

# 2008 Raffle for Palestine: nine participating organizations.

## 1. *The Rebuilding Alliance*

**Our Mission:** The Rebuilding Alliance, a nonprofit organization, rebuilds homes and communities in regions of war and occupation. We advocate for government policies towards these regions based on human rights and international law. Through a mutual commitment to justice, we create alliances among our supporters, partners, and those who suffer injustice and violence, yet resist through rebuilding. Our projects are symbols of hope that help rebuild shattered communities and offer people around the world immediate ways to make peace, starting with the tangible support of a family's right to a home.

## 2. *The International Solidarity Movement, Northern California*

The International Solidarity Movement (ISM) is a Palestinian-led movement committed to resisting the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land using nonviolent, direct-action methods and principles.

Founded by a small group of activists in August, 2001, ISM aims to support and strengthen the Palestinian popular resistance by providing the Palestinian people with two resources, international protection and a voice with which to nonviolently resist an overwhelming military occupation force.

### **Structure of the International Solidarity Movement**

The ISM is not an organization, but rather a movement which all organizations, groups and/or individuals who agree with our principles can join. The ISM is based in Palestine and is led by Palestinians on the ground. ISM support groups, like the group here in the San Francisco Bay area, and others around the world assist the ISM by disseminating information, recruiting and training individuals to join us.

To join the ISM in Palestine, you must adhere to the following principles:

- 1) Belief in freedom for the Palestinian people based on all relevant UN Resolutions and international law.
- 2) Using only nonviolent, direct-action methods, strategies and principles to work towards our goal.

## 3. *14 Friends of Palestine, Marin*

### *Our purpose:*

To help end the suffering of Palestinians under the Israeli occupation, and to help bring peace in the Middle East without resorting to violence, anti-Semitism, or having to drive over the Richmond Bridge. 14 Friends of Palestine was founded in December 2004 by a group of 14 friends in Marin who wanted to help reduce the suffering of the Palestinian people by volunteering locally.

### *What we do:*

Most of the big organizations helping the Palestinians seem to be in the East Bay. (Jewish Voice for Peace, Middle East Children's Alliance, Americans for A Palestinian State, International Solidarity Movement, to name just a few). We organize fundraisers and do other projects for them here in Marin.

We also provide educational material for local schools and libraries, such as the novel, based on a true story, '**A Little Piece of Ground**' by Elizabeth Laird.

## 4. *Jewish Voice for Peace*

Jewish Voice for Peace is a diverse and democratic community of activists inspired by Jewish tradition to work together for peace, social justice, and human rights. We support the aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians for security and self-determination.

We seek:

- A U.S. foreign policy based on promoting peace, democracy, human rights, and respect for international law
- An end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem
- A resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem consistent with international law and equity
- An end to all violence against civilians
- Peace among the peoples of the Middle East

JVP supports peace activists in Palestine and Israel, and works in broad coalition with other Jewish, Arab-American, faith-based, peace and social justice organizations.

## **5. Free Gaza Movement**

### Mission Statement

We want to break the siege of Gaza. We want to raise international awareness about the prison-like closure of the Gaza Strip and pressure the international community to review its sanctions policy and end its support for continued Israeli occupation. We want to uphold Palestine's right to welcome internationals as visitors, human rights observers, humanitarian aid workers, journalists, or otherwise.

### Who are we?

We are these human rights observers, aid workers, and journalists. We have years of experience volunteering in Gaza and the West Bank at the invitation of Palestinians. But now, because of the increasing stranglehold of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, many of us find it almost impossible to enter Gaza, and an increasing number have been refused entry to Israel and the West Bank as well. Despite the great need for our work, the Israeli Government will not allow us in to do it. We are of all ages and backgrounds. Back home, we are teachers, medics, musicians, secretaries, parents, grandparents, lawyers, students, activists, actors, playwrights, politicians, singer-songwriters, web designers, international training consultants, and even a former Hollywood film industry worker and an aviator. We are South African, Australian, American, English, Israeli, Palestinian, and more.

### What are we going to do?

We've tried to enter Palestine by land. We've tried to arrive by air. Now we're getting serious. We're taking a ship.

## **6. Al-Awda, the Right of Return**

**Al-Awda, The Palestine Right to Return Coalition**, is a broad-based, non-partisan, democratic, and charitable organization of grassroots activists and students committed to comprehensive public education on the rights of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and lands of origin, and to full restitution of all their confiscated and destroyed property in accordance with the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), International law and the numerous United Nations Resolutions upholding such rights.

## **7. Friends of Deir Ibzi'a**

The Friends of Deir Ibzi'a (FODI) are Bay Area activists who traveled to Palestine with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) in the aftermath of the 2002 Israeli invasion. Their unlikely project was to provide accompaniment and support for a children's summer camp in the village of Deir Ibzi'a that had been organized in the midst of a four month military siege of Deir Ibzi'a and the 40 other villages west of Ramallah.

The mission of Friends of Deir Ibzi'a is to work toward a prosperous future and long-awaited freedom for Palestine by fostering safety, well being and educational opportunities for its children through developing, supporting and financing educational and economic programs and furthermore, actively working with the Palestine solidarity community in its aim to end the Israeli military occupation.

We began with a single scholarship program benefiting youth in the village of Deir Ibzi'a and then grew to add a fabulous embroidery program, benefiting women in the village and their families by selling their stunning embroidered purses, shawls and pillowcases. Now, as we move on past our fifth anniversary, we're pleased to announce an ambitious third project: helping to support a computer and community center whose resources will benefit not only the village of Deir Ibzi'a, but also its neighboring villages.

## **8. Hammash Family Scholarship Fund**

The Hammash Scholarship Fund (HSF) is a family to family effort supporting Majd Hammash's undergraduate education at Bethlehem University. Majd lives in the Dheisheh Refugee Camp; the fund's founder and administrator, Larisa and Jeanie Shaterian, are from the San Francisco Bay Area.

## **9. Middle East Children's Alliance**

Founded in 1988, the Middle East Children's Alliance is a registered nonprofit organization working for the rights and the well being of children in the Middle East. MECA sends shipments of aid to Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon, and supports projects that make life better for the children. We educate North Americans about children in the region and the brutal impact of US foreign policy on their lives. MECA welcomes the support of all people who care about children and their future.