



Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quakers)

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RAMALLAH FRIENDS MEETING

*Give us oil in our lamps, keep us burning, burning, burning
Give us oil in our lamps, we pray*

Spring 2016

Dear Friend,

What an exciting and fruitful time it has been for Ramallah Friends Meeting (RFM) over the past six months and what a fulfilling time for those of us who seek to accompany them in the witness being made! As I share the highlights with you, I hope you can share in the deep sense of fulfillment – because it is your prayers and your generous financial support that have made the continuing Spirit-filled work possible. Your oil has fed the continuing flame of hope in Ramallah and they, in turn, provide oil for our lamps, helping us to remain steadfast in our commitment to accompany them in their struggle for peace and justice.

Over the past few years we have spoken to you of RFM and Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (FRFMQ) being in transition – from the original model, Friends International Center in Ramallah, established in 2006, in which there was a full time Program Coordinator - a position filled by an international - to our current model which is based on strengthening the sustainability of RFM, having a Palestinian staff partnering with Jean Zaru, the Presiding Clerk, and having a strengthened Worshiping Community that brings vitality to the meeting not only at Sunday worship, but during the week as well.

This past February the time seemed right for two members of the Steering Committee, Marla Schrader and myself, to spend ten days in Ramallah supporting the Meeting as it took the next significant steps toward sustainability. It was a wonderfully energizing time in which we experienced firsthand the recent resumption of mid-week worship in the home of one of the Worshiping Community with a shared meal following worship. Regular participants in that community include a couple with two young sons, as well as several volunteers from North West Yearly Meeting (NWYM) who assist at the Friends School and also have an English tutoring program for adults.



Mid-Week Meeting for Worship, February 2016

Steering Committee

Jean 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
(attender)

Derek Brett

Switzerland Yearly Meeting

Jan Caspers

German Yearly Meeting

Patricia Cockrell

Britain Yearly Meeting

Deborah First

New York Yearly Meeting

Marla Schrader

Central Atlantic Conference
United Church of Christ
(on leave)

Saleem Zaru

Middle East Yearly Meeting

(turn page over)



International theologians exchange with Jean on nonviolence, interfaith relations & peacebuilding.

***Give us truth as our guide keep us seeking, seeking, seeking
Give us truth as our guide we pray***

There were three visiting delegations during the time of our visit, academics, pastors and theologians from Africa, Asia and Europe who came for the specific opportunity to hear the thoughts of Jean Zaru and to dialogue with her about her book, Occupied by Nonviolence. It was wonderful, in hearing those exchanges, to imagine the seeding of each participant's further reflections on nonviolence and their having experienced Jean's witness of hope as they returned to their homes and their work.

We chose the specific time of our visit knowing that Eden Grace, Director of Global Ministries of Friends United Meeting (FUM), and her counterpart in NWYM, Shawn McConaughy, would be there. We had extended meetings with them separately and together so that our understanding of their ministries in Ramallah could be more fully understood, so that Jean could report on the ministries of the Meeting, so that we could explore what common ground we had and to think together if there are ways in which we can collaborate. Our conversations were candid and fruitful.

Finally, we went on our trip with the intention of supporting Jean in the interviewing of six candidates and the selection of one to fill a newly established position designed to strengthen the communication capacities of the Meeting – its Website and Facebook page and its capacity to make more accessible her message on nonviolence. This new employee of the Meeting will also take over some of the basic management relating to scheduling and oversight of the meetinghouse.



Friends send Light and Love, in the form of solar lights, to the children of Gaza who lack electricity and face overwhelming humanitarian need, April 2016.

***Give us love in our lives keep us sharing, sharing, sharing
Give us love in our lives, we pray***

Hopefully, the many details shared convey a sense of the energy and growth in vitality that the meeting and its ministries are enjoying. We continue to experience this work as Spirit-led. We pray that you will continue with us on this journey, offering your prayers and financial assistance as fully as you are able.

Your support will help us not only to further strengthen the foundation of the meeting, but also to help nurture the dreams of RFM for future ministries such as a First Day School and youth work. With love in our lives, we share with you this vision that continues to grow to a place of realization.

In Peace,

Arlene Kelly

Arlene Kelly, Clerk of FRFMQ