

A CONTINUING JOURNEY TO THE LEVANT

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Dear friends:



Qira, Palestine



Haifa



Haifa



Haifa

From mid September 2007 for three months, I plan to return for my 4th journey of photographic discovery to Palestine and Israel. This time to deepen my explorations of water, its political manifestations and its beauty and mystery; youth, including the youngest up thru the era of the bold 20s; and non-violent resistance. Light attracts me – the light of the Mediterranean region and the light of all the wisdom teachers, the luminaries, of that region. With an open heart, I hope to expand my eye to encompass both Palestinians and Israelis as they struggle against seemingly impossible odds to right the wrongs and correct the errors in the many legacies playing out in this region. Chief among them: colonialism, the Jewish holocaust with its millennially-old predecessors in Christianity, the Palestinian *nakba* (the catastrophe coinciding with the founding of the modern Israeli state in 1948), the role of the United States giving its unswerving (to now) validation to Israel, and the lack of beneficence from Arab states to the Palestinian movements for justice.

A backdrop to this trip, a goad and a frightening element, is Lebanon, the utter destruction, the relentless violence from many sectors, the crimes against humanity. I'll look at how this manifests in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.

As before, I'll volunteer my photography to various organizations, like the American Friends Service Committee in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel, Ramallah Friends School, Rabbis for Human Rights, Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions, and the International Solitary Movement. With



Jerusalem



Tubas, Palestine



Jenin, Palestine



Ramallah, Palestine



Gaza



Shifa hospital

Demolitions, and the International Solitary Movement. With funding from private donations, grants, and money I raise thru my slide shows and print sales in the States, I will only ask my hosts for housing and a food stipend. If this is not feasible, I shall simply donate my services.

Many organizations have used my photos, including all those mentioned above, plus Physicians for Human Rights – Israel, the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, Birzeit University, Families Forum-Bereaved Arab and Jewish Families, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

I photograph to provide a needed service in the Mid East, but also to awaken my peers in the US to realities as I comprehend them. Since returning home to Cambridge Massachusetts 3 months ago, I've given 6 slide shows to political and religious groups, also in private homes for neighbors and friends, exhibited prints at New England Yearly Meeting sessions (Quaker), provided hundreds of photos to clients in Israel-Palestine such as the UN, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and the Friends School, helped several people in Israel-Palestine with their writing, and stayed in touch with some friends in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank during the violence of this summer.

And after my second trip to the Levant for five months ending in February 2005, I presented slide shows to numerous audiences in schools, resource centers, religious communities, and private homes. These venues have been in New England, Alaska, and California. In addition, I've exhibited photographs at universities and art centers. Various magazines and websites have used my photos, including some in Palestine. And I've self-published a book. I am utterly committed to this project, a marriage of sorts.

The cost of this journey – fees, airfare, photo expenses, uncovered living expenses while in country, both during the trip and later during postproduction – is approximately \$10,000.

I'd deeply appreciate any sort of contribution, large or small, whether money, airline ticket benefits, equipment (photographic or computer) or prayers. I welcome your suggestions about making this journey. You could also help by organizing a showing of my slides or photos. Please visit teeksaphoto.org for examples of my photography and writing.



Gaza, Mediterranean Sea



Shifa hospital, Gaza City

Thank you so much for your support.

–Skip

**Report from a 3rd photographic journey to the Levant,
*Testing the Waters – Palestine & Israel, 2006***

http://teeksaphoto.org/Levant2006/Pages/Report_8_06.html

Slide shows & print exhibits available from *Testing the Waters*

http://teeksaphoto.org/Levant2006/Pages/Offerings_8_2006.htm

Photo albums on line

<http://teeksaphoto.org/Levant2006/Pages/NewLevant06.html>