How do people change their minds?

On a subject like the Middle East, positions are so entrenched and feelings run so deep that it sometimes seems no change is possible. Yet, even in the heart of the American-Jewish community, there is more diversity of opinion than one might imagine from the statements of the official Jewish organizations or the reports of the mainstream media. Change appears to be happening.

“Some of My Best Friends Are Zionists” interviews both young people like 11th grader Jesse Lieberfeld, who won the Martin Luther King Award in 2012 for an essay comparing uncritical support for Israel to the role played by segregationists in the white south, and notable Jewish artists and intellectuals like Tony Kushner, Judith Butler, James Schamus, and Gary Shteyngart, asking them what they were told about Israel as they were growing up, why that world view was as compelling as it was, and how they came to change their minds.

The film is not about the history of the issue; it’s not a polemic for one political position or another. It’s about how people change their minds.

Bruce Robbins is the Old Dominion Professor in the Humanities in Columbia University's Department of English and Comparative Literature. His last book was *Perpetual War: Cosmopolitanism from the Viewpoint of Violence.*

Oyku Tekten (English, GC) will introduce the film and the director.

Tony Alessandrini (English, Kingsborough & GC) will be the discussant.