



Building PEACE through Personal Experience

CALLED TO BUILD
PEACE WITH JUSTICE

My Commitment to Sustaining this Work

Carolyn Cicciu, a retired teacher from Goffstown, New Hampshire, traveled on Interfaith Peace-Builders delegations in 2008 and 2012. **Carolyn began to donate monthly in February 2011, and recently raised her monthly contribution.** We asked Carolyn to share her story and why she's made a sustained commitment to IFPB:



Carolyn dons traditional Palestinian dress during her first homestay in Bil'in (photo: Thea Niefeld)

*Interfaith Peace-Builders is important to me because of its education work. The resources which IFPB shares with participants provide a background that no other travel group does. **IFPB helps us access and share the human stories that are so often lost in the media's coverage of Palestine/Israel.** I recently raised my monthly donation because I realize how deserving this organization is. Salaries for the staff are very low, but the work is so important! **I hope I can up the amount next year again as I reevaluate my resources!***

I retired in 2008, after 36 years of teaching English to junior high aged students. I see retirement as a time to focus on issues that only received part-time attention before. Shortly after retirement, I found out about IFPB's May delegation, which I saw as a personal invitation.

*My most memorable delegation experiences involve personal contact with Palestinian families who, though limited in resources, share with outrageous generosity. **In 2008 and 2012, I stayed with the same family in the village of Bil'in and have developed a relationship with one of the sons.** Hamde spoke during my first visit of his need to experience life free of occupation. During my second visit, he had returned to care for his parents and found his calling as a photo-journalist sharing life under*

occupation with the world. We communicate via email and facebook. Hamde's passion, compassion, steadfastness, and joy are captivating. I am happy to have been able to work with him to raise money for a book, and to keep up with his efforts in unison with other young adults who are working toward peace and justice through non-violent resistance.

***I am currently working to form a New England regional group to support Palestinians.** Our local Palestine Education Network has led some good actions. Most recently, we brought Dr. Marc Ellis to the state for a couple of speaking engagements, we do presentations at retirement homes and churches using photos from our IFPB delegations, we are planning vigils to protest Elbit Systems and a Democratic Party fundraiser, and have coordinated joint demonstrations with Open Shuhada Street in Hebron. We also write op/eds, letters to the editors, articles, and letters to our Congresswomen.*

***Without Interfaith Peace-Builders, I would not have been doing these actions nor would I have met so many others equally concerned about peace and justice in Palestine/Israel.** That is why I am committed to this organization, and why my monthly donation is the least I can do!*

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Join Carolyn by making a monthly donation in the enclosed envelope or at www.ifpb.org/donation

IFPB Brings the Grassroots Advocacy Training to *Expose AIPAC*

Interfaith Peace-Builders is pursuing our commitment to pair innovative delegations with pointed and effective education, advocacy and organizing work here in North America. Earlier this month, IFPB renewed our landmark Grassroots Advocacy Training program, holding our 4th event in the series.

The Grassroots Advocacy Training was one of the highlights of this year's *Expose AIPAC* mobilization which took place March 2 – 5 in Washington, DC. The *US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation* again joined as a close organizing partner, and this year *CODEPINK* and the *Fellowship of Reconciliation* were also event co-sponsors.

Initiated by *CODEPINK*, the goal of the mobilization was to protest the annual convention of the *American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)*, held each year in DC. Hundreds of people from around the country participated in the mobilization, including 29 IFPB delegates. **Thanks to the many participants, AIPAC had a tough week in Washington.**

IFPB participated as an endorser in past events organized by *CODEPINK* – including sponsoring the “Palestine and the African American Experience” panel in 2012 – but this year we stepped up our involvement by bringing leading activists and experts to DC. **Among the speakers were Phyllis Bennis, Jonathan Kuttab, Robert Naiman, Jamal Abdi, Philip Farah, Rebecca Vilkomerson, Medea Benjamin, Josh Ruebner, and Ramah Kudaimi.** Panels and workshops covered a variety of topics, including the US weapons trade, the role of AIPAC in US policy, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement, how to get active after your visit to Palestine/Israel, and more.

The weekend's events were covered in diverse media outlets. Highlights included Josh Ruebner's op/ed in *The Hill* and Rebecca Vilkomerson's piece in *The Huffington Post*. Partner organizations, the *US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation* and *Jewish Voice for Peace*, also ran simultaneous advertising campaigns in the Washington, DC metro and on mobile trucks circling the AIPAC Convention.

Meanwhile, we mobilized hundreds at AIPAC's doorstep. *CODEPINK's* creative actions and props drew attention to illegal Israeli settlements, expressed solidarity with Palestinian political prisoners on hunger strike, and more.



Jamal Abdi, Policy Director at the National Iranian American Council, speaks at the Grassroots Advocacy Training (photo: Jamal Najjab)



Thanks to all those who made these events a reality!

The work continues now, as AIPAC pushes to exempt military aid to Israel from sequestration. If they get their way, needed social services such as education, healthcare, and more will be sacrificed.



Clockwise from upper left: IFPB's Jacob Pace moderates keynote discussion featuring Robert Naiman, Phyllis Bennis, and Jonathan Kuttab; IFPB delegates Pat Salomon and Julio Rodriguez meet with other participants from Massachusetts; Israeli settlements go "Gangnam Style". . . this really happened; and one of the ads run by US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation in the DC Metro (photos: Jamal Najjab)

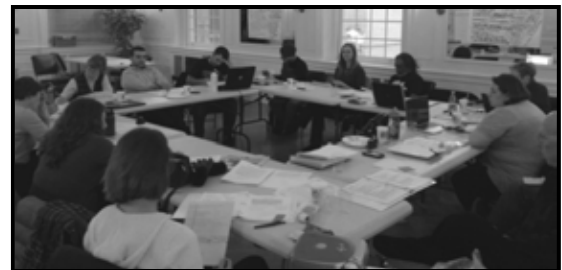


The Grassroots Advocacy Training provided seasoned organizers and new activists with skills and experience, and the Expose AIPAC mobilization put those skills to use immediately! These photos capture the symbolism and power of the actions held in front of the Washington DC Convention Center where AIPAC held its annual convention on March 3 and 4, 2013 (photos by Doug Sanford; except lower left photo by anonmedia).

IFPB Board of Directors Meets in DC

Board Meetings are not always the most exciting ways to spend your weekend, but at Interfaith Peace-Builders things are different! **IFPB's committed, active, and engaged board met during the first weekend of February and while snow flurries whipped around outside, the room was on fire with ideas and energy!**

Our discussions were grounded in IFPB's identity and our work to build a stronger, deeper, and more diverse movement for justice in Palestine/Israel. After a 2012 full of exciting new programming, we move forward in a new year full of opportunities for further growth and sustainability.



Even More Scholarships for Youth!

Interfaith Peace-Builders 3rd annual scholarship competition for students and young adults wrapped up in January with over 20 finalists competing for two \$1000 scholarships and a number of smaller prizes. Thanks to the success of the program, more students and young people are able to afford the cost of travel to Palestine/Israel, and benefit from IFPB's Education and Advocacy work. Already in 2013, IFPB has offered approximately **\$8000** in scholarships to **17** individuals. That adds to the more than **\$13,000** made available in 2012 through IFPB's *Scott Kennedy Memorial Scholarship Fund*.

A Sustaining Gift

Making a Monthly Contribution to Peace and Justice is E-A-S-Y

Thanks to the continued generosity of donors like you, Interfaith Peace-Builders has built a vibrant and cutting edge program.

IFPB's work is making genuine contributions to a growing movement in North America seeking a just solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict and a new direction for US policy in the Middle East.

Your contributions give IFPB the chance to develop innovative programs like the **Grassroots Advocacy Trainings** and the **African Heritage Delegations**; and ensure that our unique **Education & Advocacy Program** grows to meet the needs of the changing political and movement landscape.

Thanks to your support we are also able to respond to opportunities like organizing a **Delegation to the Gaza Strip** for the first time since 2003, and accepting the invitation of the Dorothy Cotton Institute to co-sponsor the **2012 Civil & Human Rights Delegation**.

We pinch pennies and work hard to make sure every cent is spent wisely. **And we could use your contributions even more sensibly if we could better predict when and how they come.**

That is why we are asking you to sign up today to make monthly recurring donations to Interfaith Peace-Builders.

Making your donations monthly is super easy! You can do it online or via the enclosed envelope.

Check out the two **examples at right** to make your monthly recurring donation to IFPB's work for justice and peace.

Thanks for being there for IFPB!

Make a Recurring Donation at ifpb.org/donation:

The screenshot shows the IFPB online donation form. It includes fields for First Name, Last Name, Email, Address, City, State (California), Zip, and Phone. The donation amount is set to \$25 per month, recurring indefinitely. The form also includes a section for credit card information (Card Type: Visa, Card Number: 1111 1111 1111 1111, Exp. Date: 09/2017, Security Code: 111) and a 'Submit' button. A note on the right says 'CLICK "RECURRING CONTRIBUTION" & CHOOSE FREQUENCY "EVERY MONTH"'. A note at the bottom right says 'CHOOSE THE AMOUNT YOU WANT TO DONATE EACH MONTH'.

... Or Donate Monthly with the Enclosed Envelope:

The image shows a handwritten donation envelope for Interfaith Peace-Builders. The name is 'MONTHLY SUSTAINER', the address is '111 MONTHLY AVE, SUSTAIN, CA 91111', the phone is '415.111.1111', and the email is 'sustainer@monthly-ifpb.com'. The envelope includes a 'YES!' statement: 'I would like to support the voices of Palestinian and Israeli peace-builders at this crucial time. Please accept my tax-deductible contribution of: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other'. The donor has selected 'Other' and written '\$25'. A note says '(leave your phone number above and we will call you to discuss payment details)'. Other options include 'I would like to learn more about including IFPB in my will and/or estate planning', 'My check is enclosed (payable to Interfaith Peace-Builders)', and 'Please charge my: Visa MasterCard'. The account number is '1111 1111 1111 1111', the expiration date is '01 / 15 (mm/yy)', and the CSC is '111 (3 digit security code)'. The envelope also features social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

OH NO! Interfaith Peace-Builders' May 2013 delegation with Noura Erakat and Josh Ruebner is full (*sorry!*)

... But there is still **PLENTY OF SPACE** on the following **2013 DELEGATIONS**:

AUGUST 10 - 23: Led by Sydney Levy and Gretchen Merryman-Lotze (co-sponsored by AFSC)

NOVEMBER 2 - 15: Led by Sami Abed (co-sponsored by the Resource Center for Nonviolence)

APPLY TODAY AT: www.ifpb.org/delegations