This week in PALESTINE

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Message from the editor

The month of Ramadan is well under way and people have already gotten used to its rhythm. In fact, around the middle of this holy month people start inviting one another to break the fast together and partake of the many delicacies that find their way to the Ramadan table. The sentimentality people feel during this month notwithstanding, many are painfully reminded of the hundreds of their fellow citizens in the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip who have to take their Ramadan meals in tents, following the destruction of their homes by the Israeli army. Not to mention the hundreds other who feel no joy during this Ramadan – or any other, for that matter – following the murder of their loved ones, especially their young children.

Amal Nashashibi, a Jerusalem resident and an avid lover of the city, takes us on a tour of the Ramadans past, revealing the customs observed during this month and especially during Eid El-Fitr that follows. It is interesting to see that some customs have been upheld since many years back. It seems more and more people are being inspired to write poems on the prevailing political/social situation. This issue features two such poems penned by locals and expatriates that comment on various aspects of our existence.

Palestine has always had talented minds who were lured into working abroad due to better facilities and pay. Many are employed in the high-tech sector. Those who have chosen to stay or opted to return after a stint abroad have already made a difference on the IT sector in Palestine. This was evident at the EXPOTECH exhibition in Ramallah a few months ago. Two enterprising Palestinian firms joined forces to produce electronic and digital equipment to better suit the needs of the local market. Find out more on that on page 31.

The whole team of This Week in Palestine wishes its readers a happy Eid, in the hope for better days to come.

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Mary Geday
Dr. Mary Geday is assistant professor of English Literature at Al-Quds University

A song to my students

I write my clotted instrument into a stony thistle and make the reed sing, an anthem to undoomed youth. They are the hebronites who are late to my saturday morning classes because the checkpoints’ dirty green faults the earth’s black and blue beneath the yellow nail. I want to undoom them. They are dust from jenin, measured and centrifuged before they park their eyes and ears on the concrete gate. Then they polish their shoes before they reach my classroom. My students are beautiful. One eye not in place. Bowed legs and brown teeth and some very thin. The waist of a man raised on a bowl of crushed thyme and a weary village. They all smile. Always. Except some who rarely smile. But their shirts are stiff as starch, ironed with an iron fist, pressed until the hot polyester screams I am a line. I sing to the Palestinian student because he does not want to cry willing to learn and willing to live despite the broken chair.
During the whole month of Ramadan, Moslems break away from strict social norms and enjoy a freer spiritual, physical, gastronomic, economic and recreational life. This statement may shock some people who think that Ramadan is the month of strict discipline and self restraint. In fact, it may be so during daylight hours, but not between sunset and dawn. Few people, including the elderly and members of Sufi groups, protract strict self restraint during the nights and throughout this month.

Normal life during Ramadan resumes every night from sunset to dawn. Everything thrives during these hours except office business because it is not done during "hours." Whereas business in offices slows down, the business in the Souk (marketplace) spins very fast. While the corporate world, visiting tourists, foreigners and some of our Christian brethren may suffer from this inverse system, the rest welcomes the month with a lot of joy. Children play in their neighbourhoods late at night without supervision. They can become riotous and very noisy but neighbours will not complain. Women can shop, go to the movies and visit with friends until the early morning hours. The poor and needy are showered with kindness and alms.

Depending on one’s inclination, personal gratification during the “normal” hours in Ramadan is plentiful. At sunset, while some choose to be at the mosque, praying and breaking their fast with basic food such as dates and water, others race to the table to indulge in eating until they can hardly stand up. While some are looking for everlasting blessing of seeing the Janneh (paradise) after death and the vision of God after resurrection, others are looking for instant blessing with a delicious Iftar at home with all the family members gathered around the table, and for a night out and about until daybreak. Shops remain open at night, streets buzz with people and street vendors. Coffee shops are full. Families exchange visits and Iftar invitations.

For those who seek instant blessing, the menu of Ramadan abounds with endless varieties. It ranges from the basic to the most indulgent. In daily Iftars you will find dates, water, Fatteh (a mixture of bread and bouillon), which is basic food that religious tradition tells us the Prophet Mohammad ate at Iftar every day. But alongside this abstinent food, you will find five different appetizers, four rich dishes, five kinds of relishes and pickles, four kinds of drinks, and three special kinds of sweets, including Kinaffeh and Katayef. Janneh can wait.

Katayef is certainly a royal sweet which has the taste of sin. It could not have been created by or for paradise seekers. This wonderfully succulent sweet makes its appearance on the first day of Ramadan, just like the moon. It even resembles the shapes of the moon when it is full and when it is a crescent. It has a romantic effect on people: they long for it, and its appearance makes its ‘lovers’ very happy. Our Christian brothers love it as well. Another thing that also appears during Ramadan is a very fragile snack which Palestinians love as much as Katayef. They are Barazek Na’mine (soft crunchies), an ultra thin and crispy round cracker studded with sesame seed.

Natural drinks are preferred during Ramadan, even by kids. In Palestine, there are three main drinks that are prepared at home or by specialized vendors. These are liquorice, carob and bitter almond. No matter how good mothers are in preparing them at home, the best are gotten on the market. In each city, there is a maestro that prepares them. Some vendors of liquorice and carob add visual and sound effects. These vendors roam the streets at night in a festive costume with a bright fez on the head. They call out to attract buyers to the music of cymbals they play in one hand. Their appearance delights children, to whom they often offer drinks for free.

Everybody in Ramadan should have good food and be entertained. Passers-by are sometimes invited to join the Iftar. Rich people hold special iftars for the peaceful resting of the soul of a loved person. Some rich people hold public iftars anyway. In fact, in Ramadan people donate generously out of a sincere belief that anybody who is fasting should eat as well as they do.

In Jerusalem, my city, and not in the too distant past, poor children used to embark on extremely amusing adventures every night in the Old City to get food or money. Children would accompany the baker’s boy exactly when the Ramadan meal starts at sunset. The latter becomes the leader as he knows the names of all the heads of households. They would push their toy, which is a wheel driven by a stick, and leave it to roll by itself until it stops at the entrance of a certain house. Then they follow it. The baker’s boy starts to sing:

“When it not for Abu Khalil”
We would not have come
We would not have taken the trouble
Open the money bag
And give us something
Or, give us two dishes of Baklava.”

When they are invited into the house, they start to sing for the children:

“Baby Mohammad is suckling milk at his mother’s breast
The milk is like pearl beads in his mouth
May God protect his father
May God protect his mother.”

It goes on. These wonderful songs were improvised by the children themselves as they went along. There are many varieties
to this children's song, which is found in all the Palestinian cities from Jaffa to Haifa and from Nablus to Gaza.

In big cities in Palestine, Ramadan is almost identical. People pray at the mosques and take to the streets after the night prayers. Merchants keep their shops open. Street vendors line the plazas immediately after Iftar. The varieties that they sell are infinite. Coffee houses swell with people. Big and famous coffee houses used to attract entertainers from Syria, such as famous storytellers and one-man shadow theatre performers. Hakawatis (storytellers) used to tell the stories of Arab heroes and theatre performers would perform sketches of two very funny characters, "Karakos Wa Iwas." Men would spend a wonderful time at these coffee houses until a little before daybreak.

In the villages the customs were almost the same, but on a much smaller scale. The well-to-do families offered food for the same reasons others did in the cities. At night people gathered in coffee houses to hear their home-grown Hakawati. In the plaza of the village children played games. Home-made sweets were sold by children too. The youth sang and danced in groups.

This social exuberance in the streets has an equal energy and liveliness that takes place in mosques, where there are continuous prayers that last until the early morning hours. Anybody who fasts should pray. And almost everyone prays in mosques during Ramadan. But while some leave immediately after the evening prayer and go on to have a night out, others stay in the mosque and hold dhiker sessions, which mean remembrance and invocation of the name of God. These rituals include prayers for God's forgiveness, recitation of the Quran and the invocation of blessings and peace upon the Prophet. They are woven into one litany, which expresses a triple aspiration toward purity, perfection and truth.

While any practicing Moslem could do them, the Sufis bring Quran recitation and dhiker to higher levels of quality because of the mystical intent they bestow on them. And in Ramadan, the Sufi dhiker sessions are held in mosques and at different Sufi centres every night. Sufis also take fasting during Ramadan to higher levels. It is a kind of fasting in which the individual abstains physically, mentally and spiritually from anything that draws a veil between him and God. God must become his only Beloved, his only goal, his only aim. In Jerusalem Sufi Majalis (gatherings) are still in existence. One group is called Zawiyet Al-Alawi (Alawi quarter). They are affiliated to a group in Morocco. Interestingly enough they have a website (www.alawi.asso.dz).

Finally, with the bustle of public places in Ramadan there is a certain peacefulness in the soul. A peace that descends on the heart from above, giving the feeling that God accepted the fasting and the praying. People who fast during the day feel that a protective power is looming above them at night. This is why children are allowed to stay out late at night and women are freer to move around.

After taking you on a wonderful trip of past Ramadans, I feel I have to mention how Ramadan is this year. In Jabalia in Gaza, children broke their fast on the first day of Ramadan to the sound of live mortar shells instead of Ramadan's mock canon. (In big cities old canons are used to fire a single shot to signal sunset.) The happy nights of Ramadan are reduced this year to buying sweets and returning home to eat them alone, as visits to family and friends, especially in Jerusalem have been barred by the Separation Wall. Extended family Iftars are considerably reduced as people fear they will miss them as they wait at checkpoints. Night worshippers from the suburbs are barred from reaching the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Wall, not to mention the checkpoints that completely bar worshippers from entering Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem and Palestine, we, Moslems and Christians, have experienced many troubled times and occupations across the ages. However, we have always rebuilt our lives and even found ways to enjoy it and to celebrate our social and religious feasts. This is how Ramadan and Easter celebration rituals have lived on.

Amal Nashashibi is a resident of Jerusalem and a frequent contributor to This Week in Palestine.

Hanania's writing is founded in professional journalism and is described as "compelling and poignant." He is a two-time Award Winner (1985, 2003) and four-time finalist for the Society of Professional Journalist "Lisagor Award" for Column writing. He has received two Chicago Newspaper Guild Column Awards for Excellence. Hanania writes a regular column analyzing Middle East events for Creators Syndicate based in Los Angeles. The columns are internationally syndicated and carried by major American newspapers, including the Chicago regional Daily Herald Newspapers, as well as by newspapers in the Middle East, Europe and Asia. His columns run regularly in the Dallas Morning News, Newsday, Orlando Sentinel, the Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo), al-Asharq al-Awsat (London), the Jerusalem Times, and in many other prestigious publications. The columns seek to define "the moderate Palestinian voice" clearly seeking the moral position between right and wrong in a region overwhelmed by tragedy and suffering. Hanania's syndicated columns offer a unique perspective on the Middle East conflict and he is the only Palestinian American professional journalist whose columns are nationally syndicated.

Hanania has authored several books including "The Moral Jihad: Defining the Moderate Palestinian Voice in the Battle Against Extremism" (Tahit al-Ard Press, 2004); "I'm Glad I Look Like a Terrorist: Growing Up Arab in America" (USG Publishing, 1996); "Troubled Times: Palestinian American Thought before and after Sept. 11th," which features 98 of his award-winning columns; and "The Grape Leaves of Wrath" (USG Publishing, 1999).

During his sabbatical, Hanania became active in advocating a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict. He served as the National President of the Palestinian American Congress (1995-1996) elected on a platform of peace. He attended the 1993 White House peace signing between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, and participated in numerous meetings with President Clinton, President Arafat and officials of the Palestinian and Israeli Labour governments.

He was a board member with Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam through the 1990s. He currently serves on the Entertainment Council of One Voice for Peace. He is also a founder of Yalla, Salam! (Palestinians for Peace Now) which seeks to express a Palestinian voice of peace in today's bitter conflict. He has participated in many press conferences with Jewish American and Israeli leaders supporting a peaceful, just compromise between Palestinians and Israelis. He works with many Arab and Jewish organizations including Americans for Peace Now and Brit V'Zedek. And he is a founder of Comedy for Peace, a professional effort to bring Palestinian and Jewish American and Israeli comedians to comedy stages in Israel and in Palestine.

Hanania hails from a prominent Christian Jerusalem family. His mother is from Bethlehem. His wife, Alison, is Jewish, demonstrating in life that Arabs and Jews can live together in peace. As he explores the complexities of the Middle East, he often taps this unique personal experience.

Hanania was in Palestine recently to attend the Media for the Future Conference organised by the Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership And Rights Activation (PYALARA). Despite the miserable situation that Hanania witnessed in Palestine, not least of which was crossing the notorious Kalandia checkpoint on foot, yet he left the country with a 'ray' of hope. He was encouraged by the open-minded, educated youth he met who were interested in the field of communication and not only in becoming doctors and lawyers. He was impressed to hear the young generation speak its mind, without fear or concern, and to challenge the norm, socially and even politically.

His main message regarding the Palestine issue is that "we need to learn how to communicate better in telling our story." To Hanania, the fact that a message is truthful is not sufficient enough to be effective. It is how the message is delivered that counts. Living and working in America, which he thinks will lead the world for many years to come, he claims that compelling human stories from a Palestinian perspective have not reached the American audience. He also believes that the Palestinian issue is a winnable and an easy battle. One should not give up on America since public opinion can change fast. Palestinian stories of fairness, justice and human tragedy affect Americans considerably and will have a positive impact on the Palestinian cause. Hanania affirms that it is essential for the international audience to identify with the Palestinians. Not only that, but they need to realize that what goes on in this part of the world will affect them as well.
Historical Background

Arising from the experience of pilgrimages of penitence to the Holy Land, which commenced in 1882 under the direction of the French Assumptionist Fathers, the idea to build a representative pilgrims' centre in the Holy City for promoting French pilgrimages was conceived in 1884. After twenty years of continuous efforts, including the generous aid of thousands of French pilgrims, the house was completed and crowned with the great statue of Our Lady in 1904. The complex was named “Notre Dame de France.”

Until the First World War, the edifice also served as a seminary for Assumptionist students and housed a famous museum. The building was heavily damaged during the conflict between Israeli and Arab forces, and after 1948, it became located at the edge of “no man's land.” Even after the frontiers were opened, the situation did not improve. Deprived of outside help, the few remaining fathers left, as they were unable to maintain the complex. They sold the entire property in 1970 to the “Ha'amuta,” a branch of the Jewish National Fund, which donated the building to the Hebrew University for use as a students' residence. The Holy See was able to reacquire the building in 1972 and the late Pope Paul VI undertook the project of restoring the Notre Dame as a pilgrims' centre in the Holy City.

The Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Centre, as the place is now called, comprises a guesthouse with 147 rooms, a church, a coffee shop, a French restaurant “La Rotisserie,” a library, a TV room and a media centre with satellite TV and computers with Internet connection. There is also a state-of-the-art conference and cultural centre, including the 500-seat Pope John Paul II Auditorium.

The Professional Promotion Hospitality Section

The Professional Promotion Hospitality Section (PPHS) was established in September 1990 at the Notre Dame Centre in coordination with the Institute of Hotel Management and Tourism at Bethlehem University. The programme received a grant from “Fondo Mondo Unito,” awarded by his Holiness Pope John Paul II. A team of academics, supported by the Dublin Institute of Technology and including professional instructors from the local hospitality industry, assisted in formulating the PPHS’s structure and its programmes.

PPHS aims at increasing awareness of the hospitality industry in the local market by educating and training students and enhancing their prospects of a secure career within that industry. Hospitality professionals are also encouraged to enhance their professional knowledge and development through the programmes offered by the PPHS.

PPHS is the address for obtaining quality education, training and professional certification in the hospitality industry. The section offers two-year educational courses in Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts. The first is designed to provide education and practical training for those who wish to pursue a career in the rooms division and front desk operations while the second is designed to educate students in professional ethics and methods of food preparation and service. In addition, PPHS has special afternoon courses in accounting, languages, computer science, and professional cooking courses by qualified and prominent local chefs.

Graduates of both courses offered by the PPHS obtain a certificate accredited by Bethlehem University and the Dublin Institute of Technology. Those who wish to pursue their education further have the opportunity of enrolling at Bethlehem University towards a Bachelor’s degree in hotel management or acquiring a professional Certificate from the Educational Institute of the American Hotel and Lodging Association in the USA.

Almost seventy-five percent of PPHS’s graduates are currently pursuing their career paths in different fields of the hospitality industry in the region. Since the hospitality and tourism industries are an important sector and are at the core of the Holy Land’s economy, PPHS opens doors to high school graduates, providing them with employment opportunities for remaining in their country. Between the years 1995 – 1998 a six-month cooking and service training course was developed for the Ex-Detainees Rehabilitation Programme, a programme undertaken by the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs and which was offered in Nablus, Ramallah and Jerusalem.

Over the years, the Professional Promotion Hospitality Section has been keen to develop its courses to meet European standards. Several training courses for various sectors were successfully implemented in the charcuterie, hot kitchen and pastry sections. Furthermore, the PPHS is a member in several international organizations including the International Association of Hotel School Directors (EUHOFA), the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant & Institutional Education (CHRIE), the International Hotel & Restaurant Association (IH&RA), and the World Association for Hospitality and Tourism Education and Training (AMPHORT).

Find out more about the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Centre at www.notredamecenter.org
Crushed by Silence

By Mats Svensson

At 2:30 a.m. on September 11, 2004, the soldiers leave Gaza. As memorial ceremonies are held all over the world, a little girl tries to move a block of cement, and pulls her bag out from underneath it. A woman looks out over all the dreams that have been turned into sand and falls to her knees.

Beit Hanun, Gaza. 2004. Soldiers take over a block of flats. Old people, women, children, breadwinners are all driven away. The families don’t have time to bring anything with them. On the roof terrace of the second floor, the young soldier – a sniper – lies down on a mattress. Quietly and calmly he waits. His colleague plays music on the radio, comes over with a cup of coffee. An elderly man, supported by a cane, is on his way back to the house. He lifts a stick with a white flag tied to one end, high so that everyone can see it. The young man, who is just over twenty and whose sniper training is his best merit, steadies his hand against the edge, takes careful aim and shoots the man through his hand. The flag falls to the ground. The soldier will never forget. The incident will be etched into the very core of his being, maybe he will never again sleep through a whole night.

I am in Jabalya Camp, Gaza. It is the day after September 11, 2004. It is the day after the Israeli soldiers pulled out for a short while. Now that they are gone, I can go out on the battlefield. It is calm and quiet. I hear no weeping or screaming. A woman gives me half a green apple. She is a woman, a wife, a mother. “We are four families,” she tells me. “Between us, we have 21 children. We had four houses, now we share two tents.”

They are crushed by bulldozers
They are crushed by human beings
They are crushed by silence
Slowly, as if she wants every word to make an impression, she tells her story. One hand rests on her son’s shoulder. She flings out her arm and looks toward her husband who lies passively under a piece of cloth. “Soldiers came, they forced us away. They guarded us while bulldozers came in from two directions. They demolished our houses.” “I don’t understand,” she says. “I don’t understand. They just came, as if they were passing by.

We know it all. We’ve seen it all. We’ve heard it all. But we don’t understand. Innocent men, women, young boys, old people, young girls, children, babies. I don’t understand but maybe I am starting to feel the extent of this. I felt it when I spoke to the woman, when I saw the sorrow and the strength in her eyes, when I sank into the sand dunes. The tanks had just run over people’s dreams. They redesigned gardens into sand dunes, family houses into piles of sand. Backwards and forwards they went, and didn’t leave anything of use behind.

On September 11, 2004, at 2:30 a.m. the soldiers left Gaza. A few hours later memorial ceremonies were held all over the world.
The Forum of Music Conservatories in the Arab World

The Forum of Music Conservatories in the Arab World was officially established in 2003 during the first regional conference hosted by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM) in Istanbul, Turkey. The Forum is the body that brings together music conservatories and institutes in the Arab World for discussing and finding solutions to various common issues such as the curricula of oriental music, textbooks, production and publication units, a scholarship fund for talented students, and the establishment of the first Arab Youth Orchestra, among other things.

The Forum's first meeting was held in Amman, Jordan, from 5-7 October 2004. The conference was organized by the ESNCM and was held under the patronage of the National Music Conservatory, Noor Al-Hussein Foundation in Jordan. It was attended by directors of music conservatories and educational institutes from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan and Tunisia. Two representatives from Gothenburg University in Sweden, representing SIDA, the Swedish International Development Agency, attended the conference, as SIDA is the main donor for this project which was initiated by the ESNCM four years ago.

The city of Jerusalem was chosen as the headquarters for the Forum, and during the meeting, the new Executive Board was elected and it includes: Suhail Khoury, ESNCM, Palestine, President; Berthe Honein, Holy Spirit University, Lebanon, Vice-President; Dr. Abdul Hamid Hamam, Yarmouk University, Jordan, Secretary; Dr. Fawzi Shami, Director of the Cairo Conservatoire, Egypt, Treasurer; and Hussein Al-Athami, Director of the Music Studies Institute in Iraq, Member.

Among the participants in the conference were two major composers, Toufic El Bacha from Lebanon and Habib Thaher Al-Abbas from Iraq. El Bacha, who from 1949 to 1951 worked at the radio station in Ramallah and then went on to Jerusalem to help establish the station there, read out a letter in which he dedicated his musical composition “Heroica,” Suite Symphonique opus 62 to the Palestinian people. The piece was played by the Cairo Symphony Orchestra with El Bacha as conductor.

“The music is a tribute to the wonderful days I spent in Ramallah between the years 1949-51, the time of the establishment of the Jerusalem radio station. This city instilled in me the desire to produce and excel, which I derived from its inhabitants, whom I adopted as my family. I send my salutations to Ramallah which has always given me hope, may you return triumphant; to holy Jerusalem; to the heroic city of Nablus and its people, especially the great poetess Fadwa Touqan who always inspired me with new ideas whenever we met. And how am I to forget the great poet Kamal Nasir, Birzeit’s prodigal son? To Ramallah and to all the other cities and villages of Palestine I dedicate ‘Heroica,’ the inspiration for which came from the soil and soul of Palestine.”

Dalia Habash
PR Officer, ESNCM
The initial focus has been put on preparing sustainable, long-term Fair Trade channels and producers across Palestine to create into the Fair Trade practice. Also works to recruit other Palestinian firms the Palestine Fair Trade Programme. PFTA The work of these two entities combined form products, such as olive oil and honey, abroad. With PFTA to market fairly traded Palestinian Fair Trade company, works hand in hand traditions. Canaan Fair Trade, a Palestinian Fair Trade principles and in sync with Palestinian PFTA and are compatible with international Fair such principles have been developed locally by PFTA and are compatible with international Fair Trade principles and in sync with Palestinian traditions. Canaan Fair Trade, a Palestinian Fair Trade company, works hand in hand with PFTA to market fairly traded Palestinian products, such as olive oil and honey, abroad. The work of these two entities combined form the Palestine Fair Trade Programme. PFTA also works to recruit other Palestinian firms into the Fair Trade practice. The Palestine Fair Trade Association (PFTA) launched its first campaign with Palestinian olive oil. The roots of the olive tree spread deep and far into the earth, symbolizing the Palestinian people’s rooted history in this land. Olive farming and olive oil production represent the largest sector of farmed land in Palestine. The olive tree also represents an ancient history for the Palestinian people, dating back thousands of years. Palestinian olive orchards are nurtured as part of the family, passed down from one generation to another, and represent people’s collective heritage and connection to the land.

PFTA is a national union of farming and producing cooperatives, traders, and processors based in Jenin that promotes and supports fair and equitable trading principles. Such principles have been developed locally by PFTA and are compatible with international Fair Trade principles and in sync with Palestinian traditions. Canaan Fair Trade, a Palestinian Fair Trade company, works hand in hand with PFTA to market fairly traded Palestinian products, such as olive oil and honey, abroad. The work of these two entities combined form the Palestine Fair Trade Programme. PFTA also works to recruit other Palestinian firms into the Fair Trade practice.

The Palestine Fair Trade Association works on a product by product basis, individually assessing Fair Trade standards and principles for each specific product. The Palestine Fair Trade Programme holds an important future for Palestinian producers. Recently, PFTA held workshops for farmers involved in the programme in the Jenin, Nablus, and Ramallah areas. These workshops consisted of Fair Trade education and olive oil quality-enhancing techniques. The workshops were welcomed with open arms as farmers learned of the ability of the Programme to bring benefits back to them. Many farmers eagerly spoke of their excitement at the prospect of Fair Trade development in Palestine.

Fair Trade promotes trading partnerships based on dialogue, transparency and respect, and seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions and securing the rights of marginalized producers and workers. Fair Trade ensures that farmers, workers, and producers are paid a fair price for their goods and offers higher returns to producers through a process of direct trade.

Fair Trade in Palestine can be used as a political tool to fight the Israeli occupation that has crippled the Palestinian economy. One can view Fair Trade development in Palestine as a form of resistance to Israeli policies that prevent economic development. Currently the Palestinian economy is dominated by international aid services. The agricultural sector in particular suffers from lack of access to natural resources. Closures cause farmers to practically give away their tomatoes in Jenin while in Bethlehem tomato prices are on the rise.

The Programme involves a complete development scheme designed to empower local producing communities to stand on their own. Fair Trade can be used as a mechanism to support economic growth separate from international aid. The PFTA represents the development aspect of the Programme while Canaan Fair Trade presents the marketing aspect. Developing a Fair Trade community in Palestine, based on cooperative building and self-sustainability is only half of the battle. The other half is linking Palestinian Fair Trade products with the international Fair Trade community.

Fair Trade has developed specific markets abroad with consumers looking to support such practices. It has the ability to link international communities with Palestinian producers in a legitimate business fashion. Such a model steers away from a habit of international aid that, in the long term, feeds into a system of dependence on outside sources for survival. Palestine has not yet entered the Fair Trade market fully and now is the time to develop a name for Palestinian Fair Trade products, beginning with olive oil. As a farmer from Asira-Eshamalia stated vigorously at a recent PFTA workshop, "we will do anything to protect the tree."

Ode to the plastic bag

How do you vex me? Let me count the ways.
Black, blue, pink, clear, scattered through my days.
Here you are again, taunting me,
Flag-proud atop my almond tree.
You alone can claim sovereignty,
Ex-territorial contiguity.
These wires, this imprisoned nation
Become your long-running installation.
An annex of so-called security
Renders you art exquisitely.
Qalandia fence on a day windy:
Kitchen linoleum, motley.
A performance artist, you can’t resist,
A checkpoint pop-art opportunist.
Pixels Lichtenstein, or Warhol, Andy;
Smooth tumbleweed, rolling with the doggies;
Jellyfish Filistini, far from sea;
Mutant Terra Sanctia, so, so … ya‘ani.
Such errant grace, constant finesse,
I can’t deny — I digress
From railing at your lesser qualities,
Like non-biodegradability.
Airborne you navigate skilfully,
In this bleakness cavort playfully.
I flinch, then grin, you rush my windscreen,
Comical spook, from a Ghostbusters scene.
Once a time, a hike to monastery Mar Saba’. Rogue kite, riding a westerly,
You touched down and bounced, so carefree,
Jovial, space-walk fluidity.
Not all fun, I know. Ripped, dusty debris
In ruins of razed homes of refugees.
Have you thought to fight, to snare Apaches,
Clog works of Humvees,
Assert your indestructibility
Against those in control effectively?
How to struggle, the question eternal
Now in the face of weapons infernal.
Gandhi may/may not be your cup of tea,
In any event engage openly,
Always remember proportionality,
Respect the laws of war scrupulously.
Ravaged and scarred, the swells of terraced hills.
Little livelihood left for those who till.
Those with power see through the glass, darkly.
I dreamt, although I knew it unlikely,
That duty might join with your sovereignty,
Unlike the High Contracting Parties.

Susan Rockwell

Four children and a little dog find a diamond and a treasure map. The diamond must be used to open the treasure. While they are planning in Reem’s room how to go about finding the treasure, they are surprised by her father. In an attempt to hide their scheme, they quickly squeeze the diamond into an empty coca cola can. It is really unlucky for them when Reem’s father then notices the mess in the room. He picks up the can and throws it out of the window. The rest of the story is the children’s quest to retrieve the can from the street, the garbage collectors and ultimately the solid waste landfill. At the end of the story, when the children find the treasure chest, the young readers are asked what they wish to find in the treasure. They are invited to write down three wishes and participate in a drawing contest.

Earlier this year, this story was distributed to all 8th-grade children in government schools as well as a number of private and UNRWA schools. The idea behind the cartoon story came from a team of young artists at Birzeit University’s Institute of Community and Public Health, working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education on raising children’s awareness of environmental issues.

Amer Shomali, who designed the cartoon’s characters, says the team was surprised to receive more than 11,000 drawings from all over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Many of the drawings expressed the children’s wish for peace and Palestinian statehood. After they pre-selected 500 drawings, the team invited a jury including the director of the League of Palestinian Artists, Nabil Anani, to choose the winning drawings.

During the month of Ramadan two computers, 10 digital cameras and 100 art packages will find their way to the winners. An exhibition of the drawings will open on 7 November at the Baladna Cultural Centre in Ramallah and will coincide with the screening of Maseh Ghazeh (the Gaza Diamond) as a children’s activity.
Still Rowing in Gaza

Since we last shared news of the Palestinian Rowing Federation (PRF) with the readership of This Week in Palestine, the federation has been very active on a variety of levels. On the international stage, the PRF tried to become the first Palestinian sport federation to qualify an athlete for the Olympic Games (instead of relying on the wild card system currently used by Palestinian athletes for their participation). In April 2004 the PRF sent its two-year veteran athlete Paula El-Qalqili to the Asian Olympic Qualification Regatta in Shanghai, China. Although Paula placed 11th and failed to qualify for the Olympics, her technical performance was strong and her participation a watershed event in Palestinian sporting history. We look forward to continued growth in this sector.

At the national level, the PRF concluded the first three portions of a four-module, experimental, one-year diploma in basic skills for effective sport organization management. The PRF implemented the coursework with funds from UNDP/PAPP and in cooperation with the Islamic University of Gaza. The coursework served as a mechanism to prepare the PRF’s local coaches and administrator to take over implementation after the withdrawal of the expatriate board members from on-site supervision. In addition, the federation developed the programme to an impressive 54 athletes, with over half the participants being girls. The Second Annual Palestinian Ergometer Rowing Championship will take place on 19 November 2004 at the Mandarin Hotel in Gaza. If you happen to be in Gaza at this time, don’t miss this event.

The PRF has also launched a website to promote its activities and stay in touch with its global network of volunteers, members, and supporters. The link for the site is www.palestinerowing.org and it includes an on-line database for fans and media who can sign up for electronic press releases about federation activities. Please visit the site and sign up today to stay up to date.

Ghassan Haddad

Spain and obtain international coaching accreditation for them. The coaches completed their first module in April 2004 and are scheduled to travel again for the second one at year’s end.

The rowing programme in Shaati camp is now implemented by local coaches and administered by expatriate board members and the PRF Secretary General, Wael Afana, a resident of Shaati. The local team has developed the programme to an impressive 54 athletes, with over half the participants being girls. The Second Annual Palestinian Ergometer Rowing Championship will take place on 19 November 2004 at the Mandarin Hotel in Gaza. If you happen to be in Gaza at this time, don’t miss this event.

The PRF has also launched a website to promote its activities and stay in touch with its global network of volunteers, members, and supporters. The link for the site is www.palestinerowing.org and it includes an on-line database for fans and media who can sign up for electronic press releases about federation activities. Please visit the site and sign up today to stay up to date.

Ghassan Haddad

A Palestinian National Theatre production
Supported by NORAD
Written by Dario Fo & Franka Rama
Translated by Majed Al-Khateeb
Designed & Directed by Kamel Pasha
Starring: Nesreen Fa’oor
Lighting: Ramzi Al-Sheikh Qasem
Set Design: Imad Samara
Music Consultant: Reem Talhami

“No, I am not complaining! I feel at my best in my small apartment… I have everything I want. My husband treats me like a queen, and I have nothing missing… I have every… Oh, my God, I have… a refrigerator… yes, I know that refrigerators have become common… but mine makes round ice cubes! I have a washing machine with 24 different programme settings, and a dryer. You have to see for yourself how it dries the clothes!… Sometimes I have to wet them again in order to be able to iron them because they come out bone-dry… I have non-stick pots and pans… Every room is fully furnished… and there is music in every room… So what more do I need in this life? I am only a woman! Yes, I did have a maid… but she ran away… I hired another one, but she also ran away… All women run away from my home… What?… Oh no, not because of me!”

The play will be shown at the Al-Kasaba Theatre in Ramallah on November 4th and 5th and at the Palestinian National Theatre in Jerusalem on November 24th.

A HAPPY WOMAN
Note: Please make sure to contact the venue to check if the programme is still running.

**EAST JERUSALEM**

Al-Ma’mal Contemporary Art Foundation, tel. 02-6283457; Ascension Church, Augusta Victoria, tel. 02-6287704; British Council, tel. 02-6267111; Centre for Jerusalem Studies, Al-Quds University, tel. 02-6569058/9; Church of the Redeemer, tel. 02-6276111; Issaf Nashashibi Centre for Culture and Literature, tel. 02-5813233; Jerusalem Centre for Near Eastern Studies (Mormon University), tel. 02-6265666; The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM), tel. 02-6271711; Palestinian National Theatre (PNT), tel. 02-6280957; Tantur Ecumenical Institute, tel. 02-6760911; Turkish Cultural Centre, tel. 02-5400592, Yabous Productions, tel. 02-6261045; YWCA, tel. 02-6282593

**ART**

**Monday 1**
10:00 – 16:00 Continuation of the permanent exhibition “Jerusalem Through Ottoman Palestine” from the private collection of Dr. Huseyin Avni Bicakli (through Sep. 30th, Mon. through Frid. 10:00-16:00), Turkish Centre

**ART**

**Monday 2**
10:00 – 16:00 Continuation of the semi-permanent exhibition “Cribs from Around the World,” (daily, through Oct. 31st), Peace Centre

**Thursday 4**
13:30 Inauguration of an exhibition entitled “Sketches of a State of Mind,” by the young artist Shuruq Harb (through Nov. 18th, daily from 10:00-16:00), Peace Centre

**CONCERTS**

The Jerusalem Concert Seasons – Fall 2004 are organized by Yabous Productions and the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music.

- **Saturday 13**
  20:00 Concert with Elisabeth Roloff. Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Redeemer Church

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Centre for Jerusalem Studies of Al-Quds University will hold special events throughout the month of Ramadan. For more details and for the exact time of the events call 02-656 9058/9

**Wednesday 3**
13:30 Cultural heritage and environment workshop, Old City Sabeels, Al-Quds University

**BETHLEHEM and BEIT JALA**

Bethlehem Peace Centre, tel. 02-2766677; Bethlehem University, tel. 02-2741241; The Cardinal House, tel. 02-2764778; Inad Theatre, tel. 02-2766263; International Centre of Bethlehem (Dar Annadwa), tel. 02-2770047

**ART**

**Monday 1**
10:00 – 16:00 Continuation of the semi-permanent exhibition “Crbs from Around the World,” (daily, through Oct. 31st), Peace Centre

**Thursday 4**
13:30 Inauguration of an exhibition entitled “Sketches of a State of Mind,” by the young artist Shuruq Harb (through Nov. 18th, daily from 10:00-16:00), Peace Centre

**CONCERTS**

The Jerusalem Concert Seasons – Fall 2004 are organized by Yabous Productions and the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music.

- **Saturday 13**
  20:00 Concert with Elisabeth Roloff. Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Redeemer Church
Inauguration of an exhibition entitled “Clothes Line,” by the young artist Fuad Juha from Gaza, in cooperation with the A.M. Qattan Foundation (through Nov. 18th, daily from 10:00-16:00), Peace Centre
18:00 Inauguration of an exhibition entitled “Contrasts” by Dutch artist Katja Steinen, followed by a gallery-talk with the artist at 18:30, International Centre

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES
Friday 5
13:00 Puppet show with Rulla Haddad, Peace Centre

Saturday 6
15:00 Puppet show with Rulla Haddad, Peace Centre

Friday 12
10:30 Film: The Extra Terrestrial, International Centre

Friday 19
13:00 Puppet show with Rulla Haddad, Peace Centre

Saturday 20
15:00 Puppet show with Rulla Haddad, Peace Centre

16:00 Puppet show with Rulla Haddad, Peace Centre

CONCERTS
Thursday 4
19:30 Ramadan musical night with Wisam Murad, in cooperation with Sabreen Association for Artistic Development, Peace Centre

Saturday 6
19:00 Musical evening with the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music Student Orchestra, International Centre

Friday 12
19:30 Piano concert by Berit Juul Rasmussen from Denmark, Peace Centre

Thursday 11
19:30 Ramadan Musical Night with Mustafa Al-Kurd, in cooperation with Sabreen Association for Artistic Production, Peace Centre

Wednesday 24
19:00 Musical evening (to be announced), International Centre

Friday 26
19:00 Musical evening with Wissam Boustany, International Centre

Monday 29
19:00 Gala concert by pianist Daniel Del Pinto, on occasion of the 1st Advent and the Frederic Chopin Year in Palestine, in cooperation with the Bethlehem Academy of Music – the Palestinian Frederic Chopin Society, Peace Centre

FLMS
Friday 5
19:00 Man on Fire, Peace Centre

Friday 12
19:00 The Day After Tomorrow, Peace Centre

Thursday 18
18:00 Attash, a documentary by Tawfiq Abu Wael, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, International Centre
19:00 Like Mike, Peace Centre

Thursday 25
19:00 Troja, Peace Centre

PLAYS
Saturday 27
16:00 The Stubborn Sultan & the Happy Blacksmith (Arabic) by the Palestinian National Theatre Al-Hakawati, Peace Centre

SPECIAL EVENTS
Thursday 18
17:00 Dardasheh Club: “The Social Cost & Cultural Invasion” for ages 16+, Peace Centre

Friday 19
19:00 Book launch: “Bethlehem Besieged: Stories of Hope in Times of Trouble” by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, International Centre

Thursday 25
14:00 – 17:00 Workshop entitled “Behaviour & character Development – Classroom Control,” presented by child care awareness specialist Robyn L. Long, Peace Centre
17:00 Dance show by Zuleikha (USA) in cooperation with the Holy Land Trust, International Centre

GAZA
Theatre Day Productions (TDP), tel. 08-2836766

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES
Video animation workshops for kids 9 – 14 (call for schedule), TDP

PLAYS
“War Yanni War,” written and directed by Rafat Al-Aydeh, daily at Theatre Day Production’s theatre hall (call for schedule), TDP

HEBRON
Theatre Day Productions (TDP), tel. 02-2291559

PLAYS
“The Utopians,” written by Jackie Lubeck and directed by Amer Khalil and Raed Shiukhi (call for schedule), TDP

“Abu Jamoos and Sons,” written by Pauline Mol and directed by Amer Khalil (call for schedule), TDP

NABLUS
Centre Culturel Francais (CCF), tel. 09-2385914

ART
Monday 1
Continuation of the exhibition “Iles Chausey,” images by John Tordai (throughout the month of Ramadan), CCF

Thursday 18
19:00 – 21:00 Film: Continuous screening of the cartoon “Maseh Ghazeh,” Baladna Cultural Centre

RAMALLAH
A.M. Qattan Foundation, tel. 02-2960544; Al-Kasaba Theatre & Cinematheque, tel. 02-2965292; Ashhtar Theatre, tel. 02-2980037; Baladna Cultural Centre, tel. 02-2958435; British Council, tel. 02-2963295; Centre Culturel Francais (CCF), tel. 02-2987727; the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM), tel. 02-2959070; Goethe Institut, tel. 02-2981922; Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre, tel. 02-2987374; Popular Art Centre, tel. 02-2403891; Ramallah Cultural Palace, tel. 02-2984704

ART
Saturday 6
19:00 Meet the artist: Selva Tachdjian, multimedia artist, Sakakini

Sunday 7
19:00 Inauguration of the five-day exhibition of “Watan ali Waraq,” a selection of children’s drawings from the drawing contest organized jointly by the Ministry of Education and Birzeit University’s Institute of Community and Public Health (through November 11th, daily from 09:00-13:00 and 19:00-21:00), Baladna Cultural Centre

Thursday 11
19:00 Meet the artist: Khaled Hourani, Sakakini

Tuesday 23
19:00 Inauguration of a group exhibition for the artists Ra’ed Issa, Mohammed Abu Sall, Bashar Hourub and Ayman Issa, Sakakini

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES
Sunday 7
19:00 – 21:00 Film: Continuous screening of the cartoon “Maseh Ghazeh,” Baladna Cultural Centre

Monday 8
19:00 – 21:00 Film: Continuous screening of the cartoon “Maseh Ghazeh,” Baladna Cultural Centre

CONCERTS
Tuesday 9
19:00 – 21:00 Film: Continuous screening of the cartoon “Maseh Ghazeh,” Baladna Cultural Centre

Wednesday 10
19:00 – 21:00 Film: Continuous screening of the cartoon “Maseh Ghazeh,” Baladna Cultural Centre

Thursday 11
19:00 – 21:00 Film: Continuous screening of the cartoon “Maseh Ghazeh,” Baladna Cultural Centre

Saturday 13
11:00 Film: Shrek 2, Al-Kasaba

Sunday 14
11:00 Film: Shrek 2, Al-Kasaba

Monday 15
11:00 Film: Shrek 2, Al-Kasaba

Tuesday 16
11:00 Film: Shrek 2, Al-Kasaba

Thursday 18
15:30 Film: Beauty and the Beast, Al-Kasaba

Friday 19
15:30 Film: Shrek 2, Al-Kasaba

Saturday 20
15:30 Film: Atlantis – The Lost Empire, Al-Kasaba

Thursday 25
15:30 Film: Atlantis – The Lost Empire, Al-Kasaba

Friday 26
15:30 Film: Beauty and the Beast, Al-Kasaba

Saturday 27
15:30 Film: Shrek 2, Al-Kasaba

Tuesday 9
19:00 Berit Juul Rasmussen - Piano, organised by the Edward said National Conservatory of Music, Sakakini
Wednesday 24
19:00 Fall Concert Season: Modena City Ramblers (Italy), organized by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in cooperation with UCODEP, Cultural Palace

Thursday 25
19:00 Fall Concert Season: Wissam Boustany – Flute (Lebanon/UK), organised by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in cooperation with the British Council, Sakakini

DANCE
Saturday 6
Programme to be confirmed (call for details), Cultural Palace

Thursday 11
19:30 Asda’ 2004, a dance by Al-Asheqeen group for folkloric art, Al-Kasaba

Friday 26
Wushah (call for time), Cultural Palace

Saturday 27
Wushah (call for time), Cultural Palace

FILMS
Monday 1
18:30 Tito (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Baheb El-Cema (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Tuesday 2
18:30 My Boss’s Daughter, Al-Kasaba
20:30 Khalti Faransa (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Wednesday 3
18:30 Gothika, Al-Kasaba
19:00 The Silence, Popular Art
20:30 Ahla El-Awqat (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Wednesday 4
18:30 Tito (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
19:00 Sunglasses, Popular Art
20:30 Secret Window, Al-Kasaba

Friday 5
18:30 Undefeated, Al-Kasaba
19:00 Hidden Half, Popular Art
20:30 Gothika, Al-Kasaba

Saturday 6
18:30 Secret Window, Al-Kasaba
19:00 The Cow, Popular Art
20:30 Tito (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Sunday 7
18:30 Gothika, Al-Kasaba
20:30 Khalti Faransa (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Monday 8
18:30 Elly Baly Balak (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Undefeated, Al-Kasaba

Tuesday 9
18:30 Tito (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 The Four Feathers, Al-Kasaba

Wednesday 10
18:30 Intolerable Cruelty, Al-Kasaba
19:00 Two Women, Popular Art
20:30 Secret Window, Al-Kasaba

Thursday 11
18:30 Khalti Faransa (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
19:00 Crimson Gold, Popular Art
20:30 Gothika, Al-Kasaba

Friday 12
18:30 Tito (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
19:00 The May Lady, Popular Art
20:30 Undefeated, Al-Kasaba

Saturday 13
14:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
14:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
16:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
16:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
18:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
18:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Sunday 14
14:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
14:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
16:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
16:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
18:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
18:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Monday 15
14:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
14:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
16:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
16:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
18:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
18:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Tuesday 16
14:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
14:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
16:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
16:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
18:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
18:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Wednesday 17
16:00 Undefeated, Al-Kasaba
18:00 The Silence, Popular Art
18:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Runaway Jury, Al-Kasaba

Thursday 18
18:00 Sunglasses, Popular Art
18:00 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Secret Window, Al-Kasaba

Friday 19
18:00 Runaway Jury, Al-Kasaba
20:30 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Saturday 20
18:00 Hidden Half, Popular Art
18:00 Ghaby Mennoh Feeh (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
20:30 Foul El-Seen El-Azeem (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

PLAYS
Thursday 4
19:30 A Happy Woman (Arabic), Al-Kasaba

Friday 5
19:30 A Happy Woman (Arabic), Al-Kasaba
Meanwhile, Easter's girlfriend, Marlee, tries to influence the other jury members to vote a certain way. An attempt at burglary outside a shop. Having spent a total of 16 years in both juvenile and regular incarceration, Tito looks forward to an honest job and an honest life.

**TITO**
Egypt, 2004
Starring Ahmed Al-Sakka, Hanan Turk, Amro Waked
Directed by Tareq Al-Aryan
Tito is a kid born on the streets. Like thousands of others, he grew up in an environment filled with poverty and crime. He is arrested during an attempt of burglary outside a shop. Having spent a total of 16 years in both juvenile and regular incarceration, Tito looks forward to an honest job and an honest life.

**Al-Kasaba: Nov. 4,6,9,12**

**KAHLTI FARANSA**
Egypt, 2004
Starring Abia Kamel, Mona Zaki, Hasan Husni, Maha Ammar
Directed by Ali Rajab
Faranas (Abia Kamel) plays a fantastic role in the plot. She is a common troublesome woman who ruins wedding parties and gets involved in most of the fights in her neighbourhood. Faranasa's sister dies and she has to raise her nieces Batta and Wezza, and from there start some tough arguments and comic quarrels between Faranasa and Batta.

**Al-Kasaba: Nov. 2,7,11**

**GHABY MENNOH**
Egypt, 2004
Starring Hany Ramzy, Nelly Karim, Hassan Hosny
Directed by Ramy Emam
Sultan is a very stupid man who feels love and intends to marry. He fails at every job because of his dumbness. Once, he meets a gangster who tries to use Sultan in his robberies. The dumb Sultan turns into a thief and fails in trouble and in funny situations.

**Al-Kasaba: Nov. 13-16,20,22,25,27,29**

**RUNAWAY JURY**
USA, 2003, 122 min, with Arabic subtitles
Starring John Cusack, Penelope Cruz, Robert Downey
Directed by Mathieu Kassoviz
A criminal psychologist (Berry) awakens to find herself a patient in the institution where she works, with no memory of the murder she's accused of committing. As she tries to regain her memory - and her freedom - a vengeful spirit manipulates her.

**Al-Kasaba: Nov. 3,5,7,11,21,23,26**

**FOUL EL-SEEN EL-azeem**
Egypt, 2004, 105 min
Starring Mohammad Henedy, Kamalah, Said Tarabek
Directed by Sherif Arafa Mohey (Henedy) won a trip to China in a cooking contest. He is ignorant of everything in the outsideworld. So, when he travels to China he faces many comic situations.

**Al-Kasaba: Nov. 13-21,23,24,26,28-30**

**CRIMSON GOLD**
Directed by Abba Kiarostami, Jafar Panahi
Iran, 97 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles
Two master filmmakers, Abba Kiarostami (A Taste of Cherry) and Jafar Panahi (The Circle), team up as writer and director, respectively (as they did on 1996's The White Balloon), on Crimson Gold, a subtle tragedy about class conflict in Iran. Panahi brings his feel for and vision of the expansive ordinary, for the near-invisible forces churning within characters in seemingly throwaway circumstances.

**Al-Kasaba: Nov. 3,17**

**THE COW**
Directed by Dariush Mehrjui
Iran, 105 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles
Influenced by Italian neo-realism, The Cow has the beauty and simplicity associated with the great films of that movement. In a small village in Iran, Hassan cherishes his cow more than anything in the world. While he is away, the cow mysteriously dies, and the villagers protectively try to convince the grief-stricken Hassan the cow has wandered off.

**Al-Kasaba: Nov. 6,24**

**SUNGLASSES**
Iran, 90 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles
Although a heart-felt story, Through Sunglasses is a comedy about how men view women and how women think of men. While Mina and Sina are dealing with their own divorce at the registry office, they encounter an under-age girl (also called Mina) being forced by her father to marry. The older Mina feels compelled in helping young Mina not to commit suicide. The story quickly takes us into an adventure following the two Minas around town running from men and marriage.

**Popular Art: Nov. 4,18**

**HIDDEN HALF**
Directed by Tamineh Milani
Iran, 110 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles
Khosrow is sent from the president's office on a fact-finding mission to Shiraz. His orders are to investigate the complaints of a female political prisoner awaiting execution. Khosro's wife, being of the same generation as the prisoner, decides to do something about her situation. In order to help her, Freshteh writes of her own participation in the revolution, of which her husband is unaware. In his hotel room in Shiraz, Khosrow begins reading his wife's memories the night before he is to visit the prisoner.

**Popular Art: Nov. 5,20**

**THE MAYLADY**
Directed by Hussein Jafarian
Iran, 95 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles
Frough Kia is at a turning point in her life. She is a successful documentary filmmaker and a divorced mother in her early 40s, but her son Mani, with whom she has an affectionate (if stormy) relationship, resents the presence of another man in her life. Interestingly, we are never shown this man, who communicates his love and caring through telephone conversations and letters. In her job, as Frough interviews different women for a film on "the exemplary mother," she wonders where she stands among them, as a divorced woman raising a son and in love with a new man.

**Popular Art: Nov. 12,27**

**THE SILENCE**
Directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf
Iran, 75 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles
In this poetic feature from one of Iran's greatest directors, a 10-year-old blind boy travels to the market each day, where he works as a musical instrument tuner. The boy's gift for sound extends well beyond this duty, as he hears the music of life all around him. Makhmalbaf crafts the boy's world as a flip-book of gorgeous, lyrical images.

**Popular Art: Nov. 3,17**
The war in Iraq showed a close tie between a news site and an entertainment site that was at the time featuring a popular TV show. The attention the news site got and the subsequent interest of non-Arabs encouraged the owners to go into providing a parallel service in English. On the other hand, no significant interest seems to appear in a long list of Arab websites especially those related to history, culture, education and health. This may well have been a direct result of an overall apathy. Ordinary Arab citizens may have well despaired of the prevailing political situation which made them choose to opt for deflecting self-interest in search of more ‘interesting’ sites.

In conducting an informal survey one may, for example, find an increase in interest in sites most relevant and related to politics and the now regular happenings in Iraq. This comes in line with an increased global interest in that direction. Yet it is unsure if any future surveys would dare to reflect such an interest.

In short, the list of Arab websites considered ‘interesting’ in the Arab World may never fail to surprise us. This undoubtedly is dependent on the increase in web content and content diversity. It is equally dependent on the integrity of those conducting such surveys and the agenda they may have. However, the biggest variant in all this is the Arab mood and the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

The sector of electronic and digital equipment production in Palestine is still an underdeveloped field. This is due to several factors among which are the stiff competition from Far Eastern countries where labour is inexpensive, the difficulty of finding or importing the needed electronic components, the poorly-qualified workforce in the local market that can help in the device packaging process and the many restrictions and high taxes imposed by the Israelis when it comes to importing components classified as “sensitive.” The sector thus remained primarily dependent on either Israeli-made or imported products.

Two Palestinian companies, E-Pulse Automation and Electropal – both operating in Ramallah – have challenged the status quo and went against all odds in establishing that missing sector and responding to the needs of the local and regional markets. The benefits are two-fold: the first is that the Palestinian market can rely on local companies for their needs and for getting the necessary support and service. Secondly, developing this sector will inevitably lead to the creation of job opportunities for the hundreds of graduates in the fields of science and engineering.

The cooperation between the two companies has led to the design, development and manufacturing of several electronic equipments that are now available on the local market. One example is the power generator controllers EGENO84 and EGENO877 – in both single and three-phase models – that have been manufactured and installed at various locations and have proved to be cost-effective and reliable. Another device relates to home and office automation controllers and was called Qandeel. These controllers relieve users from the burden of worrying about their different electrical appliances since they can be programmed to switch on or off at pre-determined dates and times as set by the user. Qandeel can control a large set of electrical appliances such as air-conditioning, heating and boiler systems, garden irrigation and lighting systems, entrance and exit doors, etc. Different models have been developed to suit the needs of customers, where some are stand-alone devices that can be programmed through an attached screen, while others can be programmed and controlled through computer software. The latter model can be handy for the physically-challenged and elderly people since the whole apartment can be managed through a single location (computer).

Digital light-controlling systems have also been developed and manufactured
such as Fanoos and FanoosPowerX16. Fanoos can control the brightness of one dimmer and is suited for photographers since it handles high power sources. On the other hand, FanoosPowerX16 is particularly suited to controlling brightness in theatres and TV stations since it can handle up to 16 dimming channels, each handling high power consumption. The whole thing can be managed through user-friendly computer software.

In addition to the products mentioned above, other customized products have been developed according to customer specification. These relate mainly to industrial machine controllers for home-made machines or as replacement controllers for expensive, imported ones.

There is much yet to be done in order to bring the sector of digital and electronic device manufacturing to a level where it can compete favourably with foreign ones. This mainly needs the support of governmental agencies in attracting foreign investment to Palestine, the support of the local IT community through joint cooperation agreements, the support of the banking system through long-term low-interest loans and the support of the community as a whole.

Find out more by visiting www.epulse.com.ps

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### An Event to Watch For: UNDP Art Auction

Following what has become a tradition, the UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People is hosting its third annual art auction and reception at the Ambassador Hotel on Friday, November 26th, 2004 at 7:00 pm.

The idea for the auction came about when journalists visiting an artist’s workshop in Gaza, organized through UNDP’s SHAREK programme, were struck by the beauty, humanism and universality of the paintings. Rather than allowing the paintings to languish in Gaza, due to the severe restrictions on movement, UNDP organized an auction in Jerusalem three years ago, at which all 30 paintings were sold. The following year’s auction saw the sale of 40 paintings by artists from the West Bank and Gaza.

“UNDP sees culture at the core of development, so we are glad to shed light on the vibrant art scene in the occupied Palestinian territory: to show the world the rich cultural capital that the Palestinians enjoy,” said Timothy Rothermel, Special Representative of UNDP and one of the leading champions of the event. “Not only does this event help struggling artists from across the oPt, but it helps build a cultural bridge and symbolically mend the rift that exists as a result of the closures and checkpoints.”

So if you are seeking a night of high entertainment and many magical surprises that will amuse your cultural senses, whilst supporting a very good cause, this is definitely a night you do not want to miss.

To attend, call Dania Darwish or Ehab Shanti by the 25th of November 2004 at: 02-6268290.

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### Letter to the Editor:

Dear Mr. Khoury,

I was delighted to find out the rich selection of cultural events listed in the issue (October 2004), proving Palestine is very much alive and kicking. For those claiming there is nobody to talk to, there might be a surprise to see so much talking, so much going on.

On the other hand I was appalled and ashamed to read of the destruction of Bethlehem Inn Hotel by Israeli soldiers, but glad to find out [the] owner beat the system legally and hope he will be compensated for all losses.

Regards,
Batya M. Hoffman, Jerusalem
Betty Majaj

Betty Majaj has been the director of the Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children since 1983. Her dedication to her work and to the children at the Centre has won the admiration of all those around her. Established in 1965 as a home for the disabled, Betty was able to build an infrastructure at the Centre and put together a team of professionals, changing it into a centre of excellence that provides physically disabled children with treatment, rehabilitation and education with the aim of integrating them into their community.

Betty was born in the late twenties to a Lebanese family in Sidon, Lebanon. Her father, Joseph Dagher, was a well-known bibliographer who studied at the Sorbonne in France and is the author of several books. She has two brothers and one sister (she lost her sister to cancer when she was in her early twenties).

Betty’s family later moved to Beirut where she attended the Ahlieh School with her sister. As a young girl she used to watch the nurses passing by her house, which was located next to the American University Hospital (AUH). Their dedication and commitment to their work impressed her as she saw them reporting to work every day, come rain or sunshine. After finishing high school, Betty wanted to become a nurse and so she joined the nursing school at the AUH. It was there that she met her husband-to-be, Amin Majaj, a newly-graduated medical doctor from Palestine. They got married in 1947 and moved to Jerusalem.

During the war of 1948 Betty was living with her in-laws. The women of the family were sent to Lebanon for safety. However, due to the urgency of the situation in Palestine, her husband asked her to come back to help him in caring for the sick and the wounded. There was a shortage of doctors and hospital beds, so they had to attend to the sick and the injured in a convent in Bethany. Together they turned the convent into a 40-bed emergency hospital for first aid and minor surgical operations. Betty was asked to run the hospital as she was the only qualified nurse at the time. The other nurses who helped out were novices at the convent. The hospital served the inhabitants of the villages around the Bethany area.

Betty later held her first job as matron at the Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives, a position she was to hold for several years. Her husband, Dr. Amin Majaj also worked as a paediatrician at the same hospital. They found the work very challenging and rewarding. The 350-bed hospital often operated at full capacity and some patients had to be accommodated in barracks that were scattered on the hospital’s vast grounds. The hospital treated patients with all kinds of ailments and diseases.

Once her children were born, Betty stopped working and dedicated her time to caring for her four children. However, she was still attached to her nursing career and always encouraged young women to study nursing, including her own daughters, one of whom followed in her mother’s footsteps. She was also involved with several charitable organizations which she served on a voluntary basis for many years. She was especially active in the Arab Women’s Union where she worked alongside Zlikha Al-Shihabi, its legendary founder and president for many years.

Betty and her husband led a very active and fulfilling life. Dr. Majaj became a well known physician and he published several important research papers in medical journals in the U.S.A. He also held many prominent positions, including Minister of Health, deputy mayor and honorary mayor of East Jerusalem. She and her husband shared a great love for their community which they served for over fifty years. Dr. Majaj passed away in 1999.

Betty continues to serve the community in which she lives. In addition to her family (she has four grandchildren) and her job, she reaches out to those in need and tries her best to be of service to whomever she meets in all walks of life.
Vera Boulus Amer is a young artist from Beit Jala whose work was on display at Bethlehem University in mid October. Her current style is strongly abstract as she fills the surface with many contrived and interlacing decorative motifs. However, a closer examination reveals recognizable shapes and objects in and between the elaborate patterns of her drawings. Most of these shapes depict living things: humans or plants and leaves, with only an occasional wall or a building in a few of her works. Amer’s art has a very organic feeling to it, and the drawings include an eye looking sadly at a situation; a hand expressing anger; a heart and blood vessels spreading life. These elements serve as intense expressions of the artist’s own emotions. “Life under constrained and difficult conditions,” is a repeated sentence Amer uses when describing her drawings. But this ‘life under pressure’ is not destroyed by the circumstances; on the contrary, it is powerful Life with a big L. This Life breaks through the hardest difficulties and has this immense, inherent power of victory in it. Therefore, the twisted zigzags that express complications and troubles are always somewhere on the side of the artwork while the gracefully winding soft shapes that represent the power of Life dominate her drawings.

The green of the trees and the blue of the sky or sea express her basic hope that there is a better future and celebrate life’s victory over difficulties. An occasional red or pastel yellow depicts sadder themes. For instance, in one drawing there are figures溶解ing into the background, with faces turned out from the centre. These persons have already left or are planning to leave. The red-toned drawing vainly calls for them to stay and give life a chance. Another red and yellow painting evokes unhappiness as it depicts abstract iron bars that threaten to block people’s aspirations and their future. These colours dominate the upper part of the work while the lower part is a mesh of zigzags, depicting the problems and mishaps in people’s lives.

In addition to pastels and watercolours, Amer likes to work with pencil, covering the entire geometrically decorated surface in charcoal. In one of these drawings the viewer can observe a woman’s head bent upwards, begging for help. A serene character at her side seems to take no notice of her distress. “This could be me,” Amer says thoughtfully, as if she were trying to remember the occasion behind the painting.

Amer’s formal training is in social work but her daily work is with kindergarten children. She had always been interested in art but did not have the opportunity to learn it. She comes from a middle-class family and has eight brothers and sisters. A course she did at the International Centre of Bethlehem (Dar Annadwa), which was followed by an exhibition, was seminal in her artistic development. Not only did she learn the techniques and skills of painting, she was afforded the chance to come together with other budding artists, to exchange ideas as well as sentiments.

Amer hopes that those who contemplate her paintings can feel the contents of her drawings and the often very hard situations that have inspired her work – apart from the aesthetic beauty of the shapes and the harmony of her colours. She strives to share with her viewers the experiences of Life that overcome all obstacles.

Amer hopes she will have the chance to study more and develop further her technical skills, thus enriching her ability to express herself through the medium of art. With her desire to exhibit her paintings locally and internationally, she also hopes to encourage others to create art, which will in turn contribute to the development of a local community of young artists.

Dancing Arabs
By Sayed Kashua
Translated by Miriam Shlesinger

In this semi-autobiographical account of Arab Israeli life, Sayed Kashua tells the story of a Palestinian boy who wins a prestigious scholarship to a Jewish high school, but slips into listless malaise as an adult, despising himself, scorning his fellow Arabs and resenting the Israelis. The unnamed narrator spends his childhood in the village of Tira. His grandfather was killed in the 1948 war, and his father was jailed for two years before he was married, accused of blowing up a university cafeteria. The narrator doesn’t inherit his father’s revolutionary tendencies; he is even ignorant of his own history (“In twelfth grade I understood for the first time what ‘48 was… Suddenly I understood that Zionism is an ideology. In civics lessons and Jewish history classes, I started to understand that my aunt from Tulkarm is called a refugee, that the Arabs in Israel are called a minority”).

When he goes away to the Jewish boarding school, his greatest desire is to fit in, and he bursts into tears the first time he is stopped at a checkpoint. He never finishes college, taking low-level jobs at an institution for the retarded and at a bar. When he finally drifts into marriage to an Arab nursing student, he cringes at her dark skin and soon dreams about taking a lover. He cannot even find solace in belief, though he fantasizes about becoming a respected teacher of religion. The drab hopelessness of his life is offset by his self-awareness (“I’m a failure anyway”) and by Kashua’s deadpan, understated humour. Nearly absurdist at moments, this is a chilling, convincing tale.

The debut novel by the twenty-eight-year-old Arab-Israeli Kashua has been praised around the world for its honesty, irony, humour, and its uniquely human portrayal of a young man who moves between two societies, becoming a stranger to both. He changes his clothes, his accent, his eating habits, and becomes an expert at faking identities, sliding between different cultures, schools and languages, and eventually a Jewish lover and an Arab wife. With refreshing candour and self-deprecating wit, Dancing Arabs brilliantly maps one man’s struggle to disentangle his personal and national identities, only to tragically and inevitably forfeit both.

The story is sad because it reveals grimmer aspects of Arab-Jewish relations, but it also offers a glimmer of hope that an important way to peace is through being open to learn about someone different. The words of this novel are simple, but the emotions behind the narrative are far more complex. In conveying those feelings to his readers, the author does a stunning job.

(Courtesy of the publisher)
Cyber Palestine

Palestine, which is still battling for liberation and international recognition as an independent state, acquired autonomy in cyberspace on 22 March 2000, when the Internet Corporation for Associated Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regulatory body for net addresses, granted the Palestinian National Authority its own two-letter suffix to advertise real estate on-line. Although it is not functioning yet, the authority will now be able to register addresses under its own domain, "ps," in line with other country codes such as "lb" for Lebanon and "it" for Italy.


www.palestine-art.com

This website is put together by a group of Palestinian artists who seek to use it as a springboard for upcoming local artists through which they can develop their talent, use it as a showroom for their works and provide online reference to artists.

Indeed they did. When browsing through the very neat and highly organized site, one cannot overlook the extensive work these young artists had accomplished. The website contains comprehensive information on a large number of Palestinian artists and samples of their work. It also contains summaries of art exhibitions being held at various cultural centres, as well as samples of what is being exhibited. The site provides information on art workshops that are being held, or will be held, throughout the country.

Being a reference point for artists, the site includes information on art in general, and on international artists, and it provides a large number of links to the websites of Arab and international artists. Most of the main links could be found on the homepage of the website, including such items as Artist of the Time, Link of the Week, Artists, and Exhibitions.

The site is truly a reflection of an artistic touch. The choice of colours is very calm and relaxing. The content is carefully laid out, making each page of the site a work of art. Navigating through the site takes one on a discovery tour of Palestinian talent in a different perspective. I congratulate these young artists on a spectacular job, and I suggest everyone to take a minute to view this marvellous work of art.
**Jerusalem (02)**
- **Dar At Tifi Museum (Dar At Tifi Association)**, Near the Orient House
  Tel: 627 2477, Fax: 627 3477
  Opening hours: daily from 9:00 - 13:30
- **Islamic Museum (The Islamic Waqf Association)**, Old City
  Tel: 628 3313, Fax: 628 5561
  Opening hours for tourists: daily from 9:30 - 13:30
- **Armenian Museum**, Old City
  Tel: 628 2331, Fax.: 628 4362
  Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. from 9:00 - 16:30
- **Qalandia Camp Women’s Handicraft Coop.**
  Tel: 656 9385, Fax.: 581 6966
  e-Mail: qalandia@palgate.net

**Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02)**
- **Museum of Palestinian Popular Heritage - In’ash el Usra, In’ash el Usra society, Al-Bireh**
  Tel: 240 2987, Fax: 240 1544
  Opening hours: daily from 9:00 - 14:30 except Fridays
- **Palestinian Archeological Museum, Birzeit University**
  Tel: 298 2000
  Opening hours: daily from 9:00 - 14:30 except for Fridays and Sundays

**Bethlehem (02)**
- **Al-Bad Museum for Olive Oil Production**
  Tel: 274 1581
  Opening hours: 8:00-14:30 Monday through Saturday
- **Palestinian Ethnographic Museum**, Tel: 276 7467, Fax: 276 0533
  e-mail: artas_fo@yahoo.com
  Opening hours: daily from 9:00 - 17:00

**Nablus (09)**
- **Al-Kassaba Museum, Thafer al-Masri Foundation**
  Tel: 238 4126
  Opening hours: daily from 9:00 - 16:00 except for Fridays

**East Jerusalem (02)**
- **Al-Jawal Theatre Group**
  Tel: 628 0655
- **Al-Kasaba Theatre**
  Tel: 626 4052, Fax: 627 6310
  e-mail:info@alkasaba.org
- **Al-Ma’mal Foundation for Contemporary Art**
  Tel: 628 3457, Fax: 627 2312
- **Al-Ruwah Theatre Group**
  Tel: 628 2451, 050-279 605-456 989
- **Al-Urmawi Centre for Mashreq Music**
  Tel: 234 2005, Fax: 566 0578
  e-mail:info@urmawi.org
- **Al-Wasiti Art Center**
  Tel: 582 2859, Fax: 581 7853
  e-mail:info@awasiti.org
- **British Council**
  Tel: 626 7111, Fax: 628 3021
  e-mail:britain.jerusalem@fco.gov.uk
  http://www.jerusalem.c2005.org
- **French Cultural Centre**
  Tel: 626 2236, Fax: 628 4324
  e-mail:cfjceu@consulfrance-jerusalem.org
- **Gallery Anadiel**
  Tel: 628 0578
  e-mail:info@anadiel.com
- **Goethe Institute**
  Tel: 628 2811
  e-mail:sacar@palnet.edu

**Cultural Centers**
- **Bethlehem Peace Center**
  Tel: 276 6677, Fax: 274 1057
  e-mail: info@peacecenter.org
  http://www.peacecenter.org
- **Bethlehem Academy of Music/ Bethlehem Music Society**
  Tel: 277 7141, Fax: 277 7142
- **Bethlehem Peace Center**
  Tel: 276 6677, Fax: 274 1057
  e-mail: info@peacecenter.org
  http://www.peacecenter.org
- **Cardinal House**
  Tel: 276 4778, Fax: 274 1045
  e-mail: info@cardinalhouse.org
  http://www.cardinalhouse.org
- **Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation**
  Tel: 276 6244, Fax: 276 6241
  e-mail: info@bethlehem2000.org
- **Inad Centre for Theatre & Arts**
  Tel: 276 6263
  e-mail: inad88@yahoo.com
  http://www.inad88.com
- **International Centre of Bethlehem - Dar Annadwa**
  Tel: 277 0047, Fax: 277 0048
  e-mail: annadwa@palnet.edu
  http://www.annadwa.org
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<td>(30 rooms; bf; mr; res)</td>
<td>234 7137, Fax: 234 7139</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:claridge@palnet.com">claridge@palnet.com</a></td>
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<td>Jerusalem Meridian Hotel</td>
<td>(74 rooms; bf; mr; res)</td>
<td>628 5212, Fax: 628 5214</td>
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<td>Jerusalem Panorama Hotel</td>
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<td>627 2277, Fax: 627 3699</td>
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<td>Knights Palace Guesthouse</td>
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<td>628 2537, Fax: 628 2401</td>
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<td>(30 rooms; business facilities; res)</td>
<td>626 4208, Fax: 626 1285</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:karine@actcom.co.il">karine@actcom.co.il</a></td>
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<td>(61 rooms; bf; mr; res)</td>
<td>628 4877, Fax: 628 4427</td>
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<td>Mount Scopus Hotel</td>
<td>(65 rooms; bf; mr; res)</td>
<td>582 8891, Fax: 582 8825</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:mtscopus@netvision.net.il">mtscopus@netvision.net.il</a></td>
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<td>Pilgrims Inn Hotel</td>
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<td>627 2416</td>
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<td>627 7777, Fax: 627 1319</td>
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<td>628 3302, Fax: 628 2253</td>
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<td>Strand Hotel</td>
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<td>YWCA Hotel</td>
<td>(30 rooms; bf; mr)</td>
<td>628 2593, Fax: 628 4654</td>
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<td>Bethlehem Star Hotel</td>
<td>(72 rooms; cf; bf; res)</td>
<td>274 3249 / 277 0285, Fax: 274 1494</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:htstar@hally.net">htstar@hally.net</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Grand Hotel</td>
<td>(107 rooms; bf; cf; mr; res)</td>
<td>274 1602 / 274 1440, Fax: 274 1604</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:khalid9933@hotmail.com">khalid9933@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Park Resort &amp; Hotel</td>
<td>(Beit Sahour)</td>
<td>54 rooms; res; bar; pool</td>
<td>Tel: 277 4414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-Continental Hotel</td>
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<td>Lutheran Guesthouse “Abu Gubran”</td>
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<td>Nativity Hotel</td>
<td>(89 rooms; bf; mr; res)</td>
<td>277 0650, Fax: 274 4083</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:nativity@nativity-hotel.com">nativity@nativity-hotel.com</a></td>
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<td>Paradise Hotel</td>
<td>(129 rooms; cf; mr; res)</td>
<td>274 4542/3, Fax: 274 4544</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:paradise@p-ol.com">paradise@p-ol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Antonio Hotel</td>
<td>(36 rooms; cf; res; pf)</td>
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<td>Santa Maria Hotel</td>
<td>(83 rooms; mr; res)</td>
<td>276 7374/56, Fax: 277 0063</td>
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<td>(25 rooms; res; mr)</td>
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<td>(36 rooms)</td>
<td>276 0967/8, Fax: 276 0970</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:svincent@p-ol.com">svincent@p-ol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talita Kumi Guest House</td>
<td>(22 rooms; cf; mr)</td>
<td>274 1247, Fax: 274 1847</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al-Zaytouna Guest House</td>
<td>(7 rooms; bf; res; mr)</td>
<td>274 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jericho Panorama Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>232 2414, Fax: 232 3109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deir Hijleh Monastery</td>
<td></td>
<td>994 3038, 050-348 892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jericho Resort Village</td>
<td>(60 rooms; 46 studios; bf; cf; mr; res)</td>
<td>232 1255, Fax: 232 2189</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marketing@jericho-resort.com">marketing@jericho-resort.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerusalem Hotel</td>
<td>(22 rooms)</td>
<td>232 2444, Fax: 992 3109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hisham Palace Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>232 2414, Fax: 232 3109</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-Continental Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>231 1200, Fax: 231 1222</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jericho Resort Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>232 2444, Fax: 992 3109</td>
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<td>Jericho Hotel</td>
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<td>232 2444, Fax: 992 3109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-Continental Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>231 1200, Fax: 231 1222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jericho Resort Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>232 2414, Fax: 232 3109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telepherique &amp; Sultan Tourist Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>232 1590, Fax: 232 1598</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@jericho-cablecar.com">info@jericho-cablecar.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hebron (02)

Beit Abouna Ibrahim - family managed home-accommodation
(2 rooms; bf; res)
Telefax: 222 4811, 052-229 897
e-mail:lownp@palnet.com

Hebron Tourist Hotel
Telefax: 222 6760

Regency Hotel
(76 rooms; su; res; tb; cf; bf)
Tel: 225 7389/98, Fax: 225 7388
e-mail: regency@palnet.com
www.hebron-regency.com

Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02)

Al-A’in Hotel
Tel: 240 0683, Fax: 240 5925

Al-Bireh Tourist Hotel
(50 rooms; cf; res)
Telefax: 240 0803

Best Eastern Hotel
(91 rooms; cf; res)
Tel: 206 0450, Fax: 206 8450

City Inn Palace Hotel
(47 rooms; bf; cf; res)
Tel: 240 8080, Fax: 240 8091

Grand Park Hotel & Resorts
(84 rooms; 12 grand suites; bf; cf; mr;
res; sp; pf)
Tel: 298 6194, Fax: 295 6950
e-mail:info@grandpark.com

Gazia Strip (08)

Adam Hotel
(76 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Telefax: 283 9252/119

Al-Amal Hotel
Tel: 284 1317, Fax: 286 1832

Al Deira
(11 suites; cf; mr; res; ter)
Tel: 283 8100/200/300
Fax: 283 8400
e-mail: ADEIRA@P-I-S.com

Al-Hajal Hotel
(22 rooms; bf)
Telefax: 298 7858

Merryland Hotel
(25 rooms)
Tel: 298 7176, Telefax: 298 7074

Al-Muroq Pension
(Jifna village)
(8 rooms; res)
Tel: 295 7881

Pension Miami
(12 rooms)
Telefax: 295 6808

Plaza Hotel
Telefax: 298 2020

Ramallah Hotel
(22 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 295 3544, Fax: 295 5029

Retno Hotel
(15 rooms & su; res; mr; gm; sp)
Telefax: 295 0022
e-mail: renthotel@yahoo.com

Royal Court Suite Hotel
(24 suites; res)
Tel: 296 4040, Fax: 296 4047

Al-Wihdah Hotel
Telefax: 298 0412

Nablus (09)

Al-Qaser Hotel
(38 rooms; bf; cf; mr; res)
Tel: 238 5444, Fax: 238 5944
e-mail: alqasr@netvision.net.il

Al-Yasmeen Hotel & Souq
(30 rooms; cf; mr; res)
Tel: 233 3555, Fax: 233 3666
e-mail: yasmeen@palnet.com
http://www.alyasmeen.com

Asia Hotel
(28 rooms, res )
Telefax: 238 6220

Al-Hajal Hotel
(22 rooms; bf)
Telefax: 298 7858

Merryland Hotel
(25 rooms)
Tel: 298 7176, Telefax: 298 7074

Al-Muroq Pension
(Jifna village)
(8 rooms; res)
Tel: 295 7881

Rocky Hotel
(22 rooms; cf; res; ter)
Tel: 296 4470 Telefax: 296 1871

Summerland Tourist Village
(casino; cf; res)
Tel: 284 7171, Fax: 286 4008

Hotel Sea Breeze
Tel: 283 0277, 284 2654,
Fax: 282 4231

Commodore Gaza Hotel
(120 rooms; su; bf)
Tel: 283 4400, Fax: 282 2623
e-mail: hotel@commodorgaza.com

Key: su = suites; bf = business facilities;
mr = meeting rooms; cf = conference facilities;
res = restaurant; ter = terrace bar;
tb = turkish bath; cf = coffe shop;
gm = gym; pf = parking facilities
sp = swimming pool.
West Bank

East Jerusalem (02)

3 Arches Restaurant
Tel: 569 2692, Fax: 623 5192

Abu-Shanab Pizza
Tel: 626 0752

Al-Diwan (Ambassador Hotel)
Tel: 541 2213, Fax: 582 8202

Al-Shuleh Grill
Tel: 627 3768

Al-Quds Al-Arabi
Tel: 627 3963

Amigo Emil
Tel: 628 8090, Fax: 626 1457

Antonio’s (Ambassador Hotel)
Tel: 541 2222

Arabesque, Poolside & Patio Restaurants
(American Colony Hotel)
Tel: 627 9777, Fax: 627 9779

Armenian Tavern
Tel: 627 3854

Askidinya
Tel: 532 4590

Az-Zahra
Tel: 628 2447

Blue Dolphin
Tel: 532 2001, Fax: 581 1737

Borderline Restaurant Café
Tel: 532 8342

Café Europe
Tel: 628 4313

Café Imperial
Tel: 628 2261, Fax: 627 1530

El Dorado Coffee shop & Internet Café
Tel: 626 0993

Four Seasons Restaurants & Coffee Shop
Tel: 628 6061, Fax: 628 6097

Goodies
Tel: 585 3223

Kan Zaman (Jerusalem Hotel)
Tel: 627 1356

Lotus and Olive Garden
(Jerusalem Meridian Hotel)
Tel: 628 5212

Mocca Café (Beit Hanina)
Tel: 583 6621

Moon Light Pizza
Tel: 627 5277

Nafoura
Tel: 626 0034

Notre Dame - La Rotisserie
Tel: 627 9114; Fax: 627 1995

Papa Andreas
Tel: 628 4433

Pasha’s
Tel: 582 5162; 532 8342

Patisserie Suisse
Tel: 628 4377

Philadelphia
Tel: 628 9770

Pizza House
Tel: 627 3970

Popular Arab
Tel: 583 3226

Quick Lunch
Tel: 628 4228

Sizzling Restaurant and Bar
Tel: 626 3344

The Gate Café
Tel: 627 4282

The Patio (Christmas Hotel)
Tel: 628 2588

Victoria Restaurant
Tel: 628 3051

Zeit ou Zaater
Tel: 656 9889

Bethlehem (02)

Abu Eli
Tel: 274 1897

Abu Shanab Restaurant
Tel: 274 2985

AL-Kuz Café & Bar
Tel: +972 2 2770047

Andalos
Tel: 274 3519

Al Makan Bar - Jacir Palace Inter-Continental Bethlehem
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6754

Baidar - Jacir Palace Inter-Continental Bethlehem
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6754

Central
Tel: 274 1378

Cigar Bar - Jacir Palace Inter-Continental Bethlehem
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6754

Checkers Restaurant
Tel: 276 6338

Dar Jdoudnah Coffeeshop
Tel: 274 3212

Diwan
Tel: 277 0333, 277 0329

Dolphin
Tel: 274 3432
Golden Roof
Tel: 274 3224

Il’iliyeh Restaurant
Tel: + 972 2 2770047

Mariachi (Grand Hotel)
Tel: 274 1440

RadioNet Cafe (Beit Sahour)
Tel: 277 4883, Fax: 277 4882

Riwaq Courtyard - Jacir Palace
Inter-Continental
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6754

Shepherds Valley Village
Tel: 277 73875

Tachi Chinese
Tel: 274 1432

Zaitouneh - Jacir Palace
Inter-Continental Bethlehem
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6754

Hebron (02)

All Colors (Halhul)
Tel: 02-229 2939

Goldielocks
Tel: 274 7035

Jabal Quruntul
Tel: 232 2614; 232 2593

Jabul Restaurant
Tel: 274 7025

Jericho (02)

Al-Amar
Tel: 232 3500

Al-Nafoura Restaurant
(Jericho Resort Village)
Tel: 232 1255, Fax: 232 2189

Al-Rawda
Tel: 232 2555

Al-Rabiyyah Park & Restaurant
Tel: 232 4060, Mobile: 055-533 8295

Green Valley Park
Tel: 232 2349

Jabal Quruntul
Tel: 232 2614; 232 2593

Jericho Tent
Tel: 232 3820

Old Jericho Tent
Tel: 232 3820

Papaya Park
Mob: 050-286 067

Samhouri
Tel: 232 3252

Spanish Park
Mob: 050-515 518

Seven Trees
Tel: 232 2781

Shallal
Mob: 050-520 932

Nablus (09)

Al-Mankal
Tel: 267 5362

Rozana
Tel: 238 5676

Salim Afandi
Tel: 237 1332

Seven Trees
Tel: 236 2781

Shallal
Mob: 050-520 932

Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02)

Addar (Birzeit)
Tel: 281 0274

Almonds
Tel: 295 7028

Al-Aseel
Tel: 298 0456

Al-Bardauni’s
Tel: 295 1410

Al-Mattal
Tel: 298 6529

Al-Mattal
Tel: 298 6529

Angelo’s
Tel: 295 6408

Baladna Ice Cream
Tel: 295 6721

Sultan Restaurant - Jericho Cable Car
Tel: 232 4025

Tahhan
Tel: 232 2600

Benny’s
Tel: 296 0937

Caesar’s (Grand Park Hotel)
Tel: 298 6194

Café Olé
Tel: 298 4135

Café Mocha Rena
Tel: 298 1460

Casablanca
Tel: 298 7656

Champs
Tel: 298 7188

Chinese House Restaurant
Tel: 296 4061

Cliff House (Rocky Hotel)
Tel: 296 4470

Darna
Tel: 295 0590

Elite Coffee House
Tel: 296 5169

Ein Al-Marj (Birzeit)
Tel: 281 0220/1

Fawanees
Tel: 298 7046

Kings
Tel: 296 4040

K5M - Caterers
Tel: 295 6813

Kings
Tel: 296 4040

La Strada
Tel: 296 5968

La Terrace
Tel: 298 7701

Mr. Pizza
Tel: 240 3016

Muntaza Restaurant & Garden
Tel: 296 6335

The Orthodox Club
Tel: 296 6520

Osama’s Pizza
Tel: 295 3270

Pizz Inn
Tel: 298 1181/2

Plaza Restaurant & Park
Tel: 295 6020

Pollo-Loco (Mexican)
Tel: 298 1984

Pronto Resto-Café
Tel: 298 7312

Rukab’s Ice Cream
Tel: 295 3467

Saba Sandwiches
Tel: 296 0116

Samer
Tel: 240 5338

Sangria’s
Tel: 295 6808

Season (Birzeit)
Tel: 2810375

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Season (Birzeit)
Amigo Emil Restaurant
Christian Quarter
Old City, Jerusalem
Tel. 02-628 8090
Open daily from 10:00 to 22:00, except Sundays

This relatively new restaurant in Jerusalem’s Old City has already become a popular hangout for residents of the area and others beyond the city’s walls. It is located on a quieter street of the Christian Quarter, away from the hustle and bustle of Khan El-Zeyt, one of the Old City’s main thoroughfares.

Occupying two store-fronts, the restaurant’s interior walls are of exposed stone, all the way up to the vaulted ceiling. A few iron beams running from one wall to the other add a decorative touch and also function as support for light fixtures that illuminate the ceiling. The main dining area is furnished with wooden tables that have been topped with Armenian ceramic tiles and matching solid wood chairs. A few steps down lead to an alcove fitted with low seating, suitable for a pre- or after dinner drink.

The relatively vast menu has several unusual dishes not normally found in restaurants. To start with, there is a tasty home-made chicken soup with rice and bits of meat. Among the main courses there is a dish called Sayyadieh, a mixture of rice and fish not unlike paella but with a Middle Eastern accent. On the menu one can also find a variety of salads, omelettes, the famed Armenian meat pizza and several pasta offerings. In addition there are several meat dishes such as lamb chops and fillet mignon, and some chicken dishes, including a variation on chicken Kiev.

For dessert, the restaurant offers home-made Karabeej Halab, delicate small pastries made with semolina and filled with ground pistachio nuts. These are brought to the table topped with the customary naféf, a white concoction resembling whipped cream that is flavoured with rose water.

Prices are reasonable and the service is friendly. A place to keep in mind when going to the Old City.
Herbal Medicine

Hops

The hop plant has been widely used in Europe for the fermentation of alcoholic beverages since the 11th century. It was believed that hops accentuate a person’s bad humour. The availability of hops in ale, according to traditional German preparation methods, causes headaches and other disorders. On the other hand, it was also believed that hops can rid the body of the extra quantities of the substance that causes a bad temper.

The kernels that grow on the tips of the hop plant can be used for making infusions. Add two teaspoons of the fresh kernels to a cup of boiling water and allow to infuse for at least five minutes. It is also possible to use newly-dried kernels or frozen ones. This infusion is good in combating insomnia. The tincture has a similar effect. Taking 2ml three times daily relieves tension and irritability.

The tincture can also be mixed with other herbs such as camomile or fresh mint leaves for treating an upset stomach. Taking 1.5ml of the tincture on a cube of sugar relieves a nervous stomach. The tincture is also indicated for several sexual problems, including premature ejaculation.

Compresses can be dipped in the infusion or in a diluted tincture and placed on inflamed joints. The infusion can be used as a wash for injuries and skin rashes. Capsules that contain part of the hop plant are available on the market and are taken before meals to whet the appetite.

Avoid touching the uncut plant as it may cause a skin rash. Do not exceed the dosages indicated above and do not use the hop plant in cases of depression.
Travel Agencies

East Jerusalem (02)

Abdo Tourist & Travel
Tel: 628 1865, Fax: 627 2973
e-mail: abdo@abdo-tours.com

Albina Tours
Tel: 628 3397, Fax: 628 1215
e-mail: albina@netvision.net.il

Arab Tourist Agency (ATA)
Tel: 627 7442, Fax: 626 4366
ejack@ata.wsm.com

Aswar Tourism Services
Tel: 628 2183, Fax: 628 2189
e-mail: hai@moshtours.net

Atic Tours & Travel Ltd.
Tel: 628 6159, Fax: 624 4023
e-mail: atic@atictravel.com

Awad & Co. Tourist Agency
Tel: 628 4021, Fax: 628 7990
e-mail: admin@awad-tours.com
www.awad-tours.com

Aweidah Bros. Co.
Tel: 628 2385, Fax: 628 2386
e-mail: aweidah@netvision.net.il
www.aweidah.com

Ayoub Caravan Tours
Tel: 628 4381, Fax: 628 5804
e-mail: caravan@netvision.net.il

B. Peace Tours & Travel
Tel: 626 1876, Fax: 626 2065
e-mail: b.peacetours@bezeqint.net

Bible Land Tours
Tel: 627 1169, Fax: 627 2218
e-mail: bibleland@netvision.net.il

Blessed Land Tours
Tel: 628 6992, Fax: 628 5812
e-mail: bbl@blessedland.com
www.blessedland.com

Caravan Tours & Travel
Tel: 244 7495, Fax: 234 9826

Daher Travel
Tel: 628 3235, Fax: 627 1574
e-mail: dahertours@netvision.net.il
www.dahertravel.com

Dajani Palestine Tours
Tel: 626 4768, Fax: 627 6927
e-mail: dajani@netvision.net.il

Dakkak Tours Agency
Tel: 628 2525, Fax: 628 2526
e-mail: dakkak@netmedia.net.il

4M Travel Agency
Tel: 627 1414, Fax: 628 4701
e-mail: info@4m-travel.com
www.4m-travel.com

Gates of Jerusalem Travel Agency
Tel: 234 4365, Fax: 234 3835
e-mail: gates@alqudsnet.com

George Garabedian Co.
Tel: 628 3398, Fax: 628 7896
e-mail: gpc@ggc-jer.com

Golden Dome Company for Hajj & Umra Services
Tel: 628 0770, Fax: 628 5912

Guiding Star Ltd.
Tel: 627 3150, Fax: 627 3147
e-mail: mark@guidingstar.ltd
www.guidingstar.ltd

Holy Jerusalem Tours & Travel
Tel: 540 1668, Fax: 540 0963
e-mail: holyjerusalemtours@bezeqint.net
www.holyjerusalemtours.com

Holy Land Tours
Tel: 532 3232, Fax: 532 3292
e-mail: holylandtours.biz

J. Sylvia Tours
Tel: 628 1146, Fax: 628 8277
e-mail: sylviatours@yahoo.com

Jata Travel Ltd.
Tel: 627 5001, Fax: 627 5003
e-mail: jatatravel@hotmail.com

Jiro Tours
Tel: 627 3766, Fax: 628 1020
e-mail: jiro@netvision.net.il
www.jrotours.com

Jordanian Tourist Agency
Tel: 628 4389, Fax: 628 5037
e-mail: jordania@netvision.net.il

Jordan Travel Agency
Tel: 628 4052, Fax: 628 7621

KIM’s Tourist & Travel Agency
Tel: 627 9725, Fax: 627 4626
e-mail: kim@shabaka.net
www.kimtours.com

Lawrence Tours & Travel
Tel: 628 4867, Fax: 627 1285
e-mail: info@lawrence-tours.com

Mt. of Olives Tours Ltd.
Tel: 627 1122, Fax: 628 5551
e-mail: mool@netvision.net.il
www.olivetours.com

Nawas Tourist Agency Ltd.
Tel: 628 2491, Fax: 628 5755

Near East Tourist Agency (NET)
Tel: 628 2515, Fax: 628 2415
e-mail: operations@netours.com
www.netours.com

O.S. Hotel Services
Tel: 628 9260, Fax: 628 4979
e-mail: oshfs@jrl.com

Overseas Travel Bureau
Tel: 628 7090, Fax: 628 4442
e-mail: otb@netvision.net.il

Royal Orient Tours & Travel
Tel: 628 4181, Fax: 628 4182
e-mail: info@royal-orient.net

The Pioneer Links Travel & Tourism Bureau
Tel: 628 1963, Fax: 628 4714
www.pioneer-links.com

Safieh Tours & Travel
Tel: 628 4447, Fax: 628 4430

Samara Tourist & Travel Agency
Tel: 628 6133, Fax: 627 1956
e-mail: samico@samico.com

Shepherds Tours & Travel
Tel: 628 4121, Fax: 628 0251
e-mail: info@shepherdsMontserrat.com

Sheikhi Tours Ltd.
Tel: 673 6711, Fax: 673 6966

Sindbad Travel Tourist Agency
Tel: 627 2165, Fax: 627 2169
e-mail: sindbad1@bezeqint.net
www.Sindbad-Travel.com

Siniora Star Tours
Tel: 628 6373, Fax: 628 9078
e-mail: travel@siniora.net

Tony Tours Ltd.
Tel: 628 8844, Fax: 628 8013
e-mail: Tonytours@eielia.com

United Travel Ltd.
Tel: 627 1247, Fax: 628 3753
e-mail: unidas@beizeqint.net
www.unitedtravel.com

Universal Tourist Agency
Tel: 628 4383, Fax: 628 4448
e-mail: uaa@zahav.net.il
http://www.universal-jer.com

Zatarah Tourist & Travel Agency
Tel: 628 2725, Fax: 628 9873
e-mail: zahtar@jrl.com

Bethlehem (02)

Angels Tours and Travel
Tel: 277 5813, Fax: 277 5814
e-mail: angels@p-oil.com
www.angelstours.com

Army Tours
Tel: 221 2065
e-mail: alamiredu@ yahoo.com

Alkairam Tours
Tel: 225 6501, Fax: 225 6504
e-mail: alkairam@hebronet.com

Al-Salam Travel and Tours Co.
Tel: 221 5574, Fax: 223 3747

Golden Gate Tours & Travel
Tel: 276 6044, Fax: 276 6045
e-mail: ggtours@palex.com

Hebron (02)

Al Amir Tours
Tel: 240 3185, Fax: 240 3186
e-mail: pioneer-Links.com

Al-Muntazah Travel Agency
Tel: 228 9799, Fax: 228 9798

Al-Watad Travel & Tourism Bureau
Tel: 228 9799, Fax: 228 9798

Al-Salam Travel and Tours Co.
Tel: 221 5574, Fax: 223 3747

Ramallah Travel Agency
Tel: 295 3692, Fax: 295 5029
e-mail: admin@kaoud.org
www.kaoud.org

Reem Travel Agency
Tel: 295 3871, Fax: 295 3871

Royal Tours
Tel: 296 6350/1 Fax: 296 6635

Salah Tours
Tel: 295 9931, Fax: 298 7206

Shbat & Abdul Nur
Tel: 296 6267, Fax: 297 7246

Skyway Tourist Agency
Tel: 296 5090

Jenin (04)

Asia Travel Agency
Tel: 243 8056, Fax: 243 8057

Nablus (09)

Dream Travel & Tourism
Tel: 233 5056, Fax: 237 2089

Holiday International
Tel: 238 9159, Fax: 294 0830

Yahis International Tours
Tel: 238 1410, Fax: 238 1437
e-mail: yaishtour@palex.com

Gaza (08)

Halabi Tours and Travel Co.
Tel: 282 3704, Fax: 282 6075
e-mail: halabitiours@email.com
www.halabitiours.ps

Maxim Tours
Tel: 282 4415 Fax: 286 7596

Al-Muntazah Travel Agency
Tel: 282 7919 Fax: 282 4923

National Tourism Office
Tel: 286 0616 Fax: 286 0682

Time Travel Ltd.
Tel: 283 6775, Fax: 283 6855
e-mail: timetravel@marna.com
Health

WEST BANK
Jerusalem (02)

Hospitals
Augusta Victoria
Tel: 627 9911
Dajani Maternity
Tel: 583 3908
Hadassah (Ein Kerem)
Tel: 677 7111
Hadassah (Mt. Scopus)
Tel: 584 4111
Maqassed
Tel: 627 0222
Red Crescent Maternity
Tel: 628 6694
St. John’s Ophthalmic
Tel: 582 6325
St. Joseph
Tel: 582 6188

Clincs and Centers
Arab Health Center
Tel: 628 8726
CHS Clinics
Tel: 628 6002/0499
Jerusalem First Aid Clinic
Tel: 628 4055
Ibn Sina Medical Center
Tel: 540 0083/9, 532 2536
Medical Relief Women’s
Health Clinic
Tel: 583 3510
Palestinian Counseling
Center
Tel: 656 2272, 656 2627
Peace Medical Center
Tel: 532 7111, 532 4259
Red Crescent Society
Tel: 586 058
Spaффord Children’s Clinic
Tel: 628 4875
The Austrian Arab
Community Clinic (AACC)
Tel: 627 3246

Pharmacies
Al-Hayat
Tel: 585 9386
Balsam
Tel: 627 2315
Beit Hanina
Tel: 585 4685
Dar Ad-Dawa
Tel: 628 0558

Nablus (09)

Hospitals
Al-Meexan
Tel: 225 7400/1
Al-Za’tari
Tel: 222 9035
Al-Ahli
Tel: 222 0212
Amira Alia
Tel: 222 8126
Hamdan
Tel: 228 1860
Mohammed Ali
Tel: 225 3883/4
Shaheera
Tel: 222 6982
The Red Crescent
Tel: 222 8333

Clinics and Centers
Arabcare Hospital
Tel: 298 8420
Al-Mustaqaib Hospital
Tel: 240 4562
Ramallah Government
Hospitals
Tel: 298 2216/7

Pharmacies
Al-Hikmah
Tel: 222 8254
Ibn Sina
Tel: 222 9649

Jericho (02)

Hospitals
Jericho Government
Tel: 232 1967/89

Pharmacies
Hijazi
Tel: 232 2694
Grand Jericho
Tel: 232 2456

Clincs and Centers
UPMRC
Tel: 232 2148

Hebron (02)

Hospitals
Al-Meezan
Tel: 225 7400/1
Al-Za’tari
Tel: 222 9035
Al-Ahli
Tel: 222 0212
Amira Alia
Tel: 222 8126
Hamdan
Tel: 228 1860
Mohammed Ali
Tel: 225 3883/4
Shaheera
Tel: 222 6982
The Red Crescent
Tel: 222 8333

Clinics and Centers
Arabcare Hospital
Tel: 298 8420
Al-Mustaqaib Hospital
Tel: 240 4562
Ramallah Government
Hospitals
Tel: 298 2216/7

Najaf (08)

Hospitals
Al-Hilal Al-Arabi
Tel: 286 3014
Dar Al-Salam
Tel: 285 4240
Nasser
Tel: 205 1244
Shifa
Tel: 286 2765

Ramallah (09)

Hospitals
Al-Meezan
Tel: 225 7400/1
Al-Za’tari
Tel: 222 9035
Al-Ahli
Tel: 222 0212
Amira Alia
Tel: 222 8126
Hamdan
Tel: 228 1860
Mohammed Ali
Tel: 225 3883/4
Shaheera
Tel: 222 6982
The Red Crescent
Tel: 222 8333

Clinics and Centers
Arabcare Hospital
Tel: 298 8420
Al-Mustaqaib Hospital
Tel: 240 4562
Ramallah Government
Hospitals
Tel: 298 2216/7

Border Crossings
Allenby Bridge
02-9942302
Sheikh Hussein
04-6093410
Rafah Border
08-6734205
Erez Crossing
08-6741672
Arava Border
08-6300555

Tourism and Antiquities
Police
Bethlehem
02-2770750/1
Gaza
08-2829017
Nablus
09-385244
Jericho
02-2324011

Calls from Overseas
Dial access code, international country code (972) or (970), area code (without the zero), desired number

Wake Up* 174
International operator* 188

* can only be called from East Jerusalem
Population and Demography (revised)
Projected Population (15/10/2004)
West Bank (All Governorate) ........................................... 2,453,475
Gaza Strip ......................................................... 1,428,189
Jerusalem Governorate ........................................... 414,518
Projected Population by Age (Mid 2004)
0-17 years ......................................................... 52.4%
18-64 ................................................................... 44.6%
65+ .................................................................... 3.0%
Sex Ratio (2004) ..................................................... 102.8
Fertility rate (1999) ................................................ 5.9
Population Natural Increase Rate (2004) ..................... 3.5

Land Use and Agriculture
Palestinian Territory (PT) Area (Km2) ...................... 6,020
Area of PT by Type of Use (different reference periods)
* Agricultural Land (2003) .................................. 24.7%
* Forest and Wooded Land (2003) ..................... 1.5%
* Palestinian Built-up Land (2000) ..................... 9.7%
* Built-up Land in Israeli Settlements (2001) ....... 3.0%
Cultivated Area (Km2)-2002 ................................... 1,851.1

Illiteracy rate for persons 15 years and over (2003) .... 8.1%
No. of schools .......................................................... 2,109
No. of school teachers ........................................... 37,240
No. of school students ............................................. 1,017,443
Students per class (schools) ................................. 35.5
Drop-out rate (schools 2002/2003) ......................... 1.0%
Repetition rate (schools 2002/2003) ......................... 1.4%

Health (2001-2002)
No. of hospitals (2003) ............................................. 73
Doctors per 1000 population (2003) ...................... 1.5
Beds per 1000 population (2003) ......................... 1.36
Insured persons (2002) ........................................... 76.0%
Stunting among children (6-59 months) (2002) ...... 9.0%
Wasting among children (6-59 months) (2002) ....... 2.5%

Culture (2003)
No. of mosques (in operation)- (2003) .................... 1,786
No. of churches (2002) .......................................... 201
No. of newspapers (in operation) ......................... 12
No. of museums (in operation) .............................. 7
No. of culture centers (in operation) ....................... 62

Availability of TV sets ............................................ 92.5%
Availability of satellite dish for household having TV set . 61.4%

Economics
GDP (2002-million US$)-at constant prices ............ 4,169.3
GNI (2002-million US$)-at constant prices ........... 4,570.7
CPI and percent change in Palestinian Territory in August 2004 Compared with July 2004 .......... 141.21 0.07%

Number of establishments in operation in private sector by economic activity (2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mining and Quarrying</td>
<td>334</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>14,807</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity and Water supply</td>
<td>378</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>430</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>42,771</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, storage and communication</td>
<td>641</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels and Restaurants</td>
<td>2,929</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Intermediation</td>
<td>705</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities</td>
<td>2,943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,514</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Social work</td>
<td>3,105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Community, Social and Personal Services</td>
<td>3,845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports (2002-million US$)*</td>
<td>2,615.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports (2002-million US$)*</td>
<td>565.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hotels (Second Quarter, 2004)
Room occupancy rate ......................... 13.3
Bed occupancy rate ............................ 9.4

Environment
Available quantities of water (2002-mcm) ........ 279.9
Connected households to wastewater network (2004) 42.9%

Housing Conditions (2003)
Average number of rooms in the housing units .......... 3.4
Average number of persons per room (housing density) 1.9

* at constant prices: 1997 is the base year
The monastery of Saint Theodosius lies about 12km east of Bethlehem, near the village of Ubaideh. It is known locally as Deir Ibn Ubaid. It has two advantages over the more famous monastery of Mar Saba, which is further east: it is more accessible and women are allowed to visit it. Theodosius was a monk from Cappadocia (in central Turkey) who was staying in Jerusalem when he was divinely directed to seek out a cave where the Three Wise Men from the East had rested after paying homage to Jesus in Bethlehem. Here, in AD 476, he founded a monastery, which at one time housed 693 Greek, Georgian, Armenian and Slavic monks within a fortified compound which contained no fewer than four churches, each holding services in a different language to cater for the many pilgrims who passed through the area. This monastery, along with virtually all the others, was destroyed by the invading Persians in AD 614. The building that stands today was built by the Greek Orthodox Church at the turn of the century on the ruins of the Byzantine complex. It incorporates the remains of the earlier church and the caves of the monastery. It has a collection of skulls from the Persian massacre of 614, each with a cross painted in the middle of its forehead.
The Jordan River

The Jordan is the longest river in Palestine, running some 250km from north to south and flowing into the Dead Sea. It can be found eight kilometres to the east of the city of Jericho. The western bank of the river, which has many religious and historical sites, is unfortunately not accessible to tourists due to Israeli security concerns. The river could be disappointing visually as it is neither wide nor deep; it is rather a shallow stream. Its significance lies in its historical and biblical associations. On its western bank, not far from Jericho, is the site where Christ is said to have been baptized. The site is normally accessible to Greek Orthodox Christians once a year.

Much of the river runs parallel with the boundary between Jordan to the east and the West Bank and Israel to the west. It is part of the Great Rift Valley, which runs all the way from Syria to Tanzania in Africa. A number of bridges span the river, the most important of which is the Allenby Bridge, which was built by the British. It is the main crossing point between the West Bank and Jordan.
Now that Ramadan is in full swing, it is worthwhile to head to the Old City to enjoy the unique flavours of this special month. To start with, there is the fresh produce market which is brimming with all kinds of fresh fruits and vegetables in season. Since it is customary to have several main dishes on the Ramadan table every evening, the consumption of vegetables during this holy month is considerably higher. The same goes for fruits, as people tend to nibble on them throughout the evening, until it is time to fast again. Dates are the star fruit of the month, as many break their fast with a few dates before eating anything else.

Ramadan also witnesses the appearance of unusual beverages that are not readily available throughout the rest of the year. There is a milky almond-flavoured beverage and the more common tamarind-based drink.

Ramadan has its special sweets as well. You will see many vendors pouring qatayef on a hot griddle. This pancake-like creation, which is cooked on one side only, is then filled with unsalted white cheese or chopped walnuts and folded into a half moon. After baking it is dipped in hot syrup which is often flavoured with rose water. One also notices the proliferation of dried fruits such as apricots, prunes and raisins, which are eaten as is or which go into the making of sweets and puddings.

The Old City offers many cultural activities as well, including special Ramadan evenings at which stories are related and songs are chanted. The Centre for Jerusalem Studies of Al-Quds University, located right next to the Al-Haram Al-Sharif, is one such venue.
The Last Word

Freedom of Speech

Political diversity within a society is no doubt healthy, and we the Palestinians have our share of that. A visit to our Legislative Council is sufficient evidence to see that all our political schools of thought are expressed openly and with no fear of retribution. As is the case in other parliaments around the world, the debates that go on there are often heated and intense. The local and international media are other indicators of how vocal and vibrant our political spectrum is.

Within our society also, freedom of speech, including being critical of conditions and of situations, critical of other points of view and even of higher authority, is hardly uncommon. I do believe that expressing one’s views openly has become an inherent feature of our society, not to mention that it is guaranteed in the Palestinian Basic Law. It is said that in comparison to the peoples of the rest of the Arab countries, we the Palestinians, surprisingly, enjoy a greater measure of freedom of speech. Having said that, a word of caution is in order: it is also true that there have been lately numerous incidents whereby this freedom of speech was not tolerated to a point that some took the law into their own hands, a worrying indicator no doubt, but fortunately, things have not gotten out of control – at least not yet.

In this transitional time that we are living in, in which our political culture is still in the making, it is essential that we consolidate existing positive features, such as freedom of speech in all its aspects, to ensure that we not only manage to hold on to them once we move on, but also to build on them in the future. In my opinion, public awareness of the benefits of freedom of speech is the first step that should be taken to preserve it. Intellectuals have a major role to play in passing on and strengthening this social habit. Human rights groups are also essential in monitoring the situation, recording their findings and doing what they do best – advocate. Lastly, conscientious lawmakers should actively engage in constantly enhancing existing legislations that will ensure freedom of speech, as well as other such pillars of a strong civil society. In addition to that, they should also be working on passing new ones to this effect. I do believe that this is the best way towards forming an enlightened political structure ready to take on future challenges.

Unfortunately, nothing should be taken for granted. Positive features within a society that took generations to build might be lost in a very short time. We are living in critical times; if we are not careful, it will be our children who will be the ones to pay the price.

Sani P. Meo
Competition is tough. But success is sweeeet.

JAWWAL faces the highest level of competition in the MENA region*. How tough is competition in Palestine? Well, five cellular operators (including GSM, CDMA and PTT) compete head-on in the Palestinian territories. Yet, JAWWAL controls the biggest market share and is proudly serving 700 thousand subscribers. Our 450 professionals are focused and committed to streamlining our operations and expanding our market share, all in full transparency and good governance.

Hey, who says uncertainty, political turmoil and fierce competition hinder success? They only make it sweeeeter.

*Based on data from 2018, as per competition intensity in the MENA region. For more information visit www.jawwalarchive.com