



American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
Building Presence – Building Peace

January 2011

25 Old King's Highway North, Suite 13, Darien CT 06820



Thank you!
for your generous support
for the Holy Land in 2010

Greetings!

The results are in for 2010 and your generous gifts provided record support for our brothers and sisters struggling in the Holy Land. AFEDJ received gifts from hundreds of children and adults in the US who gave through St. Nicholas Day activities. We received wonderful gifts from Episcopal parishes and other denominations which will allow children to go to school, clinic doors to stay open, new programs to be developed for our institutes for the disabled and so much more.

But the majority of our support comes from individuals -- those who've traveled to the Holy Land and come back touched and changed. And also from those who have only heard of the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem through their reading or from their clergy or through AFEDJ communications.

Each gift is cherished, each matters and each brings hope to those struggling in a volatile region.

These e-newsletters tell you the impact of your gifts, of the work that's possible as the direct result of your caring and commitment. In the next few months, we'll prepare an annual report which will provide you with a more complete outline of the year. Most importantly, thank you, thank you, thank you on behalf of those we serve and pray for.

- Anne K. Lynn
Executive Director

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Donate Now!](#)

Quick Links

[AFEDJ](#)

[Diocese of Jerusalem](#)

[St. George's College Jerusalem](#)

Elaine Friedrich, in memoriam

Elaine Friedrich taught at the Arab Evangelical Home in Ramallah in the 1970's and worked tirelessly to support their work. Her life as a dancer, filmmaker and peace-maker inspired many. She was the Evangelical Home's most faithful donor and AFEDJ is grateful to her and to her family for gifts, both tangible and intangible which will improve lives.

Elaine died in October at the age of 96. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Vocational Technical School in Ramallah thanks donors



The boys pictured at the top of the page are computer science students at the Diocese of Jerusalem's Vocational Technical School in Ramallah. There are also classes for mechanical drawing, pre-engineering and a program for juniors and seniors eager to enter the hospitality industry. **Church of the Holy Comforter** in Virginia, the **Diocese of Olympia** in Washington and the Presbyterian Church through its **Israel/Palestine Mission Network** along with other generous donors helped 15 students complete their education. This is a gift that will provide benefits literally forever. Thank you, thank you!

Last week, we received a note from Giovanni Anbar, the gifted director of the school. He told us that 70% of their students are unable to pay all or part of their fees. They rely on donors like you to help students stay in school and graduate. **Fees for hospitality students are \$1700 per year.** Fees for younger students range from

\$7 to \$50 a term. Every gift helps keep a child in school.

Giovanni told us of families facing unemployment, disabilities, single parent households and an orphan who lives at the school with his brother and sister. We heard that 95% of last year's graduating class is at university, college or working in a top hotel in the area. We can give these kids this opportunity.

The Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center offers a clear path to a self-sufficient, productive lives. But the school needs scholarship help, a library, classroom and lab equipment. They'd be grateful for your support.

Needs

The Evangelical Home in Ramallah is home to children from broken homes or who have been orphaned, abandoned or abused. This critical facility provides a loving home for our neediest. The cost of supporting one child is \$3500 a year. In addition, school fees are \$1500, and books, uniforms and other needs add \$400. They are struggling to cover these fees and would be grateful for your help. Sr. Najah sends thanks to those who have generously provided aid.

St. George's School in East Jerusalem thanks the many pilgrims who have brought books with them to supply their newly renovated library. If you're planning a trip and would like to bring a book or two, contact AFEDJ at aklynn@afedj.org for a list of possible choices.

Arab Episcopal School in Irbid, Jordan thanks Nick Ghawi in Texas for his wonderful gift which will benefit blind students there. The school needs to add one grade each year to augment the current K-6 configuration. Help them educate and mainstream more disabled students and provide for a productive future for them. Your gift can change the future for a blind student.

Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children thanks Ann Madsen for her gift which will bring music to blind and physically disabled children. The Centre has recently been concerned about security and needs to upgrade fencing and systems to insure the safety of its students. While it isn't glamorous, this expense is of vital importance and Betty Majaj, Director of the Centre would be grateful for your support. The total cost is \$15,000. Gifts of any size will help.



Events, Trips and News



The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the US has sent a letter to President Barack Obama encouraging him in strong terms to energetically support a two state solution in the Holy Land. Her letter can be viewed [here](#). She is shown at right with the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, Bishop in Jerusalem during her visit to the Diocese of Jerusalem last year.

Check out the opinion piece published by Episcopal Life online today, on the critical relationship between peace and justice work and humanitarian aid. For the complete article by **Anne Lynn**, click [here](#).

Didn't get your gift in before the end of 2010? The IRS has extended the deadline for **IRA holders** aged 70 1/2 plus for gifts from their IRA accounts. Gifts made by the end of January will be counted as 2010 deductions. Go to the January GuideStar e-newsletter at www.guidestar.org for more information.

Are you in the Stamford CT area? Join us for the area premier of **Budrus**, an award-winning documentary about passive resistance in a farming village in the West Bank. The showing is on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 at the Avon Theater. Tickets are only \$6 and the director talk with viewers after the film.

St. George's College runs its popular Palestine of Jesus course February 17 and May 31. Course includes travel around the Holy Land, lodging and inspiring teaching staff. Other courses are Praying the Fifth Gospel beginning March 11 and Risen with Christ on April 16. For the full year schedule, go to www.sgcjerusalem.org.

April 6 to April 16, 2011 walk in the footsteps of Jesus with the Rev. Canon John Peterson. Visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth for a Lenten experience. More information from Kathy Spaar at National Cathedral, kspaar@cathedral.org.

April 27 to May 14, 2011 -- An 18 day pilgrimage to the Jerusalem, the Galilee, Amman and Petra will be lead by the Rev. Ernest Cockrell. Cost is \$3050 plus air fare. Information at ewcjsc@sbcglobal.net or njdinsmore@sbcglobal.net.

July 19 to Aug. 3 a group from the Diocese of New York will travel to Jerusalem and Nazareth with an option to go to Amman and Petra. Join them by contacting The Rev. Deborah Dresser at deborahdresser@gmail.com.



The AFEDJ is an independent, non-political 501c3 which helps sustain the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem -- schools, hospitals and institutes for the disabled. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Diocesan institutions foster mutual respect and tolerance in a land torn by turmoil and poverty. Learn more about the work of the AFEDJ or the Diocese of Jerusalem. Visit www.afedj.org to learn about or contribute to any of the important work done in the region.