













# Content

	Forword	2
	Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture	3
	Diyar's 7th International Conference	7
	Religion & State - Middle East Program	9
	Diyar Publisher	11
	Civic Engagement Program	13
	Diyar Academy for Children and Youth	19
	Ajyal Elderly Care Program	29
	Azwaj Program	33
	Fit for Life Project	35
	Cultural Events	37
	Authentic Tourism Program	39
	Construction	41

# Diyar Board of Directors

Bishop Dr. Munib Younan (Chair)  
Dr. Ghada Asfour-Najjar (Vice Chair)  
Mr. Jalal Odeh (Treasurer)  
Dr. Khalil Nijm (Secretary)  
Mr. Zahi Khouri  
Mr. Albert Aghazarian  
Mr. Ghassan Kasabreh  
Dr. Bernard Sabella  
Dr. Versen Aghabekian  
Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (President, ex  
ofio)

# Forword

Dear friends,  
Salaam from Bethlehem. The year 2013 was another remarkable year for Diyar, one marked with enormous achievements.

A major milestone was the accreditation of Dar al-Kalima as a University College enabling us to offer BA degrees in addition to two - year as well as professional diplomas. This breakthrough will help Dar al-Kalima to reach new heights.

Ad-Dar Cultural and Conference Hall, a millennium project funded by the Foreign Ministry of Finland and inaugurated in 2003 celebrated its tenth anniversary reaching more than 100,000 people in ten years putting Dar Annadwa at the heart of the cultural pulse of Palestine.

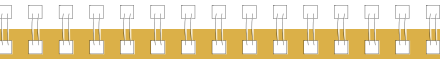


The number of international conferences, exchange programs and regional workshops reached a record high. Several productions in theater, dance, and film culminated in the second Palestinian Art Festival in California with more than three thousand people attending. Ghaneeha (a type of Palestinian Idol) attracted some of the most promising young talents and voices in Palestine, so did the leadership training programs.

Diyar continued in 2013 to play a crucial regional role through the Religion & State II program entitled "Seizing the Moment: Towards a Middle Eastern Vision for the Future" focusing on constitutional developments in the region.

Although 2013 was not an easy year and had immense challenges we continued to focus on the seemingly endless opportunities that accompany these challenges. In a context of occupation, Diyar continues to be a success story because of its vision, message, its board, staff, friends, and the people we serve who continue to believe in us. Their commitment makes all the difference. We thank the Lord for that.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb  
President  
Diyar Consortium



# Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture

In 2013 Dar al-Kalima was reaccredited by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education to become a University College enabling it to grant BA degrees. The first BA programs to be offered in 2014 are Film Production and Contemporary Fine Art. The College will accredit several other BA and diploma degrees in 2014 to increase its educational offerings.

## Cultural Heritage and Tourism Studies

### *Culinary Art Program*

- Through the Culinary Art Development project - with EU funding and implemented by the GIZ, an educational kitchen was installed in the building for Tourism and Cultural Heritage. The furnishing of the kitchen's equipment and utensils were also provided through the project. The dining hall furniture is expected to arrive in April 2014. A culinary expert was sent from Germany through the project to assist in the practical training of students in the kitchen in cooperation with teachers and instructors.
- Three students from the Culinary Art Program were sent to Germany for a one month internship in educational institutions, hotels and restaurants.
- A cooking session was conducted with the famous American chef Art Smith in

cooperation with the American Consulate in Jerusalem.



### *Palestinian Tour Guide Program*

- A workshop on curricula development in cooperation with the University for sustainable Tourism Management in Eberswalde; Germany was conducted and an MOU of cooperation with the university was signed to develop a BA program. The MOU is for four years and the process is funded by the DAAD.
- The Sahari project began at the end of 2013, and will continue until June 2014.

The program is to train Bedouin youth as tour guides for the areas inhabited by Bedouins.

## Performing Arts

### *Music Performance Program*

- Ghaneeha 4 project (the "Palestinian Idol" version) was carried out in 2013, funded by the US Consulate in Jerusalem. The Ghaneeha contestants performed eight concerts in the West Bank, including Jerusalem
- Three groups were founded, including the Choral group, the Oriental Music Group and the Guitar Band.



## Theater Performance

- An exchange between Dar Al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture and Osnabruck University took place in the summer of 2013. Students from the Performing arts Department participated, resulting in joint work between our students and the German students which was performed at the College, the Freedom Theater and Ashtrar Theater in the West Bank.
- The second Conference - Palestinian-German Dialogue about Theater and Theater Pedagogy was held in Lingen, Germany



- The third Conference - Palestinian - German Dialogue about Theater and Theater Pedagogy-was held in October 2013 in Bethlehem, Palestine.

## Visual Arts



## Conferences

- A conference was organized and hosted on January 25, 2013 on the great Palestinian artist "Jabra Ibrahim Jabra (1919–1994)". An exhibition of thirteen of his original works took place, curated by the artist Vera Tamari. Most of the peaces were

being exhibited for the first time. The conference, which has had a marked effect on the historiography of Palestinian Art, was organized by the Visual Arts Department and Diyar Publisher in cooperation with the researcher and founder / owner of the collection, Mr. George Michael Ama. Artists from Palestine, Jordan, Austria, France and other countries participated in the conference.

### *Visiting Artists*

There were a number of visiting artists at the College we many in 2013:

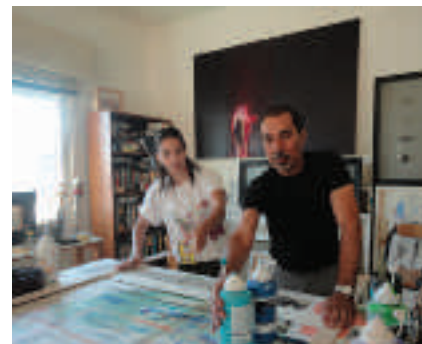
- Palestinian sound artist Dirar Kalash for a "Sound Art Workshop"
- Austrian artist and academician Ulrich Gansert
- American author, Bret Lott
- Qatari artist, Fatima Shibani



### *Study Tours*

- A group of Contemporary Art students, faculty and administrators went on a ten-day study tour in June to Amman, Jordan to meet with artists from the Arab world, visit galleries, exhibition openings and museums, as well as to work on photography, video art and oil painting with the Iraqi artist, Mr. Sina Ata. The tour, titled "Art in the Arab World," was sponsored by the Bank of Palestine. The tour was a great educational opportunity for the students and in December 2013 the College signed an agreement with the

Iraqi Business Council in Amman to provide co-funding with the Bank of Palestine to conduct these tours. There will be two in 2014, five in 2015 and seven in 2016.



### *Residencies*

Residency opportunities for students and graduates in different locales were available in 2013. These residencies included:

- An Art residency in Glasgow, Scotland.
- An Art residencies in Sweden.

## Festivals

- Hosting of the 15th Very Short International Film Festival in cooperation with the Alliance Française of Bethlehem.
- Hosting the "Young Filmmakers' Film Festival" in cooperation with the Young Film Makers Association. Three films by our students were part of the festival.
- Participating in Zayed University's Middle East Film Festival for the third time. One of our students was among the ten finalists.
- Participating at the International Film Schools Festival, Poitiers, France, by sending five of our student films. One student, Mohammed Al-Fateh Abu Snene, attended the festival from November 29th to December 8th.

## Library

- The number of books acquired in 2013 was 367.
- The number of reference books acquired in 2013 was 19.
- The number of films and CDs acquired in 2013 was 442.

### *Success story*

In November 2013, four students from the Documentary Film Program (Nabil Hmouz, Suliman Mukarker, Muhammad Zahran and Bilal Abu Alia) launched an internet radio station (Power FM) which focuses on the issues of youth. The station is run fully by these young people, with the help of a large team from the College's student body.

# Diyar's 7th International Conference on "Palestinian Identity in relation to Time and Space"

From August 25th-31 2013 Diyar held in Bethlehem its 7th international conference on "Palestinian identity in relation to Time and Space" with scholars 16 countries (e.g., Palestine, Egypt, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Holland, Sweden, The UK, the USA, the Philippines, Iran, Mexico) who brought to

the event not only an international scope, persuasions and perspectives, but also an ecumenical, interdisciplinary, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural research and dialogue. The conference is part of a series of academic programs launched in 2005 on the topic of "Shaping Communities in Times of Crisis: Narratives of Land, Peoples and Identities".

The conference coincided with Diyar's celebration of the 10th anniversary of ad-Dar cultural and conference center that was inaugurated in 2003 to become the address for international conferences and intercultural encounters.

The development of the Palestinian Identity has been the focus of many studies and conferences. However, all of the studies so far concentrated on the emergence of this identity in the last hundred years. But who were we as Palestinians prior to an-Nakba? Where are our roots? How do we relate to the empires, civilizations and cultures that

shaped our land in the last 3000 years? How did the socio-political developments impact our understanding of identity?



On the other hand Jewish Identity has been constructed in relation to ancient biblical narratives that identify modern day's entity with a biblical Israel. The conference focused on analyzing the understanding of the Palestinian Identity in relation to the biblical story, history and archeology and how this understanding has been reflected in art. On the other hand, thorough analyses of the way western theologians have identified the

People of Palestine in their writings and art will be a highlight as well. The self-Understanding of the Palestinians of themselves in relation to time and space and the way they have been identified by others is not only an important theological topic, but also a question of high political and social relevance.

The conference had several goals:

- To study the diverse and major contemporary developments in Identity formations in relation to Palestine
- To provide a pertinent forum of discussion on how identity is directly



affected by ethnicity, culture, archeology, ideology and theology

- To analyze the impact of Exile on the formation of Palestinian Identity
- To explore new readings of Bible and history in the midst of new sociopolitical contexts
- To encourage some interdisciplinary analysis in relation to Palestinian Land and history

One important focus in the conference was therefore on the Palestinian Diaspora and especially in Latin America and how their identity develops away from the mother land. Another focus was on Dr. Tawfiq Canaan, the leading Palestinian anthropologist, and his role in fostering of a dynamic identity in turbulent times. A third focus was on the village of Battir, where the continuity of time and space

is obvious like in no other place. Trips to ancient shrines in the Hebron area as well as Bir Zeit University preceded the conference itself. The proceedings of the conference are expected to be published in 2014.







## Religion & State – Middle East Program

The year 2013 was the heart of the three-year PHASE II of the R & S Program, building on what had been envisaged and developed in PHASE I (2008 – 2010), a post-PHASE I year of evaluation and strategy formulation (2011), and launched during the first year of PHASE II (2012).

In keeping with the approved strategy and program design for PHASE II, a foundational workshop was held in Amman, Jordan, in December 2012 that included 22 invited persons from the four countries of focus (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan

and Palestine), plus another 12 Jordanian participants recommended by the Royal Institute for Inter-faith Studies (RIIF).

Presentations and discussions during that workshop and several events that followed in 2013 focused on Constitutions; the Rule of Law; State Security vs. Human Security; the Role of Religion in Public Space; and the Role of the State in Securing Religious Liberties; the Management of Natural and Human Resources; the Role of Women and Discriminatory State and Religious Laws and Practices Against Them.

Around those various themes, the following events were successfully conducted in the course of 2013:

- A major conference in Berlin, Germany, April 23 – 26, in cooperation with the German Initiative for the Middle East (DINO), with 25 specialists, advocates and practitioners (parliamentarians and

legislators, civil society members, women and youth), plus some 40 international observers and partners from 17 countries, representing “a community of caring.” The conference covered a spectrum of critical issues faced/experienced by citizens of Middle Eastern countries;

- **Regional Workshops / Training Events:**
  - Three workshops combined into one for young lawyers and advocates (attorneys, graduate students of law, political researchers, media persons and civil society), September 3 – 5 in Amman. Three renowned instructors conducted the major part of the training; a syllabus was produced.
  - A one-day workshop for a group of young civil engagement professionals (women and men) was held in Ramallah, Palestine, on

December 22, focusing on issues involving Human and Religious Rights – Realities and Aspirations, Exercises in Practical Application.

- A joint meeting between Diyar, the Center for Middle Eastern Christians (based in Beirut), and the Association for Christians of the Levant (based in Amman) was to have been held in November, but was postponed and held in January 2014, due to calendar complications.

These events were by all measures fruitful, and produced an essential core of issues to be addressed in 2014 for the completion of PHASE II, and for drawing up the strategy for the next steps to provide the framework for PHASE III (2015 – 2017).

## Diyar Publisher

In the Year 2013 Diyar Publisher has published six books, four in Arabic and two in English.

The highlight was the coffee table book entitled "*Bethlehem: A World Heritage*," in response to UNESCO's decision on June 29, 2012 to place the Church of the Nativity and the pilgrimage route in Bethlehem on its World Heritage list. Sites put on this list are considered to be "of outstanding value to humanity."

"Garó Nalbandian and Fred Strickert, together with Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb collaborated on publishing this book.

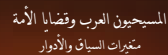
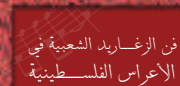
Another important highlight was the three books written by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb in the last two decades published in 2013 commemorating his 25th anniversary of ordination. The first book contained unpublished essays in Arabic on "*The Arab Christians: Changing Contexts and Roles*," the second unpublished English articles with the title "*Sailing through Troubled Waters: Christianity in the Arab World*," and the third a book of a selection of sermons delivered at Christmas Lutheran Church from the first Intifada in 1988 until 2013 entitled "*Text in Context*."

A third key publication was that of Prof. Mutasem Adileh, the chair of the Performing Arts Department at Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture who together with a colleague of his wrote a book on Palestinian wedding

songs. This book is the first ethno-musicological linguistic study on this topic to-date.

Last but not least, the second volume of the autobiography series of Diyar Publisher came out with the memoirs of Issa Basil Bandak, one of Bethlehem's mayors during British Mandate and the founder of one of the first Palestinian newspapers at large.







## Civic Engagement Program

### The Civic Engagement Program: Youth in Action

The Civic Engagement Program seeks to empower Palestinian youth as Palestine's future leaders and to transform them from spectators to actors by identifying, motivating and developing their potential through a unique and holistic approach employing culture as the tool for training. With its civic engagement initiatives and projects, the program helps youth to articulate significant civic issues and become engaged in society.

In 2013, the Representative Office of Finland in Ramallah and the Olof Palme International Center contributed significantly to this program by supporting two major initiatives, respectively: The Palestinian Youth Leadership Training Project – Phase II and the Civic Cultural Network. We thank both partners for their continued generous support and for the confidence they have placed in us to carry out this pivotal work.

### 2013 Highlights

#### *Youth graduates*

There were 191 young men and women graduates who received intensive training through ten workshops and engaged in civic and cultural activities designed to enhance their capacities and understanding of leadership, culture and civil society issues. The number of graduates increased this year by 8.5%, making it the highest number of youth graduating from leadership training in thus far.

There were very few dropouts this year meaning that the majority of participants committed seriously to the training, so much so that 18.84% of them attended all ten workshops. Examples of such dedication include one participant who had a baby and just 16 days after delivery returned because she did not want to miss any session, while a young man from the Hebron district got married in June on a Tuesday and was back at the training on Friday, i.e. three days later.

The graduates, a significant portion of them college and university students, were comprised of 94 women and 97 men whose ages ranged between 18 to 30. They represented a rich geographical spread within Palestine including Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarim, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem and Hebron districts. Significantly almost half of the graduates (49.14%) came from marginalized areas such as villages and refugee camps, thus fulfilling a critical objective for Diyar,

which is to engage and activate youth who live on the periphery of society.



### *Internship Opportunities*

Ten internship opportunities were offered to former graduates of the Leadership Training Program, who are now members of the Civic Cultural Network. With 50 hours each, these interns were able to improve their organizational and communication skills markedly during their studies. They were involved mainly with administrative tasks but also assisted in the facilitation of some of the training workshops as well as editing some of the films that were made on these workshops. The

dedication of some interns went beyond our expectations, so that their internship was magnified more than once due to their exceptional organizational qualities and commitment. Even in between and after finishing their internship and receiving a certificate of experience, they continued to help with many tasks.

### *The Civic Cultural Network*

This network, which is comprised of the graduates of Diyar's civic engagement initiatives who were intensively trained in leadership, culture and civil society issues and values, provides the necessary framework from which its members are able to effectively implement, both individually and collectively, their enhanced capacities and understanding for the good of society.

The network's membership base grew to 168 members in 2013, and is expected to grow during the ensuing years. Young women members comprise the majority,

as there are 89 women members to 79 young men. The network therefore, has a strong female composition and input.

A questionnaire was prepared in 2013 and sent to all the network's members to further define the role of the network and how it can benefit its members while at the same time enhancing its impact on society by assessing members' needs for future training and other priorities. As a result, a series of workshops to upgrade skills were held throughout the year in response to the requests made by the members, which focused on the following topics: Public Debate; Resume and Interview Skills; Palestinian Identity; Theater of the Oppressed; Proposal Writing & Budgeting.



The growth of volunteer efforts among the members of the network was also extremely positive throughout the year, as more than 72% of the youth indicated that they were active in their own communities. Such efforts lay the foundation not only for gaining further life skills but also for an enhanced sense of civic responsibility, connection, commitment and 'belonging'.

Finally, a short film on the work of the Civic Cultural Network was produced, which helped critically in outreach and PR efforts. It was screened on numerous occasions, particularly at the multiple

events and locations of Diyar Consortium, as well as online on different websites and Facebook pages. Networking with other organizations was highly productive to during the year. One example that bore fruit were the forums utilized to host the artistic productions of 2012. They were spread across four districts, namely Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah and Nablus, and consisted mainly of: Dar al-Kalima University College (Bethlehem), al-Finiq Center and Lilac Center (both in Deheisheh Refugee Camp in Bethlehem), Polytechnic University (Hebron), PMRS' Youth Center (Hebron), Dura Cultural Center (Hebron), Olive Festival Bil'in Village (Ramallah) and al-Najah University (Nablus).

### *The Civic Cultural Creativity Competition 'Al-Ibdaa al-Thaqafi al-Madani'*

The Civic Cultural Network held for the second year the Civic Cultural Creativity Competition 'Al-Ibdaa al-Thaqafi al-

Madani', which is a competition for the best artistic work portraying and shedding light on a civil society or cultural issues and values. Seven finalists were selected from among the applicants and their work was launched in December 2013.

The proposed ideas as well as the artistic mediums through which these issues were presented were more varied and eclectic this year, while the geographical background of the applicants was more diverse. Also, for the first time, we had a female winner which is most encouraging as in these mediums female presence is usually low.

The first two winning productions were unique not only because of the genres that both young men used, but because for the first time in this competition a theater play and a silent film were produced, and because currently both live and / or come from very marginalized areas in the Jerusalem district.

The first production was a theater play by Muhammad Sha'lan, a young man who is originally from Bethlehem but currently lives in Al-Azariyeh village near Jerusalem. It is a 20-minute play entitled "The Remains Of A Body" on the issue of honor in Arab societies and how it is mistakenly tied to women's virginity and conduct, concluding that change in perceptions can only take place through younger generations. Aside from the strong symbolism in the play, it is remarkable for the fact that all actors, with the exception of one older woman, were children and youth whose ages ranged from 10 to 19.

The second production was a short five minute silent film called "Who Am I?" by Amro Safafi from the village of Beit Safafa near Jerusalem. The film deals with the question of identity as a society which is in a state of continual social, economic and political struggle and the consumer culture that is emerging, blindly imitating the West while losing the links to one's own heritage and history.

The third and fourth productions were poetry. The first of the winning poems entitled "The Mystery Is In It So Can You Solve It" was by Ahmad Saddeh from Jit village in the Qalqilya district. The young poet challenges the reader/listener to solve the mystery presented in his poem, which reflects on the Arab revolutions and the political challenges that Arab youth face today. The mystery, we later discover, lies in the first letter of every verse, which when compiled spell out the names of the former Arab presidents of Libya and Egypt; Qadafi and Mubarak. The second poem was by Ahmad al-'Arboudi from Nablus and it is a journey into self-discovery by a Palestinian. He concludes that there is always an internal conflict as to who we are as Palestinians, distributed across four identities that share the painful experience of being oppressed and occupied. These identities are the refugee, the expat, the prisoner and the martyr "Shahid."

The fifth work for the second year in row was winner Tarek abu Salameh from Beit Sahour near Bethlehem. His is a musical piece entitled "Schizophrenia" focusing on the struggles and conflicts that we as a Palestinian society experience on a daily basis, struggles that include spirituality and religion where we might even conjure up virtual worlds that clash violently with reality. Living in contradiction affects many people, and according to Tarek those who suffer most from it are those considered "marginalized," including women and children.

The sixth production was a theater play by two young men from the Bethlehem district, Khaled Ayesh from Irtas village and Usama Azzeh from al-Azzeh refugee camp. The ten-minute theater play "Hope" deals with the issue of cancer. The two young men wanted to share stories of hope insisting that even with cancer, one should not stop dreaming, being joyful, or planning for the future. Remarkably the actors were comprised of young children



who are themselves cancer survivors. The directors, aside from theater, used the medium of video.

The final winning work "Tashawushat" was a video by Hanan Sway from the town of Beit Jala near Bethlehem. Sway portrays the obstacles that face Arab women, which are generated by a patriarchal society and authority, preventing them from realizing their dreams and goals and restricting their roles. To make the struggle images more vivid, Sway spent two days building a labyrinth before taping.

It is important to note that all of these productions, except for the poems, were created by team work in that the winners engaged the talents of other youth such as actors, musicians, camera and sound people, editors, technical assistants and many others. As such, the competition provided 28 short-term employment opportunities for young people.



## *National Seminars*

The Civic Engagement Program, in collaboration with other divisions within Diyar, helped to support three seminars/lectures that were held on significant Palestinian and Finnish cultural figures. More than 690 young people participated in these events.

The first seminar was in January in cooperation with Dar al-Kalima University College focused on the Palestinian author and painter Jabra Ibrahim Jabra "Jabra Ibrahim Jabra: The Person, The Novelist, The Artist." and was held to celebrate Jabra's life accomplishments and to highlight the discovery and exhibition of 12 original paintings in Bethlehem, a critical find as Jabra later lived in Iraq where a great deal of his work was lost due to war.

The second seminar was held in August on Tawfiq Canaan, the noted anthropologist, ethnologist, pioneering physician and medical researcher who contributed

tremendously through his writings and collections on the pre-1948 history of Palestine. The seminar was part of a larger conference that spanned a week called "Palestinian Identity in Relation to Time and Space".

The third and final event, which took place in December, was a lecture given by Dr. Ali Qleibo on the valuable contributions of Hilma Granqvist, the Swedish-speaking Finnish female anthropologist who researched the life of women in the Palestinian village of Artas from 1920-1931. The lecture was combined with a field visit to Irtas.



## *Publications*

In collaboration with Diyar Publisher, two significant publications were produced in 2013:

### *The Atlas of Palestinian Rural Heritage:*

A significant cultural resource in English and Arabic on Palestinian cultural heritage, documenting rare, extensive research and ethnographic study on 700 items from rural Palestine.

### *Palestine:*

People, Land and Identity: A catalogue of photographic works by Iyas Abu Rahmeh from Bil'in village, one of the winners of the 2012 Civic Cultural Creativity Competition, which highlights and deals with the question of identity through photographic images.



# Diyar Academy for Children and Youth

The Diyar Academy for Children and Youth seeks to develop the potential and capacities of Palestinian children and youth, enhance their self-worth and provide room and space for creativity through performing and visual arts as well as sports, as these fields are deemed to be critical tools for expression, development, and empowerment.

## Sports School

The Sports School of the Academy continued its expansion with highly successful programs in soccer and basketball for girls and young women and a mixed gender swimming team. We had approximately 100 young players in these sports and we expect the numbers to grow dramatically in the coming years. Launching the new office infrastructure at Diyar Academy for Children and Youth gave critical momentum to our girls and young women sports teams, especially soccer and basketball, as it provided staff with space to strategize and brainstorm for development, and allowed for the opportunity to meet with the players to discuss games and competitions and plan for the future. Some highlights of the year:



### *January 2013:*

- Diyar Women First Soccer Team was in the middle of the soccer season of the Palestinian League established in November 2012. The team won 4 – 0 against Al Ro'a team and the game against Siriyet Ramallah ended 1-1, after winning against the same team 3-1 in December 2012.
- Diyar Youngsters Team "A" started its season playing soccer in the Palestinian League for these under 16 and won 5 games out of 6.



- Dr. Kathrin Steinbrenner, the German Counselor in Cultural and Media Relations, visited the Sports School and showed a great deal of interest and support for Diyar's mission of cultivating leadership, especially women leadership, through organized sports. Diyar's Vice President for Development and Outreach, Ms. Rana Khoury welcomed Dr. Kathrin to our Sports School and introduced the Diyar Academy for Children and Youth.

### *February 2013:*

- Diyar Youngsters Team "A" in soccer played the semi-final in the under 16 League and lost 2-1 against the Al-Bireh team while Diyar Youngsters Team "B" continued to practice as it was the foundation stage for this particular team.
- Diyar conducted a friendly game between the Diyar Youngsters Teams in soccer against the American School team.
- Ms. Wolf, Ms. Busch and Ms. Meinshauser from the German Representative Office in Ramallah visited the Sports School. Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb welcomed our friends in the facility of Diyar Academy for Children and Youth and emphasized the important role of women sports in our community and Palestine.





### March 2013:

- Diyar Women First Soccer Team played the Golden Stage in the Palestinian League and won 1-0 against Al Ro'a Team and 15-0 against the Jerusalem Team, which qualified our team for the final game against Siriyet Ramallah.

### April 2013

- Diyar Women First Soccer Team player Gina Khnouf received the "A" certificate for soccer training from FIFA after extensive training for a year and half. She is the first Palestinian woman to receive this certificate. Seven players from the Diyar Women First Soccer Team started intensive training with the Palestinian National Team in preparation for the Asian Qualifications.



### May 2013

- A new basketball coach began training our basketball team. Osama Abu

Jabber is a player in the Palestinian National Team and has trained many basketball teams, including a number of teams for women in the past.



### June 2013:

- The final game of the Palestinian League took place. Diyar Women First Soccer Team lost the match 2-1 against Seriyet Ramallah. The loss was partly due to the fact that our offensive player, who is among the best in the country, was unable to play because of unforeseen circumstances.
- Diyar Youngsters Team "A" continued playing soccer in the Five-A-Side Championship. They won the last

match of their group and thus qualified for the second stage of the championship.



### *July 2013:*

The Diyar Women First Soccer Team traveled to Germany to participate in the first European Arab Football Championship for women, with nine teams from different countries in Europe and the Middle East. Our team achieved third place after a difficult competition. The championship also entailed leadership training and workshops to compare and learn about women soccer in the nine participating countries and the challenges and successes in each.

### *August 2013:*

Diyar Youngsters Team "A" in soccer won the Five-A-Side Championship playing against Al-Roa'a team after a great season. It was their first championship playing officially in the under 16 football league.



### *September – December 2013*

Diyar Women First Soccer Team began a new season in September which will last until June 2014. From September to December the team played four games in which they won three and lost one.

### *Profiles & Success Stories*

Niveen, 29, is the manager of the Girls (under 19 years old) Soccer Team in the Palestinian Federation Football Association. She studied History and Geography at Al-Quds Open University in Palestine. Niveen has five brothers and five sisters. Her mother works hard to look after the household, and her late father was a hospital receptionist.

Niveen plays on Diyar Women First Soccer Team. She also works as a trainer and mentors the girls on Diyar Youngster Soccer Teams.

*"I like my team at Diyar. Diyar supports me and gives me the opportunity to travel. (I also) enjoy the workshops and courses (that) develop my skills."*





Niveen's goals are to be a good manager for the girls she works with, and to travel the world gaining invaluable experience. She already made numerous trips with Diyar Academy for Children and Youth as well as Palestine's National Team to countries such as Germany, Jordan, Brazil, Malaysia, Morocco, Egypt, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, and Qatar.

"The best for me was Germany and Brazil. In Brazil we trained with the Santos Team. It was very challenging. We trained in the gym and at the beach; it was my first time training at the beach."

Niveen plans to continue playing and coaching soccer at Diyar Academy for Children and Youth; she believes in Diyar's vision to support the community around her.

## Theater and Dance School

The Theater and Dance School is thriving with a range of programs being offered and high participation rates. The enrollment in 2013 was up to 135 children and youth. The focus of the Theater and Dance School in 2013 was to develop the capacity for each of the groups to form a strong foundation for the future. The programs include theater, folk dance, contemporary dance, break dance, ballet and drama training for children and youth.



### *January 2013 – March 2013*

The first three months of the year were used to establish the various programs in the school of Theater and Dance. During this time, the school focused on advertising its courses and recruiting children and young people for its programs. Each group also focused on training during this period in order to develop the skills of the participants in preparation for performance opportunities later in the year.

## *April 2013*

- The Break Dance Crew performed their first show on April 20 at Dar al-Kalima University College. There were approximately 100 people in the audience which consisted of friends and family of the performers and members of the local community.
- Diyar Dance Theatre performed on April 23 for a delegation from Scotland at the Peace Centre in Bethlehem.

## *June 2013*

- The Break Dance Crew performed again on June 9 at the Doha Children's Festival. They also joined Diyar Dance Theatre to perform at the Dandanat Festival at Dar Annadwa on June 12.
- Diyar Dance Theatre (groups 1, 2 and 3) performed at the Bethlehem Live Festival on June 14.
- On June 14, ten young members of Diyar Dance Theatre participated at

the Fair Culture Festival in Hanover, Germany. They performed twice at the festival, alongside dance companies from ten other countries. During the festival the young people also had the opportunity to undertake cultural training and develop their leadership skills.



## *July 2013*

- On July 4, Diyar Dance Theatre Youngsters performed their new show 'PalesTIME' at Dar al-Kalima University College. Elizabeth Malone,

a theatre director from California, directed the show with 17 young actors and dancers. The show was created through a series of improvisation and writing workshops which centered around the students' stories from the past, present, and future along with interspersing the poetry of the acclaimed poet Mahmoud Darwish.

- The Youth Troupe performed again at the Youth Encounter Festival (arranged by the HCEF Organization) on the July 5 and again the following day (July 6) for an event for the Bethlehem Women's Union.





## *August 2013*

On August 15, Diyar Dance Theatre premiered its new show 'Out of Place' at Dar Annadwa. This exciting performance combined Dabkeh, contemporary dance and theatre for the first time and as such was a significant milestone in the development of the group. This unique combination of dance styles was established through the collaboration of Diyar's Dabkeh choreographer, Shadi Kassis and visiting dance artists Renee Austin (USA) and Paul Clark (UK). The group performed the show again the following day (August 16) and on August 18 the group travelled to Ramallah to perform at the Kasaba Theatre. The show was very well received by audiences in both Bethlehem and Ramallah.

## *September 2013*

- The Ballet Group performed for the first time on September 20 in Bethlehem. The performance was

attended by the parents of the dancers to enable them to see the progress that the girls had made after only nine months of training.



- Diyar Dance Theatre travelled to the US on September 22 to participate in the second Bright Stars of Bethlehem Palestinian festival, 'Room for Hope.' The group toured throughout the state of California, with ten performances in different cities such as Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles receiving incredibly positive

feedback from audiences wherever they went. The Mayor and Council of Sacramento specifically recognized the quality of the group's work and officially invited it to take part in future festivals. The dance performances changed the perceptions of many who came to watch, giving them a positive image of Palestinian youth which has been distorted in the media. Many Palestinian Americans also came to view the show and expressed overwhelming sense of pride in their heritage.

## *October 2013*

Members of Diyar Dance Theatre performed a Dabkeh show on October 25 at the Bethlehem Municipality.

## *November 2013*

- The Diyar Dance Theatre returned to the stage once more to perform 'Out of Place.' This time the performance

(held on November 1 at Dar Annadwa) was part of the Dar al-Kalima University College's German – Palestinian Conference on Theatre and Theatre Pedagogy.

- Rami Khader, manager of the Diyar Academy for Children and Youth, received the Social Innovator Award from the Synergos Institute (based in the US) largely for the work that he has been doing with Diyar Dance Theatre.

### *December 2013*

Diyar Dance Theatre worked on a theatrical performance based on themes related to Christmas. The performance was directed by Osama Aljabiri who coordinates the Theater and Dance School for the Diyar Academy for Children and Youth. The fact that a play about Christmas was directed by a Muslim is indicative of how powerful the arts have been in developing relationships and cultural understanding in the Academy

thus far. The play was performed ten times during the Christmas season, in different schools and theatres with audiences numbering approximately 6000 children in the Bethlehem area.



### *Music School*

The year 2013 for the Music School was a year of foundation and establishing its infrastructure. Music equipment such as piano, percussion and other instruments were purchased, in addition to finding capable teachers who can teach intensive music education.

### *Art School*

The Art School continues to run with approximately 25 students, developing their skills in drawing. The students are currently being taught by Mark Omayya (an art student from Dar al-Kalima University College) and this has been very successful.

## *Success Story*

Diyar Academy for Children and Youth is proud to announce its first ever Break-Dance Showcase, which was hosted at Dar al Kalima University College on April 20, 2013. The twenty boys and girls who took part in this production ranged in age from 8-13 years. The Break Dance program which is part of Diyar's Dance School is pioneered by instructor Murad Dalleh. Murad came to Diyar six years ago asking to take a Break-Dance class. As Diyar, and all of Palestine for that matter, had no such class to offer, Murad turned to movies, television and YouTube to learn his skills.

Now, six years later, self-taught Murad Dalleh is our first Break Dance instructor. He is passionate about teaching youth self-expression through street dance; which can be accessed and danced practically anywhere. This accessibility is important for students coming from the surrounding areas and refugee camps near Bethlehem. He began the class on September 1, 2012 with eight students, and since then the program has grown to nearly twenty.

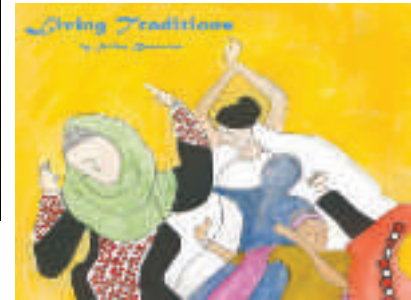
For their first production the students wanted to communicate a theme of "Equality." They showed, through dance, that there is no difference between boys and girls. Throughout the production, and as a value of the class itself, it is evident that these students look beyond gender stereotypes towards equality.

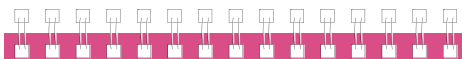


## *Success Story: Children's Book Writing Workshop*

Diyar Academy for Children and Youth provides many creative outlets for Palestinian children and youth. One of these is an empowering writing course in which students learn how to turn their personal narratives into story books for children. Everyone has a story to tell and during the course students are instructed in the art of storytelling, English grammar, and creative illustration techniques. The result is a one of a kind children's book, written and illustrated by them. Each student creates their own story, and leaves the course with a published book and something of which to be proud. Each story is as unique as the individual writing it. In our opening course the student's stories featured characters ranging from Latin dance stars, brothers having a tiff, beautiful beaming Palestinian brides, to Father Christmas himself.

This fun engaging writing course will improve your English, train you in a variety of artistic style and bring out the story in you.





## Ajyal Elderly Care Program

Ajyal Elderly Care Program is based on the Faith Community Nursing framework a concept first introduced to Palestine by Diyar in 2006 offering a holistic perspective to health, healing and personal wellbeing. Unlike traditional dependency models, Ajyal is proactive in nature exploring the contributing potential of the elderly in Palestine, in addition to providing services. It gives the marginalized elderly in Palestine, who are 60 years of age and older, new hope for a prosperous, meaningful, and enriched life.

### Major Highlights in 2013

#### *The Theater & Drama Club*

This club provided older adults with an ideal opportunity to display their acting, singing, and drama talents. In 2013, there were two plays written and performed by the elderly. The first was on "cultural myths" which the members were trying to dispel while the second was about "Alzheimer's" to help educate the audience about the symptoms of the disease and the challenges that patients and their families face. "Participants can enjoy the feeling of being in another person's shoes - playing another role - as well as learning the liberating experience of expanding their own primary roles in life."

This quote is from Antoinette, an 81 year old woman who is a retired teacher living on her own.

#### *Zaghareed Book and DVD Launch*

Zaghareed, which means cries of joy in Arabic, was a book and DVD project documenting the Palestinian traditional folklore songs from three areas; Bethlehem, Taybeh and Rafidia (the latter two are villages from the northern areas of the West Bank). Through this project, the important role that the elderly play as a valuable resource for transferring oral history and traditions to future generations was clearly demonstrated.

#### *Parish Nurse Groups Visits*

Since the Ajyal Program was launched, hosting a parish nurse group from the USA has taken place in November of each year. The aim of these visits is primarily to carry out medical activities with program members. In 2013, there were two parish nurse groups that focused on the following topics: Your Attitude towards Diabetics Mellitus; Coping Skills with Trauma and Stress;

Music and Wellbeing; Stroke Screening and Assessment.

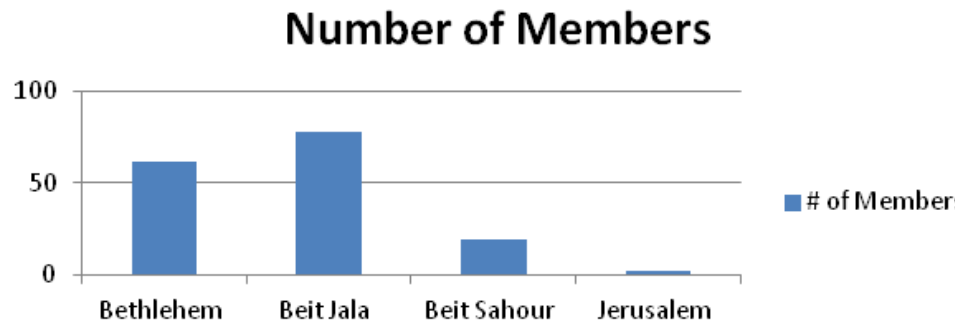
### *"Self-Actualization"*

Dr. Margaret Griffiths is a good friend of the intergenerational program. In October 2013, which coincided with her fourth visit to Palestine, she gave different workshops with the intergeneration groups, including one with the elderly entitled "Self-Actualization." The workshop primarily focused on the definition of a healthy and moral self, which was a unique and new topic that fully engaged the elderly group.

### Ajyal Activities 2013

Type of Activity	Planned	Implemented	Average Number of Participants / Event
Home visits	50	102	73
Medical meetings	12	14	45
Spiritual activities	12	13	50
Yoga	40	30	18
Book club	24	21	20
Joint meals ( including two picnics in local parks )	12	14	100
Trips: 3 trips to Jericho & surrounding; 1 trip to Jaffa; 1 overnight trip to Tiberius	3	4	120
Special occasions – Mother's Day, Easter, Elderly Day and Christmas	4	4	150
Elderly Men's Club	8	6	10

In 2013, we were able to serve 160 members, the majority of whom were women, who were active and highly committed to the various program activities. These members were mainly from the Bethlehem district with only two from Jerusalem.





## *Success Story:*

A. is a single elderly lady who lives alone in a house that used to be a cave which has been rehabilitated, but still has poor living conditions with a lack of ventilation and sunlight, high humidity and no indoor bathroom. A. suffers from high blood pressure and cardiac problems.

Ajyal has been greatly supportive of A., not only financially but also socially and medically. The program manager (who is also a nurse) regularly visits her to check her glucose and blood pressure levels. In addition, Ajyal was able to obtain funds to cover her membership expenses.

Through the program's meetings, A. has had the opportunity to meet others and form friendships. Attending the medical awareness sessions, spiritual gatherings and different social and recreational activities, especially the trips to other areas, has given her new hope. She has also become more aware of her health problems. The most important issue for her, however, is that she is now surrounded by people who love and take care of her. As she has expressed, "It seems like a dream. I would love to be in this group forever."







# Azwaj Program

## Introduction

Throughout 2013, the Azwaj Program continued its goal of creating stronger and healthier family relationships. The program was developed in 2007 with the vision of empowering young families to be active in the community and to meet their social, spiritual, educational and recreational needs by offering unique services including a variety of awareness-raising lectures and workshops, spiritual gatherings, cultural events and other activities. In addition to the normal stress

of parenting, young couples in Palestine have to deal with raising a healthy family under Israeli Occupation. By supporting these young families through Azwaj, we are encouraging them to stay and contribute to Palestinian society; to thrive in spite of the Occupation.

Program highlights that took place from January to December 2013:

## Awareness-Raising Sessions

- Ten lectures were given on the following topics:
  - *Diabetes in Children*
  - *Dysphagia (Swallowing Problems)*
  - *Language Development in Children*
  - *Osteoporosis*
  - *Healthy Food and Nutrition Facts*
  - *Setting Limits and Discipline for Children*
  - *Sin & Psychology*
  - *Healthy Children*
  - *Parent/Child Relationship Building*
  - *Sexual Health*

- Workshop: A major three-day workshop was held in the summer led by a couple from Finland with PhDs in sexual health and family / marriage counseling. The workshop was entitled “**Strengthening the Family,**” there was also a follow-up weekend session. Within the workshop, numerous important topics were discussed including:

- *The Importance of Learning How to Care for Our Marriage*
- *The Foundation of Marriage*
- *The Expectation of Marriage*
- *The Link between Communication and Marital Sex*
- *Emotions & Feelings in the Bible*
- *Daily Life in Marriage; Signs of Love*
- *How to Improve Your Marriage*
- *The Role of Forgiveness in Marriage*

## Recreational Events & Retreats

During the year, there were also seven social and recreational activities.

- *Trips: Two recreational trips were made. The first was to Jaffa and Tiberius while the second was to Jericho.*
- *Wellness Retreat Day: A one-day of wellness and retreat was held in Jericho.*
- *Shared meals: Three shared meals in different outdoor local parks took place where both men and women enjoyed preparing food together, thus creating an atmosphere of cooperation and teamwork.*
- *Hiking: A day of hiking took place at a nearby trail in the Bethlehem area called "Al-Makhroul Mountain" where young families enjoyed, scenic views and open space.*

## Spiritual Gatherings

Four gatherings took place during the year including an Easter concert, a Christmas concert and two dinners that were held jointly with the Elderly Program "Ajyal" in order to allow of inter-generational communication as many of Azwaj's families have parents who are

members of the senior group. Meditation and discussion of key spiritual topics were also featured such as the Holy Spirit and Iconography.

## Celebrations

Two celebrations were held: the first was on Valentine's Day where the group enjoyed a dance evening while the second was on Mother's Day in March. Birthdays and wedding anniversary celebrations were held occasionally too.



Azwaj families consistently reported that taking part in such a program added flavor and color to their lives. The program not only encourages them to get out of the house and do something for themselves and their children, it also makes it possible to meet new people with similar interests and to enjoy a relaxing time once a week with their spouses without having to worry about their children (as we provide childcare services while they are in sessions). They also exchange experiences, different viewpoints and ideas, enriching themselves by widening their educational and cultural horizons.



## Fit For Life Project

Fit For Life is one of Diyar's outreach projects that is currently operating in three villages; Beit Fajjar, Dar Salah and Alwalaja with a total of 260 participants. The program offers nutrition counseling, exercise programs, health education, stress management and relaxation classes, in addition to life coaching. Our target group consists of unemployed women and/or housewives.

The main objective of the program is to raise health awareness and increase knowledge about health related issues

in targeted areas, focusing on obesity-related spread diseases. To achieve the mentioned objectives, eight women were trained in each village – which adds up to 24 in the three villages – to become physical trainers. In addition we partnered with a local institution in each village and opened joint centers in which our activities take place.

### Key Accomplishments

The Fit For Life Project has achieved remarkable accomplishments since it was launched in 2011, including:

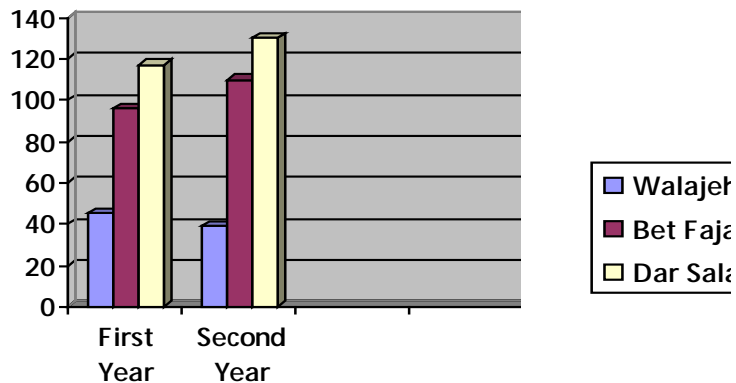
- Networking and cooperating with various governmental institutions such as the Palestinian Ministry of Health, Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Civil Defense and Palestinian Red Crescent.
- Increasing Participants' 'self-realization' in which we hope each participant achieves personal goals.

- Increasing Participants' self and social awareness and fostering more positive attitudes towards their lives and their villages.
- Enabling participants to influence decision makers in their villages in order to improve overall health in the villages.
- Fit For Life has enabled participants to be more socially active and has increased their sense of belonging to their villages, which results in continuous support from the village itself and surrounding communities.
- Nutrition and health activities to increase awareness in many areas. These include monitoring one's health, awareness of foods consumed, increasing the percentage of healthy foods in the diet by adding more fruit and vegetables, etc.
- Aerobics and physical training to motivate participants to be more physically active and emotionally open.

- Participants are now more content and are satisfied with the results they have achieved which contributes greatly to their willingness to be more involved in our future activities.
- On the psychological level, results show significant improvement.



## Number of Participants



## SUCCESS STORY

K. H. - Alwalajeh

Khawla is 55 years old - a housewife and mother of five children. She suffers from high blood pressure, diabetes and a sore back and neck. Khawla takes many types of medicine to maintain her blood pressure and control headache and lethargy. She is a committed person in her work and loves to participate in different activities if available. She says that the presence of the Fit For Life project in the village was a strong incentive to make changes in her life as she was in need of health support. Khawla has thus been a committed participant since the first month and has clearly noticed the positive changes that have occurred. She says "My weight dropped three kilos in the first month and my symptoms of headache and lethargy disappeared. I felt great satisfaction in my body and the best thing is that my doctor told me that there has been a great improvement in my health and I now have to take only one type of medicine. I am very happy with the achievements and success and the knowledge I have gained".



## Cultural Events

In 2013 Dar Annadwa celebrated the tenth Anniversary of the Inauguration of Ad-Dar Cultural and Conference Center.

A continuing success story that has become the center of culture in Bethlehem we again featured in 2013 a variety of cultural events in plays, musical concerts, film screenings, festivals, conferences and workshops, book launchings etc.

### Highlights of the year 2013:

As in previous years we were delighted to host the two most important musical festivals in Palestine.

1. Dandanat in June 2013. Diyar Consortium and Bilda celebrated Dance and Music Festival for the ninth year. This is a cultural meeting of Palestine and Swedish groups performing Rock Rap Hiphop Pop Reggie Jazz Oriental music and dance as well as Break Dance.
2. The Palestine Choral Festival in August 2013. Between August 22 and September 1, 2013, 26 Palestinian choirs and 5 international choirs joined together across Palestine to celebrate the world in song. Singing is the easiest way of making music with other people, and one of the best ways of expressing emotion through sound. Palestine has always been a home for music, and throughout the festival audiences enjoyed watching the many

different singers participating in the Palestine Choral Festival. Two of the major concerts of this Festival took Place at Ad Dar Hall. Opera: "Blessed Cecilia" based on the story of St Cecilia and featuring the music of Benjamin Britten and the Bethlehem Choirs Celebration Concert: a joint concert with the International and Bethlehem Choirs with more than one hundred singers.

### *Two highly important conferences were held at the ICB:*

1. The Annual Conference of the HCEF in July 2013 which corresponds with our mission. The HCEF held its third Know Thy Heritage (KTH) LEADERSHIP PROGRAM in 2013 with the aim to Explore & Live Palestine! This is an annual leadership program developed to preserve Arab Palestinian heritage, to connect youth of Palestinian ancestry, who live in the United States and elsewhere with their roots in

Palestine, and to highlight Palestine as part of the Holy Land.

2. Diyar's 7th International Conference on Palestinian Identity in August 2013. The conference sparked an intra-Palestinian dialogue on the issue of Identity in Relation to Space and Time. More than 30 scholars from different parts of the world (e.g., Palestine, Europe, The US, Latin America, Africa and Asia) contributed to this conference.

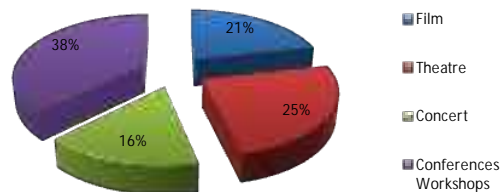
Further the ICB hosted the First "Visegrad" Film Festival in Bethlehem for four days in October 2013. The Visegrad Group (also known as the "Visegrad Four" or simply "V4") reflects the efforts of the countries of Central Europe to work together in a number of fields of common interest within Europe. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have always been part of a single civilization sharing cultural and intellectual values and common roots in diverse religious traditions, which they

wish to preserve and strengthen further. The first screening was a film from Hungary (The Door) by Oscar-winning director István Szabó starring Oscar - winning Helen Mirren. The screening was followed by a reception on Hungarian International Day.

A large celebration involving more than 200 people (International Representatives, Ministers.etc) took place on the occasion of the International Day of Finland on December 6, 2013 at Ad Dar Hall. The Independence Day Reception was followed by the opening of a Photo Exhibition Helma Granqvist a Finnish-Swedish anthropologist who visited the Palestinian village of Artas in the 1920s as part of her research on the women of the Old Testament. Granqvist became fascinated by Palestinian culture and changed the focus of her research to a full investigation of the customs, habits and ways of thinking of the people of that village. Her research was published

in several books though it was only later that she received due recognition for her work.

Category	Total
Film	12
Theatre	14
Concert	9
Conferences & Workshops	21



# Authentic Tourism Program

## Authentic Tourism Group:

2013 was a good year in the Authentic Tourism Program. We received 42 groups from Canada, Australia, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the US. These groups were accommodated at Abu Jubran Guest House for 163 nights and ate 1646 dinners from Illiyeh Restaurant. The total number of persons from these groups was 561 visitors.

Two main tour operators **Les Schmidt**, who represents Bright Stars of Bethlehem, and **Group Travel Directors**,

increased their group numbers for the year 2013. We received seven groups from Les Schmidt and twelve groups from GTD. We are expecting more in 2014.

Some quotes from the Evaluations of Authentic Tourism participants:

*"I want to thank you so much for all your help in planning our visit to Bethlehem. It was perfect and professional, and we enjoyed it all of us. And I am sure that the new participants became just as dedicated to the cause of Diyar as all those who participated for the 2nd, 3rd or whatever time. I am going to recommend you as local tour coordinator to friends."*

**Neils Henrik" Danish group**

*"We enjoyed our time in Bethlehem and can't thank you enough for all of your planning, patience, and kindness while were there."*

**Lauren Dalton from the US**

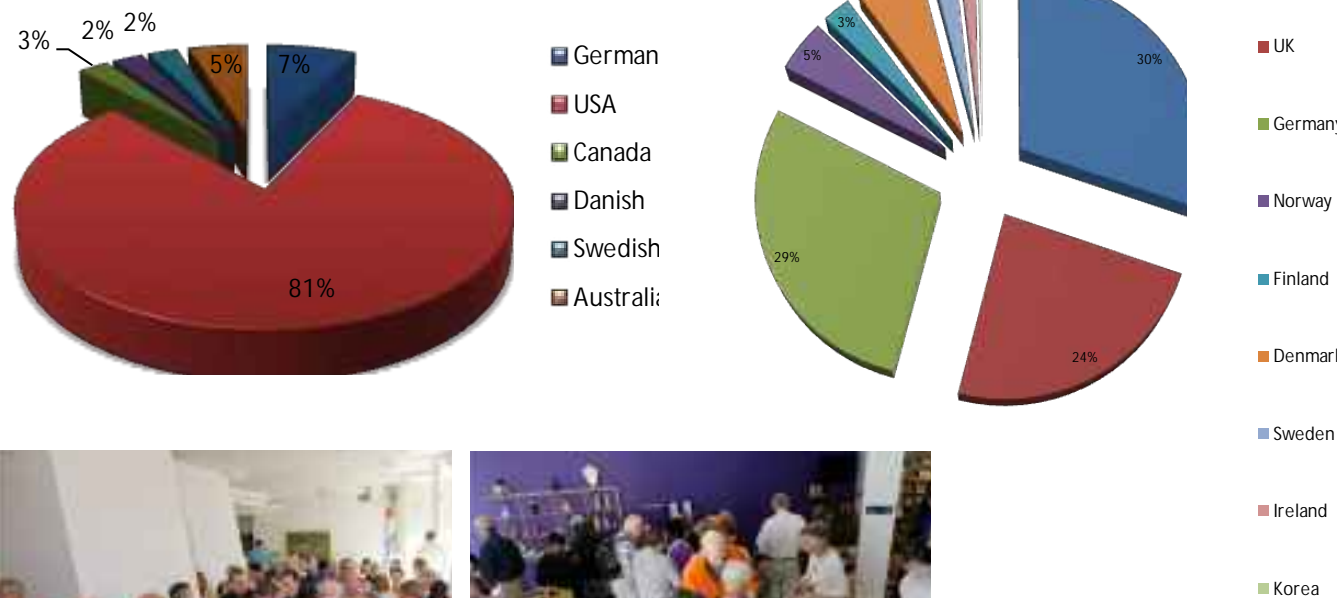
*"On behalf of all of the Zion People who visited with you in Bethlehem in early March, let me say that we are profoundly grateful for your hospitality, for the warmth everyone showed to us, and, yes, for the experience of being with you. To a person we had had a wonderful time."*

**Pastor Barry Ludwing from the US**





Figure showing the nationalities of groups in the Authentic Tourism Program for the year 2013.



# Construction

## Cultural Heritage & Civic Engagement Building

Throughout 2013, the building has been undergoing interior finishing. Work started with the Training Kitchen. After finishing the kitchen area, kitchen furniture and equipment were supplied and installed; a donation from GIZ. In 2013 five offices were ready on the first floor to accommodate staff. The rest of the work included block partitioning, plastering walls, tiling, aluminum windows, steel doors and wooden doors.

### *Building Highlights:*

Total area 2200 square meters

- 16000 blocks were used for external wall insulation and block partitioning.
- 1800 square meters of wall and ceiling plastering.
- 160 different windows were installed in the building to allow natural light and ventilation.
- Solar water heaters for the kitchen have been installed and supplied, and there are good prospects for solar power for lighting, heating and air-conditioning.

A total of 2800 working days were spent during 2013 on this building, averaging ten workers a day. Each worker is feeding a family of five persons from the Bethlehem district.



## Sports Hall

In 2013, the following was accomplished:

### *Stage I: Finishing internal civil projects*

Work included the installation of windows and doors and cleaning the interior wall plaster and floor preparatory to flooring.

### *Stage II: Furniture and Equipment*

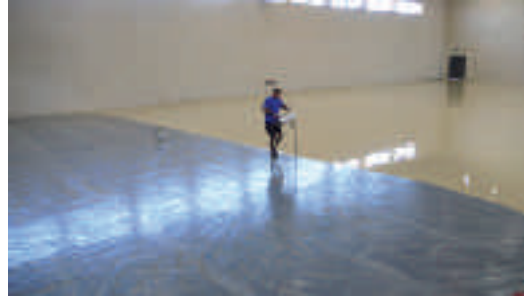
The bids for different types of flooring, chairs, lighting fixtures, and sports equipment were prepared after consultations with professionals in sports halls. The consulting architect prepared separate bids for all the necessary work, and the three sports hall finishing suppliers in Palestine applied for the tender.

The tenders were opened and discussed by the building committee, and agreements were signed with the winning contractor to supply and install the flooring, furniture, playground equipment and chairs on schedule at the beginning of 2014. Italian made: these include:

- 400 fireproof seats, sports equipment and score board. These items are also FIFA certified.
- Manufacturers for the flooring in the Netherlands submitted documents certifying that the flooring specifications and material are approved and recommended by FIFA and other sports organizations. Additionally the flooring is suitable for multiple games including basketball, tennis, volley ball, soccer and handball, for a total flooring area of 1130 square meters. The contractor promised to bring two experts from the manufacturer to overview the work.



- The lighting fixtures have been contracted with a local firm and will be imported from Italy, the lighting fixtures, (Disano Italy 400 W metal Halide, high bay with die cast aluminum). These fixtures are durable and energy savers. 36 ighting fixtures were ordered.



## Special Thanks to...

- Our friends, supporters and donors who believe in what we do.
  - Bethlehem Venner
  - Bilda
  - Bright Stars of Bethlehem
  - British Consulate- Jerusalem
  - Church of Sweden
  - Churches Helping Churches
  - Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst
  - Diakonisches Werk
  - EDC
  - Entraide Lutherienne De L'Imper
  - ERIR Evangelical Church in Rheinland
  - ELCA
  - Ev. Missionwerk Hamburg
  - FELM
  - Foerderverein Bethlehem Dar al-Kalima Akademie
  - Healing Across the Divide
  - ICCO
  - Johan Snoek
  - Kerk in Actie
  - KARIBU
  - LWF | CLWR – Canadian Lutheran World Relief
  - MEATRC
  - Methodist Churches in Swansea
  - Norwegian Church Aid
  - PCUSA
  - Pilgrims of Ibillin
  - Shepherds Tours
  - The International Council of
  - Swedish Industry NIR
  - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland
  - The Olof Palme International Center
  - UCC | Disciples of Christ
  - United Methodist Church
  - Willy Brandt Center
  - Westminster Presbyterian Church
- ... And many other donors who contributed directly or indirectly to our ministries.

