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Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quakers)

A MINISTRY DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RAMALLAH FRIENDS MEETING

November 2014

Dear Friends both near and far,

We greet you in the spirit of hope and in the awareness of the realities here in Palestine.

The renewed focus on the spiritually rooted ministry of the Ramallah Friends Meeting and its' service to the Palestinian community finds a voice in the Sunday Meetings for Worship where a slowly and surely growing number of attenders – some traveling for two and three hours – come to share prayer and song, ministry and discussion, fellowship and bread – all in preparation for their work in the week ahead.

During 2014, more than fifty international groups have come to the Ramallah Friends



The Meeting House during winter 2014

Meeting to learn about Friends history and witness in the region, to understand Friends commitment to living nonviolently in a time and place of injustice and conflict and to listen to the (always requested) lived testimony and peace witness of the Clerk of the Meeting, Jean Zaru. They and the hundreds of international visitors, pilgrims, students, teachers, writers, Quakers, Christians, Buddhists and Jews, come then, to weave the courage and faithfulness

of Ramallah Friends Meeting into their own faith traditions and personal paths. They come for renewal, for reassurance and for a sense of what it means to live as if your faith is your only guide.

Earlier in the year, there were many programs and gatherings. During and after the war on Gaza, the wider Palestinian community was focused on attending to the needs of the people of Gaza, and many conditions made it nearly impossible to resume activities that had earlier



QVA harvesting olives from trees in Meetinghouse garden

been so natural even among local peace activists who had been working with Israeli Muslim and Christian Palestinians and Jews. And so the immediate and current ministry of the Meeting is in the deep and lengthy conversations at the rise of Meeting, the continuous flow of seekers during the week and the abundant welcome and hospitality for all, including the many groups who come to learn about the spiritual basis of peace and nonviolence in a place of suffering.

The garden, available for prayerful quiet and meditation, has been made more available by the grace of our Friend in Residence, Jasmine Piercy from Somerset Meeting (UK). The Meetinghouse and Annex have been maintained as needed

(Over Please)

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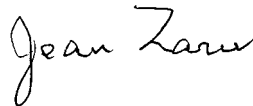
throughout the year so that it will continue to be a home away from home for F(f)riends near and far. The Meeting continues to be a living witness to the durability of Friends testimony of peace for the regional community – a faithful promise of a welcome for leadings of the spirit that can be tested and nourished in a place of trust.

We hope you will find a way to come to Ramallah Friends Meeting, to experience the transforming power of courageous faith, suffering love and restored spirit. If you cannot visit with us in person, please visit the new website **www.rfmq.org** where we hope we can convey even a small sense of things here. We hope that you will join with us, offering your financial support as you are able, lifting up the Ramallah Friends Meeting generously in prayer and sharing the miracle of faith into quiet action.

With loving greetings to you all,



Deb First, Clerk
Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting



Jean Zaru
Clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting