

January 26, 2022

TO: Members of NVHC participating in the series "Israel's Changing Collective Identity"

From: Prof. Fred Lazin

RE: Class on February 3, 2022

Shalom,

In addition to discussing the experiences of Jews from Arab Lands who came to Israel in the nineteen-fifties and sixties, we will also examine European Jews, survivors of the Holocaust, who arrived after 1945 through the late 1950s. Jews from Arab lands came initially from countries of the Middle East (Syria, Iraq, Yemen) and later from North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya). Holocaust survivors were mostly Ashkenazi (European) Jews who survived the concentration camps, partisan fighters, and a large contingent of Polish Jews whom the Soviets deported East in 1939 and 1940 before Hitler invaded Eastern Poland and the Soviet Union.

For those with access to streaming movies the following two Israeli films are recommended. ***The Summer of Aviha*** with Gila Almagor about the experiences in Israel of a young girl whose mother is a Holocaust survivor. ***Salah Shabbati*** with Haim Topol is a story about a Mizrachi (Jews from Arab Lands) family in a transit camp for new immigrants in Israel. They come in contact with the kibbutz and Sabra culture. One of the most successful Israeli films ever made.

I look forward to seeing you on zoom on Wednesday.

Take care.

Fred Lazin

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