

Friends of Sabeel—North America

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NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2005

Get Involved!

- Chicago, Illinois
Conference
October 7 & 8
- Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Conference
October 14 & 15
- Denver, Colorado
Conference
October 21 & 22
- Toronto, CANADA
Sabeel International Conference on Morally Responsible Investment
October 26-29
- Jerusalem
Sabeel International Witness Trip
Oct. 28—Nov. 4
- Jerusalem
6th International Sabeel Conference "The Forgotten Faithful" Oct. 27—Nov. 3, 2006
Check our website for updates.

Fall 2005: Sabeel Conferences and Witness/Pilgrimage Trip



Conference in Chicago, Illinois—October 7 & 8, **Jerusalem: Will justice and peace embrace?**—will be held at the Lutheran School of Theology (Hyde Park). Featured speakers include The Rev. Naim Ateek (Sabeel Jerusalem), Marc Ellis (Baylor University), Michael Tarazi (Palestinian Authority), George Rishmawi (Holy Land Trust, Bethlehem) and many others. Co-sponsors include: American Friends Service Committee, Pax Christi Illinois, Franciscan Foundation of the Holy Land, Not In My Name. For program updates please check our website: www.fosna.org. For registration information call the conference committee in Chicago at 312/427-2533 x18 or email chicagosabeel@gmail.com



will be held at Coe College. Speakers include: Rev. Naim Ateek, Jeff Halper (Director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions), Marc Ellis, Mubarak Awad (Founder of the Non-violence Training Center, Palestine), Craig and Cindy Corrie (parents of Rachel Corrie), and Partners for Peace: Jerusalem Women Speak. Workshop topics include: Introduction to the Conflict, Understanding Christian Zionism, Strategies for Political Advocacy, Congressional Accompaniment Project, Interfaith Dialogue for Peace, Divestment as Nonviolent Strategy, Church Education for Holy Land Peace, and Rebuilding Homes in Palestine. For more details, updates and registration information, contact sabeeliowa@hotmail.com.

Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa—October 14 & 15, **Hope for the Holy Land: Truth and Reconciliation—**

ENDING THE SILENCE

WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL. Conference in Denver, Colorado—October 21 & 22 at Montview Presbyterian Church. Speakers are: **Rev. Naim Ateek, Craig and Cindy Corrie, Marc Ellis, Jeff Halper, Mohammed Abu-Nimer** (a Palestinian scholar teaching *International Peace and Conflict Resolution* in the School of International Studies at the American University in Washington, DC, author of *Nonviolence and Peacemaking in Islam*), **Joe Carr** (activist with the International Solidarity Movement in Palestine who recently served with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Baghdad), and **Three Jerusalem Women**. Workshops will include: Five Myths about Israel/Palestine; US Foreign Policy; Jerusalem Women Speak; The Status of Jerusalem; Home Demolitions and the Wall; The Right of Return; Challenging Christian Zionism; Nonviolence in Three Religions; Responsible Investment/Divestment; Working With the Media; Working With Congressional Representatives. For program details and registration information, contact: 303-388-5058 (Denver) ~ 970-223-1230 (Fort Collins) ~ sabeel.colorado@earthlink.net

Hanan Ashrawi: Keynote at Toronto Conference

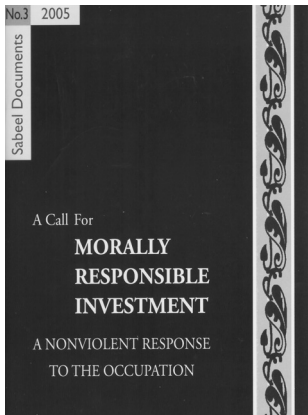
A Call for Morally Responsible Investment:

A Nonviolent Response to the Israeli Occupation

An international conference sponsored by Canadian Friends of Sabeel and a coalition of churches and NGOs working for a just peace. October 26-29 in Toronto, CANADA. This conference is designed for representatives of organizations working on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. Keynote speaker is Dr. Hanan Ashrawi of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy—MIFTAH. *continued inside*

"Come and See"! Sabeel Witness Trip

October 28—November 3, 2005. Join us for a one-week pilgrimage/witness tour of the Holy Land this fall that will include visits to the holy sites, worship in local churches, workshops, tours of the Old City of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Taybeh, Nazareth, Jenin, Zebabdeh, Tulkarem, and the Golan. A post-visit to Gaza (optional, conditions permitting). Full local travel package approximately \$800 (price includes hotel, all meals, registration and local transportation). For more information contact SABELL, Jerusalem (972)2-532-7136; world@sabeel.org



Sabeel booklet above is available from FOS for \$2. 30 pages

Toronto Conference ... continued

In recognition of a growing worldwide movement on Morally Responsible Investment, the mission of the conference is to reach out to churches and organizations around the globe who are interested in learning about economic strategies as they pertain to the promoting peace for Israel and Palestine. Registration for church and group representatives is by application only. For complete registration and program information visit www.sabeel.ca

Contact:
Conference Registrar
c/o KAIROS
129 St. Clair Ave. West
Toronto, ON M4V 1N5
CANADA
Ph: (416)463-5312 x235
conferenceregistration@rogers.com



Don Wagner Receives Teaching Award from Faculty and Students of North Park University

Don Wagner, board member of Friends of Sabeel, after being denied tenure last year, was awarded the Zenos Hawkinson

Award, given annually to the North Park University (Chicago) professor who demonstrated teaching excellence and campus leadership. The award was interpreted by some as indicative of the strong student and faculty support that Don has enjoyed through the years despite a minority contingent's opposition to his political, theological, and programmatic emphases, particularly on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Separation Wall Forces Sabeel Jerusalem Office to Move

The Separation Wall has forced Sabeel in Jerusalem to move its office to another location. The owner of the building where Sabeel has operated for nine years asked Sabeel to vacate because her son, who was on the "wrong" side of the wall, needed a place to live in Jerusalem. The move began the end of July to a new location not far from the current office and less expensive. Sabeel hopes that they will be able to retain the same phone and fax numbers. The post office address will remain the same. Some construction adjustments to the new building are necessary and Sabeel is requesting "emergency funds" for that purpose.

Speaking Tour (July/August)

Naim Ateek will be traveling and speaking at Greenbelt in the UK at the end of August.

Nora Carmi will be traveling and speaking in Sweden in mid-August.

Jonathan Kuttab (Sabeel board) is currently in the US speaking at UCC Synod in Atlanta and will be in the US for the rest of the month.

Zach Sabella (youth speaker) will be in Australia and will be speaking at FOS-AU events.

Rula Shbeita (youth speaker) will be at the Disciples Assembly in Portland at the end of July.

Rami Munayer, Coleen Khano, and Amira Abdallah (youth speakers) will be in Birmingham, Alabama with six youth from Bethlehem from August 7-15 at an event organized by the Diocese of Alabama.

Sabeel Utah

Utahns for a Just Peace in the Holy Land will host an educational booth and "Apartheid Wall" display at the Salt Lake American Muslim Cultural Festival, August 28. Speaker Ambassador Wilcox, former Ambassador-at-Large to the Middle East and Director of Foundation for Middle East Peace, will speak to audiences in Park City and Salt Lake City on Sept. 9th and 10th. We are sending a delegate to the U.S. Campaign's annual conference in August in Atlanta, Georgia.

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE

EAST PEACE is a Friend of Sabeel working in Washington to change U.S. policy. Join CMEP's Grassroots Advocacy Network at www.cmep.org



Sponsor an Olivewood Fundraising Sale for Sabeel at your Church

Help Palestinian families who are dependent on sales of their olivewood crafts and provide Friends of Sabeel with needed funds. Consider having an olivewood sale at your church. Two Sabeel members have offered to donate 10% to 20% of sales of their olivewood handicrafts. All you have to do is schedule a Sunday or other appropriate day and we will ship the merchandise to you. Extended sales (such as Advent) may also be arranged. Call: Rev. Liz Knott, (253) 946-4810 or Jiryis Alyateem, (503) 866-5698.

A 4-DVD set of the April, 2005 conference on Christian Zionism titled "**Israel, the Bible, and the Future**" is available for \$25 (checks only, endorsed to North Park University) sent to Kate Cerniglia, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 3225 West Foster Avenue, Box 52, Chicago, Illinois 60625 or email kcerniglia@northpark.edu. Among the lecturers are Dr. Barbara Rossing (author of "The Rapture Exposed"); Dr. Timothy Weber (author of "On the Road to Armageddon"); Dr. Stephen Sizer (author of "Christian Zionism: Roadmap to Armageddon"); Dr. Don Wagner (author of "Dying in the Land of Promise"); Dr. Gary Burge (author of "Whose Land? Whose Promise?"); Rev. John Hubers (on resources for the study of Christian Zionism); and Jewish scholars Dr. Yaakov Ariel (author of "Evangelizing the Holy People") and Rabbi Yehiel Poupko (author of a diatribe against Naim Ateek, Mitri Raheb, Stephen Sizer, and Don Wagner).

Friends Southwest (California) Update

Christian Zionism Challenged; the Rapture Exposed

was the theme of a two-site mini-conference with speakers Rev. Dr. Donald Wagner and Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, held on March 4th in Newport Beach and on the 5th in West Los Angeles. Wagner is Director of the Middle East Study Center at North Park University in Chicago, and author of several books. Rossing teaches New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Her lecture at the last International Conference of Sabeel in April of 2004 was centered on her increasingly renowned book, *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*, and was the basis of her two lectures at the March event.

FOSNA/SC also sponsored concerts by Garth Hewitt, featuring his songs and commentary (from his just-retained trip) about the situation in the Occupied Territories. The priest-songwriter-author-troubadour from London performed at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, St Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church in Studio City, and at Placentia Presbyterian Church, in Orange County.

On July 10 the local chapter met in Pasadena to hear Jerry Levin speak about his just-published book, *West Bank Diary*. Levin, a former CNN bureau chief in Beirut who was held hostage for almost a year, has for several years been a part of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in Hebron. His book is a compilation of on-the-ground reports from Hebron and the Occupied Territories that are Palestine.

These public meetings were co-sponsored by the Middle East Fellowship of Southern California and by Middle East Fellowship (formerly Holy Land Trust, U.S. Office).

A Triumvirate was recently selected to Co-Chair the local chapter: Dr. Fred Bush <fredericbush@cox.net>, Barbara Bell <MiddleEastMinistry@yahoo.com>, or Rev. Darrel Meyers <darrelmeyers@webtv.net>.

Sabeel Texas & The Interfaith Community for Palestinian Rights

It is five months since the February 2005 conference in Austin, Texas, "American Churches and the Palestinians," co-sponsored by Friends of Sabeel-North America and Pax Christi USA, and we are still seeing rippling effects. One attendee, Tammie Danielson, participated in a workshop, "Going There: Alternative Travel to the Holy Land," led by Ann Hafften, Coordinator for Middle East Networking with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Three months later, Tammie traveled to Palestine with a tour group led by Hafften. Upon her return, Tammie developed presentations which she shared at an ICPR meeting held at her church. Tammie, now fully engaged in seeking justice for Palestine, has plans for more presentations at other churches in the future.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

At Pentecost, Friends of Sabeel—North America established a Circle of Friends to lead the way in prayer and financial support for the future of Sabeel. At Pentecost we remember the founding of the Church in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago when we were given the mission to preach Life to the ends of the earth. This is the mission of Sabeel, to preach Life in the midst of occupation and violence, to preach Life in the midst of hope and challenge and change—a mission made possible by our generous friends. The Circle of Friends mailing appeal was a call for leadership donations to establish a foundation for program renewal and expansion. We are deeply grateful for those who have responded and are encouraged that more will come forward during the next year to join this group of dedicated givers. Gifts and pledges from \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 and more are providing the funding needed for the years to come.

2006 CALENDAR & GIFT BAZAAR

Too early to think of Christmas and New Year 2006? Why not start early and support Palestinian charities now. This beautiful, full-color calendar features the children of Palestine in some 12 settings, all creatively captured by photographer Nancy Dinsmore. Includes a gift bazaar of Palestinian crafts. Send \$15 to Friends of Sabeel for each order.



Several persons attending the conference from Houston returned to their areas to organize local peace and justice groups to sponsor their own conferences. "Know Justice, Know Peace!" was held April 29-May 1, 2005. ICPR leaders attended the conference where they made valuable contacts with Houston individuals and groups committed to seeking justice for Palestine. ICPR coordinator, the Rev. Ed Hartwell, engaged in producing a documentary film on the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, met a Palestinian-American physician at the conference who has helped him with translations, and has pledged to help with circulating the film among physicians when it is completed.

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PLEASE DONATE

Donations to Friends of Sabeel are tax-deductible and support our programs to educate western Christians and their churches about the Holy Land, the Palestinian Christians, and the struggle to end Israel's military occupation. Donors are Sabeel members and will receive by mail the quarterly *Cornerstone* theological journal published by Sabeel in Jerusalem as well as Friends of Sabeel newsletters. Please make checks payable to Friends of Sabeel. Visa and MasterCard donations require the following information:

Name on card _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Card# _____ Expiration Date _____
Amount \$ _____ Signature for Authorization _____



Rula Shubeita (center) of Sabeel Jerusalem in Portland, Oregon, for the Disciples Peace Fellowship/Global Ministries Pre-Assembly event. Show with Rula are Sabeel volunteer Doug Willbanks (left) and Rev. Dick Toll (FOSNA Chair).