

# Friends of Sabeel—North America

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(503) 653-6625 Email: friends@fosna.org Web: www.fosna.org

NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2006

## Get Involved!

- Pittsburgh, PA  
Sabeel Conference  
February 24-25
- Washington, DC  
Sabeel Conference  
March 3-4
- Jerusalem  
Church Action  
for Peace & World  
Council of Churches  
International  
Advocacy Week  
March 12-19
- Jerusalem  
Congressional  
Accompaniment  
Project April 8-17
- Fall 2006  
Sabeel Regional  
Conferences To Be  
Announced
- Jerusalem  
Sabeel International  
Young Adults  
Conference  
July 28-August 5
- Jerusalem  
6th International  
Sabeel Conference  
"The Forgotten  
Faithful"  
Nov. 3-9, 2006

Check our website for  
updates. [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)

## Message from Our Chair:

Dear Friends:

Sabeel is now considered to be in the forefront of the discussion of the illegal Israeli occupation and the issues among churches regarding morally responsible investment. A year ago our conferences did not even include a program on economic leverage strategies, but in the past six months there has been a great awakening to the fact that there really is an illegal military occupation that we as a country and as individuals have been supporting with our tax dollars through our unquestioning support for the state of Israel for the past 38 years.

Illegal military occupation is the main cause of the violence in the Holy Land. The ongoing occupation of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza (yes, Gaza is still occupied) must end, and our churches are now leading the movement to change corporate and government policy. Supporters of Sabeel are helping in the world wide effort to end that occupation—and the sooner the better. You can help by attending our regional and international conferences and by leading your local group by helping to organize a Sabeel conference in your city. Your work, your financial support, and your prayers all add to the global effort for justice and peace.

Thank you, and all the best to you in 2006.

The Rev. Canon Richard K. Toll

## Church Action for Peace

March 12-19, 2006—in Jerusalem

Joint Advocacy Initiative and Sabeel invite you to participate in the Church Action for Peace and take part in the World Council of Churches International Advocacy Week

### Program (Subject to Change):

- Launching of event with Patriarchs and Bishops of Churches in Jerusalem
- International Planting Day with the Olive Tree Campaign
- Candle March at the Separation Wall
- Solidarity Visit with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron
- Sabeel's Contemporary Way of the Cross
- Visits to Holy Sites in the Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem
- Witnessing the destruction in Jenin Refugee Camp and Nablus' Old City
- Settlement Tour with Israeli Committee Against House Demolition
- Cultural Evening with Palestinian Youth (dinner and dancing)
- Meetings with Church Related Organizations in Bethlehem and Jerusalem
- Program supported by the Network of Christian Organizations in Jerusalem

To register, contact JAI or Sabeel:

Tel/Fax: (972) 2 628 2082



## Pursue Justice, Seek Peace!

Sabeel Conference—Washington DC  
Friday & Saturday: March 3-4, 2006

This conference will offer local churches and area denominational bodies, as well as other religious and secular peace and justice organizations in the DC Metro area, an arena to inform ourselves, network widely and provide tools to become pro-active peacemakers. In response to the increasing urgency of the situation we are acting with renewed vigor and seeking fresh strategies. Moving beyond the artificial polarization of "pro-Israel" and "pro-Palestinian" agendas, a powerful "pro-justice, pro-peace" movement is unifying individuals and organizations across religious, ethnic, and geographic boundaries. This two day conference will bring together Christians of Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox traditions, along with Jews, Muslims, peoples of other faiths, and secular persons. It will host nationally and internationally known lecturers, writers and activists. Together we will explore and affirm our shared commitment to the active non-violent pursuit of a rights-based, just peace in Palestine and Israel.

For program & registration information: visit [www.wiamep.org](http://www.wiamep.org)  
For further information please contact:  
Email: [john.salzberg@verizon.net](mailto:john.salzberg@verizon.net) Tel: 202-258-0569  
SABEEL DC 2708 Ontario Road, N.W., Washington, DC 20009



## Toward a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel

Sabeel Conference—Pittsburgh, PA  
Friday & Saturday: February 24-25, 2006

This conference seeks to:

- ✓ inform the church and larger community of current realities in Palestine & Israel, including the plight of Palestinian Christians
- ✓ educate on the principles for a just peace
- ✓ offer practical tools & opportunities to engage in broad based networking & activism
- ✓ renew our spiritual foundation for peacemaking

Speakers (partial list): Rev. Naim Ateek, Mohammed Abed, Ora Wise, Adam Shapiro/Huwaida Arif, Ann Hafften, Mubarak Awad, Jeff Halper, Jean Zaru, Marc Ellis, Ali Abunimah, Donald Gibbon

For registration, visit [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)  
For further information please contact:  
Email: [tina.whitehead2@verizon.net](mailto:tina.whitehead2@verizon.net) Tel: 412-820-0254  
SABEEL PA, 417 Maryland Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139

## Sacred Space Denied: Bethlehem and the Wall

A film by Peter J. Nagle  
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\$15 plus shipping  
for DVD & Booklet

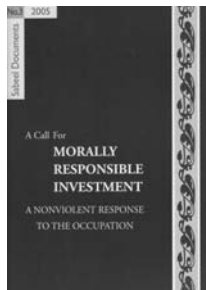
The film illustrates the problems created by the Wall around the "Christian Triangle"— Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, and Beit Jala. An article about the film is posted at: <http://www.yale.edu/divinity/notes/051208/nagle.html>

If you would like copies or more information, contact:

**Peter Nagle**  
[friendsofbethlehem@fastmail.fm](mailto:friendsofbethlehem@fastmail.fm)

## A Call for Morally Responsible Investment: A Nonviolent Response to the Israeli Occupation

Report on Sabeel Conference in Toronto, CANADA (Held in October 2005)  
A full report on the Toronto conference on morally responsible investment is available (1) online at our website <[www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)> (2) by email: send request to Sister Elaine, [friends@fosna.org](mailto:friends@fosna.org) (specify PDF or MS Word attachments or text only email; (3) by mail: send request to FOSNA, PO Box 9186, Portland, OR 97207. An article on the conference appears in the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, Jan. 2006 issue. Website: <[www.wrmea.com](http://www.wrmea.com)>



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

## FRIENDS OF SABEL COLORADO: UPDATE

Contact: **Joy Lapp** <[lappj@earthlink.net](mailto:lappj@earthlink.net)>

A Sabeel regional conference called "Ending the Silence: Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel" was held October 21-22, 2005 in Denver at the Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church. The opening session of the conference, "Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision," was presented by three women from Jerusalem who were itinerating with the Washington DC-based organization Partners for Peace. They set the tone for an enthusiastic inter-faith conference that drew about 350 people. The event was co-sponsored by more than 60 peace groups and faith groups – Jewish, Christian and Muslim – including Christian Peacemaker Teams, the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Colorado Jews for a Just Peace, and Muslims Intent on Learning and Activism. The educational conference featured Jewish, Christian and Muslim speakers and workshop leaders, including Phyllis Bennis, Marc Ellis, Mohammed Abu Nimer, Craig and Cindy Corrie, and Jeff Halper. Workshop topics included US foreign policy, theory and practice of nonviolence, morally responsible investment, and challenging Christian Zionism. Rev. Naim Ateek, Director of Sabeel, delivered the keynote address on Friday evening. He discussed a number of tools that have been used to silence the Palestinian voice including the Bible and the media and offered ideas for how to respond effectively to these silencing techniques. Ironically, the co-sponsors of the conference had direct experience with one of the silencing techniques in the form of a letter that was sent by the Anti-Defamation League prior to the conference to each co-sponsor. The letter accused Sabeel of being anti-Jewish with a "radical, distorted and one-sided agenda" and requested that the co-sponsors withdraw their support of the conference. Not one group withdrew its sponsorship. The conference planning committee is organizing a local Sabeel group that will continue to work on a seeking a just solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The group hopes to focus on raising awareness of Palestinian concerns, education in local churches, working with the local media, and organizing a speaker series. **PHOTO BELOW:** Denver Sabeelers Leila Suleiman, Nancy Fey, Rob Prince, and Joy Lapp.



## CONGRESSIONAL ACCOMPANIMENT PROJECT

CAP offers an opportunity for local church, ecumenical or community groups to accompany their Congressional representatives or their principal Aides on a guided fact-finding tour to Israel and Palestine led by the staff of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem. The experience help participants to be more informed regarding the "facts on the ground" in Israel/Palestine.

## Saturday, April 8 through Monday, April 17, 2006

The CAP Tour includes meetings with Israeli and Palestinian governmental officials, American Consulate staff, as well as non-governmental professionals, educators and people in all walks of life. It will include travel in Israel and within the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Occupied Territories to visit areas of conflict and dispute –refugee camps, the "Wall," housing demolitions, "settlements," security checkpoints, sacred sites, etc. Last year's program included the following lectures and meetings:

- The Situation of Christians in Bethlehem Today
- The Wall and its Impact on the Bethlehem Community
- Overview of the Refugee Issue
- Tour at the Dheishe Refugee Camp
- An analysis of the Wall
- Analysis of the Political Situation
- Politics of the Old City
- Israel's Perspective on the Situation
- Issues of Jerusalem for the Palestinian Community
- Role of Israeli Religious Left
- An Analysis of the Status of Jerusalem
- Human Rights and Israel
- Analysis of the Systems of Occupation
- Overview on Rights to Education
- Role of Islam in Palestine
- Analysis of the PA perspective

## For More Information on CAP:

Contact East Iowa Presbytery Peacemaking at (319) 354-7877 or email Sue Yeane <[sue-dy@avalon.net](mailto:sue-dy@avalon.net)>

## SABEEL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The *Sabeel Circle of Friends* is a growing group of active members able to donate \$500 or more to lead our development goals for the future. Listed below are **CHARTER MEMBERS** who joined the Circle in 2005. The Circle of Friends appeal is 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 this year. This campaign will continue through October 1, 2006. COF members will receive special invitations to the first annual *Circle of Friends* dinner to be held at the Sabeel International Conference in Jerusalem, "The Forgotten Faithful" November 3-9, 2006.

Donors listed below gave or pledged \$500 and above to Friends of Sabeel-North America in 2005. The list does not include donations from conference co-sponsors or restricted gifts (i.e. *Holy Land: Common Ground* film project, Witness Trip scholarships or donations designated for Sabeel in Jerusalem.

## HOW TO PUT SABEEL IN YOUR WILL

The most common and simplest form of planned giving is a gift through a Will, also known as a Bequest. As your attorney will advise, a Donor can arrange a gift of a specific amount, a percentage, or even all or part of the residue of your estate. The suggested wording for a bequest to Sabeel is:

### For a bequest of a specific sum:

I give, devise and bequeath to Friends of Sabeel—North America (incorporated as Friends of Peace and Justice in the Holy Land), currently located at PO Box 9186, Portland, OR 97207, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for its general purposes.

### For a bequest of a percentage of the estate:

I give, devise and bequeath to Friends of Sabeel—North America (incorporated as Friends of Peace and Justice in the Holy Land), currently located at PO Box 9186, Portland, OR 97207,, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for its general purposes.

### For a contingent bequest:

If any of the above-named beneficiaries should predecease me, I hereby bequeath her share to Friends of Sabeel—North America (incorporated as Friends of Peace and Justice in the Holy Land), currently located at PO Box 9186, Portland, OR 97207, to be used for its general purposes.

Gifts through bequests are used by Friends of Sabeel—North America where need is greatest in a given year. Donors are also welcome to specify a bequest for a particular program, such as regional and international conferences, or for the programs and needs of The Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem.

**Legal Name:** Friends of Peace and Justice in the Holy Land (aka: Friends of Sabeel—North America) **Legal Address:** Mailing Address: PO Box 9186, Portland, Oregon 97207. **Physical Location:** Christ Church Episcopal, 1060 Chandler Road, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034 **Employer ID#:** 38-3419440

### Nazareth Charter Members (\$10,000 and above)

The Rt. Rev. Edmond and Patti Browning  
(Hood River, OR)

### Galilee Charter Members (\$5,000 and above)

The Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno  
(Los Angeles, CA)  
The Rt. Rev. Herbert Thompson  
(Cincinnati, OH)  
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(Pasadena, CA)

### Jericho Charter Members (\$2,500 and above)

David and Katherine Wurfel  
(Toronto, Canada)

### Nablus Charter Members (\$1,000 and above)

Patricia Ann Abraham (New York, NY)  
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### Nablus Charter Members (cont'd) (\$1,000 and above)

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The Rev. Robert and Maurine Tobin  
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The Rev. Canon Dr. Richard and Elaine Toll  
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(Santa Barbara, CA)  
St. Mark's Cathedral-Palestine Concerns  
(Seattle, WA)  
The Morey Bernstein Memorial Foundation  
(Bethesda, MD)  
Veach Charitable Foundation-Anonymous  
The Branscomb Family Foundation  
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First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette  
(Wilmette, IL)  
Diocese of Olympia Bishop's Committee  
on Peace and Justice (Seattle, WA)

### Gaza Charter Members (\$500 and above)

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Bradley and Julia Bitar (Hoquiam, WA)  
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Paula and George Diamond (Lake Oswego, OR)  
The Rev. Valerie W. Dixon (Niantic, CT)  
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Judy Forkner (Scottsdale, AZ)  
The Rev. Stanley and Jeanne Fowler (Seattle, WA)  
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The Rev. Michael and Joan Moore (Pensacola, FL)  
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Doug and Sue Willbanks (Beaverton, OR)  
Douglas and Carol Wingeier (Waynesville, NC)  
Westminster Presbyterian Church (San Diego, CA)

## SABEEL AREA COORDINATORS

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Washington: Valerie Van Osdel  
<VLvanosdel@yahoo.com>

Washington, DC: John Salzberg  
<john.salzberg@verizon.net >

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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