



The VOICE

Newsletter of Friends of Sabeel—North America

PO Box 9186, Portland, Oregon 97207

(503) 653-6625 fosna.org

JANUARY 2010

Get Involved!

Sabeel Conference

Seattle, WA

The U.S., Israel & Palestine: What Does Justice Require of US? Feb. 19 & 20, 2010

Sabeel Conference

Honolulu, HI

What Does Justice Require of US? Peace with Justice in the Holy Land February 26 & 27, 2010

Sabeel Conference

Marin County/Bay Area

A Time for Truth, A Time for Action March 5-6, 2010

Sabeel Spring 2010 Witness Trip

Palestine/Israel

April 8—17, 2010

Sabeel Colorado Fact-Finding Trip

Palestine/Israel

May 15—29, 2010

Sabeel 5th International Young

Adult Conference: "From the

Belly of the Whale"

Palestine/Israel

July 21—August 1, 2010

Sabeel Fall 2010 Witness Trip

Palestine/Israel

October 14—23, 2010

See our website for details: programs, schedules, and registration information: www.fosna.org



Message from the Chair

The Rev. Richard K. Toll, D. Min., D.D.

Chairman, Friends of Sabeel—North America

A prayer for the New Year from the Mozarabic Christians of 7th century Al-Andalus: "O Thou, who art ever the same, Grant us so to pass through the coming year with faithful hearts, that we may be able in all things, to please Thy loving eyes."

As you can see from the line-up of Sabeel events on the left, we are coming to the year 2010 with determination and faithful hearts. Great causes throughout history have been won after decades and generations and even centuries of faithful activism.

By the time you receive this newsletter the heroic efforts of the Gaza Freedom March will have been widely broadcast <gazafreedommarch.org>. Sponsored by an international coalition to end the siege of Gaza and endorsed by hundreds of individuals and organizations, the march is an example of the faithful activism that we need in this world and that will, in the end, bring justice and peace to the people of Palestine and Israel. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said again and again, "This is God's world, for goodness sake."

It is easy to become discouraged when we read the news and see with our own eyes how desperately negative the situation is for Palestinians, especially those in Gaza. But we are in a great (r)evolution of social change and like a fish in stormy seas riding a great wave we cannot see the progress we're making toward the shore.

In 2009 we saw: the launching of The Russell Tribunal on Palestine, reaffirming the primacy of international law in solving the Palestine/Israel conflict; a rise in consumer boycotts of Israeli settlement products and a number of major divestment moves, such as the second largest Dutch pension fund's divestment from the company Africa-Israel, which builds illegal settlements—plus the significant progress made in the Derail Veolia Campaign to stop a light rail system connecting settlements in East Jerusalem and throughout the West Bank; the call of major European peace organizations to FIFA (world soccer governing body) to send Israel a "threat of exclusion" modeled after the exclusion of South Africa from the world sports community until 1991 and the end of Apartheid; the Goldstone Report on the UN fact-finding mission to Gaza, which continues to send shock waves around the world—and many, many other successful actions. Little by little the mustard seed grows, transforming the landscape of the Kingdom of God on earth. A summary of *Global Actions to End Israel's Occupation* is a 35-page report of the Palestine-Israel Action Group of the Ann Arbor Quakers. It describes hundreds of actions taken by governments, businesses, labor unions, NGOs, academic and religious organizations and other groups. You can read it at our web site:

http://www.fosna.org/files/fosna/events/Global_Actions_9-09.pdf

We are encouraged and inspired by these things and commit ourselves to keep the momentum going in 2010 and beyond.

IT IS APARTHEID VIDEO CONTEST

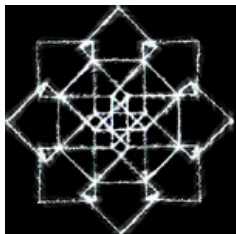
CONTENT: 5 Minute Video, original, live action, animated, or stop-action. See other contest details at this link:

<http://www.itisapartheid.org/itisapartheidvideocontest>

DEADLINE: March 9, 2010

CoSponsors: FOSNA, Badil, ICAHD-USA, AJJP Boston, CodePink, Al-Rowwad USA, Unitarian Universalists

WIN: \$750, \$500, \$100



The Kairos Palestine Document

Released on December 11 in Bethlehem, the Kairos 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." Read the full text at this website: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/other-ecumenical-bodies/kairos-palestine-document.html>

The United States, Israel and Palestine:

What Does Justice Require of US?

February 19 -20, 2010
Saint Mark's Cathedral
1245 Tenth Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102

SPEAKERS: Naim Ateek, Neve Gordon, Kathleen and Bill Christison, Mark Braverman, Jeff Halper, Steve Niva, Craig and Cindy Corrie and Tom Nelson—plus workshop leaders. Speakers will explore the situation in Israel and Palestine today, the experience of occupation, the role of U.S. policy and nonviolent strategies for peace.

Washington and Oregon residents: brochure with registration info enclosed. All program and registration information at:
<http://www.fosna.org/content/seattle-conference-february-19-20-2010>

Contact: BrittaLisa Gess, communications: brittalisa@gmail.com
Dottie Walker for local information: 206-802-8543

WHAT DOES JUSTICE REQUIRE OF US?

Peace with Justice in the Holy Land

February 26-27, 2010

Honolulu, Hawai'i

SPEAKERS: Naim Ateek, Anna Baltzer, Mohammad Alatar, Leila Al-Marayati, Jeff Halper, Mark Braverman, Craig and Cindy Corrie. **WORKSHOPS** on theological discourse, Christian Zionism, embracing non-Abrahamic faith communities, media bias, boycott-divestment-sanctions, tools for advocacy.

Location: Cathedral of St. Andrew—Honolulu.

Hawaii residents: brochure with registration info enclosed.

All program and registration information at:

<http://www.fosna.org/content/honolulu-conference-feb-26-27-2010>

Contacts: Margaret Brown • mabrown@hawaiiantel.net

Beverly Davis-Amjadi • amjadid@aol.com

A TIME FOR *Truth* A TIME FOR *Action*

PALESTINE/ISRAEL & THE U.S. AT THE CROSSROADS

SPEAKERS: Mohammed Alatar, Naim Ateek, Omar Barghouti, Kathleen and Bill Christison, Mads Gilbert, Jeff Halper, Remi Kanazi, Ed Peck, and others.

Contacts: JoAnn 707-996-0240 • Hassan 510-526-4073
Carol 415-383-2260 • Mary Louise 925-979-0351

Bay Area residents: flyer/registration information enclosed

First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo
March 5-6, 2010



Spring 2010 Sabeel Witness Trip, **April 8-17**

Fall 2010 Sabeel Witness Trip, **October 14-23**

Spring Trip: Nights in **Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth;** Side visits through **West Bank** areas (**Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarem, Tuwani**) Fall Trip: details to be announced later.
Program/Registration Info: fosna.org



A PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN CRY FOR JUSTICE

**SABEEL'S 5th INTERNATIONAL
YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE:**

July 21st – August 1st
Jerusalem 2010

Our Vision: To provide young adults (18-35) with an alternative pilgrimage experience that emphasizes active engagement with both the people and the land. 12 days in Palestine & Israel, \$1,100 plus airfare. Apply by June 1.

**Friends of Sabeel—Colorado
Seeking Understanding in Israel/Palestine:
A Two-Week Fact-Finding Trip**

May 15-29, 2010

Visit Palestinian and Israeli peace groups; see the wall, settlements, checkpoints, refugee camps, destroyed Palestinian villages and home; pray at the holy places in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee—Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Nazareth; meet the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron; experience Palestinian hospitality.

Contact: Joy Lapp 303-494-2338, lappj@earthlink.net

Application and Registration Information:

<http://fosna.org/content/sabeel-colorado-fact-finding-trip-may-15-29-2010>

Friends of Sabeel-Colorado organizes a regular "First Sunday Film and Lecture Series" from September through May each year. This fall, we opened the series with an excellent lecture by Dr. George Tinker, Professor at Iliff School of Theology, who discussed parallels between the Native American experience and the Palestinian struggle. Ed Gaffney came in October to introduce his video, "Holy Land: Common Ground." Our November program was a report from our trip in May. In December we partied - a delicious Palestinian buffet at a local Palestinian restaurant and a great time for socializing! We also hosted an inspiring presentation by Micha Kurz of "Breaking the Silence," and another by Adam Shapiro who introduced his new six-part documentary about the Palestinian refugee experience, "Chronicles of a Refugee." We joined other demonstrators at the University of Denver to protest when they hosted the Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat. We sold olive wood carving from Bethlehem, Palestinian olive oil, and olive oil soap at a number of Alternative Gift Markets and churches prior to Christmas. Upcoming programs in 2010 include a presentation about the Goldstone Report, a report by several of our members who are planning to join the Code Pink Gaza Freedom March, a presentation by Jim Fine of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and a display of the Sabeel Photo Exhibit along with personal remembrance stories from Palestinians. We are planning our fourth Fact-Finding Trip for May 15-29, 2009.



PHOTO:

May 22, 2009—**Sabeel Colorado Fact-Finding Trip** participants at the Sabeel office in Jerusalem. Pictured are leader **Naim Ateek** (2nd row from top, 3rd from right) and trip leader **Joy Lapp** (bottom row, left). FOS Colorado organizes a trip each May. The 2010 trip is scheduled for May 15-29.



PHOTO left: Wartburg College (Waverly, Iowa) president **Dr. Darrel Colson** (wearing the red scarf) joins students at the Dec. 10 kick-off dinner of the newly formed **Wartburg Friends of Sabeel**. Student **Joshua Stibb** (not pictured) attended the FOSNA conference in Cedar Falls in October and was inspired to establish a FOS group on campus. 50 people, including 40 students, attended the dinner. "We are going to have a very exciting year!", Josh said in an email. He hopes to get some students to go for the 5th International Young Adult Conference in July. **FOSNA's all-volunteer activist groups (35 groups in the U.S.) are made up of people of all ages representing a wide ecumenical participation. They are doing amazing things: organizing regional conference, taking groups to Palestine/Israel, educating others in the churches and colleges.**

Friends of Sabeel—Orange County, California, evolved from the successful FOSNA- Los Angeles Conference in February 2008. Participants decided that the time was right to organize FOSNA in Orange County. We started in the Fall of 2008 with events at Holy Cross Melkite Church, Placentia, St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach and St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Garden Grove. Jim Bettendorf, coordinator, created a blog (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sabeeloc>) to advertise our activities. It was just before Israel invaded Gaza. The blog grew quickly and became an alternative news distribution link providing calls for action to 100 readers. We co-sponsored demonstrations against the invasion of Gaza in Orange County and at the Israeli Consulate in Beverly Hills. We provided speakers for the University of California at Fullerton's panel on the Israel/Palestine conflict and co-sponsored the "Tears for Gaza" memorial for Muslim, Jewish and Christian participants at St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church in February. In July we staffed the FOSNA booth at the Episcopal Convention in Anaheim with 30 volunteers, half of whom were Palestinians. We also co-sponsored an offsite event, the dedication of St. Anselm Church's Peace Garden by Suheil Dawani, the Episcopal Bishop of Jerusalem. Naim Ateek, the founder of Sabeel, attended the dedication in addition to clerics from Orange County Churches, Synagogues, and Mosques. Currently we are focused on publicizing action opportunities in support of peace initiatives and establishing contacts with other peace groups in the Muslim and Jewish communities.



PHOTO: Jim Bettendorf (right), FOS-OC coordinator, carries sign at demonstration at Israeli Consulate in Beverly Hills.



FRIENDS OF SABEEL—NORTH AMERICA

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2010—“... through the coming year with faithful hearts”

Did you already send in your donation to the Friends of Sabeel 2009 Christmas Appeal? Or did you put it in a pile of “things to do” before the end of 2009? If you forgot, that’s OK. Just start 2010 off right by sending in your tax deductible contribution now to Friends of Sabeel. We’re saving money by not including an addressed return envelope with this newsletter; but any envelope will do if it has this address on it:

Friends of Sabeel
PO Box 9186
Portland, Oregon 97207

You can also donate online at our website:
<http://www.fosna.org/content/donate-fosna>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!