



**NEWS** FROM  
**Seraj Library Project**  
 Empowering communities in Palestine, one library at a time

**Seraj film at the Chicago Palestine Film Festival  
 A Seraj reception precedes the film**

Seraj Library Project has some very exciting news and an invitation for you! **Our 2021 Storytelling film will be screened at the Chicago Palestinian Film Festival at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 11.** Please join us for this exciting event and help film Director, Fidaa Ataya, celebrate at a reception immediately preceding the film.

***I Came, But I Did Not Arrive***

6:30 pm Wednesday, May 11

A key mission of our new Palestinian Storytelling Center at Kufor Aqab is giving people access to Palestinian stories in film, song, art, theater, and more...

Our first film effort, ***I Came, But I Did Not Arrive***, directed by **Fidaa Ataya**, our Library and Storytelling Programs Coordinator, has been accepted into the [Chicago Palestinian Film Festival](#). What an honor! The 17-minute short will screen at 6:30 pm on May 11th at the [Siskel Film Center](#), 164 N State Street.



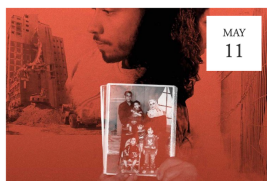
[Click to buy film tickets.](#)

If you are here in the Chicago area, please join us for this special event. **You may buy a ticket in advance using the picture link to the right.** Be sure to read about the Festival and the full lineup of 2022 films. A related AFSC/DCIP short about child detention will screen on Friday evening, May 13th.



Congratulations to **Producer, Laurie Salameh & Director, Fidaa Ataya** on this creative effort!

The 17-minute Seraj film is part of a larger evening program, itself a part of the 2-week Palestinian film festival.



**Not Just Your Picture – The Story of the Kilani Family**

Wednesday, May 11, 2022  
 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM  
 Gene Siskel Film Center ([map](#))

German-Palestinian siblings Layla and Ramsis look for justice and redefine their political and personal identities after their father and siblings are killed in Gaza during an Israeli offensive.

Preceded by the following short films: **MARIAM, TALLAHASSEEE, and I CAME BUT DID NOT ARRIVE**

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**A Reception for film director Fidaá Ataya.  
YOU ARE INVITED!**

By happy coincidence, Fidaá Ataya (who lives and works in Palestine) will be able to join us for this Festival event. We have secured a room in the **Chicago Temple, First United Methodist Church**, just 2 blocks from the Siskel Film Center. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Stay for the movie, or not. See RSVP below.

**Seraj Film Reception**  
2nd Floor Parlor  
**Chicago Methodist Temple**  
77 West Washington St.  
Chicago, IL. 60602



**Fidaá Ataya** is a master storyteller. You will enjoy meeting her.

**4:15 – 5:45 pm** Conversation & light snacks

**5:00 pm** Short presentation about the film and its making by Fidaá.

Planning to attend the reception? Please RSVP to [johnjcassel@gmail.com](mailto:johnjcassel@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there!

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**OPEN HOUSE Featuring  
An informal chat with Fidaá**

One more opportunity to talk with Fidaá: Joyce & John Cassel will host an **Open House with Fidaá** Thursday morning. Maybe a chance to meet Fidaá if you cannot attend the movie. You are welcome to join us. Bring a friend.

9:30-11:00 am Thursday, May 12  
636 N Harvey  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
630.606.5671

Planning to attend the open house?  
Please RSVP to [johnjcassel@gmail.com](mailto:johnjcassel@gmail.com).  
We look forward to seeing you there!

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**Plus EXPLORE our October Seraj Trip to Palestine, October 16-24, 2022...our first-ever tour!** Come and experience Palestine from the inside as only Seraj can offer.

[Explore our Seraj Palestine Tour](#)



Be in Palestine for the 2022 Olive Harvest!

[Donate to the important work of Seraj Here](#)

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**Our Contact Information**

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