

EXPANDED VISION: A CONTINUING JOURNEY TO THE LEVANT

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Qira, Palestine



Al-Jazzar Mosque, Akka/Acre



Haifa



Mediterranean beach, Haifa

Dear friends:

I plan to return for my 4th journey of photographic discovery to Palestine and Israel. From early October 2007 for three months, I will deepen my explorations of water, its political manifestations and its beauty and mystery; youth, including the youngest up through the era of the bold 20s; and non-violent resistance to the occupation.

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 one year ago, I've given numerous slide shows in schools and to political and religious groups, also in private homes for neighbors and friends, exhibited prints at New England Yearly Meeting sessions (Quaker) and Harvard University, provided hundreds of photos to clients in Israel-Palestine such as 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 last summer. During January and February of 2007, I toured the West Coast from California to Alaska and British Columbia with several of my slide shows. A report is at teeksaphoto.org/Levant2006/Pages/WestCoastTourReport_3_07.htm > I am utterly committed to this project, a marriage of sorts.

A backdrop to this trip, a goad and a frightening element connecting us in the United States and the debacle unfolding there, is the US and Israeli-led boycott of most international aid to the Hamas-dominated Palestinian Authority. This is creating havoc among medical personnel, educators, and other providers of humanitarian assistance.

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

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, my vision, to encompass both Palestinians and Israelis as they struggle against seemingly intractable forces to right the wrongs and correct the errors in the many legacies playing out in this region. Chief among them: colonialism, the Jewish *Shoah* (holocaust) with its millennia-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 of Israel, and the lack of beneficence



Palestinian Israeli students in Jerusalem



Tubas, Palestine



Jenin, Palestine



Ramallah , Palestine



Raw sewage, Gaza Strip



Cancer patient, Shifa hospital, Gaza



Cancer patient, Shifa hospital, Gaza

from Arab states to the Palestinian movements for justice.

As before, I'll volunteer my photography to various organizations, such as the American Friends Service Committee in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel; Ramallah Friends School; Rabbis for Human Rights; Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions; the Gaza Community Mental Health Program; and the Israeli Palestinian Center for Research and the International Solitary Movement. I'll also offer to teach photography and writing, as I did on my last trip.

With funding from private donations, grants (a recent one from the Puffin Foundation), and money I raise through 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.

The cost of this upcoming journey – fees, airfare, photo equipment and supplies, uncovered housing, food, and local transport while in country, and postproduction expenses – is approximately \$10,000. Individuals and foundations have already contributed about \$3,000.

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 on various themes.

Thank you so much for your support.

– Skip

Slide shows & print exhibits available:

teeksaphoto.org/Levant2006/Pages/Offerings_8_2006.htm

Most recent photo albums & writing on line:

teeksaphoto.org/Levant2006/Pages/NewLevant06.html

Most recent report:

teeksaphoto.org/Levant2006/Pages/Report07.pdf

Testimonials:

teeksaphoto.org/Levant2006/Pages/Testimonials.html