

PRE-DELEGATION FUNDRAISING PACKET

Making the Delegation a Reality for You



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2011 Revised Version

Congratulations! You are considering embarking upon an amazing and challenging experience to go on an Interfaith Peace-Builders (IFPB) delegation to Palestine/Israel. On our delegation you will have the opportunity to meet extraordinary Israelis and Palestinians who—against all odds—are working for justice. Additionally, you have made the commitment to bring your witness back home to the US to educate others about the issues and advocate for better US policy towards Israel/Palestine. Now it is more important than ever to educate Americans about the region and what our government can do to work for a sustainable peace.

Although you may initially be unable to pay for the delegation expenses directly out of your pocket, don't let lack of funds discourage you or keep you from applying. Many IFPB delegates have successfully raised funds to partially or totally cover their expenses.

Many of us feel awkward having to ask for money. However, fundraising can not only gain financial support, but also to raise significant awareness about the conflict in the Middle East. Once people sponsor you they will be invested in learning about your experiences. When you fundraise, you automatically create a support network of individuals who will want to hear about your experiences once you return home.

Interfaith Peace-Builders has created this packet to help support you in reaching your fundraising goals. Please be in contact with us about any other way we can assist and how your fundraising is going. Good Luck!

So, what is Interfaith Peace-Builders?

“It goes without saying that none of us will ever be the same; one does not return from such an experience unchanged, unmoved, and unmotivated. For many of us, the trip represents a key turning point in our lives, after which not being in action is no longer possible.”

—Megan McNamara, summer 2005 delegate

One of the first steps in getting ready to start fundraising is to know what you are fundraising for. Here is some basic information on the Interfaith Peace-Builders program:

Interfaith Peace-Builders

The Interfaith Peace-Builders (IFPB) grew out of conversations with Palestinians and Israelis in November, 2000 after the beginning of the second Intifada. These conversations explored the role that the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), a US-based, interfaith organization committed to nonviolent social change, could play in the increasingly violent conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. The Interfaith Peace-Builders program developed out of FOR's long history of work in the region, particularly its involvement in Middle East Witness, which sent delegations of US citizens to Israel and Palestine during the first Intifada and placed US citizens as long term volunteers in Palestinian towns and villages. For more information about IFPB's history with FOR, please visit our website at: <http://www.ifpb.org/about/history.html>

Interfaith Peace-Builders has grown into one of the largest and most successful nationally based programs for sending delegations to Israel/Palestine. Working with a wide range of Israeli and Palestinian organizations in addition to its original partners, IFPB sent 20 delegations, and over 250 participants, to the region from 2001 to fall 2006. It has developed a broad network in the United States of delegates, their outreach communities, the FOR community, and an activist network of people concerned about the conflict and the role of US policy in the Middle East.

Early in 2006 FOR and Interfaith Peace-Builders reached the mutual decision that IFPB had grown to the extent that its work would be strengthened by becoming an independent program working in partnership with FOR. IFPB became an independent program on July 1, 2006.

Since 2006, IFPB has grown as a successful, independent non-profit. We've sent more delegations and increasing numbers of participants each year. We've also inaugurated new North American programming for our Education and Advocacy program, including a yearly Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day.

Fundraising Suggestions & Techniques

1. Create a Budget

The total cost for most of our delegations runs around \$3500. That cost includes both the trip cost and the international airfare. The delegation cost is \$2100, which includes two weeks of hotel and home stay accommodations, breakfasts and dinners, local transportation, guides, speakers/events, visa and transfer fees, and basic tips and gratuities. The second major expense, international airfare, is largely dependent on the season, and can run anywhere from \$1100 in the off season to \$1500 in the high summer season.

Smaller additional costs to budget for are travel to and from Washington, DC for orientation, lunches on the delegation (approximately \$10/day), "spending money," and any additional tips for the guides, driver, and hotel staff as you see appropriate. We have included a *Sample Budget* and *Create Your Own Budget* template at the end of this packet to assist you in budgeting for your needs.

2. Set a Goal

How much money are you able to pay yourself? In the past, a few delegates have raised *all* of the money to cover their expenses, but a good general rule of thumb is: make a commitment to pay around half the cost yourself. This demonstrates that you believe in what you are doing enough to make the sacrifice that you will be asking of your potential donors. If you can cover about half the expenses yourself, and depending on airline prices and how much you plan to spend on souvenirs, that leaves approximately \$1,000-2,000 you would need to fundraise.

3. Create a Schedule

Fundraising requires careful planning and hard work. Be realistic about how much time you will need to raise the funds and how much time you can commit to it beyond your work/family/academic obligations. Draw up a timetable. The final balance for the trip is due approximately two weeks prior to the delegation's departure. How many weeks does that leave you from now? Make tangible goals for each day/week/month. Keep in mind that some activities are more time consuming than others, for example letter writing which is a process you should begin early on in your fundraising campaign. (See our *Sample Fundraising Plan* and *Fundraising Plan and Calendar* template in back)

4. Begin Fundraising!

A. Send out Emails and Letters

Compile a contact list of a hundred people: family, friends, coworkers, people on your holiday card list, your address book, alumni from your university, church/ mosque/ synagogue directories.

Write a fundraising letter and then distribute it to your list. Explain what Interfaith Peace-Builders is and why participating in an Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation is important to you. Tell them what your fundraising goal is and what steps you are taking to get there. In this letter suggest specific amounts or a range (eg \$25-100) for them to contribute. Make sure to include lots of your personality in the letter; friends and family will appreciate this!

Delegate Malka Haya Fenyvesi raised \$2500 for a delegation—all from sending out letters to family and friends. Malka says that the main reason she was able to raise so much money through letters is that she personalized the beginning of each letter to a potential donor. Many donors told Malka that her personal touch was the reason that they donated.

Feel free to contact us for IFPB letterhead upon which to print your letters. This will give your request a professional look and show that your request has organizational backing. Also, many large corporations have programs in which they will match their employees' contribution. Check with your donors to see if their company has such a policy.

Remember, including a stamped self addressed envelope is one less step that a donor has to take in order to support you.

Make follow up phone calls. It is amazing how well this combination works and how you can use it as an excuse to get in touch with friends and educate people about the conflict. If you do send out emails, make sure that you also send out hard copy letters to people that may not check their email regularly.

For more tips and ideas about writing your fundraising letter, see the back of this packet for our *Letter Template*, as well as two fundraising letters from prior delegates, including Malka's.

B. Sponsorship

If you are affiliated with a university, approach the Peace Studies program or Middle East Studies department to ask if they have any funding or scholarships available. Your university may have funds set aside specifically for students or alumni. Ask current and former professors for financial assistance or if they know of any scholarships that offer assistance for the trip. Make a class presentation about the program. Don't forget about your high schools! Go back to former favorite teachers and alumni; ask the school if there are any funds set aside for alumni or if you could get a school pledge.

Local religious organizations such as your church, synagogue, mosque etc. can be key sources of funding. Call the minister, priest, rabbi or imam, explain who you are and ask them to help. Go and make a presentation to the congregation, the senior or youth group, the women's organization, the social justice branch etc. Get in the newsletter. Tell them that you will speak about your experience and write a piece for the newsletter when you return.

Go to community organizations and local peace and justice or Middle East related groups and ask them to sponsor you for a set amount in exchange for a speaking presentation when you return. Go to one of their meetings and ask for community contacts. Get yourself mentioned in the newsletter. When inviting others to your meeting, call or write a letter that is personal, clear and to the point. Explain who you are and what you are asking. Emphasize that this is an educational program.

Elks, Rotary Clubs, American Legion, Kiwanis, Optimists, League of Women Voters, Physicians for Social Responsibility—all of these and more are potential sources of

funding. Ask to speak at one of their meetings. Ask the club for sponsorship and also look for individual sponsors as well.

Go to local businesses and ask for their assistance, for example dry cleaners, hair stylist, restaurants, coffee shops etc. Be sure to let the manager know if it is a place that you frequent.

C. Contact Local Media

Your local media is always looking for interesting articles about community members. Call your local media and ask them if they would like to run a story about you. You can show or send them articles about previous participants. Also make sure to look for alternative weekly papers in your area that could be interested in a political story.

Getting media attention is a great way to raise awareness about the issues—and there's also the possibility of getting more donations. Make sure to mention that you're seeking financial help to make the delegation happen and include your contact information.

If newspapers are unwilling or unable to write an article, you can write an editorial. Also, if you are a college student, don't forget about your hometown papers, who always want to keep up to date on what locals are doing in their lives. Also be sure to contact your campus newspapers, they may be interested in running a story on you as an adventurer or human rights activist.

Also try local radio shows, especially public access, talk show hosts and local college radio stations. Explain to them a little bit about Interfaith Peace-Builders Program and ask if they would like to interview you about your reasons for going on this sort of trip and your connections to the conflict. Perhaps if they don't want to do something before you leave it will give you a contact for an interview when you return!

Please send copies of any publicity you receive to the Interfaith Peace-Builders office.

D. Host a Fundraising Event

Get together 15 friends and host fundraising dinner party or pot-luck with either a short talk about the program and/or a video about some of the issues which you will explore on this delegation. Start with refreshments, and then have a 20-30 minute presentation with video where you explain a little bit about the Interfaith Peace-Builders and why you would like to join a delegation. We have many videos in the office that we could send you or recommend, ranging from a video of pictures from previous delegations to videos about specific campaigns to longer documentaries about the conflict. After the video is over have a discussion period and ask if people can donate for this cause. Make sure to have receptacles around the room for people to drop donations into. Promise them a postcard from Jerusalem!

Host a garage or rummage sale to get rid of all your old stuff and advertise it as a fundraising event. Advertise in a local paper. Talk your friends into contributing some of

their old stuff. People are willing to give more if they know that their money is going towards a specific cause.

Host a poetry reading or other fun community event that people will come out to participate in and support. Get your musician friends to hold a benefit concert. Find ways to get your community involved. Delegate Skip Schiel used food donated from a Middle Eastern restaurant in order to make a dinner and then asked friends to buy a meal for a Middle Eastern dinner party. Be Creative!

E. Tabling

Set up a table at your local community center, college, church, or community fair. Have tour brochures, flyers and your fundraising letters available. We are happy to send you this material, and let us know when your supplies are getting low! Being outgoing is more important than knowing every fact about the Palestine/ Israel conflict. If people have questions about the conflict that you can't answer, get their information and tell them that you will ask those questions on the delegation! Put a jar on the table for people to put in donations. Bring maps and other attention-drawing devices.

F. Apply for Scholarships

If you have the essay writing spirit there are a few scholarships that you can apply for to help stave off some of the costs. IFPB doesn't have any ties with these foundations; they are listed here only to help you find other sources of potential funding.

1. **John Anson Kittredge Educational Fund:** An independent foundation that awards grants to scholars for travel to conferences, research and other projects. To apply, send a letter to the address below and include purpose, amount requested, period of funding, and supporting letters.

Application address: John Mulford, 286 Water St., Augusta, ME 04330, tel.: (207) 623-5624

2. **Lyman Fund, Inc.:** An independent foundation that awards grants primarily to Quakers in the U.S. for conferences/seminars, scholarships--to individuals, support to graduates or students of specific schools, travel grants, and project support. Grants are usually one-time only, and range from \$1,000 - \$3,000. To apply, an application form is required and the initial approach must be by phone. The two deadlines for the application are Apr. 1 & Oct. 1. Other application details are below.

Contact: Charlotte Fardelmann, Pres., cfardelmann@attbi.com, Tel: (603) 436-7652

Application address: 385 Little Harbor Rd., Portsmouth NH 03801-5527

Application Information: Application must also include brief statement of proposal, spiritual journey, personal statement, anticipated expenses and income, photograph, two or more letters of reference from church or spiritual support group. Please include 7 copies of the application when sent. Applicants should submit (1) financial information, (2) essay, and (3) budget information.

3. **Unity Scholars:** This foundation awards grants by nomination only to individual activists who employ general systemic principles for social change. Applications are accepted by letter throughout the year, so it may be successful to send a letter detailing the delegation events, goals, budget, and how you would use the experience for social change afterwards. Unity Scholars provide travel grants, internship funds, and research support among other support.
Contact: Joanne Jaccaci, 626 Penney Rd., New Gloucester, ME 04260-4626
4. **Direct Action Palestine:** If you are planning on staying after the delegation and working with ISM or engaging in direct action with another organization you may be able to receive funding at <http://www.ism-ny.org/downloads.shtml>
5. **International Women's Peace Service:** Another organization in Palestine looking for volunteers. They have scholarships available if you want to work with them to document and intervene in human rights abuses. Contact them at <http://www.iwps-pal.org/en/volunteer/general.php>
6. **Fund for Teachers:** This program is designed to provide educators with the opportunity to pursue areas of personal and professional interest and bring their experiences back to the classroom for the benefit of their students. Eligible projects include tours, conferences, and independent studies anywhere in the world. The program offers individual grants of up to \$5,000 each and team grants of up to \$10,000 each for the summer of 2010. More information at <http://www.fundforteachers.org>.
7. **Helpful Websites:** www.foundationcenter.org/getstarted/individuals, www.irex.org, www.studyabroadfunding.org

G. Other Creative Fundraisers

Organize a bake sale, hold a walk-a-thon, do odd jobs. Delegate Lynn Gottlieb had an artist friend and fellow member of the congregation make portraits of people in the synagogue for \$25-\$50 in order to go on a delegation. The possibilities are endless!

5. What Has and Hasn't Worked

Do:

Be confident. Take an honest look at why you want to go on a delegation with Interfaith Peace-Builders to Israel/Palestine. Verse yourself on IFPB's mission and goals. Feel good about what you are fundraising for and conquer the fear of asking for contributions. People give money for many reasons. They could give it because they care about the social injustices taking place, because it makes them feel good, because they care about you, or just because you asked for this 'gift.' No matter what the motive is in order to get the donation **you have to ask.** Remember, the worst thing that can happen is that someone will say no, but you will be surprised on how many people will say yes.

Practice. Write out a script for 'face to face' and phone conversations. Stay varied and energetic and realize you are educating people about these issues as you ask for money to educate yourself.

Start Now. An early start and consistent work is the best way to assure success

Don't:

Make large monetary investment in your fundraising. Unless you know that making a lot of money is assured, do not spend a lot in order to make money. For example, you may not want to make t-shirts, which have a high cost to make, if it is possible that they will not all be sold

Pursue Corporate Sponsorship. While this may seem like an easy and attractive source of money, it is extremely difficult to get. Many corporations have limited sponsorship budgets, long and complicated funding applications and many have rules against supporting individuals. Don't waste your energy on this. The exception to all of this is if you have an inside contact you should pursue it and perhaps your contact will pay off!

Turn a fundraising conversation into a political argument. While it is easy to turn any discussion of the political situation in Israel/Palestine into a two-sided battle of rhetoric, it helps if you stress your desire to use the trip as an educational tool in order to expose yourself to the narratives of Palestinians and Israelis and better understand the obstacles to peace. Make note of unanswered questions that friends and family have and make it one of your goals to pursue their questions on the delegation.

6. Follow Up!

Always send a thank you letter. While quick ones after getting a donation are nice, an additional letter after the trip with delegation highlights would be appreciated as well. And don't forget to include your funders on the email list to receive trip reports and stay updated on your activities while in the region. Also, while you are in Israel/Palestine make sure to send home postcards. Finally, if possible, host an open house after you return to show your appreciation and pictures from the trip to help them tangibly see how their money was spent.

Collecting Donations for the Delegation

If you plan to collect donations to help defray some of the expenses for your Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation, there are some important things to know.

Donations must come in a specific format in order to be **tax-deductible!**

Tax-Deductible Donations:

Contributions that your donors make for your individual direct trip expenses – whether they make the check out to you or to Interfaith Peace-Builders are not tax-deductible. Under IRS regulations, contributions for the benefit of an individual are not deductible by the donor, even if they are given to a tax-exempt entity (e.g., Interfaith Peace-Builders).

Contributions are only deductible when the charity (IFPB in this case) has ‘full control and discretion’ over their use. This has some important ramifications for how donors can make charitable contributions to IFPB that help support our educational mission to educate on the Middle East. The easiest way to do this is to make a contribution to IFPB’s Scholarship Fund, which we maintain and oversee as a way to grant financial aid to defer delegation expenses for those who could not otherwise travel.

If your donor would like their gift to be tax-deductible here is what she or he needs to do:

Online Giving

Have your donor use this page on the IFPB website to donate to IFPB’s scholarship fund:

https://org2.democracynaction.org/o/7169/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=3771

Indicate who the donation to our scholarship fund is ‘in honor of’ (i.e., you, the delegate).

Giving by Check

You can have donors send donation checks (made out to “Interfaith Peace-Builders) to our DC office:

Interfaith Peace-Builders, 1628 16th St. NW Washington, DC 20009

The memo line of the check should read “Scholarship Fund.” It is very important that your donor **NOT** put your name in the check’s memo line! If your donor would like to indicate who they heard about IFPB’s work from (i.e., you, the delegate), they can just write that on an enclosed separate piece of paper.

Credit Card over the Phone

IFPB staff can also take credit card donations over the phone. Ask your donor to call 202-244-0821 to give this way.

What IFPB Will Do When We Get a Scholarship Donation?

- 1) We will send the donor a thank you letter for the contribution to our scholarship fund.
- 2) We will let you know by email that one of your contacts has donated.

To Learn More

If you need more information about this option, please contact IFPB directly at office@ifpb.org and 202-244-0821.

Examples & Templates

Thank you for taking the time to go through this fundraising packet and commit to working for the rewarding goal of a trip to Israel/Palestine with Interfaith Peace-Builders. In the following section of the fundraising packet you will find examples of budgets, fundraising plans, and letters to consider as you begin fundraising.

The following documents are included:

- Sample Budget
- Budget Template
- Sample Fundraising Plan
- Letter Template
- Sample Letters from Delegates

Sample Budget

<i>Expense</i>	<i>Example Costs</i>	<i>Fill in Your Actual Costs</i>
Cost of Trip	\$2100	
Cost of International Airfare (varies)	\$1200	
Cost of Domestic Airfare (varies)	\$250	
Lunches and Drinks (@ \$5-10/day)	\$120	
Extra Tips for Driver and Guide*	\$60	
Spending Money for souvenirs and gifts	\$100	
<i>Other costs</i>		
<i>Total expected delegation-related expenses</i>	\$3830	
Amount I can pay for delegation	-\$1600	
<i>FUNDRAISING GOAL</i>	\$2230	

*Extra tips for the guides are at your discretion. A basic tip for guides, driver and hotel staff is included in the cost of your trip. However, many of our delegates deeply appreciate the extraordinary work that our guides do and make an additional voluntary contribution. The delegation leader will provide an opportunity at the end of the trip for participants to contribute.

Sample Fundraising Plan

Activity	Number	Amount Expected
<i>1. Letter Writing</i>		
Friends	10 @ \$20	\$200
Family	5 @ \$50	\$250
Co-workers	6 @ \$20	\$120
Neighbors	5 @ \$20	\$100
Religious institution	10 @ \$10	\$100
Businesses you frequent	5 @ \$40	\$200
Parents of your friends	5 @ \$20	\$100
Friends of family	8 @ \$25	\$200
<i>2. Presentations at local peace/Middle East group meeting</i>	20 @ \$5	\$100
<i>3. Donations generated from local media article or radio spot</i>	6 @ \$10	\$60
<i>4. Tabling at a local mall or event</i>	20 @ \$5	\$100
<i>5. Local church/synagogue/mosque collection</i>	1 @ \$200	\$200
<i>6. House Party</i>	15 @ \$20	\$300
<i>7. Bake sale</i>	20 @ \$5	\$100

<i>Total to be raised</i>	\$2,130
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Fundraising Plan and Calendar – Make your own!

Name: _____

Fundraising Goal: _____

Activity	Number	Amount Expected	Actual Amount	Schedule - Date to begin and end
1. Letter Writing				
Friends				
Family				
Co-workers				
Neighbors				
Religious institution				
Businesses you frequent				
Parents of your friends				
Friends of family				
2. Presentations at local peace/Middle East group meeting				
3. Donations generated from local media article or radio spot				
4. Tabling at a local mall or event				
5. Local church/synagogue/mosque collection				
6. House Party				
7. Bake sale				
8. Other				

Total Raised				
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Sample Letter

Date

Dear _____,

Paragraph One: Short intro paragraph about yourself

Only necessary if you are writing to people that do not know you.

Paragraph Two: Explain what you are doing

From (dates of delegation) I am going to be a participant on an Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation to Israel/ Palestine. The delegation will consist of 15-20 US citizens of many faiths, traveling to Israel and the West Bank. The goals of the delegation are to witness the ongoing conflict and occupation, to support human rights activities in the region, and to return home and educate Americans about the conflict and our government's involvement in the region. Some of the highlights of our delegation will be meetings with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, political and religious leaders; homestays in both Palestinian and Israeli homes, and the chance to visit several holy sites. This trip is sponsored by Interfaith Peace-Builders, which has been leading delegations to the region since 2001. Since then, Interfaith Peace-Builders has taken over 400 people to the area and worked with them to raise awareness upon returning home. To learn more about this organization, please visit www.ifpb.org.

Paragraph Three: Explain why you are doing it

I'm going because I want learn about the reality of life in Israel/Palestine on the ground and about the efforts of both Palestinians and Israelis to bring an end to the conflict through nonviolent means. It is my hope that by being present with other concerned individuals, I can add my voice to those people working to end the current violence and establish a just and peaceful resolution. I'm also hoping to learn more about the U.S. role in the conflict so that, as a citizen of a democratic nation, I can work to influence our foreign policy in order to create a world of safety for all.

Paragraph Four: Request financial assistance

In order to embark on this journey, I need to raise \$____ to cover my plane ticket, accommodations, food and the opportunity to meet with extraordinary Palestinians and Israelis working on peace and justice issues.

Paragraph Five: Give incentives

While there you can expect to receive regular emails about our delegations activities as well as a postcard. Upon returning, I would be more than happy to do a visual/ educational presentation to about my experiences to you and your organization. (Be sure you follow through with these commitments!)

Paragraph Six: Make it convenient for them to give you money

Please consider making a contribution of \$ (amount reasonable for donor). Make checks payable to "Interfaith Peace-Builders," write my name in the memo, and send to [YOUR ADDRESS] or [IFPB OFFICE].

Thanks so much for your support!

Signature

Malka's Fundraising Letter

"blessed is life, blessed is darkness,
but blessed above all is peace
which bears the fruits of knowledge
on strong branches, lets say amein"
- marge piercy, kaddish

Dear _____,

6/27/04

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing you with an invitation to partner with me on an exciting project.

As many of you know I have been active in the Jewish Peace Movement for several years. Working towards a just peace in the Middle East has grown to be a significant part of my life. But I have not visited the region in more than 13 years, and I feel it is time for me to return, to deepen my understanding and enhance my activism in meaningful way. I invite you join me, to help make this happen.

From July 24th- August 6th, I will be joining an Interfaith Delegation of 11 American Christians, Muslims, and Jews traveling to Israel and the Occupied Territories. The trip is sponsored by Fellowship of Reconciliation; for details on the trip please check out www.forusa.org. I have researched various delegations and am confident that this one provides the most comprehensive and balanced trip.

Daily news from the Middle East fills me with sorrow. I will travel with the intention of returning with personal stories, and of actual experiences of what life is like in both Israel and the Occupied Territories. I'll learn about the efforts of both Palestinians and Israelis to nonviolently resolve the conflict. I want to listen, to hear from advocates and communities how they envision that US activists can be most effective. I hope that by being present with other peace-seekers, I will add my voice to those working to end the current violence and establish a peaceful resolution.

I need to raise over _____ to participate in this delegation. By writing a check you would help me purchase my plane ticket and the other essential program fees, which covers food, transportation and accommodations. I am paying for as much of the trip as I am able, but I need your donations to cover the rest.

I'll be sending out emails while there about our delegation activities, please let me know if you are interested and I'll add you to the list. When I return, I would love to either invite you to a presentation on my experiences or to present one for you and your community.

Please consider making contribution \$25 and above.

If you have any questions about the trip, please feel free to call me or send me an email. Thank You.

B'shalom v ahava, (with peace and love)
Malka

Delegate Stan Edelson's Fundraising Letter

Peace Now and Forever: Art in Exchange for Contributions

A timely, urgent request to raise \$3000 ASAP

Very soon I am going away for two weeks to Israel-Palestine (Oct 25-Nov 8, 2003). I am going with the group *Fellowship of Reconciliation*, on their Interfaith Peace Delegation (info enclosed). Why? Because there is no peace between people who are neighbors, and all people, especially neighbors, need to reconcile (in fellowship and sistership) their differences and commonalities.

I believe it can happen -- peaceful coexistence with social justice. It has to happen. I am going to experience the situation firsthand, to bear witness and bring back to all who will listen what I saw and heard. As I have been a playwright and theater director for four decades, I will inevitably incorporate what I learn from this trip into future plays for the stage, perhaps with my Boston-based theater company, the Diversity Lab Theater.

However, for me to be able to go, I need financial support. *This letter is my fundraising effort, but it is also an exciting exchange: my art in return for your financial contribution.*

You see, in addition to being a playwright, I have been an artist, drawing and painting, for 6 decades. Years ago, during a past visit to Israel, one night on a kibbutz near the Lebanese border, I drew 13 "Jewish faces" from my imagined search for "the Jewish face." On this upcoming trip I plan to draw 13 "Palestinian faces." I have enclosed a (reduced) representative set of the already drawn "Jewish faces."

If you would like to contribute \$20 (or close to it) towards my fundraising effort, I can either give you 1 matted copy of a "Jewish face" now, or upon my return from the trip, I can give you 1 matted copy of a "Palestinian face." The actual drawing you receive will be a high quality copy on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, in an 11 x 14 mat. It will be one face per mat. For \$50, you'll get 3 drawings, either Jewish or Palestinian faces -- or a mix of both. *With both, you can hang on your wall "Jewish faces" and "Palestinian faces" coexisting peacefully.* Lastly, \$90 for 6 drawings. Attached, please find an order form. (Note: Shipping is an additional \$3.)

If you wish more or less faces, you can call me directly and we can peacefully work out an amicable solution.

Thank you for considering this exchange of art for a contribution to my trip to the Middle East and to my exploration of how to transform a hurtful conflict into peaceful coexistence.

Peace,

Stan Edelson

P.S. When I write "Jewish face" and "Palestinian face," it is not meant as an ethnic division but more to understand that *there is no true definition of what exactly is a Jewish or Palestinian face.* And, in fact, the drawings will make this very clear.

Interfaith Peace-Builders

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