

Renewing Commitments

Sunday, October 24, 2010



American Friends Service Committee Middle East Program Fundraiser

We invite you to join us for an afternoon dedicated to **Creating Connections and Renewing our Commitments** to Middle East peace and supporting the people of Gaza. The event will feature the following recipients of AFSC's Inspiration for Hope Awards:

Skip Schiel

Skip Schiel is a photographer and the keynote presenter for the fundraiser. Schiel is a frequent visitor to Gaza. While there, he witnesses the effects of the Israeli siege on Gaza and he works with the AFSC's youth program teaching photography. Schiel has also led photographic workshops at Al Aqsa University in Gaza. The theme of his photographic presentation is *"Hope and Hopelessness: How do residents of Gaza survive psychologically?"*

Brant Rosen

Brant Rosen is the Rabbi of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston and past president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Congregation. Rabbi Rosen is author of the popular blog *Shalom Rav*. He is co-founder of an ongoing solidarity awareness project, ***Ta'anit Tzedek / the Jewish Fast for Gaza***. Rosen's editorials have appeared in various publications, including the *Chicago Tribune* and he has been listed by *Newsweek* as one of the top 25 pulpit rabbis in America.



Shirien Damra

Shirien Damra is a Palestinian-American born in Chicago. She is a graduate student of Sociology at DePaul University, focusing on political sociology of the Middle East. She graduated with a BA in Sociology with a minor International Politics in 2009 at DePaul and continues to be a key activist in DePaul's Students for Justice in Palestine organization. She is also on the executive board for the Chicago chapter of the American Association for Palestinian Equal Rights (AAPER). Shirien made her first trip to Palestine in the summer of 2010.



The event will include a luncheon buffet provided by Hel's Kitchen Catering.

**Irish American
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For more information or to
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