27</b> |

# Introduction

It is the constant paradox of our work: the higher the hurdles for a peaceful and just society, the more important the WBC becomes as a safe place to meet, and as a place for open discussions and debates.

Moreover, although we have been working in Jerusalem for over twenty years, we always have to learn anew to endure contradictions and to deal with a wide range of expectations. We know that we don't always have answers to all questions; sometimes there are so many answers that the question disappears behind them.

It is always important to be maintain the willingness for an empathic conversation, to listen and to simultaneously signal that different narratives do not have to compete, but can rather exist equally side by side.

The WBC also is a place of regeneration and inspiration in a conflict-ridden environment, as we believe that art and culture can give an idea of what might be possible beyond the certainties of a difficult reality. Solving conflicts cannot be the primary task of art, but artistic forms of expression could be perceived as constructive formats for conflict transformation and for providing inspiration to other areas of social and political action.

This is how we understand the synergistic effect of our three project lines: supporting a political young leadership, working on peace education and inspiring change through culture and art.

While writing this review, we can already hear the rumbling clamor of a new conflict ahead of us. It is becoming increasingly clear that isolated, regional conflicts do not exist anymore; crises are international and affect us all. On the one hand, this is scary and paralyzing, but on the other hand, we have the opportunity to connect beyond borders and conflict lines in order to show true solidarity, and together make a change.

We would like to thank our team and partners in Jerusalem and Berlin, and all of you who have taken part in our activities. We are especially thankful for your ongoing cooperation as members of our support association, "Förderverein Willy Brandt Zentrum e.V".

A heartfelt thanks also goes to those who assisted with project funding and donations, and helped make our various activities possible.

We feel very honoured to work with all of you!

*Your WBC teams in Jerusalem & Berlin*



# Politics without borders

## 5th Anniversary Celebration of “Achvat Amim” – January 10, 2019

Achvat Amim has been a long standing partner of the WBC, and hosted many seminars and language classes at the Center. Hence, it was our honor to host Achvat Amim's 5th anniversary celebration, during which the guests – including the current cohort, many alumni and partners from the wider community – reflected on the past years and shared their visions for the years to come. A particular highlight of the evening was the musical performances, which filled the seminar room with warm and joyful singing and guitar playing.



## Hans-Böckler-Delegation: Trade Unions and Social Justice – September 11-19, 2019

This year, we have hosted and supported a delegation of 16 scholarship-holders of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation from September 11th to 19th. The focus of the delegation was meeting the partners of the foundation and of the WBC, learning

about the role and work of trade unions, and focusing on relevant topics such as social justice.

The project was run by the WBC Team & the Center for International Encounters (CIE).



## Young Leadership

A German-Israeli-Palestinian team of young political activists organizes ongoing joint seminars in various topics such as the two-state solution, security, social justice, and sustainability. Here, a trusting cooperation is possible even when touching on difficult issues.

### The German Political Foundations' Work between Jerusalem, Ramallah and Tel Aviv: A Kaleidoscope of Different Perspectives – January 17, 2019

On January 17th the Willy Brandt Center was delighted to host the book launch of "The German Political Foundations' Work between Jerusalem, Ramallah and

Tel Aviv", edited by Anna Abelmann and Katharina Konarek.

The German political foundations are a unique phenomenon which maintains an important position within the German foreign policy. The new book examines the history, potential influence, scope of action, prospects and limits of these foundations, with a specific focus on current developments in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. The two editors presented their publication, which highlights the foundations' work from anthropological, political and regulatory perspectives, and included a collection of historical case studies.

### Juso-Leadership Visit at the WBC – April 16-17, 2019

The Chairperson and international Secretary of Jusos, Kevin Kühnert, and International Secretary Leonard von Galen visited the region on the 16th and 17th of April in order to discuss the political cooperation of the Willy Brandt Center Jerusalem. During the passionate talks, the leaders of our partner organizations Young Fatah, Young Labour and Young Meretz, stressed the importance and relevance of their cooperation. It seems that in the aftermath of the national elections in Israel and the dramatic loss of the Israeli political left, solidarity between young progressive activists who seek a better future and a two-state solution is more important than ever. In our projects and delegations, we hope to promote these talks and our work for strengthening the political and social left in Israel, Palestine and Germany.

### Update on the WBC Social Justice Project in Nablus

Strengthening young progressive activists in Israel and Palestine is one of the pillars of our political cooperation. We are especially proud of the successes of our Social Justice Project in Nablus. In seminars held frequently in Nablus, together with the next generation of political activists in Palestine, we discuss matters of social justice, feminism, workers' rights and international relations. We also support the political efforts and ambitions of our partners by providing networks of political activists and developing campaigning and rhetoric skills. We can't wait to watch this next generation of young talents influence their society!



## WBC Joined the 50th anniversary of Jusos' "Linkswende" Congress in Munich, Germany – July 5-7, 2019

In 1969, the German Young Socialists decided during their federal congress in Munich to turn to the left, and became an independent youth organization of the Social Democratic Party. 50 years later, the present generation of young activists celebrated this historical step, which continues to deeply influence the organization's DNA. Activists and former and current coordinators contributed to the three-day congress.



## WBC Work & Study Delegation: Learning and Supporting our Partners – August 24-31, 2019

For the first time, the WBC offered a work & study delegation to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Nablus. During this 8-day program, from August 24th to 31st, 14 participants from all over Germany had the chance to learn about the WBC, our partners and the political situation, and to support our partners.



## WBC Summer Camp: Discussing Key Challenges in a Trilateral Camp – August 11-18, 2019

Over 45 activists from all of our political partner organizations met from August 11th to 18th in Berlin and Brandenburg for this year's summer camp. The second WBC summer camp was a very successful one, and showed the importance and potential of trilateral cross-border activities leading to important outcomes and especially to trustful interpersonal relationships.



## Political Café: “Let’s Move Together” with Johanna Uekermann – September 19, 2019

There is no public transportation on Saturdays in Israel, and no public transportation in remote areas in Germany. For this reason, we hosted a Political Café on September 19th with Johanna Uekermann, Secretary of labour union EVG for train and mobility and former chairwomen of Jusos.



## Political Café: “50 Years Chancellor Willy Brandt” with Kevin Kühnert – October 17, 2019

October 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the chancellorship of Willy Brandt. In the general election in September 1969, the SPD became the strongest party for the first time, and on October 21st Willy Brandt got elected as the fourth Chancellor of the Federal Republic Germany. Therefore, we dedicated a Political Café on October 17th with Kevin Kühnert, chairperson of the Young Socialists Germany (Jusos in der SPD), to look back on 50 years of Willy Brandt’s Chancellorship. We also discussed whether and to what extent are Willy Brandt’s policies and slogans relevant and helpful for today, and the cooperation of young political actors from Israel, Palestine and Germany within the framework of the Willy Brandt Center Jerusalem.



wb

Peace is not everything,  
but everything is nothing  
without peace.

[www.willybrandtcenter.org](http://www.willybrandtcenter.org)

## Jusos-Leadership Delegation – October 17-24, 2019

The national board of Jusos visited Israel and Palestine and the WBC in their annual Leadership Delegation, from October 17th to 24th. After arriving to Jerusalem, the delegation – consisting of chairperson Kevin Kühnert, the general secretary, six members of the board and the international secretary – was welcomed to the Willy Brandt Center and to the Political Café "50 Years Chancellor Willy Brandt", followed by a get together with our partners.



# Peace Education

Israeli and Palestinian youth organizations place peace-oriented education at the center of their activities. Jointly developed concepts and workshops are included in their work.

## Political Café: Can Entrepreneurship be a Means of Empowerment for Bedouin Women? – May 2, 2019

On the 2nd of May, the Willy Brandt Center hosted a Political Café with Jamal Al Kirnawi, founder and executive director of “A New Dawn in the Negev” and friends of Al Bustan community center, Jabal al Jahalin.

The evening was dedicated to the struggles of Bedouin women – a subject which is rarely discussed, even though Bedouin women play a key role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and in the peace building process.

## Can Entrepreneurship be a means of Empowerment for Bedouin Women? Fieldtrip Negev/Naqab – July 13, 2019

Last June, the Willy Brandt Center organized a fieldtrip to the Negev/Naqab aimed at learning more about the challenges that Bedouin women face in their lives and in the labor market. The fieldtrip allowed us to meet these women first hand and to see what can't be seen from afar – from Jerusalem.



Image courtesy of Friends of Al Bustan

## Social Art – Bridging the Gap

The Willy Brandt Center's location represents a unique chance and a distinct mission. Situated literally on top of the "Green Line" in Jerusalem's mixed neighbourhood of Abu Tor, our center has proved itself as a creative space for cross-cultural exchange and profound human encounters. We believe that art itself is always destined to find its way towards realization beyond all borders. Therefore, despite, or perhaps even because of the numerous challenges which artists incessantly face in this part of the world, we will continue to be an open and safe place for the arts and culture.

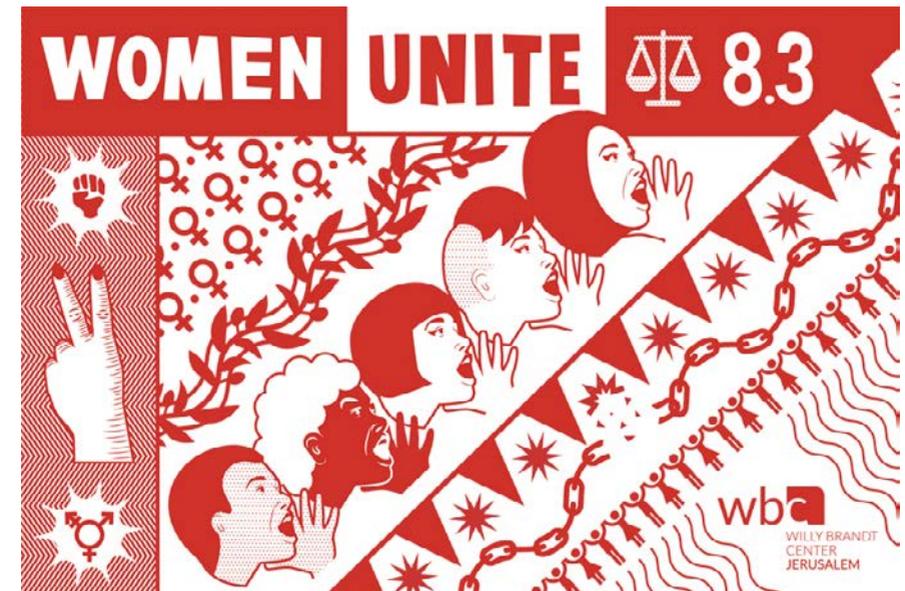


## International Women's Day – March 8, 2019

To mark the International Women's Day on March 8th, the Willy Brandt Center organized a panel to discuss women's status in the arts. Panel guests were long-time manager of the Barenboim-Said Foundation in Ramallah, Muna Khleifi, art historian and director of the Negev Museum of Art, Dalia Manor, and co-founder of the Barbur Gallery in Jerusalem, Ma-sha Zusman.

## Concert of the Tel Aviv Wind Quintet – March 29, 2019

The Willy Brandt Center team was delighted to welcome for the first time the internationally celebrated Tel Aviv Wind Quintet. Its members, Roy Amotz (flute), Yigal Kaminka (oboe), Itamar Leshem (horn), Nadav Cohen (bassoon) and Danny Erdman (clarinet), prepared for us a program of classics and masterpieces of the 20th century. Music lovers of the whole region gathered to hear the popular ensemble in the well-filled hall of our center.



Postcard on the occasion of the International Women's Day for the WBC designed by Dorit Bialer.

## “The Passenger” Panel at the WBC – April 8, 2019

The Willy Brandt Center was honored to welcome international opera stars Ella Milch-Sheriff and David Pountney for a panel featuring Mieczysław Weinberg’s composition “The Passenger” on the 8th of April.

Ella Milch-Sheriff is one of Israel’s most performed composers in recent years. Several of her creations, such as “And the Rat Laughed”, “The Banality of Love” and “Baruch’s Silence”, engage with stories from the holocaust and touch on the history of her own family.

## WBC Visits the Barbur Gallery – April 14, 2019

On the 14th of April, Masha Zusman hosted the Willy Brandt Center at the Barbur Gallery, of which she is a co-founder and co-director. This was a follow up event, after Zusman had participated at our panel on International Women’s Day. The Gallery is an independent space for art and artists, and serves as a home for pluralistic, open culture at the center of Jerusalem.



## UNESCO International Jazz Day Celebration Jerusalem April 27-30, 2019

In 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially designated April 30th as International Jazz Day – a worldwide initiative aimed at celebrating the art form of jazz for its ability to promote peace, freedom, dialogue among cultures, diversity and respect for human rights, and to reinforce the role of youth in enacting social change.

For this year’s International Jazz Day, the Willy Brandt Center Jerusalem cooperated with the Austrian Cultural Forum Tel Aviv, the Austrian Hospice, the Swiss Representative Office, the Italian Consulate General and the UNESCO National Office for Palestine.



## An Evening dedicated to Therese Zauser – May 4, 2019

On May 4th, we enjoyed the inspiring visit of Brigitte Walk, who presented at the WBC Therese Zauser’s fascinating story, in a panel moderated by Judith Höffkes.

Therese Zauser was a courageous young variety artist who presented her solo shows throughout the Mediterranean region, Africa and the Middle East. After her return to Europe in 1941, she was murdered in a German concentration camp for speaking against the Nazi regime. Her legacy portrays an exceptionally courageous young woman and her fate.



## “Mulu and Tsegay”: A Puppet Theatre Project for Schools – June 16, 2019

In June, the Willy Brandt Center was happy to present a new puppet theatre project for schools, developed by the Is-

raeli actors Moriya Benavot and Shaharit Yerushalmy. Their play, “Mulu and Tsegay”, is an adaption for the stage of a children’s book written by the Israeli author Tamar Verete-Zehav. It tells of courage, friendship and love, and is based on the true experiences of African refugees now living in Israel.



## Concerts and Workshops in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Taybeh with the Varietas-Ensemble – September 12-15, 2019

“Art has no limits”, states the famous quote attributed Ludwig van Beethoven. The violinists Iris Krall-Radulian and Daniela Preimesberger, and the violist Maria Potulska, members of the Varietas-Ensemble, proved in a most beautiful way that Beethoven’s affirmation is undeniably true when it comes to playing music in our region.

The celebrated Viennese ensemble has performed at renowned international festivals and concert halls such as the Salzburg Festival, Lockenhaus Festival, Vienna Konzerthaus, and the Mozarteum Salzburg. They opened their concert tour, which is their premier appearance in the Middle East, with a recital for students, staff and friends of the Bethlehem University, and performed pieces by Beethoven, Dvorak, Mozart and Händel at the Chapel of the Divine Child on University campus.



## An Evening Dedicated to Wilfrid Scawen Blunt – October 12, 2019

On October 12th, the Willy Brandt Center dedicated a Red Lounge to the poet, politician, writer, orientalist, diplomat and rebel, Wilfrid Scawen Blunt (1840-1922).

Blunt was described as a wildly individual, illustrious and eccentric personality. He and his wife, Lady Anne Blunt, a granddaughter of Lord Byron, traveled the Middle East and visited Jerusalem, a town he would later refer to as the most beautiful place he had ever been in.

The Willy Brandt Center was happy to host an evening full of poetry, adventurous historical discoveries, original illustrations, lively discussions, and a tasty British tea time served on the balcony of the center.

## Jerusalem's First Pop Up Ballroom Festival (five events) – October 27-31, 2019

The Social Art Program organized the first Pop Up Ballroom Festival in Jerusalem, attracting participants of a wide range of ages, nationalities and cultural backgrounds from Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Tel Aviv.

At each of the five events, professional dance instructors offered a free dancing class and taught the audience basic steps which they were able to try straight away on the dance floor.

## “Wind and Transience”: Music to lyrics of Thomas Bernhard – November 11, 2019

2019 marks the 30th death anniversary of Austrian writer Thomas Bernhard. On this occasion, selected poems were presented by Manuela Maria Mitterer (reading and recorder) and Valentin Malanetski (live electronics).

## Meitar Ensemble at the WBC: Movie Screening with a Live Contemporary Music Performance – December 17, 2019

On the 17th of December, the Willy Brandt Center hosted a special program dedicated to composers living and writing in Jerusalem in past and present. The program was developed and performed by the Meitar Ensemble, an internationally renowned Israeli ensemble for contemporary music, praised by the New York Times for their “excellence, poise and precision”.

The ensemble performed new musical discoveries accompanied by a screening of old black and white movies, as well as original film music for ensemble, composed by young participants of the Young CEME course.

## Musicians without Borders Project with the Trio Klavis in Jerusalem and Bethlehem – December 18-22, 2019

The Willy Brandt Center was honored to welcome the Trio Klavis, an exceptional new chamber-music ensemble that has attracted international attention to its unique sound and impressively diverse repertoire. In cooperation with our partners, the Austrian Cultural Forum Tel Aviv and the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem, the WBC arranged concerts as well as encounters and workshops with children from the Sounds of Palestine Program. Sounds of Palestine is a community music project inspired and based on the concept of El Sistema in Venezuela, which uses music education as a medium to achieve long term social change for the children and families involved. The children enjoyed a performance by the internationally celebrated musicians of the Trio Klavis, followed by instrumental working sessions, rhythmical games and rehearsals on new repertoire.



# “My ReWriting”: Artistic Exchange Project between Jerusalem and Nuremberg – November 11-19, 2019

Jerusalem and Nuremberg – both cities known for their unique places and buildings with historical importance, as well as monuments of remembrance. At certain points throughout history these cities’ names had changed, caring different meanings, functions and narratives.

Sometimes, the official narrative of a city coincides with our own story; sometimes it contradicts. We are confronted with a history that has already been written by others, who have decided for us what is important and what is not. The project “My ReWriting” brings together young artists of different disciplines – eight from Israel and eight from Germany – with the aim of creatively re-writing history for the future.

This project was funded within the framework of the EUROPEANS FOR PEACE program of the Foundation EVZ (Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft / Remembrance, Responsibility and Future).

In cooperation with Musrara School of Art Jerusalem and Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg



Akademie der  
Bildenden  
Künste Nürnberg



## Visits

Much of the work done by the WBC focuses on our partner organizations from the region, yet another vitally important part of our work is ensuring that German and other international partners have an opportunity to learn from our comrades' activities in Israel and Palestine, and to better understand this region's realities and complexities. This constant connection between here and there continuously enriches the project, creating international solidarity and encouraging the young activists to share their diverse experiences of political work. The centrality of this part of the project is a constant reminder that while we focus on our local contexts, the struggle for peace is also always international!

Bärbel Kopfler, Lars Klingbeil, Johannes Kahrs, GEW, Verdi, Erik Lierenfeld, Stephen Byrne and Enrico Molinaro / RippleZoo

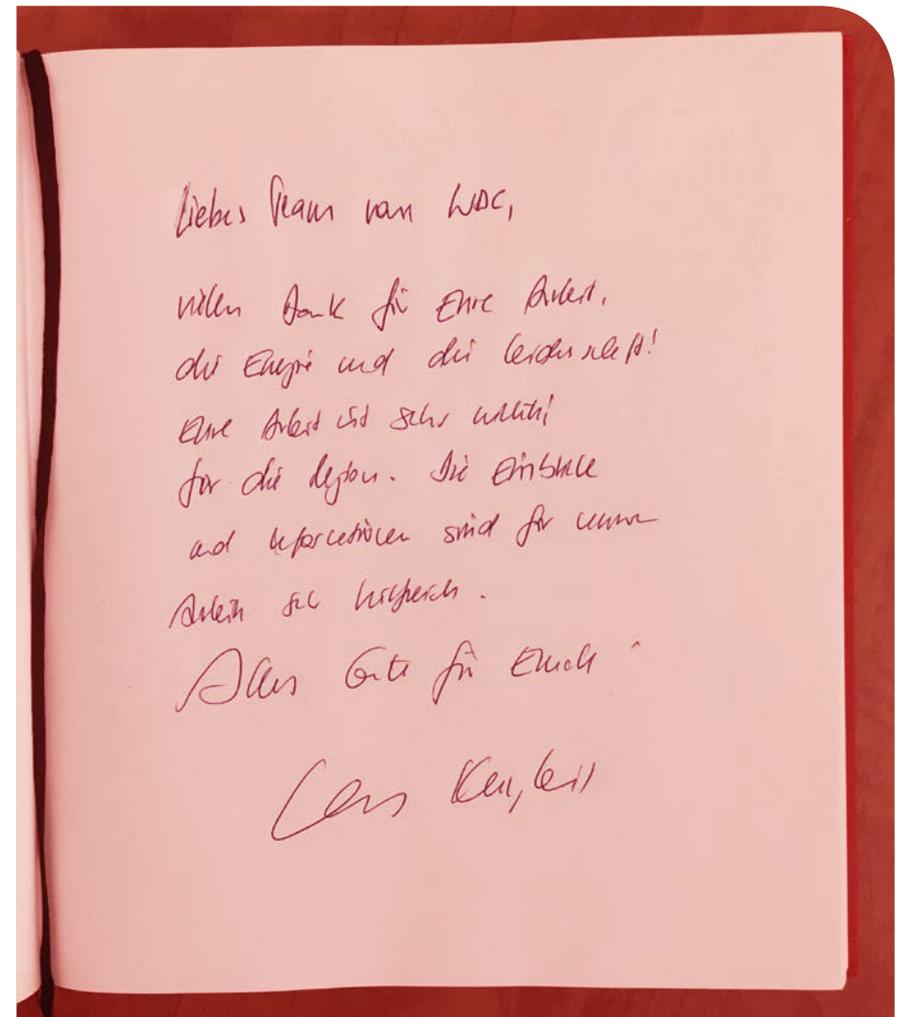


## Tour

### A Tour Through Abu Tor and the House of the WBC by Prof. Ali Qleibo – December 14, 2019

On December 14th, the Social Art program at the Willy Brandt Center organized a historical tour through Abu Tor, led by Prof. Ali Qleibo. The event opened with an introduction by Prof. Qleibo on the history of the Abu Tor neighborhood, and the story behind the house in which the WBC is located nowadays.

Afterwards, 40 people participated in the guided tour that started at the Willy Brandt Center and continued through small and prominent paths in the neighborhood, discovering their historical background – from the first human settlements in the area until today. Prof. Qleibo's descriptions included sagas, legends and memories, as well as insights on the Christian and Muslim history of Abu Tor as it stands out as one of the few neighborhoods in which Christians, Jews and Muslims have lived together for centuries.



"Dear WBC team, thank you for your work, energy and passion. Your work is very important for the region. The insights and perspectives are very helpful for our work, I wish you all the best..."

guestbook entry by Lars Klingbeil

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