

MoveSpeakSpin

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***Mosaic*, a dance concert about peace, justice, culture, and conflict in the Middle East, choreographed by Karl Schaffer, Dec. 1, 10:30 AM at the PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (formerly the First Congregational Church in Santa Cruz)**

"After nearly 40 years working actively on Israel/Palestine, I must say the performance was the most powerful on target creative effort I have ever witnessed on the issue." - [Stephen Zunes](#), Prof. of Politics and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies at the Univ. of San Francisco, on the 2011 preview production of *Mosaic*.

On Sunday, Dec. 1, at 10:30 AM, the PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (formerly known as First Congregational Church in Santa Cruz) will host a performance of *Mosaic*, a dance concert by Karl Schaffer about peace, justice, culture, and conflict in the Middle East. The performance will be followed by a discussion with the congregation led by Senior Minister Dave Grishaw-Jones. The title refers to the range of subjects that inspired the choreography, from the Palestinian/Israeli struggle to the mosaic tilings common in Middle Eastern art.

Included in *Mosaic* are several dances set to Jewish Diaspora and Arabic folk songs sung by Santa Cruz world music group [Zambra](#). The mathematics of Islamic tiling designs will be portrayed through live "video tessellations," or video mosaics, of dancers.

Other dance works include:

"Machine Gun," a tap dance to the rapid-fire machine gun sounds of a Jimi Hendrix song, about the relentless march of death of contemporary warfare.

"Into a Bar," in which two dancers spar via popular online jokes about Palestinians and Israelis.

"The Mourning After" – a solo set to Bach depicting the loss of a child in war, performed by [Maria Basile](#), co-director of [sjDANCEco](#).

"Bombingham" - a solo by Karl Schaffer exploring his growing up Jewish in the Deep South during the civil rights era and his connecting of these experiences to the situation in Palestine and Israel.

Santa Cruzans from all walks of life are welcome to attend and experience the power of dance -- to inspire peacemaking and provoke conversation.

Quotes:

"MOSAIC moved me, inspired me, even saddened me in unexpected ways. Rarely have I seen a performance so human, so provocative and so relevant to our times. Not only were individual performances compelling, but the whole of it spoke to the struggle, the hard and demanding struggle, of Palestinians and Israelis for lasting peace. I'm reminded all over again how essential the arts are—evoking, imagining human engagement; touching something real inside us; inviting new visions and new risks taken for peace, for justice, for our shared humanity. I was blown away by the courage it must have taken to put this together, to imagine it, and to call it out of a gifted group of musicians and dancers. Thank you!!!"

- Dave Grishaw-Jones, Senior Pastor, First Congregational Church, Santa Cruz, CA

"I saw Mosaic over a week ago, and I am still resonating with the feeling, the beauty, and finding meaning in this powerful work. Using Video, sculptural form, impeccable dancers, singers and musicians, Mosaic is a two hour dance piece, conceived, choreographed and directed by Karl Schaffer. In my opinion, it is unique, breakthrough piece in Modern Dance making a strong timely political statement. As an artistic work, it has everything: drama, message, beauty and impeccable strength of great dancers and choreography. I highly recommend this concert be filmed and shown to a wider audience."

- Roberta Bristol, Emeritus Dance Department Chairperson, Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA

Karl Schaffer is co-artistic director with Erik Stern of the [Dr. Schaffer and Mr. Stern Dance Ensemble](#), which has performed nationally and internationally for twenty-five years. Schaffer and Stern are on the Teaching Artist Roster of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for their work integrating dance and mathematics. He and Stern most recently performed and taught in New York and Massachusetts in the fall of 2013. In 2012, Schaffer created the concert, *The Daughters of Hypatia: Circles of Mathematical Women*, celebrating the lives, struggles, and work of important women mathematicians, and his choreography appeared in *Harmonious Equations*, directed by National Public Radio's "Math Guy" Keith Devlin and incorporating the songs of Zambra. His concert, *Fallout*, in 2007, included five dances dealing with issues of war, peace, and occupation. His recent math and dance work includes outreach shows currently performed in Alabama and Colorado, a 3-week Mellon residency at the Tri-Colleges Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore in 2012, and an article published in *The Best Writing on Mathematics, 2012*. Schaffer served as an alternate judge and he performed at the 2011 National Society of Arts and Letters Choreography Competition.

Dancers in the concert are:

Maria Basile, co-artistic director of [sjDANCEco](#), has danced with Limon West, Spector Dance, and many others. She has choreographed for Cabrillo Music Festival, San Jose Opera, and the Midsummer Mozart Festival, and was a recent Isadora Duncan Award nominee for the best dance performance in the Bay Area.

Libbey Blumberg has performed with 8 Tens @ Eight, as a dancer and actor with various film and television artists in Los Angeles, and as a dancer in a number of works by Karl Schaffer for over fifteen years.

Simon Harrison has been dancing for ten years and is a recognized California Arts Scholar. He has danced professionally with Shakespeare Santa Cruz and Tandy Beal & Co.

Jane Real has an MA in Dance and a MS in Elementary Education, has been Rehearsal Director and performer with Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane and Co. and Director of the Dance Network of Brooklyn, NY, and has recently performed with Tandy Beal and Company.

Lila Salhov has a B.F.A. in Dance from Boston Conservatory, has performed as a member of the Windhover Dance Company in Boston and Jessica Danser/dansfolk in New York City, has been on faculty at Ballet Hispanico and the Marymount School in Manhattan, and currently dances and teaches in the Bay Area.

Laurel Shastri served 17 years at Ballet Tennessee in Chattanooga, as Associate Director, company dancer, and faculty. She has an MS in Geology, and is a teaching artist specializing in dance integrated curriculum based lessons.

The concert includes music recorded by

Zambra. Based in Santa Cruz, Zambra sings global vocal music in over 15 languages. Founded in 1994, Zambra was originally a bilingual community women's choir, but has since evolved into a smaller performing ensemble of ten accomplished singers who mostly perform a capella. Past performances include the Cabrillo Music Festival, First Night Santa Cruz, First Night Monterey, Santa Cruz Acapellafest, and "Harmonious Equations" with Keith Devlin and Karl Schaffer.

Date/time: Sunday, Dec. 1, 10:30 AM

Location: PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (formerly First Congregational Church in Santa Cruz)
900 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-426-2010

<http://www.peaceunited.org>

Tickets: free to the public

More information: movespeakspin.org

Photos: [Steve DiBartolomeo](#).



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