

Estee Chandler Bio:

I grew up in Los Angeles and spent most of my adult life working in the film industry, on both sides of the camera. Along with Nagwa Ibrahim, I currently host and produce the long running KPFK radio show, Middle East in Focus. I am also the producer and one of the host/reporters for the KPFK daily news report Middle East Minute+ which is a joint project with JVP.

My drive to do civic work took on a new urgency in 2001 after the US Supreme Court ruled that the state of Florida must stop counting the votes in their 2000 Presidential election. Oddly, the year I spent in 2007/2008 moving through the volunteer ranks of the Obama for America Campaign as a Deputy Field Organizer, helping to train hundreds of volunteers and being elected as a Delegate representing California's 28th Congressional at the 2008 Democratic Convention in Denver, CO; is what both gave me the experience I needed to organize a new Los Angeles chapter of JVP and before that, led to my education and enlightenment on Israel and Palestine.

In 2010 with a lot of help from Stefanie Fox, I launched the Los Angeles chapter of JVP and have continued to lead the chapter, now as a member of our diverse and creative coordinating committee.

Statement:

With lots of help from Stefanie Fox, I launched JVP-LA in 2010 and was happy to join the fundraising committee soon after. Ever since the US Supreme Court appointed a president in 2001, politics had become my favorite sport, so I was very happy to be asked to join JVP's Legislative Leadership Team following our 2013 NMM. With Los Angeles being more of a metropolis than a city; it seemed important to establish a strong network of aligned organizations, so early on we began coordinating with CAIR LA/OC, Friends of Sabeel LA/OC, AMP, Middle East Ministries and we joined US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (then US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.)

I considered running for the JVP Board carefully for a couple of years, but this year I felt like the Los Angeles chapter had grown strong enough to continue to thrive, and I could bring the same energy, experience and skills to the board that I had here locally.

Some of the qualities and experiences I think I can bring to JVP's board are:

- Leadership, Fundraising, Media and political organizing experience
- 8 years of work at the local (Los Angeles) and regional (Southern CA) levels of JVP, and with other organizations related to justice in Palestine and Israel
- Knowledge and experience working on several of JVP's strategic focus areas: Campus Organizing; Interfaith; Legislative Advocacy; Arts and Culture; Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaigns

- A commitment to working with groups focused on ending oppression in all forms and raising the experiences of Jews who are marginalized within mainstream Jewish communities and bringing diversity to our work
- An intersectional political analysis and ability to build and sustain alliances between JVP and other social justice organizations and sectors.
- A large and diverse network of activists, academics, artists and influential individuals; volunteers, allies and staff.