



**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
**Invites you to its meeting June 30 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**at First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT**  
**The program will be shown as a Webinar at the Church or**  
**online. Log on <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>**

## **Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar**

### **Musical Bridges: Bringing Together Arab and Jewish Communities in Israel**



A small but ambitious 25 student program which began in 2006 became the first high-level classical music conservatory in the Arab community in Israel, the Polyphony Conservatory. As an organization dedicated to youth and community development, it brings together talented musicians of all faiths and ethnicity from throughout the country in an effort to overcome long-existing cultural boundaries. Its students have won many awards including grants from the American Israel Cultural Foundation, participation in international youth orchestras and projects, and first place in national competitions. The Youth Orchestra has performed in several countries and will appear at

Carnegie Hall in 2022. Polyphony has four programs that operate on a national scale and annually reach 10,000 students in diverse communities throughout Israel. Nabeel will describe the history of Polyphony, how it integrates its musical efforts into a broader social mission, and will illustrate their efforts with videos.

Nabeel is one of the founders and Executive Director of Polyphony Education. He graduated from Tel Aviv University with degrees in both physics and music, and completed his master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik in Rostock, Germany. He is a gifted violinist who began his violin studies at age eight. He performed with and was a spokesperson for the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra for a decade. In 2006, Nabeel gave up his music career and returned to his hometown, the Arab-Israeli city of Nazareth, to answer the need he saw in the community for quality music programming. He founded and led the Barenboim-Said Conservatory there. In 2012, along with Craig and Deborah Cogut, he co-founded PF in the USA and Polyphony Education in Israel; it was renamed the Polyphony Conservatory.

For his groundbreaking work, Nabeel has been honored with the Charles Ansbacher Music for All Award (2015), Yoko Ono Lennon Courage for the Arts Award (2012), and an Honorary Doctorate from Washington College (2012).

**Please Note: Attendees must show proof of vaccination at the door for admittance.**

**Next week, July 7: Mark Nunan, Ph.D., “Fiorello La Guardia: Scourge of the Old Order, Inventor of the New.”**

*The Greenwich Retired Men’s Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at 10:40 AM followed promptly by our speaker at 11:00 AM. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam in Greenwich. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org) or contact [info@greenwichrma.org](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org).*