

# Final event celebrating Jerusalem 3000 held Dec. 1

By Perilla A. Wilson

The Mobile Museum of Art was "A Place of Peace for the Holidays," sponsored by the Mobile Jewish Welfare Fund, they presented choirs from St. Pius X School and the Spring Hill Avenue Temple with choral pieces, including "Let There be Peace on Earth" and "Light One Candle," on Sun., Dec. 1 as an introduction to a panel discussion on "Islam, Christianity and Judaism: Jerusalem in our Tradition."

This was the final event in a project celebrating Jerusalem 3000, the overall theme of which was "Building Bridges: Palestinian and Israeli Artists Speak" and included fifty paintings now on exhibit. Rabbi Donald Kunstadt of Spring Hill Avenue Temple moderated the panel which was composed of Iman Ron Ali of Masjid Al-Islam, Dr. Lawson Bryan of Ashland Place United Methodist Church, Rabbi Steven Silberman of Ahavas Chesed Synagogue and the Very Rev. G. Warren Wall of St. Ignatius Church.

According to Imam Ali, Jerusalem represents the concept of peace for Islam. He spoke of it as a place "in concert with peace," and said the prophet Mohammed saw it as a model for all humanity, denoting we're all one family. He said the prophets "call all back to the word of God in order that this world family can have peace."

Dr. Lawson Bryan spoke of Paulinus of Nola in the 4th century describing Jerusalem as a place that draws people to see and touch the places where Jesus was, as the only place you can be so geographically close to Jesus, and as a place that gives "a sense of Jesus." He said Jerusalem means a "sacred space," the "mother church of Christendom, and it is 'viewed as a goal to which all creation is moving.'"

Rabbi Silverman insisted that it is impossible to convey "the sum and texture of Jerusalem." He related a story of the Arch of Titus in Italy which commemorates Titus' conquest in the year 70. It portrays

the spoils carried from the temple of Jerusalem and Jews are forbidden by faith to walk under it. Underneath someone has carved graffiti of four Hebrew words that mean "The people of Israel live and will live forever," to which someone added "Amen." When Jews think of Jerusalem they face east toward the City of Peace in prayer, he said.

According to Fr. Wall, Jerusalem represents a history to be shared, a longing that wells up in us and a prayer that springs up. He quoted from a poster he had seen at the Temple, "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem—We are one around the corner, around the world." He referred to Jesus heading down to Jerusalem from Galilee, going to suffer, and said that Jesus represents in that suffering, what's going on in the whole world. Jerusalem gives us "a sense of looking for the heavenly Jesus."

In response to a question on how we can get along together more peacefully, Dr. Bryan said we should "appreciate our own tradition and be the best whatever we are."