



“WE FOUND OURSELVES TRANSFORMED”

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 Fiscal Year

July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

INTERFAITH PEACE-BUILDERS



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PEACE-BUILDERS**

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2012 Annual Report

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lyad Burnat of the Bil'in Village Popular Committee leads IFPB delegates to the location of Bil'in's weekly demonstrations against the Wall. The village was successful in forcing the Israeli army to move the wall from this place, reclaiming portions of their olive groves and other agricultural lands (photo: Allie Perry).

This is How We Build Movements. . . Welcome!

This has been a landmark year for Interfaith Peace-Builders. We are honored to share highlights of the year with our friends and supporters.

We want to capture as much as possible of all that we do – the **transformative experiences**, the **people-to-people connections** we foster, the **movement-building** – in one place. We know how vital and reaffirming it is to stop and take stock of our successes and our place in the burgeoning movement for justice and peace in Israel/Palestine. It's an exciting time!

For the first time in a long time, everywhere we look we see signs for hope. Major Christian denominations are having substantive discussions about fiscal responsibility, their investments, and the conflict. Local and national boycott initiatives are gaining steam and claiming victories. Long-time friends and allies in Bil'in celebrated a partial victory; the Wall was removed from some, but not yet all, of their land. More public figures and artists join the cause for peace, justice, and a better future for Israelis and Palestinians every day.

As we tune-in to this buzz of **creative activity for justice**, we are gratified to see the unique and varied contributions that Interfaith Peace-Builders' delegation alumni bring to these movements. As you will read in the following pages, **IFPB delegations continue to provide unrivaled access to the most inspiring and visionary grassroots activists in Israel/Palestine**. Not only that, but in the last year, we have rolled out a ground-breaking African Heritage Delegation and an environment-themed delegation. And, to make delegations accessible to as many as possible, we have created a new program to allocate substantial funds to youth from our general (and newly renamed) *Scott Kennedy Memorial Scholarship Fund*.

Since the beginning, IFPB has distinguished itself by the quality of post-delegation support offered by our unique *Education and Advocacy Program*. Major strides forward this year include: a completely revamped skills-training program to connect delegates with movement leaders via interactive online webinars; follow-up to maximize the impact of the African Heritage Delegation; regional networks to strengthen connections among delegates; and more.

While it is inspiring to see signs of hope, much work remains. **Our friends in Israel/Palestine tell us the role of international civil society grows more vital every day.**

Interfaith Peace-Builders exists, quite literally, because an extremely committed core of supporters, donors, volunteers, staff, and board *believe* we play a critical role in preparing North Americans to make contributions to the movement for peace and justice. We invite you to read on and see what we have accomplished together in the past year.



Barbara J. Wien

Barbara Wien
Chair, Board of Directors



Mike Daly

Mike Daly
Program Coordinator

Programs: Year in Review (July 2011 – June 2012)

New Initiatives and Major Accomplishments

◆ **FIRST AFRICAN HERITAGE DELEGATION –**

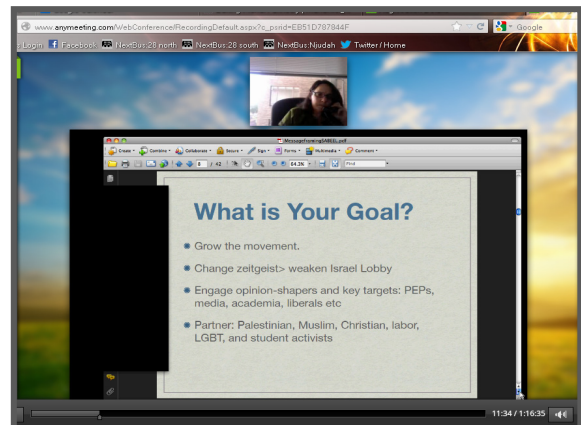
To link struggles and to widen our movement, IFPB's first ever African Heritage Delegation sent 14 activists, teachers, ministers, and others to Israel/Palestine in 2011. Delegates already have led 50+ education and advocacy follow-up events. A fuller accounting of the successes of this trail-blazing delegation can be found at: www.ifpb.org/africanheritage.



The women of the African Heritage Delegation with Suheir Owdah of the Phoenix Center in Deheisheh Refugee Camp.

◆ **EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY SKILLS ONLINE TRAINING CURRICULUM –**

A dramatic leap forward in our ability to support and mentor delegates *after* the delegation experience, our new online training curriculum for recent delegates puts them in direct contact with some of the most vibrant and creative movement leaders in North America. Delegates get a chance to learn from and strategize with leaders from organizations like Jewish Voice for Peace and the US Campaign to the End the Israeli Occupation. Webinars cover topics like “Messaging and Framing,” “Media Advocacy: Getting Your Voice Heard,” and “Congressional Engagement” to name a few.



Cecilie Surasky of Jewish Voice for Peace leads an IFPB Online Training on “Messaging and Public Speaking” for the benefit of recent delegates.

◆ **MORE – AND LARGER – YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS –**

Starting in Spring 2011, IFPB unveiled a new scholarship program with two goals: 1) provide more financial aid to people under 30 to increase their participation in delegations; and 2) attract more of the best young activists into IFPB's network. Thanks to the generous support of donors, we have surpassed even our ambitious projections on both counts. In two years, 57 youth applied for scholarship consideration, and IFPB was able to grant a total of \$10,000 to 20 youth scholarship recipients.



Young IFPB delegates attend weekly demonstration in Sheik Jarrah, Jerusalem. Pictured (left to right) are: Brittany Jacoby, Ali Obertubbesing, and Nata Orisma.

◆ **FIRST ENVIRONMENT-FOCUSED DELEGATION –**

The May 2012 delegation focused on the environmental cost of prolonged occupation and conflict. In addition to the traditional full schedule of IFPB meetings, the delegates met with new groups like *Friends of the Earth-Middle East* and *ARIJ* and visited a sustainable development project in the Palestinian village of Susya.



Members of IFPB's first environmental delegation walk along the former route of the Wall in Bil'in, and tour the village's recently reclaimed agricultural lands.

◆ **"THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AND PALESTINE" AT OCCUPY AIPAC –**

Before a capacity crowd of over a hundred people gathered across the street from the yearly AIPAC convention, this panel brought together five recent African American IFPB delegation participants to speak about their experiences in Israel/Palestine and to share their recommendations for organizing with and among communities of color on this issue.



IFPB's panel at Occupy AIPAC featuring IFPB delegates Felicia Eaves, Rev. Heber Brown III, Sterling Pack, Rev. Carolyn Boyd, and Rev. Avery Blakeney (photo: Emily Siegel).



Some of the faces and places of Interfaith Peace-Builders. Clockwise from top left: (1) La Trina Jackson and Sterling Pack of the 2011 African Heritage Delegation; (2) Members of IFPB's New England Regional Network at their first meeting; (3) IFPB's amazing and eloquent guide, Said Rabieh, enjoying a rest in Sakhnin with May 2012 delegation leader Philip Farah; (4) IFPB delegates throw up a fist at the site of the Wall between Bethlehem and Jerusalem; Palestinian boys crowd the camera in Jenin; and (5) IFPB delegates meet with aides to Virginia Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner in Washington, DC.

Year in Review

Continuing Impact

As the highlights on the previous pages attest, Interfaith Peace-Builders continues to innovate and grow, bringing our mission and vision to more people in more ways than ever before. At the same time that we have pursued new opportunities, we have kept the core programs strong. IFPB's delegations educate and inspire, and post-delegation mentoring hones skills that delegates use to strengthen the movement for justice in Israel/Palestine.



The 2011 Olive Harvest Delegation at the Wall in Jerusalem. This special delegation was the last led by Scott Kennedy who is standing far right (photo: Paula Endo).

DELEGATIONS - IFPB organized four delegations this year, with each delegation focused on one of the following themes: youth, the environment, the olive harvest, and connecting struggles between African Americans and activists in Israel/Palestine. With 92 travelers ranging in age from 14 to 81, our delegates brought a wealth of diversity and experience. Delegates hailed from

over 30 states and self-identified in over 15 different religious and spiritual traditions, including Jewish, Muslim,

Christian, atheist, agnostic, and Buddhist. Traveling in interfaith and intergenerational groups ensured that delegates not only learned from the Israelis and Palestinians they met, but also networked and learned from each other.

Delegation meetings connected participants to over 50 different organizations, communities, and individuals in Israel/Palestine this year. Highlights included meetings with the *Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD)*, *American Friends Service Committee's* Ramallah and Gaza programs, *Sabeel*, *New Profile*, *Palestinian Fair Trade Association*, *Al Haq*, *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*, *Parents Circle-Families Forum*, *Palestinian Hydrology Group*, *Friends of the Earth Middle East*, *Other Voice*, the *Lajee Cultural Center*, *Zochrot*, and more.

Delegate evaluations continue to indicate high levels of participant satisfaction with the program. This year, evaluations emphasized the benefits of our two-day orientation program, our top-notch leaders, the attention to detail and depth of our itinerary, and the continued support from IFPB staff before, during, and after delegations.



Jeff Halper, founder of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, speaks to IFPB delegates in Jerusalem (photo: Paula Endo).



A dozen IFPB delegates rally with other volunteers at the United Methodist Church General Conference in Tampa, Florida. IFPB delegates also played active roles in the Presbyterian (PCUSA) Convention in 2012.

MOVEMENT BUILDING - This year, IFPB delegates published more op-eds and letters to the editor than any previous year. Delegate-authored op-eds and letters ran in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post*, as well as local papers in Allentown and Bethlehem, PA; Boulder, CO; Laconia, NH; and Spokane, WA. Delegates featured prominently in news stories from Maine to California, including at least 25 states in total. Radio programs featuring delegate interviews extended our media reach from Florida to Oregon and many points between, and the nationally-syndicated *Michael Eric Dyson Show* highlighted two members of the African Heritage delegation. Online stories abounded, from the *Huffington Post* to *Mondoweiss*, the *Daily Kos*, and the *Electronic Intifada*.

IFPB delegates did much more than hit the airwaves and newspaper pages. Taking advantage of IFPB's "Messaging and Public Speaking" trainings, they organized hundreds of presentations around the country. Delegates continue to lead grassroots initiatives, such as helping to catalyze newly-formed efforts for boycott, divestment and sanctions.

All this work is paying real dividends. Delegates helped spearhead movements that led to the United Methodist and Presbyterian (PCUSA) churches voting this summer to boycott all Israeli settlement products. IFPB delegates also participated in campaigns focusing on *TIAA-CREF* and *Quaker Fiduciary*, two bodies which recently decided to end or limit investments in certain companies complicit in Israel's occupation of Palestine. Other IFPB delegates play leading roles in ongoing campaigns focused on *Veolia*, *Hewlett Packard*, *SodaStream*, and other multi-national corporations also tied to Israeli human rights violations. In sum, the 92 people who traveled on IFPB delegations this year reached hundreds of thousands through media work, public speaking and organizing.



IFPB Delegate Tony Muir calls for tying US military aid to illegal Israeli settlement expansion in this op-ed published in *The Morning Call* of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The Financial Picture

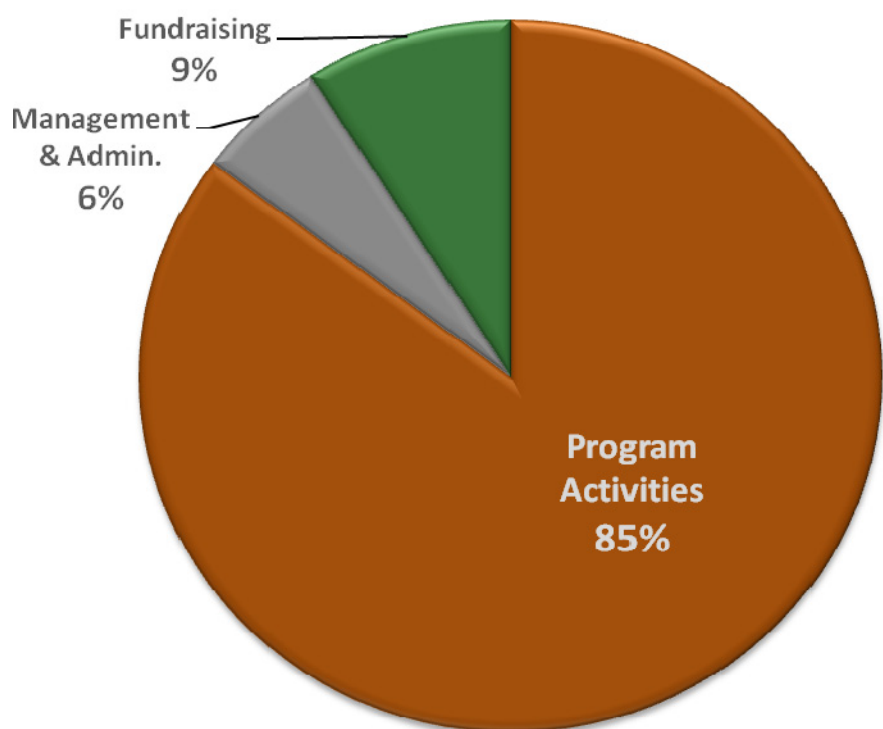
Statement of Financial Position on 6/30/2012

	Total
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	135,833
Accounts Receivable	451
Total Assets	136,284
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	0
Credit Cards	40
Net Assets	
Retained Earnings	128,344
Opening Balance Equity	0
Net Income	7,900
Total Net Assets	136,244
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	136,284

Financial Position and Statement of Activities

Statement of Activities for Fiscal Year 2012

Support & Revenue	Fiscal Year 2012
Contributions	133,003
Delegation Revenue	289,122
Delegation Partnership Support	6,000
Education/Advocacy Program Revenue	2,500
Interest	375
Total Support & Revenue	431,000
Expenses	Fiscal Year 2012
Direct Delegation Expenses	268,566
Education/Advocacy Program Expenses	7,766
Occupancy (Rent & Utilities)	8,872
Fundraising	6,835
General & Admin	10,875
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	110,476
Employee Health Benefits	8,099
Contracted Expenses	1,610
Total Expenses	423,099



Functional Expenses

A great portion of IFPB's expense (85%) goes directly to **programming** – that includes delegations and our work to support education, activism, and organizing after delegations. The table below gives further breakdown of functional expenses.

	Program Activities	Management/ Administrative	Fundraising	Total
Direct Delegation Expense	266,087	0	0	266,087
Staff Travel	2,880	444	1,308	4,633
Education/Advocacy Events	1,200	0	0	1,200
Mailing Costs	812	437	3,009	4,259
Printing	1,828	984	3,826	6,638
Dues & Subscriptions	350	0	0	350
Occupancy	6,293	1,289	1,289	8,872
Bank Fees	979	950	950	2,879
Insurance	1,377	172	172	1,721
Telephone & Internet	2,393	513	513	3,418
Supplies	1,448	704	704	2,857
Salary & Payroll Taxes	69,600	16,571	24,305	110,476
Employee Health Benefits	5,102	1,215	1,782	8,099
Contracted Expenses	322	966	322	1,610
Total	\$360,671	\$24,247	\$38,181	\$423,099

Remembering Scott Kennedy (1948 – 2011)

Scott Kennedy, Chair of the IFPB Board of Directors, trip leader for many, and friend to us all died November 19, 2011, just one week after co-leading Interfaith Peace-Builders' Olive Harvest Delegation.

To say that Scott had an enormous impact on Interfaith Peace-Builders would be an understatement. Our work of sending delegations was rooted in delegation work that he pioneered, starting with a trip that Scott and Allan Solomonow led in 1975. Since that time, Scott's work with the *Resource Center for Nonviolence*, the *Fellowship of Reconciliation*, and *Middle East Witness* all contributed significantly to the program that we know as Interfaith Peace-Builders today. Scott has been a tireless advocate, a dedicated trip leader, an active and engaged board member, and a joy to learn from and work with.

His work with IFPB was but one of his many projects which spread from Santa Cruz, the city he loved unconditionally, to Israel/Palestine, whose nonviolent leaders he supported at all costs. He dedicated his life to helping others, to seeking justice, and to spreading the power of active nonviolence.

When Scott received the *El-Hibri Peace Education Prize* in 2008, IFPB Senior Fellow Joe Groves wrote a tribute to Scott. We include it here:

I have worked with Scott Kennedy on Middle East peace education for twenty years in many varied venues. What fun! Even though we live on opposite coasts, our collaboration has been consistent, from forming Middle East Witness to take delegations to Israel/Palestine, to working together on FOR's Middle East Task Force, to collaborating on FOR's Interfaith Peace-Builders Program, to creating an independent Interfaith Peace-Builders organization. That's one of Scott's defining features — creating anew by building on strong and deep relationships. Programs can come and go — it's the people who are crucial. A second defining feature is that Scott makes the work fun, in a deep, complex way that far exceeds laughter (although there is plenty of that). It is fun stemming from creativity, imagination, stimulating conversation, immense energy, and profound commitment to the work of Middle East peace. We need all of those qualities to sustain work on Israel/Palestine in the midst of consistently grim and discouraging realities. Someone who brings fun to Middle East work — what more can you ask! And what better way to lead in peace education.

Scott is sorely missed. We feel the utmost gratitude to have known, worked, and laughed with him. Tributes to Scott's life and work, submitted by IFPB delegates and friends and colleagues in Palestine/Israel, are available at www.ifpb.org/about/scottkennedy.html.



Scott Kennedy picks olives at the Tent of Nations on one of his last visits to Israel/Palestine with IFPB.

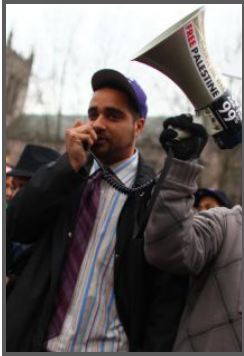
Scott Kennedy left many things as a legacy to his long years of work for peace and justice in Palestine/Israel.

Scott's advocacy included tireless efforts to bring as many people as possible to meet with Palestinian and Israeli peace-builders. He often raised money to bring young and low-income activists on the delegations he led.

In honor of Scott's efforts, and to continue the work that he pioneered, Interfaith Peace-Builders re-named our scholarship fund in his honor. In fiscal year 2012, the **Scott Kennedy Memorial Scholarship Fund** helped **22 people** participate in IFPB delegations and gave out **more than \$13,000** in financial aid. We hope to build on this success in coming years!

In Their Words: Delegates' Experience of IFPB

Nothing shows the transformative power of IFPB delegations and post-delegation support better than the words of participants. We are happy to close with some of their reflections.



"The African Heritage Delegation was amazing. I learned so much from traveling with people who had lived under Jim Crow and seeing Palestine through their eyes. Thank you for all your hard work to make this such a meaningful experience. This trip truly changed my life and it wouldn't have happened if you all hadn't done such a great job—before, during and after the trip. My highest recommendation! **There is no other way to truly understand the conflict.**"

Jesse Hagopian, African Heritage Delegation participant

"It was a transformative experience. I plan to encourage members of my church to do this as well. It's rare to find an organization that not only has a powerful mission but executes that mission so well. **I loved it, was transformed by this experience, and look forward to sharing my experiences with others.**"

Kathleen Rolenz, November 2011 Delegation participant



"Despite my background and non-stop involvement in solidarity work, as well as two short visits in '89 and '09, **this trip has been invaluable in my intellectual and emotional understanding** of Israel's "Matrix of Control" (Jeff Halper's term) and the amazing work that its opponents are doing. I realized that I had huge gaps in my understanding and I'm sure no other group offers the kind of program to fill such gaps. The delegation felt like close family. I love them all-- like brothers and sisters."

Philip Farah, May 2012 Delegation leader

"What a rich, varied, powerful trip this was. **Already something of minor veterans in the cause, we found ourselves transformed to a level of urgency we'd not had before.** You deserve all the praise possible for the outstanding work you've done in making this experience possible for us."

*Bob Schaible and Sally Bowden-Schaible,
May 2012 Delegation participants*



Interfaith Peace-Builders' unique program builds on over 35 years of experience in sending delegations that prepare participants to work for justice when they return.

The *Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)* founded Interfaith Peace-Builders in 2000, but *FOR's* experience in the region dates back to 1975 with its first delegation to the Middle East. Over the next decade, *FOR's* delegations deepened engagement with a wide range of Israeli and Palestinian groups, in particular the *Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence*, *Israelis and Palestinians for Peace*, *Yesh G'vul*, and *Gush Shalom*.

In 1989, *FOR* played an important role in designing and leading a new organization, *Middle East Witness*. Modeled on *Witness for Peace* in Nicaragua, *Middle East Witness* placed long-term volunteers in the West Bank and sent short-term delegations during the First Intifada. *FOR* continued organizing occasional delegations throughout the 1990s.

When the Second Intifada broke out in 2000, the *Fellowship of Reconciliation*, at the invitation of the *Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People* and the *Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions*, launched Interfaith Peace-Builders (IFPB). That IFPB was a new program with a new name heralded a commitment to more frequent and regular delegations. **IFPB's creation also signaled a new emphasis on maximizing the activism, education, and advocacy efforts of returning delegates with comprehensive support for retuning participants.** IFPB existed as a program of *FOR* until mid-2006 when Interfaith Peace-Builders became an independent US-registered nonprofit.

As of mid-2012, Interfaith Peace-Builders has sent 723 people to Israel/Palestine on 41 separate delegations. Delegation participants use the experience as a springboard for participation in – and increasingly, leadership of – local and national educational campaigns and grassroots efforts for justice led by Israelis and Palestinians. Individuals return from delegations primed to influence the media, speak publically about their experience, engage elected officials on the issue, and do much more. **IFPB's delegation-inspired education and advocacy efforts are the building blocks of a movement for justice that grows stronger every day.**

Mission. Interfaith Peace-Builders fosters a network of active individuals who understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the US role in it. To nurture this network, we lead delegations of people from diverse backgrounds to Israel/Palestine. These delegations emphasize learning from those immersed in the reality of the conflict and advancing the work of Israelis and Palestinians committed to nonviolent struggle and peace with justice. We empower delegates to educate their local communities upon return and advocate for a more just US foreign policy.

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