



Get Involved!

Sabeel Fall 2011 Witness Visit
Palestine/Israel
September 14-23, 2011

Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Palestine Israel Network
1st Annual Membership Conference
Chicago, IL
October 16-18, 2011

Call to Action Conference
w/presenter Naim Ateek
Milwaukee, WI
November 4-6, 2011

FOS **Atlanta, GA** Conference
November 10-12, 2011
From Birmingham to Bethlehem: Jesus'
Third Way of Nonviolence in Israel/Palestine

FOS **Sacramento, CA** Conference
March 16 & 17, 2012

FOS **Sunnyvale, CA** Conference
March 23 & 24, 2012

FOS **Albuquerque, NM** Conference
September or October 2012

See inside for more details and check our website for updates on FOS events:
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

Hello Friends,

Below is an email we sent out on May 4th to everyone on our list who has provided their email address. It is my announcement that I will be retiring as FOSNA's chair this fall. I want to share this again so that many of you who are not on our email list are notified. A search for my replacement is underway and we are planning to make the transition sometime this fall.

Dear Friends of Sabeel,

You are receiving this notice, which I sent to the Friends of Sabeel-North America leadership team, alerting them to the fact that I will be transitioning out of the FOSNA chairmanship in August after serving in the position for 10 years.

My life took a wonderful turn in my ministry in July of 2001. Retired Episcopal presiding bishop Ed Browning had invited me and my wife and Oregon's Episcopal bishop Robert Ladehoff to his home in Hood River, Oregon. Ed, who was at the time and remains the president of Friends of Sabeel-North America, along with Naim Ateek, founder of Sabeel in Jerusalem, both invited me to be the chair of FOSNA, following Betsy Barlow, who was retiring from that role after helping to establish and develop FOSNA since 1996. Wow! What a time to be asked to lead a movement in the U.S. addressing issues of justice for Palestinians by working with the Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land. I was overwhelmed, but eagerly accepted the privilege and the challenge. I thought, what do we do now? How do we build this Christian movement for justice and peace?

Well, everyone knows what happened six weeks later, on September 11, 2001. On that very day I was in a car with Bishop Browning, on our way from Portland to Seattle for a visit with Patsy Collins, a strong advocate of Palestinian human rights whom we hoped would provide a major gift to help us get started. As we drove north we listened to the horrible news on the radio about what was happening in New York. We had a wonderful lunch with Patsy Collins and John Huston, a good friend from St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. Afterwards Patsy said yes to helping FOSNA financially. Ed and I returned to Portland listening to the ongoing news reports and wondered what it would all mean for the future and for justice and peace in the Middle East.

That day continues to be a life-changing moment for me and so many others. It affected how our FOSNA steering committee would set a direction for educating Americans, and especially American Christians, about the Palestinian Christians, who seemed to have been forgotten since the Nakba in 1948. Sabeel in Jerusalem, under the leadership of Naim, has been our inspiration and spiritual leadership, facilitating the 32 regional conferences we have sponsored in U.S. cities over the past nine years. Our first regional conference in Boston in April 2002 with our new international patron Archbishop Desmond Tutu as keynote speaker provided the spark that would ignite our movement, and since that time our many excellent conferences have been attended by over 10,000 people and made the name Sabeel a household word among mainstream Christian denominations. We will always be grateful to Archbishop Tutu for his unwavering support for Sabeel and for justice for Palestinians.

It has been my privilege to be a part of this movement---organizing, enabling and attending our conferences and working with such amazing people. I've been encouraged by those who have been a part of these conferences, the volunteers and the participants, as they discovered advocacy roles in their respective local communities and diverse churches. What a wonderful experience to see people who have opened to an issue that includes the very roots of their faith as Jewish, Christian and Muslim advocates for justice and peace. I have seen time and time again a transformation in people as they become more involved in their communities, educate others in their churches, travel to the occupied territories to become pilgrim witnesses and help build a worldwide movement that identifies the issues of separation, occupation, militarism and imperialism that have been largely ignored by the U.S. and Israel in their spurning of international law.

After ten years as coordinator of FOSNA I feel it is time to let new leadership take us forward in the pursuit of justice and peace in Palestine/Israel. I hope that a replacement for me will be named by the end of the summer or early fall. It has been a profound privilege to serve as a volunteer leader in a Christian movement that has engaged so many in dialog and that continues to emerge as a momentous endeavor. I want to say I have the highest regard for Sister Elaine Kelley who has been so important in all that we do and continue to do. Her dedication and ministry to FOSNA is a superb example of a person who has dedicated her life to the pursuit of justice and peace.

And, it is time for me to say thank you to each and every one of you and to acknowledge that without you we would be just another cry in the wilderness. Instead, FOSNA is an established leader among similar organizations with an important and unique role in the unfolding drama of what I consider to be one of the most difficult issues of our time. I say to you, "thank you". I plan to continue in this leadership role and will work with the FOSNA Steering Committee until a smooth transition is completed. And I will remain active in the future to support the ongoing work of FOSNA. I certainly look forward to the future and to helping to ensure our ongoing support of Sabeel in Jerusalem.

Faithfully,

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



Beyond Talk to Action: EPF/PIN's First Annual Membership Conference
October 16-18 in Chicago

We invite Episcopalian justice and peace activists to EPF/PIN's first annual membership conference, beginning at dinner on Sunday, October 16 and continuing through lunch Tuesday, October 18, at Chicago's Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center. The price is right and the agenda is vital. A single room plus all meals is \$230; a double is \$190 and a commuter is \$110. Scholarship assistance is available for any for whom this expense is a stretch. Our agenda will include:

- an overview of the current Palestinian situation with an analysis by the Rev. Naim Ateek, Sabeel's Founder and Director, on the September United Nations vote;
- a review of the Episcopal Church's history and involvement in Palestine;
- an introduction to the Episcopal edition of *Steadfast Hope* ;
- and workshops on advocacy at diocesan conventions and the 2012 General Convention, witness and interfaith trips, BDS initiatives, EPF initiatives.

As a limited number of rooms will be available, please make your plans early and register with payment now <<http://epfnational.org/PIN/beyond-talk-to-action-registration/>> or, at the latest, September 8th. Our mission is to create a more robust Episcopal witness for justice and peace for our Palestinian and Israeli friends.



Call to Action National Conference

November 4-6
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

NAIM ATEEK of Sabeel Jerusalem is a featured speaker on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 9 AM. His presentation is "Palestine/Israel: The Struggle for a Just Peace". He will discuss the roots of the Palestine-Israel conflict from its theological and political perspectives, the prospects for peace in the Holy Land, how people in the U.S. are impacted, and what they can do to contribute to the achievement of peace and reconciliation. For complete program and registration information, visit the conference website: www.cta-usa.org/conference



The Archbishop turns 80 on October 7, 2011

Send birthday greetings!

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is the beloved Patron of Sabeel International. Let's do an email blast of happy birthday greetings with our expressions of deep gratitude for his heroic witness for justice and peace. Go to this website & click on the link at the bottom to send your greeting:

www.desmondututu.org



FALL 2011 WITNESS VISIT

Experience the reality of life in today's Holy Land. 9 nights in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Sea of Galilee:

September 14-23, 2011

- Experience realities of the Israeli Occupation: the Wall, settlements, checkpoints, demolished homes, refugee camps, environmental degradation;
- Worship with Palestinian Christians;
- Meet Sabeel's partners in nonviolent resistance—Palestinian Christians and Muslims, Jewish Israelis, and internationals;
- Learn about the loss of civil and property rights of Arab Israeli citizens. And much more!

Cost: \$1500 double; \$1850 single (Does not include your airfare, airport ground transportation, personal expenses or travel insurance.)

Register at www.sabeel.org

TIAA-CREF Divest



tiaa-cref divest from Israeli Occupation

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Sabeel was there!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kI8grWcy7rA>

Ask TIAA-CREF to divest from companies that profit from the Israeli occupation. Join over 24,000 people of conscience who have already signed the petition to ask TIAA-CREF to stop investing in companies that profit from the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Sign the petition:

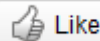
<http://wedivest.org/>

TIAA-CREF Divest from Israeli Occupation



34 videos

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WeDivest.org

From the website: TIAA-CREF is one of the largest financial services in the United States, considered to be one of the largest retirement systems in the world. We want TIAA-CREF to stop investing in companies that profit from the Israeli occupation. We are TIAA-CREF investors from universities, non-profits, public schools, hospitals, and the arts who do not want to fund our retirements with the profits from Palestinian suffering and death. We are university students who want to stand up against injustice. We are local activists who want to educate our communities about the companies making money off the occupation. We are Israelis and Palestinians struggling for a just peace. We are Jews, Muslims, Christians, and other people of conscience, who uphold our deepest values and proudest traditions by standing in solidarity with Palestinians and Israelis who are engaged in nonviolent resistance to the occupation in the form of Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions.

CANAAN FAIR TRADE

Interfaith Program

Linking Faith and Fair Trade in Palestine

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

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. Learn more about the Interfaith Program at canaanusa.com. Interfaith Partners receive a 10 percent fundraising discount. Contact CFT Interfaith Coordinator Jennifer Grosvenor: jennifer@canaanfairtrade.com Tell her FOSNA sent you.



In Memory, Aloha: Margaret Brown

October 4, 1942 - June 7, 2011

Founder & Convenor of Friends of Sabeel-Hawa'ii

Garlic Dressing (Margaret's name for it)

(A Gaelic Blessing, by John Rutter, 1978)

Words adapted from an old Gaelic rune.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.



FRIENDS OF SABELL—NORTH AMERICA

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Tree of Life—for the Healing of the Nations



Get involved! To find a FOSNA group in your area, please see
our volunteer groups web page:

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

Revelation 22 "Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb . . . On either side of the river grew the Tree of Life that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month; the leaves of the trees serve as medicine for the healing of the nations."

Tree of Life—For the Healing of the Nations FOSNA's 15th Anniversary Appeal

In June we sent you our 15th anniversary appeal, which included a letter from FOSNA's president Bishop Edmond Browning and a beautiful card featuring an original painting of the Palestinian Tree of Life. Your response to the appeal and the card has been very generous and we are grateful to each of you who sent in a donation.

More cards are available. If you have not sent in your Tree of Life gift yet, please do so in the enclosed envelope. Make a donation, then add \$2 for each card you would like mailed to you. For example, if your usual donation to FOSNA is \$25 and you would like 5 cards, send us \$35. The card comes with a blank envelope for mailing.

We will have this beautiful design available in a frame-able poster format—to be mailed to you in our Christmas appeal later this year. The Tree of Life art original design has been donated by the artist, Linda Dalal Sawaya. NOTE: Card is in full-color: green, brown, orange, yellow, blue, white.



Circle of Friends—Leadership Giving

Annual gifts of \$500 and higher place the giver in the Sabeel **Circle of Friends**, a small, dedicated group providing a level of support increasingly vital to Sabeel's ability to minister to Palestinian Christians and reach more Christians in the United States. We are growing and with that comes more responsibility and more opportunity to expand our programs and events. If you give \$500 or more in a year, you are a COF member. Here are the different levels of support:

- \$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



Donating to FOSNA From Your IRA

Peter J. Nagle advises people on how to make smart financial decisions and how to use their assets to benefit the people and the work of organizations they care for. A financial adviser based in Connecticut, and member of FOSNA, Peter suggests two tax-efficient ways to support the work of Friends of Sabeel and reduce your tax bill.

First, if you are 70 ½ or older you must take annual "minimum required distributions" (MRD) from your IRA. These distributions are taxed. "Our well off clients hate MRD's because they don't always need the income but are forced to pay taxes on it anyway". But legislation - which expires 12/31/11 - allows you instead to roll over all or part of your MRD (or more), up to \$100,000, to a not-for-profit organization. You are not taxed on the distribution, and the nonprofit organization receives the donation tax free! Everybody wins.

Second, at any age you may designate Friends of Sabeel as the beneficiary of all or part of your IRAs or retirement plans. "Everyone benefits here too," Peter says. "Using your IRAs and other retirement plan assets to make charitable gifts converts a taxable asset into a tax free one. This frees you up to leave other less heavily taxed assets to your heirs. This technique almost always results in a larger bequest for them." This is because IRAs and certain other retirement plan assets are taxed twice at death, both as part of your taxable estate and as income to the beneficiary. Nonprofit organizations like Friends of Sabeel do not pay income or estate tax.

"The power of this tax-free conversion of retirement assets is often overlooked in making your financial and estate plans. These assets are very inefficient ways of leaving money for your families and friends, but wow! do they make great charitable gifts." "Review these options with your financial adviser to see how they might benefit you, your family, and the charitable organizations you love" added Nagle.

CORNERSTONE

ISSUE 60, SPRING 2011

A PUBLICATION BY SABEEL ECUMENICAL LIBERATION THEOLOGY CENTER



Rev. Mimi Rabeh preaching in front of the Separation Wall at the Opening Worship Service for Sabeel's 8th International Conference in Bethlehem.

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Faithfulness and Resistance

By Naim Arzek

This issue of Cornerstone is dedicated to Sabeel's 8th international conference which was held in Bethlehem, Feb. 23-28, 2011 under the theme: Challenging Empires: God, Faithfulness, and Resistance.

The conference attracted over 300 people from 15 different countries. It was a comprehensive experience for our

Is your Cornerstone subscription current? Cornerstone is Sabeel's theological journal, featuring articles, reports on international conferences and witness visits, and glimpses of Sabeel's activities. A subscription to the quarterly Cornerstone journal, published by Sabeel in Jerusalem, requires only one donation per year—of any amount! If you have made a donation in this past year you should be receiving the publication by mail. You can also opt-out of paper mail by sending an email requesting to be removed from the Cornerstone mailing. This is good environmental stewardship and saves FOSNA money in printing and postage. All issues are available in PDF format on our website: www.fosna.org

Sabeel in Your Neighborhood

People are getting involved all around the country, organizing educational events in their churches, schools, and neighborhoods. There are boycotts, demonstrations and flash mobs, conferences, book study and prayer groups. Don't miss out on all the fun. Check our FOS Groups web page to find the closest one to you. If you don't find one, start one. <http://www.fosna.org/content/sabeel-groups>

"Jesus, Justice, Palestine-Israel: Challenging the Politics of Empire"

Saturday, October 29, 2011 -- 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

--An all-day symposium organized by Sabeel DC Metro, the Friends of Sabeel group in the Washington DC region-- featuring noted Biblical scholar & author,

Prof. Richard A. Horsley, PhD

Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and the Study of Religion, University of Massachusetts, Boston-- author of *Jesus and the Powers: Conflict, Covenant and the Hope of the Poor* (2011), *Jesus and Empire: The Kingdom of God and the New World Disorder* (2002).

**Ravensworth Baptist Church, Annandale, VA
5100 Ravensworth Road
(corner of Braddock Rd. at I-495 exit 54 east)**

To Register: Send \$30 check (students \$10) payable to "Ravensworth Church" (write "Sabeel Symposium" on memo line) with name/address/e-mail address/phone of each person registering and mail to: Susan Bell/Sabeel, 1324 Kingston Ave., Alexandria, VA 22302. Lunch is included in registration fee. *Scholarships/transportation assistance available on request. More information: Susan Bell, avocets@bell.nu (703-751-5646) Paul Verduin, phverduin@gmail.com (301-518-5551)

Called to Build Bridges Instead of Walls

US Policy in Palestine-Israel
Engaging Faith Communities in Pursuit of a Just Peace

October 14 & 15 in Ankeny, Iowa
<http://www.afsc-iowaconference.org/>



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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 with a request to be added.