



The VOICE

Newsletter of Friends of Sabeel—North America

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FEBRUARY 2011

Get Involved!

Interfaith Peace-Builders
Grassroots Advocacy Training
& Lobby Day
March 6-7, 2011
Washington DC

Rachel Corrie Foundation
Peaceworks 2011: Solidarity
in Action. April 8-9, 2011
Olympia, WA

FOS-Colorado Fact-Finding Trip
Palestine/Israel
June 4-18, 2011
Details inside

Sabeel 6th International Young
Adult Conference
Palestine/Israel
July 20-31, 2011

2011 FOSNA Conferences
to be announced soon.

See inside for more details and check our website for
updates: www.fosna.org

 Released on December 11, 2009, in Bethlehem, the **Kairos Palestine Document** is a prayerful call of Palestinian Christians following the example of South African churches in the mid 1980s at the height of repression under Apartheid. Sabeel's Naim Ateek participated in the drafting of the document and is one of the principal endorsers. The document is a "cry of hope" in "the absence of all hope." Full text and downloadable pdf booklet are available on our website at this link:

<http://www.fosna.org/content/kairos-palestine-document-full-text>

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

Please go to our Facebook page and click on "like" to spread the word about FOSNA. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Sabeel-North-America/126793740682727>

Message from the Chair

The Rev. Richard K. Toll, D. Min., D.D.
Chairman, Friends of Sabeel—North America

Luke 13:18,19 He said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? To what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and put in his own garden. It grew, and became a large tree, and the birds of the sky lodged in its branches."

I will be on my way to Bethlehem by the time you receive this newsletter to participate in Sabeel's 8th International Conference. What an exciting time to be in the Middle East where we are witnessing a mustard seed phenomenon. An idea has caught fire in Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, an idea about justice, what it requires, and how it can be achieved. Like the mustard seed plant, once a vision of justice takes root there is no stopping it. From this tiny seed emerges a groundswell that gives sustenance and shelter, beauty and spiciness. We give thanks to God for a positive nonviolent transformation in the Middle East.

The day-to-day work of realizing God's Kingdom on earth is manifested in Sabeel's international conferences, witness visits, and in our own educational work here in the U.S. We will soon announce U.S. conferences; meanwhile, we draw your attention to those events listed on the left.

This issue of *The Voice* offers a glimpse into the various ways individuals can plan their financial giving to Friends of Sabeel to ensure that our programs will expand and continue into the future. Planned Giving becomes a necessity when nonprofit groups like ours grow, as we have over the past 15 years. (Yes, we are celebrating Friends of Sabeel's 15th year in 2011). Like a mustard seed plant, our branches are growing up and away. Active membership has increased to over 6,000 individuals and churches in 28 states and understandably there more and more requests for Naim Ateek's presence at events in the U.S., for Sabeel educational materials like the Palestine Kairos Document, and more demands on our volunteer leaders. Keeping up with the demands of internet communications, thousands of emails, database management—all this and more—means more expense and staff time. As a result, we are following the advice of fundraising professionals by informing our supporters and donors of the different ways to plan their financial giving. Enclosed is a brief introduction on the topic.

Finally, I would like to quote from Naim's Christmas letter to you: "We ... recognize that the growth of our peace movement brings with it a backlash of reaction, stronger opposition through personal attacks and propoganda and even the ... ambiguous distinction given FOSNA by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in its press statement on "the 10 most influential and active anti-Israel groups in the U.S." FOSNA came up #4 on that blessed list, which includes Jewish Voice for Peace and the US Campaign to End Israeli Occupation. Though ADL confuses being "anti-Israel" with ... "anti-Israeli occupation" it is nevertheless a statement of **how far you have come in your hard work for justice and peace.**" [Emphasis added]

YOU have come far to make Friends of Sabeel a leader in the movement for justice and peace in the Holy Land. Please continue your support in 2011. Thank you.



Challenging Empire: God, Faithfulness, and Resistance

Sabeel's 8th International Conference. Bethlehem, February 23-28

Watch for email notifications of reports and press releases, transcripts and videos from the Bethlehem conference, which will also be posted on our website: fosna.org. The focus will be on one of the most cutting edge issues in today's world, one that touches on both religion and politics: Empire. Since 1967, the Palestinians have become conscious of their life under a hegemonic American empire with Israel as an essential extension of its power, strategically located in the heart of the Middle East. ... How can we be faithful to God as we face the challenge of empire? What does radical Christian discipleship mean for us today and for all who live in the shadow of global empire? How do we resist faithfully and non-violently alongside people of all faiths and none? ... A number of prominent theologians, local and international, will help us translate and contextualize the relevance of this topic to our daily life. See list of speakers and themes on Sabeel Jerusalem's website: sabeel.org

Welcoming John Erickson to the FOSNA Steering Committee



John Erickson is a recently retired attorney. He has practiced poverty law with legal services, civil rights law with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and civil rights and public interest law with his own firm, Erickson, Beasley and Hewitt. He holds a B.A. from Yale University, an M.A. from the University of California (Berkeley), and a J.D. from Boalt Hall. John is co-chairperson of the northern California (NorCal) Friends of Sabeel. He and his wife Barbara are leading a group of 30 from California for a pre-conference tour in Palestine/Israel before going to the Sabeel 8th International Conference in Bethlehem. They reside in Berkeley and have four grown children and eleven grandchildren. You can contact John and Barbara at: nalongo@earthlink.net

NEW!



Palestine Israel Network

Seeking Justice and Peace

www.epfnational.org/PIN

EPF/PIN is a growing network of Episcopalians, mindful of the promises contained in their baptismal covenant and committed to peace and justice in Palestine/Israel, who wish to take specific advocacy steps they hope will contribute to a just peace in the region.

Friends of Sabeel—Hawai'i: Honoring MLK and Margaret Brown



Margaret Brown (pictured above/center), the founder and convener of Friends of Sabeel—Hawaii was honored by the Church of the

Crossroads in Honolulu as the recipient of the annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Peacemaker Award** on January 17th. For many years, Margaret sang alto and played cello and violin there. Several leaders of Friends of Sabeel—North America, including Rev. Naim Ateek of Sabeel in Jerusalem, sent their congratulations to be read at the presentation ceremony. "Having people like yourself carrying the banner of justice and peace will always inspire us not to give up working for justice," said Ateek. FOSNA Board Chair Rev. Richard Toll said, "She has been tireless in her efforts to present the justice issues of Palestinians...her leadership has been superb." And FOSNA's administrator Sister Elaine Kelley commended Margaret for having "walked the path of righteousness alongside history's grace-filled models of nonviolent resistance."

Photo above, left: Left to Right: **Rev. Kyle Levitt** presenting the award, **Margaret Brown** (center) and **Jim Howell** looking on.

Photo above, right: at the MLK Peace Parade, activist volunteers are left to right: **Zohra Abuzalaf**, **Bob Stiver**, **Annette McManus**, **Pat Blair**, and **Amal Abuzalaf** (daughter of Zohra). Friends of Sabeel-Hawai'i also provided a banner.



CANAAN FAIR TRADE

Interfaith Program

Linking Faith and Fair Trade in Palestine

Canaan Fair Trade's Palestinian olive oil and delicacies provide a delicious way to help Palestinians and opens doors in your church and community. Hosting an olive oil and za'atar tasting table and selling Canaan's gourmet products and handmade olive oil soap builds support here while helping 1,700 Palestine fair-trade, organic farmers and producers get their products to market. FOSNA is a CFT National Partner and recommends this as a tasty and sustainable way to do peacemaking. It's life-giving and tangible for advocates here and Palestinians in the "Land of Milk and Honey" and creates educational opportunities. See the array of olive oils, sundried tomatoes, maftoul (couscous), za'atar, candied almonds, olives, honey, and soap; meet farmers and women producers; and learn more about the Interfaith Program at canaanusa.com.



Interfaith Partners receive a 10 percent fundraising discount. For helpful ideas and to register, contact CFT Interfaith Coordinator Jennifer Grosvenor, jennifer@canaanfairtrade.com. Tell her FOSNA sent you. Please also complete the short survey on the enclosed envelope.

What is Fair Trade?

The World Trade Organization defines fair trade as a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development and supports producers. It proves that greater justice in world trade is possible and highlights the need for change in the rules and practice of conventional trade.



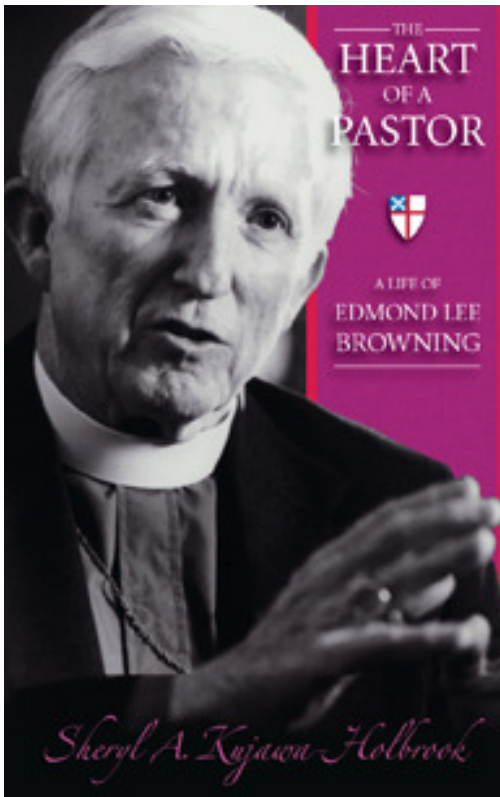
Another fair trade company, and friend of Sabeel, is Folk Art Mavens in Concord, MA.

www.folkartmavens.com

Visit their website for hand-crafted gift items from Palestine: olivewood, embroidery, jewelry, clothing and more.



Lakiya Bedouin Weaving



A biography of Friends of Sabeel's founder and president, **The Rt. Rev. Edmond Browning**, former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church U.S.A. ORDER ONLINE at the publisher's website: forwardmovement.org

When a genial, red-headed Texan, recently ordained an Episcopal priest, set off in 1959 with his wife and three young children to do missionary work in post-World War II Okinawa, he didn't know it was the beginning of a journey that would take him to assignments around the world and lead to his election as the twenty-fourth presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Edmond Lee Browning, known for his pastoral heart and his declaration of "No outcasts," steered the Episcopal church through challenging issues—racial, gender, and sexual equality, ordination of women to the episcopate, nuclear arms proliferation, war—and bitter controversy as traditional understandings of faith, human sexuality, and America's place among the nations came under siege. An unflinching advocate for the powerless, he advised not only his fellow Episcopalians, but U.S. presidents and world leaders in a ministry that spanned the continents and earned him international love and respect.

Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook's authorized biography, ***The Heart of a Pastor: A Life of Edmond Lee Browning*** tells this remarkable man's story through the Browning family's own words, excerpts from historical documents, and the lively anecdotes and intimate recollections of those who knew him best.

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY TRAINING & LOBBY DAY 2011

March 6-7, 2011 at the Cesar Chavez School for Public Policy · Washington, DC

Program, Speakers, and Registration Information:
<http://www.interfaithpeacebuilders.org/education/grassroots/>

The event will provide seasoned organizers and new activists with the skills and experience needed to make a real impact. As the US-led 'peace process' hits new snags, the importance of grassroots action has never been greater! The latest election provides a new opportunity for citizens to engage United States policy. Gain access to resources on US aid to Israel and learn from experts in the field. The lobby day occurs in the first weeks of the new Congress, at a crucial time to have your voice heard in Washington. Hundreds of people attended the 2009 and 2010 events. Your participation will enrich your understanding of the conflict and help build a strong grassroots movement for peace and justice in Palestine/Israel!

Sponsored by: Interfaith Peace-Builders and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

Endorsed by: CODEPINK: Women for Peace, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Friends of Sabeel - North America, Friends of Tent of Nations - North America, the Islamic Circle of North America, ICNA Council for Social Justice, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions - USA, Jewish Voice for Peace, the Middle East Research and Information Project, the National Peace Foundation, Students for Justice in Palestine (American University), the Washington Peace Center, *and others.*

Sabeel 6th International Young Adult Conference, July 20-31, 2011 JERUSALEM

Christianity in the East, Islam in the West: Prophetic Voices from Palestine and Israel

Our Vision is to provide young adults with an alternative pilgrimage experience that challenges faith perceptions and actively engages with the people living in these lands.

11 Days in Palestine and Israel. **Cost:** \$1,200 includes all land costs but not airfare & transport to/from airport. Ask Sabeel for sponsors and financial aid in your application.

Visits to Palestinian and Israeli Communities ~ Cultural Activities ~ Contextual Tours of Holy Sites ~ Volunteering and Activism ~ Worship and Bible Study ~ Panel Discussions and Advocacy Workshops

Application Deadline: June 1, 2011. Apply Now! www.sabeel.org

Sabeel Fall 2011 Witness Visit

October/November dates to be announced soon. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Seeking Understanding in Israel/Palestine: A Two-Week Fact-Finding Trip

June 4-18, 2011 — Organized by Friends of Sabeel-Colorado

DOWNLOAD THE TRIP BROCHURE (PDF FILE)

http://www.fosna.org/files/fosna/Colorado_Trip_June%202011.pdf

Trip Highlights:

- Old City of Jerusalem, Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Dome of the Rock
- Explore the holy sites and bazaars of the Old City of Jerusalem
- Tour the illegal Jewish settlements with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD)
- Meet with B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
- Visit the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem
- Women in Black, Machsom Watch Women and ex-soldiers from Breaking the Silence
- Visit a Palestinian refugee camp and witness checkpoints and roadblocks
- Visit in the homes of Palestinian Christians in the Beit Jala area
- See the Wall and learn about its impact in Jerusalem and in villages in the West Bank
- Galilee, to visit Nazareth, the Mount of Beatitudes, and spend two nights by the Sea of Galilee
- Learn about Palestinian villages that were destroyed in 1948
- Visit Nablus, a West Bank city completely surrounded by checkpoints
- Visit with a Jewish settler in a West Bank settlement
- Meet Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron, visit Mosque of Ibrahim, the burial place of Abraham
- Swim in the Dead Sea and visit Qumran

Tour Leaders: Joy Lapp teaches religion at Iowa Wesleyan College. She spent three years in the Middle East working with Mennonite Central Committee and serves on the Friends of Sabeel-North America Steering Committee. Arnie Voigt is a Lutheran minister. He has visited Israel/Palestine many times and has led numerous tour groups. This is the fifth trip that Arnie and Joy are organizing together.

Cost Summary: \$2200 Includes: hotel, 2 meals per day, tour guide and entrance fees, transportation, and tips. Does not include: airfare, lunch, souvenirs, personal expenses or travel insurance. Travelers will arrange their own flights to arrive in Jerusalem by June 5. Our program begins with dinner at our hotel at 6 pm on June 5, followed by introductions and orientation. Prices are based on double-occupancy. Supplement for a single room is \$565. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 travelers, and subject to changes due to circumstances beyond our control.

Travelers must have a passport that is valid six months beyond date of re-entry to U.S. Confirmation and \$100 payment needed by March 1, 2011. For more information, please contact:
Joy at 319-219-9171 or lappj@earthlink.net
Arnie at 303-798-7887 or arnievoigt@msn.com

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Do we have your email address for sending the Wave of Prayer, articles, event announcements and notices? It's easy to sign up:

1. Go to www.fosna.org and click on "Join our Email List"
2. Fill in your email address
3. Fill out the form
4. Receive email confirmation request from our service and confirm your subscription.

OR: Just send an email to friends@fosna.org



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Please enter your email address below to sign up for our mailing list.

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What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving, sometimes referred to as gift planning, may be defined as a method of supporting non-profits like Friends of Sabeel—North America that enables donors to make larger gifts than they could make from their income. While some planned gifts provide a life-long income to the donor, others use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for charity and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate. A planned gift is any major gift, made in lifetime or at death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning.

By contrast, gifts to the annual fund or for membership dues are made from a donor's discretionary income, and while they may be budgeted for, they are not planned. Whether a donor uses cash, appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan, etc., the benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both donor and nonprofit.

What are the 3 types of planned gifts?

1. outright gifts that use appreciated assets as a substitute for cash;
2. gifts that return income or other financial benefits to the donor in return for the contribution;
3. a bequest—a gift payable upon the donor's death.



Remembering with gratitude, the life and witness of Elaine Friedrich (April 2, 1914 - October 12, 2010)

<http://episcopalnews.ladiocese.net/obits/friedrich.html>

Friends of Sabeel was the recipient of a surprise \$20,000 bequest from Elaine Friedrich of Santa Barbara, who passed away October 12, 2010 at the age of 96. She was a longtime supporter of Sabeel, who in the late 1960s "became involved with the ministry of the Evangelical Home for Girls in Ramallah, in the West Bank of Palestine. She lived and taught there in the early seventies, and acted as their North American representative into the 1980's. The faithful witness of the Ramallah sisters, and the beautiful Palestinian children she worked with, were life-changing for her, deepening her faith and inspiring her passion for justice and peace."

A Message from Susan Bell: (FOSNA Volunteer Leader in Alexandria, Virginia) "Consider making a bequest."

The September, 2010, issue of *The Voice* had a section on "How to put Friends of Sabeel in your Will". I am grateful for these specific, simple instructions, and have made a bequest to Sabeel in my will. Working with the issues involved in my recent will, I thought about my most important relationships--who/what I value most deeply, support and am nurtured by, and would want to sustain in an ongoing way beyond my lifetime. These include my family, church, and Friends of Sabeel. I am so grateful to Sabeel for offering me a community of faith in the work for justice and peace in Palestine/Israel. Grounded in the powerful message of justice and peace making in the Gospel, Sabeel continues to educate me in the complex issues of the P/I conflict as well as provide opportunities for meaningful advocacy work with other committed people. My life has been deeply enriched by belonging to the Friends of Sabeel community. The work for justice and peace, and ultimately reconciliation and forgiveness, will stretch far into the future. In this small way -- a bequest to Friends of Sabeel -- I share my intention to be an ongoing part of this process of hope. I would encourage everyone who has shared in the life and work of Sabeel to consider supporting their future work by making a bequest.

A headline in the *Jerusalem Post*:

Turning the tables on BDS

By G. STEINBERG AND J. EDELSTEIN

06/11/2010

Don't just react; undermine the credibility and influence of groups promoting boycott, divestment and sanctions.

Headlines like this are in the news more often these days, giving us a sense of our movement's growing "credibility and influence." You can read the entire post at: <http://www.jpost.com/LandedPages/PrintArticle.aspx?id=194275>. In the article, Sabeel is named as one of those groups with "credibility and influence." (Remember, last October the Anti-Defamation League, a pro-Zionist organization, placed Friends of Sabeel in the top-10 most influential groups in the U.S.—along with the U.S. Campaign to End Israeli Occupation, Jewish Voice for Peace, If Americans Knew, Al-Awda, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Students for Justice in Palestine, International Solidarity Movement, Muslim American Society, and Act Now to Stop War and End Racism). We are able to measure our success by monitoring these headlines. The article reports on efforts by pro-Israel forces within the Jewish Federations of North America, a powerful organization that recently reported an initiative "to combat the assault on Israel's legitimacy". JFNA's general assembly in New Orleans devoted "major sessions" to this "critical issue", according to a leadership briefing on its

own website: <http://www.jewishfederations.org/page.aspx?id=237374>. The Israel Action Network, "a joint initiative of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs to combat the assault on Israel's legitimacy, has been active on many fronts since launching recently." The IAN "has been strengthening our strategic partnership with Hillel on college campuses, particularly with the Israel on Campus Coalition, the advocacy arm of Hillel's new Center for Israel Engagement. IAN officials said this partnership will create greater cooperation between Federations, JCRCs and local Hillels across North America." Furthermore, it says: The IAN team recently helped devise strategies for DePaul and Princeton Universities in response to efforts to boycott Israeli-made Sabra hummus on those campuses, and is working with New Jersey communities and Hillel to address other anti-Israel issues at Rutgers University. Plans also are being developed in anticipation of the annual "Israel Apartheid Week" on campuses scheduled for early March." We are reminded of those words of wisdom from Mahatma Gandhi: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."



The 7th Annual Israeli Apartheid Week 2011

March 7-20, 2011

Find a city near you for scheduled events.

Go to . . .

www.apartheidweek.org



FRIENDS OF SABEEL—NORTH AMERICA

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You are the branches

Get involved! To find the closest FOSNA group is, please see
the list of groups and volunteer leaders on our website:

<http://www.fosna.org/content/sabeel-groups>

SURVEY

Please tear off and mail this survey in the self-addressed envelope with (or without) a donation.

The purpose of this short survey is to update information on you and your church as we have some creative ideas to share with you about church activities. Please write your name & contact info on back.

Name of your church: _____

Church City/State: _____ Denomination: _____

Please check those boxes that are true. My church/faith community . . .

- has an active justice & peace group on Palestine/Israel
- is aware and active on issues of Palestine/Israel
- has participated in a Friends of Sabeel conference or other local event on Palestine/Israel
- sells fair trade products (of any kind)
- is ready to offer Palestinian fair trade products and or use Sabeel/FOSNA educational resources

Would you like us to contact you? Yes No thanks.

Or, is there someone else we should contact at your church ? _____
Name/Phone/Email

DONATION FORM

Please tear off and mail this form in the self-addressed envelope.

Donations to Friends of Sabeel are tax-deductible and support our programs as well as the programs of Sabeel in Jerusalem. Your donation includes a one-year membership with subscription to newsletters and Sabeel quarterly theological journal, *Cornerstone*. You can also donate online at www.fosna.org.

Check enclosed. Credit Card (Visa or MasterCard ONLY) **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

AMOUNT: \$ _____ Name on card: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Card#: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Gifts of \$500 or higher qualify for Sabeel's "Circle of Friends". COF is a small, dedicated group of leadership givers providing a level of financial support that will be increasingly vital to Sabeel's ability to minister to Palestinian Christians and reach more U.S. Christians. While gifts of any amount are important and appreciated, expanding Sabeel's outreach depends in large part on COF leadership gifts. The different levels are: \$500—Gaza Members; \$1,000—Nablus Members; \$2,500—Jericho Members; \$5,000—Galilee Members; \$10,000—Nazareth Members; \$20,000—Bethlehem Members; \$50,000—Jerusalem Members.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SHORT SURVEY ON THE BACK.