



ANNUAL REPORT

Indiana Center for Middle East Peace

29 December 2017

2017 was a very busy and successful year for *Indiana Center for Middle East Peace* (ICMEP) as we celebrated our twelfth anniversary as an independent, non-sectarian 501c3 organization in NE Indiana educating, engaging, and empowering citizens for justice, peace, human rights, and intercultural dialogue locally and globally.

In 2017 ICMEP hosted the twelve programs:

- **January 12.** A panel conversation, *Donald Trump, Islam, and the Middle East*, with Dr. Carl Jylland Halverson (University of Saint Francis), Dr. David Waas (Manchester University), and Dr. Andrew Spath (American University);
- **January 26.** *No Child Behind Bars: Living Resistance from the US to Palestine*, with Rev. Amanda Weatherspoon (*Unitarian Universalist for Justice in the Middle East, Black Lives Matter*), Nadya Tannous (*Friends of Sabeel North America*), and Ahed Tamimi (Palestinian village of Nabi Saleh). NOTE: In December 2017, Ahed, her cousin, Nour, and her mother, Nariman, were all arrested for protesting the shooting of her cousin, Mohammed, by the Israeli military. The Tamimi family's home in Nabi Saleh is a regular stop on Michael's "solidarity tours."
- **February 23.** Leila El-Haddad, author of *Gaza Unsilenced* (2015), *The Gaza Kitchen* (2013), and *The Gaza Mom* (2010).
- **March 21.** Rev. Alex Awad (*East Jerusalem Baptist Church, Bethlehem Bible College, Mennonite Palestine Israel Network, United Methodist Church Board of Global Ministries*).
- **April 20.** Film, *The Occupation of the American Mind: Israel's Public Relations War in the United States*.
- **May 11.** *Jewish and Palestinian Voices for Peace*, with Amy Shuster (*Jewish Voice for Peace*) and Jonathan Kuttub (human rights lawyer; *Palestinian Center for the Study of Non-Violence; Mandela Institute for Political Prisoners*).
- **June 3-4.** Third annual ArabFest 2017, featuring Palestinian-American musicians Ronnie Malley, Wanees Zarour, and Latif Bichai, comedy by Muhammad Abbasi, and other music, dance, and story-telling.
- **September 7.** Film, *Voices Across the Divide: An Oral History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, produced by our Gala speaker, Dr. Alice Rothchild.
- **September 28.** Ohioan Tom Hayes (filmmaker), with excerpts of his film, *Two Blue Lines*, the human and political situation of the Palestinian people through Jewish eyes (shot over 25 years).
- **October 21.** Annual Gala, featuring ob-gyn Dr. Alice Rothchild, discussing her book *Condition Critical: Life and Death in Israel and Palestine*.
- **November 9.** Dr. Marc Ellis, *I Couldn't Have Arrived Here Without You: A Reflection on My Encounters with Dorothy Day, Daniel Berrigan, Edward Said, Maryknoll, Naim Ateek, Rosemary Ruether, and Richard Rubenstein on the 30th Anniversary of my "Toward a Jewish Theology of Liberation."*
- **December 20.** Dr. Michael Spath, *Landscapes of the Sacred and the Cry for Justice: Desert, Mountain, and Waters Spirituality*.

We continue to be able to offer all of our programs (with the exception of our Gala and special concerts) without any cost. This is an important part of our mission.

We began an Indiana Center "Partner" program where, by financially sponsoring particular events, individuals receive invitations to exclusive receptions/dinners with our guests.

Board member Ron Caldwell has established a relationship with Hodge Patel, the Indiana State representative for Senator Joe Donnelly.

ArabFest 2017, our third annual ArabFest, was another great success. With increased food sale and sponsors, we were able to break even financially; we were also able to provide more entertainment offerings, a local food vendor, and more organizations sponsoring booths in the souq (market). ArabFest 2017 was such a success that a small group of individuals, including Board members Sam Jarjour and Amar Masri, have “spun off” ArabFest from ICMEP, making it its own not-for-profit organization.

In conjunction with our goal of being a state-wide organization, we advised, helped to organize, shared events with, and provide a financial vehicle for the newly-created *Michiana Voices for Peace*, based in Goshen and Elkhart. We also have a strong partner with Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship, Berne, IN. Finally, we began an introductory conversation with like-minded individuals in Lafayette and West Lafayette.

We continue to maintain an active Facebook page and website, began a regular newsletter, and stay in close contact with our very faithful membership who are updated about the news and issues that impact our understanding of events as they happen in the Middle East and our government’s impact on those events.

Our financial reporting process continues to be refined and strengthened through our contacting with *Jitasa Financial Services*.

Indiana Center for Middle East Peace has been recognized nationally; Michael was invited to be a member of the Board of Directors of the ICAHD-USA (*Israel Committee Against House Demolitions*), led by Jewish activist, Jeff Halper, and the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors for *Friends of Sabeel North America*.

Michael also represented ICMEP at three major Middle East peace/justice advocacy conferences in 2017: *Jewish Voice for Peace Annual Meeting*, *Friends of Sabeel North America Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting*, and the *US Campaign for Palestinian Rights*.

Finally, Michael led two “solidarity tours” in 2017, in March and June, meeting with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious, political, and NGO leaders.