



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
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Deborah First

New York Yearly Meeting

Jean Zaru

Middle East Yearly Meeting

Friends of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quakers)

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RAMALLAH FRIENDS MEETING

November 2018

Dear Friends,

Recently, when Friends sat in Worship they received the following ministry from Jean Zaru: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). That ministry remains the context in which Ramallah Friends Meeting (RFM) gathers in worship every First Day.

That ministry also remains the context in which Jean Zaru carries out her ministry of receiving groups and delegations of theologians, teachers and youth of all faiths from around the world. For decades Jean has provided leadership among Palestinian Christians in understanding and articulating the faith base of nonviolence; this is a message she has carried internationally until recent years when age and health made those travels more difficult. Through October more than 250 people, in groups of varying sizes have come to the meetinghouse this year to learn from Jean and to share with her. It is a quiet ministry, akin to dropping a stone in a pond, but a ministry of strength and power as those ripples proceed outward to many countries.



Students from Howard and Yale meet with Jean.

Jean graciously contributes her time and energy to this ministry, so the costs are low. Nevertheless, there are the hidden costs of cleaning, heating, administrative support and hospitality—costs that are offset by our contributors generosity.

In other parts of the meeting's life, the First Day School continues as various adults have the joy of teaching the youngest members of our worshipping community, and at the rise of Meeting there is lively

(over)



Putting an extra shine on, Max and Jane Carter Group contribute a work day.

FRFMQ Clerk: arlenekelly@earthlink.net
1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
www.rfmq.org

discussion, refreshments and warm welcome for all visitors. An exciting new development is the possibility of forming a group for Young Adults (30ish). A regular attender of the Meeting who teaches at Birzeit University is exploring this with assistance from Mai Zaru. Mai has completed her studies in the U.S. in special education; and has returned home to serve as the Learning Support Teacher for Ramallah Friends Upper School.

Finally, we want to share the outcome of our Spring Appeal, in which we spoke of the pressing needs at that time for emergency relief for Gaza. Your specially designated gifts, which were combined with those from Ramallah Friends Meeting, totaled \$2,950 for Gaza relief. Through the good services of the United Palestinian Appeal, these funds provided Al-Awda Hospital, in Gaza with desperately needed consumable and pharmaceutical medical supplies.

We hope that you will visit the Meeting's website www.rfmq.org and Facebook page to stay up to date on who is coming and going, what they've seen and how the Spirit continues to move through the Meeting, strengthening the worship, the ministries and the commitment to solidarity for all those who come into its welcoming arms.

This work is possible through your continuing prayers and your financial support, both are deeply appreciated.

In hope and gratitude always,



Saleem Zaru, Clerk
Ramallah Friends Meeting



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



Desperately needed medical supplies on their way to Al-Awda Hospital, in Gaza.