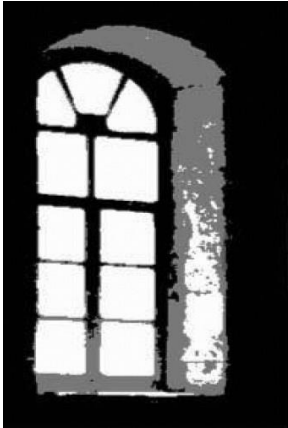


Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quakers)

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RAMALLAH FRIENDS MEETING

May 2018



Steering Committee

Saleem Zaru

Middle East Yearly Meeting
Clerk, Ramallah Friends Meeting

Arlene Kelly

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Clerk, Steering Committee

Leila Barclay

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Treasurer, Steering Committee

Sa'ed Atshan

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Derek Brett

Switzerland Yearly Meeting

Jan Caspers

German Yearly Meeting

Patricia Cockrell

Britain Yearly Meeting

Deborah First

New York Yearly Meeting

Jean Zaru

Middle East Yearly Meeting

Dear Friend,

In this season, here in the northern hemisphere, that which has lain fallow is transformed into life and brings with it a sense of renewal, we send you a greeting built on an enduring hope. Ramallah Friends Meeting stands in the center of Ramallah as a modest but peaceful and unshakeable testament to the conviction that God's Light is a transforming love that welcomes all, changes all.

Were you to come to Meeting in Ramallah, you would be delighted to come to know three of the youngest members attending worship. You would see baskets of children's books, some soft puzzles and drawing materials. In 2016, Lynn Holt, from Northwest Yearly Meeting and sojourning in Ramallah, was led to renew a long-dormant First Day School. Godly Play materials that sparked the older children's interest were among the things Lynn introduced.

Following the end of Lynn's sojourn, the youngsters' interest and engagement has been kept alive through



Jean Zaru and three members of the
Worshiping Community.

volunteer efforts, mainly from the parents, but the time has come to engage a teacher who can be a consistent presence. A small group has committed itself to make the hiring and training of a teacher be a reality by mid-summer – with this having the potential also to grow into expanded work with youth in the wider community throughout the year.

It is our hope that you will feel led to support this on-going and newly developing work of the meeting through your prayers – and as you are able, through your financial contributions.



Lynn Holt, on a return visit,
working with the children.

Additionally, a deep concern has been laid on our hearts and we wish to share that with you. In Gaza, just 50 miles from the meetinghouse, our sisters and brothers are crying out in pain, in hunger, in fear for their loved ones, for themselves and for their community. We choose to hear those cries and we choose to let Gazans know they are not forgotten.

(over)

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We invite you to join us in making a donation for Gaza relief that will be put to use immediately. This will be accomplished through collaboration with the United Palestinian Appeal (UPA) which has an office of 15 staff members as well as partner organizations on the ground in Gaza. These include hospitals, schools, mental health clinics and healthcare providers. One such partner is Al-Asda Hospital, which has treated over one third of the casualties in the northern Gaza Strip since the demonstrations began on March 30th.



Daily life in Gaza today.

Saleem Zaru, the Director of UPA (and, as you know, Clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting) describes how the hospital reached out for help several days ago.

Haneen J. Wishah, the hospital's public relations coordinator, reached out to me this morning with an urgent appeal for **"medication and medical disposables for the emergency and operating rooms."** Haneen stressed that these vital supplies will "save the lives of patients and ensure the continuity of urgent health services."

All gifts that we receive that are earmarked for "Gaza relief" will be immediately turned over to the United Palestinian Appeal. Any gift earmarked for Ramallah Friends Meeting, or without any designation, will be considered for the ministries of Ramallah Friends Meeting.

We thank you for your prayers, your sharing of the Meeting's story and your contributions on behalf of the Meeting and our brothers and sisters in Gaza.

In Peace,

Arlene Kelly, Clerk
Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quakers)

Saleem Zaru, Clerk
Ramallah Friends Meeting