



# Friends of Sabeel—North America

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

PO Box 9186, Portland, OR 97207

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

## Get Involved!

- Palestine/Israel Fact-Finding Trip organized by Friends of Sabeel Colorado, May 12—26 (FULL)
- Palestine/Israel Sabeel International Young Adults Conference, July 19—29
- Palestine/Israel Sabeel International Witness Trip October 11-20, 2007
- Washington DC Churches for Middle East Peace, "For the Peace of Jerusalem" May 6-8
- Washington DC "The World Says No to Israeli Occupation" a two-day rally, teach-in, lobby days, June 10—11
- Boston, MA Sabeel Conference Keynote Speaker, Archbishop Desmond Tutu October 26—27

### Phone Call from President Jimmy Carter

Friends of Sabeel received a phone call from the office of President Jimmy Carter—at the Carter Center in Atlanta last month. Carter, author of the book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, received our Christmas appeal mailing last December with the enclosed film on DVD entitled *Sacred Space Denied: Bethlehem and the Wall* (produced by Sabeel member Peter Nagle). His office assistant called to request ten more copies of the DVD. What a surprise! You never know who might call next.



## Message from the Chair

The Rev. Canon Richard K. Toll

During February I traveled with Naim Ateek around the country for our conferences in Birmingham and Cleveland and for public events in Washington DC and Detroit and a planning meeting in Boston for our October 2007

conference featuring Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who serves as the international patron of Sabeel. The Boston event will be our 20th major educational conference in the U.S.—events that energize and strengthen the Christian movement for justice and peace in the Holy Land and in the world.

**Common Clay Pots**—on the right—describes how Sabeel conferences are creatively envisioned and orchestrated by our dedicated and talented volunteers and how they attract a diverse audience. If you have participated in a Sabeel international event in the Holy Land and can put together a local committee of five to ten volunteers, you may qualify to lead a conference effort in your area.

Naim is in California for five months of sabbatical leave to complete three books he has been writing. One of them updates *Justice & Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation* published in 1989. Over the years we have kept Naim very busy traveling for conferences and other important events. Demands on him are great, as you can imagine. So this time of reflection, rest, and writing is overdue. Contributions to Naim's Sabbatical Fund may be sent to our Portland office.

## Common Clay Pots

*"Yet we who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed."*  
2 Corinthians 4:7

As we begin the season of Lent we are reminded of the humble beginnings of Sabeel in the early 1990s and the spectacular growth in members, volunteers, and support we have experienced since 2001. In the U.S. we attribute much of this growth to the success of our regional conferences, and because these events provide a forum for attracting large numbers of new individuals and churches, our plan is to continue with this as the core of our outreach program.

The key point is: We are not preaching to the choir, but drawing an ever-growing number of new people to the Sabeel movement. How do conferences do this? Simply by inviting local churches and organizations to "co-sponsor" the conference. In this way, each church and group helps with fundraising, media and publicity, and volunteer tasks. Each group draws on its own respective community and membership base for support and participation. For example, our Kansas City conference had 34 co-sponsors and over 375 participants. **Continued . . . →**

**A complete history of Sabeel conferences may be found at [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)**

## Sabeel International Young Adults Conference

*40 Years in The Wilderness: 40 Years of Occupation*  
July 19- July 29, 2007

Do you want to know more about Current Realities in Palestine, during this 40th year of the Occupation? Do you want to visit Biblical Sites and share Biblical reflection with Young Adults from around the world? Are you between the ages of 18 and 35 and want to be involved in advocacy for peace with justice in the Holy Land? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then we invite you to participate in Sabeel's 2nd International Young Adult Conference.

Our vision for this conference is to gather, network, and further educate young leaders from Palestine and around the world, during this 40th year of the Occupation; so that they may be trained, commissioned, and equipped with the tools to act in advocacy to end the Occupation.

The conference will include: Visits to Palestinian Towns and Villages • Events Celebrating Palestinian Culture • Worship and Biblical Reflections • Volunteer Experience • Advocacy Workshops • Sharing Experiences and Ideas with Palestinian Young Adults. **Continued . . . →**

## "Please come to Boston in the Fall time"

Mark your calendars!  
**October 26 & 27**

Come to hear Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other great presenters for two days of lectures, workshops, networking opportunities, resources, good friends and good food, music, dancing and peacemaking. Don't miss it.



Bishop Tutu, the patron of Sabeel International, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his courageous stand against Apartheid in South Africa. Today he speaks of Apartheid in Palestine and insists there is "no security without justice." Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet and listen to one of history's outstanding Christian peacemakers. Program and registration information will be available during the summer. Check our website for updates: [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)

## Common Clay Pots continued from page 1

20 conferences have been completed around the country. The budgets and size of the conference will depend on the core coordinating group—its human resources, skills, local contacts, etc. The coordinating committee typically consists of individuals who are familiar with Sabeel, who have participated in our international conferences or witness trips, who are active in the local churches and working in their communities to build awareness about the Holy Land, the Palestinian Christians, the political crisis of occupation and violence, and the Gospel alternative promoted by Sabeel's vision of justice and peace.

"Because we have this hope, we are very bold" shouted St. Paul. We, ordinary Christians who love justice and peace, are capable of changing the world through our work. Common clay pots are people, ordinary people, extraordinary people who are servants for the Kingdom of God and have confidence that they can change the world.



Friends of Sabeel—North America will be hosting more conferences in 2008. If you think your local group has what it takes to put on such an event, please let us know as soon as possible so we can help you plan and build the event. Please contact Canon Richard Toll at friends@fosna.org.

## Sabeel International Young Adults Conference

Continued from page 1

The registration and program fee for the conference is \$700. This includes all land costs—food, accommodations, ground transportation, speakers and activities—but it does not include airfare. When scheduling flights, please keep in mind that participants should arrive on July 18th. SPECIAL OFFER—For those interested in traveling in the Galilee there will be an option for a two-night tour for an additional \$150 after the conference. REGISTER BY JUNE 15th [www.sabeel.org](http://www.sabeel.org) [or e-mail [youth@sabeel.org](mailto:youth@sabeel.org) for more information.

## Lenten Prayer for Peace

from PaxChristi.org

We come to you, God Creator.  
 You are the source of life and beauty and power.  
 Your son Jesus is the way of faith and hope and love.  
 Your Spirit is the fire of love, the fount of wisdom, the bond of unity.  
 You call us at all times to be people of the beatitudes,  
 Witnesses to the Gospel of peace and love and forgiveness.  
 You call us at this time, when war and rumours of war,  
 weigh heavily on the peoples of Iraq and the Middle East.  
 Their lives are already broken by suffering and violence.  
 We renew our acceptance of your call.

*We promise to work:*  
 To bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness,  
 To bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair,  
 To bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely,  
 the disadvantaged, the marginalized,  
 And to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world.  
 Amen.

# “For the Peace of Jerusalem”

Churches for Middle East Peace  
[www.cmep.org](http://www.cmep.org)  
 May 6-8, 2007  
 in Washington, DC

GO TO [www.cmep.org](http://www.cmep.org) for program and registration info. Join Middle East peace advocates from across the country and a range of Christian churches to: learn about the current issues related to Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking and the sharing of Jerusalem; and lobby Congress with up-to-date, specific talking points designed to make your voice heard. At the CMEP conference, church leaders, issue analysts, policy experts and government officials will provide important insights and updates and prepare conference participants to meet with elected officials. Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of 22 U.S. churches and church-related organizations, is positioned to guide church members and clergy in effective advocacy grounded in the principles of our faith. CMEP will help arrange your meetings with your Representative and Senators.

## 2005-2006 Audits Completed

Friends of Sabeel—North America has completed an independent internal audit of financial statements for the years 2005-2006 and found to be in compliance with standard accounting procedures. This is good news for our fundraising goals because it qualifies FOSNA to apply to grantors that require auditing of records.

## Sabeel Peace Center—a dream coming true

At the August 2006 Leadership Retreat in Portland, a decision to investigate possibilities for establishing a SABELL PEACE CENTER in Jerusalem has actually made progress. A research committee headed by McDonald Sullivan has met several times with Naim Ateek and others and are now moving forward by looking for location opportunities in Jerusalem.

## Your Cornerstone Subscription

Issue 43 (Winter) of the *Cornerstone* theological journal was mailed to you recently. Please keep your membership current to continue receiving this publication in the mail. Donating any amount during the year includes a one-year subscription. All past issues are posted in PDF format at: [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org).

**STAND FIRM... HOLD FAST** 2nd Thursday 2:15

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**by Naim Ateek**  
 community of the land of Israel. It is the prayer and the hope of our friends everywhere. We have a great responsibility to do the following things:  
 1. To encourage local Christians living in the land.  
 2. To reach, strengthen, and deepen the spiritual life and moral fabric of local Christians through personal faith formation, mutual pastoral care, and active and consistent involvement in the ministry of justice and peacemaking.  
 3. To find ways to strengthen these communities through the economic standard of life by finding local means of employment that can help them and their families as they identify and create.  
 4. To support local Christians in the education of their children so that these would be heard and their contributions would be felt in the community at home and abroad.  
 5. To stay connected with our brothers and sisters who engaged and are being engaged and encourage them to stay connected with us.  
 As we mentioned in the Conference, it is the quality of the Christian presence rather than the quantity that ultimately can be effective and can make a difference. The

This issue of *Cornerstone* is dedicated to Sabeel's 15th International Conference which was held November 28-30, 2007 in Jerusalem. The conference focused on the presence of the Christian community and the challenge they are facing. Sabeel will be publishing the conference proceedings in both Arabic and English during 2007.

In this issue we are presenting some highlights of the conference that would be interesting to those who attended and information to those who did not. Having said that, I would like to take the opportunity and thank all those who were able to come. From the evolution

I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Sabeel, the staff, and volunteers who helped us. We had 28 volunteers from 7 countries supporting us and faithfully carrying out their assigned tasks.

In God's Grace of God, the Christian

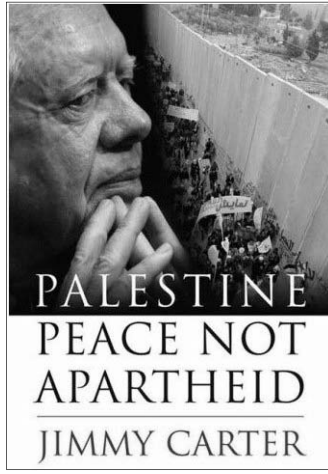
**The World Says NO to Israeli Occupation**



**Washington, DC  
June 10-11, 2007**

**Rally \* Teach-In \* Lobby Day**

**www.endtheoccupation.org  
www.unitedforpeace.org**



**FOSNA Announces New Alternative Travel Web Page**

FOSNA's steering committee member Ann Hafften is maintaining a list of scheduled pilgrimage/alternative travel opportunities in the Holy Land that are now posted at our website. The page will be updated regularly and we encourage readers to submit information on trips not listed to: friends@fosna.org



Most of the trips have a Christian focus, combining traditional pilgrimage and the educational experience of bearing witness to the oppressive realities of military occupation of Palestine in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza—the checkpoints, settlements, the Wall, refugee camps, demolished homes and much more.

Sabeel's international conferences and witness trips of course are included in the listing. Other trips include Christian Peacemaker Teams delegations, Interfaith Peace Builders, Global Exchange, and Middle East Fellowship trips, the 2007 Congressional Accompaniment Project, and numerous trips provide by the Society for Biblical Studies.

Alternative travel in the Holy Land allows you to meet the "Living Stones" of Palestine—the people. You come home with new eyes and a stronger voice to "speak with authority" for justice and peace. So "Come and see" the ancient holy sites and the beautiful churches. Walk and pray on holy ground where Christ lived—in the Galilee, Nazareth, the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

**Web Page:**  
[http://www.fosna.org/conferences\\_and\\_trips/AlternativeTravelOpportunities.html](http://www.fosna.org/conferences_and_trips/AlternativeTravelOpportunities.html)



**Sabeel Colorado**

A course of study for adults, presented by Friends of Sabeel Colorado, asks "How can people of faith contribute to the creation of a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians?" The curriculum and format of this course could be duplicated at your church. The course consists of three to five one-hour sessions, beginning with an introduction to the conflict, and ending with a discussion of ways to advocate for a just peace. View the course brochure at our website <[www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)> and contact the Sabeel Colorado coordinator if you have questions: Joy Lapp <[lappj@earthlink.net](mailto:lappj@earthlink.net)>

**Hope for the Holy Land:**  
Understanding and Responding to Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

**Sabeel Utah**

The Utah chapter of Sabeel is a small group of 8 to 15 non-stop individuals who meet every month but December. We have a simple website <[www.jphl.org](http://www.jphl.org)> which we use to post events and send articles to our list of 996 subscribers. At every meeting we take a few minutes for each of us to fill out postcards and mail to our senators and representatives ( *maybe we will wear them down*). We also use these cards at our events often mailing several hundred after an event. We will be hosting author-speaker Dr. Norman Finkelstein, April 18, at the University of Utah. We are in the process of arranging pre-event radio and newspaper interviews to help build audience. Last week a number

of our group attended Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's talk at the University of Utah. We were successful in getting some good questions asked and passed out some 500+ flyers for Dr. Finkelstein's talk in April. We have a number of other events in various planning stages including participation in a March 17 anti-war rally where we will table and provide a speaker on the Israel-Palestine issue; presentations at two Catholic parishes during Lent; June 10<sup>th</sup> "40-years-under-occupation" event; August 25& 26, Salt Lake City Muslim Cultural Festival. Contact: Frances Remillard <[remillar@allwest.net](mailto:remillar@allwest.net)>

**What Americans Need to Know about**

**Israel-Palestine**

Roots of conflict. Prospects for peace.

**Dr. Norman Finkelstein**

[www.normanfinkelstein.com](http://www.normanfinkelstein.com)



Dr. Norman G. Finkelstein is a professor of political science at DePaul University in Chicago. The U.S. born son of Holocaust survivors, Finkelstein is known for his meticulous, scholarly research pertaining to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His books include *Beyond Chutzpah: the Misuse of Anti-Semitism and Abuse of History* (2005); *The Holocaust Industry* (2000); *A Nation on Trial* (1998); *Justice and Reality in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (1993). Finkelstein's mother, Maryln Finkelstein, survived the Warsaw Ghetto, Majdanek concentration camp, as well as two slave-labor camps. His father, Zacharias Finkelstein, was a survivor of both the Warsaw Ghetto and Auschwitz concentration camp.

**Wednesday, April 18**

**7:00 P.M.**

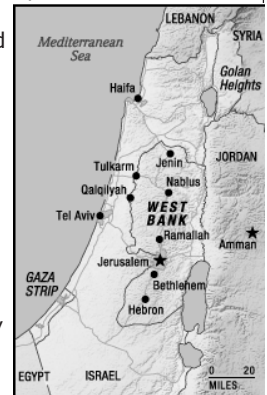
**Social Behavioral Science Auditorium  
University of Utah**

Directions & Parking: Tall building northeast of Rice-Eccles Stadium and immediately south of Merrill Library. From South Campus Drive turn north onto 1500 East & proceed one block to parking lot west of Merrill Library.

Utahns for a Just Peace in the Holy Land 435-783-4411 [www.jphl.org](http://www.jphl.org)  
Campus Committee for Peace and Justice 801-364-0667

**Alternative Travel Internship Opportunity**

Are you a college student in peace, justice, and conflict resolution studies? Would you like to learn more about the Middle East and be involved with others who have many years of experience? Are you seeking specific marketable skills for your chosen professional discipline? You may qualify for a Sabeel Internship. Earn college credit and put your peace studies into action by working for a growing international Christian peace and justice movement. Learn the history and issues surrounding the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, and gain valuable pre-professional skills in peace movement building. Develop your communications, teamwork, and leadership abilities by working with an experienced national volunteer committee and take part in cultivating pilgrimage and alternative travel through existing academic and religious programs in the U.S. Friends of Sabeel—North America is seeking a project developer for our Alternative Travel Program. This is a new project envisioned by our leadership team requiring advance research and promotion. If you are interested, please send a letter of inquiry by email to friends@fosna.org.





## FRIENDS OF SABEEL—NORTH AMERICA

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Portland, OR 97207

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### FRIENDS OF SABEEL—NORTH AMERICA (FOSNA) AREA COORDINATORS

**Northwest:** (Portland, OR) **FOSNA Main Office**

PO Box 9186, Portland, OR 97207 <friends@fosna.org> (503) 653-6625 www.fosna.org  
Rev. Canon Richard Toll, Chair <friends@fosna.org>; Administrative Officer: Sr. Elaine Kelley  
Volunteer Staff: Wilbur and Lori Wood <LoJWo@fosna.org>; Karen Batroukh <kbatroukh@fosna.org>  
**Southeast:** (Chapel Hill, NC) Mary Lou Smith <contact@peace-with-justice.org>

**Northeast:** (Boston, MA) Munir Jirmanus <munirg@yahoo.com>; Barbara Fauth <bo.fauth@att.net>

**Southwest:** (Burbank, CA) Rev. Darrel Meyers <darrelmeyers@webtv.net>

(Newport Beach, CA) Dr. Fred Bush <fredericbush@cox.net>  
(Pasadena, CA) Barbara Bell <MiddleEastMinistry@yahoo.com>  
(Bay Area) Tom Samway <SamTomWay@aol.com> Mary Vivian Zelaya <zelaya@california.com>  
Greg Rienzo <GregoriaRienzo@aol.com>

**Alabama:** Ed LaMonte <elamonte@bsc.edu>

**Colorado:** Joy Lapp <lappj@earthlink.net>

**Georgia:** Sarah Humphrey <answertohunger@firstpresatl.org>

**Hawaii:** Margaret Brown <mbrown@lava.net>

**Illinois:** Newland Smith <n-smith1@seabury.edu>

**Iowa** (southeast) Susan Dravis <hawkiiii@hotmail.com>

Iowa (northeast) Tanis and Robert Diedrichs <barnhill@cfu.net>

**Kansas:** Doug and Andrea Whitmore <whitmoreandy@hotmail.com>

**Michigan:** Betsy Barlow <Edbarlow7@aol.com>; Jon Swanson <jcs1943@att.net>;  
(Detroit) George Khoury <khouryga@yahoo.com>

**Minnesota:** Mary Eoloff <eolof001@tc.umn.edu> Rev. David Smith <DWSMITH@stthomas.edu>

**New York:** Pat Abraham <paabrh@yaho.com> Rev. Max Surjadinata <srjdnt@aol.com>

**Ohio:** Jeff Abood <ifc@neo.rr.com>; Brian Fry <justice@csjcleland.org>

**Pennsylvania:** Rev. David Herndon <dherndon@first-unitarian-pgh.org> Tina Whitehead <world@sabeel.org>

**Tennessee:** Peggy Thomson <P.R.Thomson@worldnet.att.net>

**Texas:** Jack Prince <CEJPRINCE@aol.com> Ann Hafften <annhafften@mindspring.com>

**Utah:** Frances ReMillard <remillard@allwest.net>

**Virginia:** Susan Bell <avocets@earthlink.net>

**Washington (state)** Don Sullivan <sullivanmc53@yahoo.com> Rev. Stan Fowler <revstanf@aol.com>

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