

# ***INTERFAITH PEACE-BUILDERS***

## **Winter 2006 Newsletter**

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### **We've Moved....in Many Ways!**

Our big move was the shift to becoming an independent organization, now working in partnership with Fellowship of Reconciliation which founded Interfaith Peace-Builders. And the work moves on, with two more delegations and adjusting our lens to respond to the new landscape created by the Israel/Lebanon war. We've also moved offices, and created a website!

### **What's new....**

We now share a great office space with Peace Brigades International and the US Office on Colombia. Special thanks to former IFPB delegate Barbara Wien of Peace Brigades International for making it possible! Contact and visit us in DC at:

Interfaith Peace-Builders  
1326 9<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Visit us at our new website: [www.ifpbdel.org](http://www.ifpbdel.org)

New program email: [office@ifpbdel.org](mailto:office@ifpbdel.org)

Joe's email: [jgroves@ifpbdel.org](mailto:jgroves@ifpbdel.org)

Mike's email: [mdaly@ifpbdel.org](mailto:mdaly@ifpbdel.org)

New Fax: 202.232.0143

### **What's the same....**

Same old phone number: 202.244.0821.

We maintain a presence on the FOR website ([www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)) to highlight our continuing connection and collaboration with FOR. We have a similar link to FOR on our new web site.

### **Board of Directors**

New organization, new board! We have an exciting mix of people, some of whom have worked with IFPB over the years and some of whom are relatively new to our work. It's great to have such energy, expertise, and experience on board. Our first six board members are:

**Michael Brown**, currently a fellow at the Palestine Center. Previously, he was the executive director of Partners for Peace and Washington correspondent for Middle East International. He has published op-eds in the Baltimore Sun, International Herald Tribune, theNation.com, and other papers. Michael has periodically helped IFPB with media work since 2002.

**Ilise Cohen**, a Middle East peace activist for the last 14 years and now a PhD student in anthropology focused on issues of equity and justice in the Middle East. She has worked with AFSC's Middle East program in Atlanta and San Francisco, served as Vice-Chair of FOR's National Council, and has led three IFPB delegations.

**Shady Hakim**, currently a student at Georgetown University where he is completing an MA in Arab Studies and a PhD in History. He worked with AFSC on the Middle East Peace Education Program in Los Angeles, volunteered with CPT in Hebron, and participated in the IFPB August 2004 delegation.

**Scott Kennedy**, co-founder and Middle East staff member of the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz, CA. He is a former Chair of the FOR National Council, Chair of the FOR Middle East Task Force, and was instrumental in creating IFPB. He

has led over 30 delegations to the Middle East, including seven for IFPB.

**Mara Kronenfeld**, currently a Senior Program Officer in the External Affairs department at AMIDEAST. She holds an MA in Middle East Studies from NYU and studied as a Fulbright scholar in Damascus, Syria from 2001-2.

**Alta Schwarz** has been involved with Middle East peace issues since 1995, and works with organizations that are Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Arab based, including Tikkun, Brit Tzedek V'Shalom, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. She has visited Israel/Palestine three times, most recently in March 2006 as a leader of an IFPB delegation.

## **Moving Forward on Sustaining IFPB**

### ***Our recent successes....***

Our five years of experience with FOR have helped us craft a lean, well-allocated, realistic budget for 2006-7 of just over \$88,000. Even with our program start-up costs included, we have dedicated 74% of our budget to direct program activities, as the chart illustrates. The other 26% goes to modest overhead for office space and the crucial work of raising more money to continue our work.

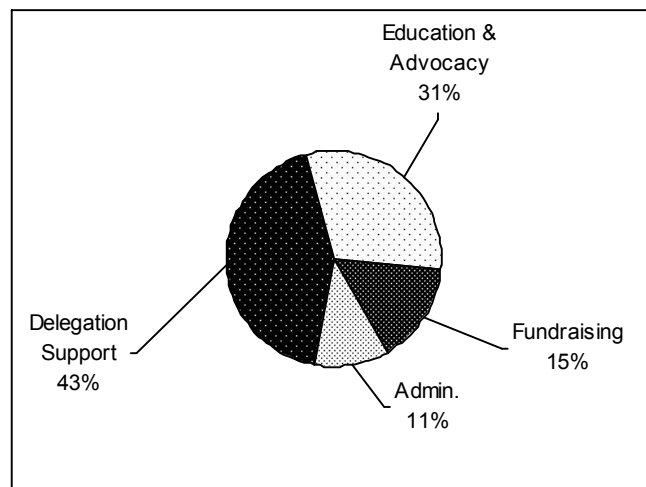
Thanks to FOR's initial support, successful delegation recruiting, and individual donors, we find ourselves in a strong financial position after our first five months. With revenue of \$64,000 reasonably anticipated, we have covered 72% of our budget for the fiscal year (ending July 1, 2007).

### ***...and our New Year's Resolution***

That's great; it also means that we need a generous response from individual donors to meet our remaining needs of \$24,000. Thanks to the generous contributions from 31 delegates and 50 friends of the program, we have already raised \$10,000 from individual donors.

We have an ambitious New Year's resolution to raise double that amount—\$20,000—from individuals by the end of January. Doing so would secure resources for IFPB through July 1—and give us time to begin grant applications and individual appeals for the next fiscal year.

So now is the time for friends of the program to step forward and make a generous year's end or new year's contribution to help secure the future of IFPB's vital work.



*FY 2007 Budget*

## **IFPB Delegates in Action**

Many of our delegation alums have been doing exciting education work and activism for peace with justice in Palestine/Israel. Here are some recent highlights:

### ***Responses to the Lebanon-Israel War:***

Former delegate **Ramzi Kysia** was living in Lebanon (doing research for a book) when the war began. He wrote several articles that were published online at *Counterpunch*, *CommonDreams*, and *Electronic Lebanon*. He continues to work with LebanonSolidarity.org to resist war and renew shattered communities in south Lebanon.

Two former delegates traveled to Lebanon after the outbreak of the war. **Judith LeBlanc**, the United for Peace and Justice National Co-Chair, traveled with a small peace delegation to express solidarity with the Lebanese people. **John Barber** traveled to Lebanon and worked with LebanonSolidarity.org for several weeks. His photos of the aftermath of the war are on his website ([www.onebrightpearl.com](http://www.onebrightpearl.com)) and he has contributed pieces to *Counterpunch*. See his blog at: [www.onebrightpearl-jb.blogspot.com](http://www.onebrightpearl-jb.blogspot.com)

### ***Organizing local conferences and workshops***

Three former delegates, **Jim and Ginger Kenney** and **Andrea Whitmore** were instrumental in organizing a two-day Friends of Sabeel conference in Kansas City. The conference had over 300 attendees each day and featured speakers from Israel/Palestine as well as activists from the US. You can see video from the conference at the conference website: <http://www.kcsabeelconference.org/>

**Lee Porter** and **John Van Wagoner**, two July 2006 delegates, are working with Sharing Jerusalem and have held two comprehensive workshops in the DC-Baltimore area this fall. Another is planned for January. The workshops introduce churches and individuals from other religious traditions to the Sharing Jerusalem campaign and provide practical hands-on experience in how to create and implement a church action plan. Learn more at: [www.sharingjerusalem.org/](http://www.sharingjerusalem.org/).

### ***Leadership in national organizations working on our issues***

At the most recent US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation conference in early September, Joe Groves, the IFPB Co-Director, enjoyed seeing several former delegates and co-led a workshop with other

delegation programs that focused on coordinating our work.



*Delegates picking olives on a Palestinian farm, November 2006*

The **Rev. Diane Ford Jones**, a participant on the July 2006 delegation, was elected to the US Campaign Steering Committee. Diane brings organizing experience to the US Campaign and will act as liaison between the US Campaign Steering Committee and IFPB to help us coordinate our work. To learn more about the US Campaign, visit their website: [www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org)

### **\*\* 2007 Delegation Dates \*\***

March 17 – 31

May 26 – June 9

July 28 – August 11

November 3 – 17

## **Continuing to Make Strides in Follow-up Support**

A **new section of our website** is designed to highlight some of the important work that our delegates do when they return. Check [www.interfaithpeacebuilders.org/us](http://www.interfaithpeacebuilders.org/us) for recent delegate activities and links to delegates' independent websites.

We have improved and expanded the **Follow-up Packet** that each IFPB delegate receives. It features new sections that 1) prepare delegates for common post-trip emotions, 2) provide practical tips for public speaking, congressional lobbying, and media work, 3) highlight national campaigns, and 4) introduce our partner organizations.

May 2005 delegate Zara Zimbardo is completing a **follow-up survey** of past delegates. Zara, a FOR National Council member, came to us with the idea of a survey—to ask delegates what they felt, did, and wanted to do after the delegation experience—to assist us in improving IFPB's follow-up support.



*July 2006 Delegates with Israeli Women in Black*

## **Building Partnerships**

Interfaith Peace-Builders envisions partnerships with related organizations as a way to make efforts on Israel/Palestine more connected, complementary, and effective. We are excited that we have already formed partnership relationships with three organizations:

**The Fellowship of Reconciliation:** IFPB's parent organization, FOR, has provided partial funding and valuable support and advice in our initial phase. We participate in many FOR program staff conversations and continue to represent FOR in Israel/Palestine and coordinate with FOR in the US on education and advocacy.

**The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC):** The November Olive Harvest delegation was a highly successful first collaboration between IFPB and AFSC. Each organization sent a co-leader and recruited participants. We worked together on delegation planning and incorporated visits to AFSC's programs and partners in olive oil production. Now we look forward to working with local AFSC offices to support delegates' follow-up activities.

**Partners for Peace:** IFPB works with Partners for Peace to plan advocacy efforts by connecting returned IFPB delegates to the Partners for Peace "Jerusalem Women Speak" tours. On our delegations, we also meet several Israeli and Palestinian women who have worked with Partners for Peace.

### **Learn More. . .**

We hope you enjoyed learning more about our recent work and successes and we appreciate your continued support.

To read reports from recent delegations, see photos from the region, and learn about delegate follow-up activities, please see our website: [www.ifpbdel.org](http://www.ifpbdel.org)