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# Diyar Board of Directors

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# FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

Salaam from Bethlehem. The year 2017 was another successful year, filled with accomplishments on so many levels. A major milestone in our journey was the dedication of Dar al-Kalima Library and Multimedia Resource Center at Dar al-Kalima University College, concluding 15 months of construction work and a total of 43,000 person hours. The 1.6 million dollar building is a state-of-the-art and the first and only library in Palestine dedicated to arts and culture.

Another milestone was the addition of 67 KW to the existing 46 KW solar energy units making DAK the first campus in Palestine fully operating on solar energy for lighting, heating and air conditioning. It will be a zero energy facility in spring 2018 as it is environmentally friendly through solar system, LED bulbs and VRV heating and cooling systems, 100% natural lighting and ventilation.



A major accomplishment was the launching in cooperation of KAICIID Dialogue Center of a first of its kind “Network of Christian and Muslim Religious Colleges in the Arab World” with 18 colleges. We hope that this initiative will have an important impact on the future of religious education in the Middle East by combating religious extremism and strengthening interfaith dialogue.

There was also the launching of two new BA programs at the University College in September 2017, namely Interior Design and Performing Arts (with the focus on music). The two other BA programs in Sustainable Cultural Tourism and Performing Arts (with the focus on theater) will be launched in 2018.

The first program of “Face to Face” was implemented in 2017. It is a brand new program whereby international graduate students come to DAK to study issues related to the Palestinian context for one intensive month. A total of 12 students from 12 different countries participated in this first year of the program. The program’s evaluation was very positive and it will be repeated in 2018.

A major study comprised of a national poll and research on the issue of Christian Emigration was conducted during the year. The study findings got the attention of several local, regional, and international media outlets. The results were published by Diyar Publisher in a book, Palestinian Christians: Emigration, Displacement and Diaspora, which is made available on Amazon.

Four projects related to tourism were carried out in 2017: A guide book Bethlehem: The Historic Center & Bethlehemites in Jerusalem; A cook book Palestine: A Culinary Destination that comes in a kit with a set of spices and a flash memory; the Bethlehem Community Hotel, where 5 apartments in the old city of Bethlehem were renovated and are accepting booking for individuals; and a new authentic tourism program “Palestine as a Culinary Destination”, with the first group of students trained to carry out the culinary tours.

Two major international conferences were held in 2017: The first conference “A Century of Migration, Displacement and Diaspora: Demographic Shifts

in the Arab World 1917- 2017” was held with 44 participants including expert scholars from the Middle East and other parts of the world (totaling 17 countries). The second conference “The Palestinian Naksa of 1967 and Its Implications” was organized on the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the fateful defeat that beset the Arabs, transforming the social, religious and political terrains of the region in profound and dramatic ways.

Several important international exchanges took place in 2017: “Women”, a hybrid dabke/western contemporary dance theater that explores the parallels between the conquest of the Palestinian land and Palestinian women’s bodies, which was choreographed by Nicole Bindler in collaboration with three dancers from Diyar Theatre, toured the USA; Diyar Women Soccer Team had two exchanges in the UK and Germany; Dandanat Festival brought for the 11th consecutive year Swedish bands in an exchange with Palestinian bands; student films were screened in France and Abu Dhabi; the Visegard Film Festival was hosted for the 4th time at Dar Annadwa; DAK got for the first time into the EU Erasmus+ program with an exchange program with

Birmingham City University (BCU) in the UK; and finally, DAK hosted several Palestinian scholars and artists from the Diaspora including Stephen Sheehi, John Halaka and Alexandra Handal.

Diyar Academy for Children and Youth experienced in 2017 a jump in the number of children and youth participating in its program, hitting the 1000 threshold.

And last but not least, I was privileged to be awarded the Tolerance Ring by “The European Academy of Science and Arts” as an acknowledgment to our role in the arts scene in Palestine.

However, 2017 was not an easy year at all. We had to raise an additional 1 million dollars for the library construction beside scholarships and program funds. We had to endure many attacks from Zionist and Christian Zionist groups who hate our work because of its focus on hope, creative resistance, and justice.

In spite of all the challenges and attacks, Dar al-Kalima University College continues to be a success story because of its unique vision, clear mission,

committed members, dedicated staff, visionary board, faithful friends, and generous supporters. Their commitment made and makes all the difference. We thank the Lord for this success.

**Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb**  
*President*  
*April 2018*



# Dar Al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture

## Projects

- ***Erasmus+ Student Mobility Project***

For the first time since its founding, DAK became part of the EU Erasmus+ program that supports education, training, youth and sport, and partnered with Birmingham City University (BCU), UK to conduct academic exchange as follows:

Student exchange: 2 students from DAK were granted the opportunity to study a semester at BCU.  
Faculty exchange: 2 DAK faculty members visited

BCU between October 2 and 6, 2017 and met with peer faculty members at BCU.

Faculty exchange: 3 BCU faculty members visited DAK on November 9 and gave public lectures, in addition to workshops in different parts of Palestine.

- ***Nissa FM Radio***

In cooperation with Nissa FM Radio in Ramallah and the UN, DAK students wrote and acted in the production of 6 episodes of Radio Drama about violence against women in 2016. The broadcasting of these episodes was made in March 2017.

- ***Education for Employment***

The Church of Sweden continued its support for the “Education for Employment” project in the field of film in 2017. This project is considered a strategic investment in a field that is expanding and needs highly qualified people in the film industry. DAK’s Film Production Program provides the youth with the skills needed to take part in a global phenomenon with the expansion of visual expression and its ease of accessibility through new means of social media. Additionally, the different competencies that the students acquire are highly in demand and highly paid, including photography, editing, sound, and so on, and as a result the youth easily find employment upon graduation.

- ***I Love Bethlehem***

Phase II of this project, which was funded by Otto per Mille, was carried out in 2017. During the first phase, six film scripts were developed and written by young filmmakers. In the second phase, five of the six film

scripts were selected for production and further training with the young filmmakers of these scripts was implemented. As a result, three of the young filmmakers finished the production of their films and are now in the editing and post-production phase while the rest are in the process of filming, where they have chosen locations, crew and cast and are preparing costumes, props and decor.



The complete list of the selected scripts for production are the following:

No	Name of the Filmmaker	Hometown	Title of the Script
1.	Salah Abu Ni'ma	Battir / Bethlehem	"A Dog's Funeral" «جنازة كلب»
2	Saliba Rishmawi	Beit Sahour / Bethlehem	"The Trip of 20" «رحلة العشرون»
3	Shada Waleed Vazouz	Jerusalem	"Rubber Tire" «إطار مطاط»
4	Thaer Al-Azzah	Doha City / Bethlehem	"Coffee Pot" «دلة قهوة»
5.	Wisam Al-Jafari	Deheisha Refugee Camp / Bethlehem	"With No Hesitation" «بدون تردد»

### • Nabil Khoury Film

A short documentary film about the life of the Palestinian writer and journalist Nabil Khoury was produced by the DAK Film Production Program. The film was directed by Mahasen Nasser-Eldin, who is also a lecturer at DAK, and produced by Saed Andoni, the award winning producer. A team of Palestinian professionals and DAK students took part in the production.



- ***Products of Palestine***

DAK carried out the “Products of Palestine” project from September 2016 to May 2017, which was in partnership with DVV International and supported by GIZ. The target group was marginalized, unemployed youth who were specialized in jewelry, glass, ceramics and culinary arts. In total, 23 youth between 22 and 32 years old were trained and the ratio of female to male was 14:9.



The aim of the project is to effectively involve Palestinian youth in the labor market and support them in generating income. At the end of the project, DAK organized a one-day exhibition in Ramallah where more than 50 innovative Palestinian products were showcased, allowing for the opportunity to network with vendors and facilitating connections for the unemployed youth by opening new markets for their products. DAK also continues to market the youth’s productions at the Cave Gift Shop as new products are placed on display for sale.

- ***Palestine as a New Culinary Destination***

The main goal of this project, which was held between June to November 2017 and in partnership with DVV International, is to promote culinary tourism as a new product in the Palestinian tourism sector and Palestine as a culinary destination. The project worked with 57 young people from DAK divided as follows: 25 from the Culinary Art Program and 32

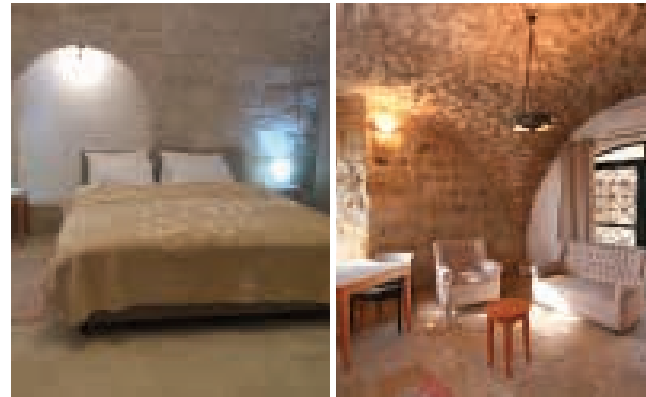
from the Palestinian Tour Guides Program. The ages of the trainees ranged between 18 and 32 years.

Aside from the intensive training, several English courses were given to the trainees to strengthen their conversational and communication skills with the visiting groups. In addition, five field trips to Jenin, Nablus, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho regions were organized to introduce the trainees to the diversity of food and agriculture and the various culinary aspects in the different regions. A new guide to Palestinian cooking was also produced in print and audio-visual formats.



## ***FOP Project: The Bethlehem Community Hotel***

The EU/ENPI “Future of Our Past” project was completed in 2016 and the Bethlehem Community Hotel initiative began its operations during the second half of the year 2017. It is the first community hotel in the historic center of Bethlehem with five houses that were renovated and refurbished up to international standards. The rooms are now available on airbnb.



- **Visiting Artists**

DAK hosted several artists and filmmakers during 2017, including:

1. Jean Jacques Peretti: is a consultant for Paul Saadoun at Second Vague Productions. He also works for Cross Video Days, the leading market for transmedia programs. Mr. Peretti gave a workshop on March 7 about documentary storytelling.
2. Jacob Berger: a Swiss director who gave a workshop on March 13 for the students of “I Love Bethlehem” project.
3. Muayad Elayyan: a Palestinian filmmaker who gave a 2-day workshop, April 8 and 10, on low budget filmmaking. DAK also screened his film *Love, Theft, and other Entanglements* on April 4, followed by a discussion.
4. Raed Andoni: a Palestinian Filmmaker and winner of the 2017 Berlin Film Festival for his film *Ghost Hunting*. DAK hosted Mr. Andoni on May 11 and screened his award-winning film, followed by discussion.
5. Salim Abu Jabal: a Palestinian director who screened his film *Roshmia* on July 7, followed by discussion.
6. Claudia Riviera: a Chilean filmmaker from Palestinian origins, who screened her film *Juthoor* on October 16, followed by a discussion with the students.
7. Alexandra Handal: as part of the “Palestinian Naksa of 1967 and Its Implications” International Conference, Alexandra Handal screened her interactive web documentary project and held a discussion afterwards.
8. Herman Greuel: A Norwegian producer who works for Tvibit. Tvibit is a production and competence center for broadcasting and hosting professionals in music, culture, health, film and creative activities. He gave a lecture on September 20 about cinema and TV professions.

9. John Halaka: A public lecture with Prof. Halaka was held on March 18, where he spoke about his work to the students.
10. Stefan Busch, Stephan Meissner, and Adrian Dittert: In cooperation and support from the Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ramallah, three artists (Stefan Busch, Stephan Meissner, Adrian Dittert) from Tape That Collective visited DAK and gave a lecture and supervised a workshop called Tape That Workshop on November 17 for DAK students and graduates.

## Delegations, Co-operations and Study Tours

- DAK signed an academic partnership agreement with Sargent-Disc Ltd., which creates budgets and scheduling software for filmmakers. The agreement allows DAK to install and use their products for teaching purposes.
- Two of DAK's graduates of the BA Contemporary Art Program were invited by the Diocese of Lund to take part in church and cultural activities in Lund, Sweden from September 16 to 28, 2017. They were also hosted by the Diocese of Stockholm and Friends of Dar al Kalima from September 29 to October 4, 2017. The graduates gave presentations about DAK and their work, and visited few universities for arts and design, art museums and a cultural festival.
- A student cultural trip to Nablus was organized on March 27, 2017. The trip included a visit to the art department at An-Najah University, the museum at Munib al-Masri house, the city center and al-Madina Club where 12 of DAK students were exhibiting their works as part of the Oud & Rumman Festival.
- A student cultural trip to Ramallah was organized on November 11, 2017. The trip included a visit to the Palestinian Museum and the "Jerusalem Lives" exhibition, the Museum of Birzeit University and the opening of the

“Exile is Hard Work” exhibition by Dr. Aissa Deebi, and the Yasser Arafat Museum with a guided tour.

strip who received his award via Skype, as he was denied a permit by the Israelis to come to Bethlehem. Along with the award ceremony, which took place on December 18, an exhibition was organized of the 20 best photographs submitted this year.

## Competitions and Awards

### Ismael Shammout Competition for Fine Art:

The ceremony and announcement of the winners was held on March 7, 2017, with the presence of Dr. Yazid Shammout, the son of the late Ismael Shammout. The winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this competition were: Sukainah Salah Eddin from Jerusalem (first prize), Essam Moukhimer from Gaza (second prize), and Noor Abu Rayan from Hebron (third prize). An exhibition with the 11 final works was held and a bilingual catalogue was developed and designed by Dr. Aissa Deebi.

### Karima Aboud Award for Photography:

The winner of the second year of the competition was Mahmoud al-Kurd, a young man from the Gaza



**Ministry of Culture and Anti-Corruption Committee Competition:** Three of DAK students were awarded in a competition organized by the Palestinian Ministry of Culture and the Anti-Corruption Committee on February 26, 2017. The students were: Varvara Abd El-Razek and Reme Sahouri from the BA Contemporary Art Program, and Dana Yacoub from the BA Graphic Design Program.



- **Film Competitions and Awards**

**1. Festival Ciné-Palestine Paris (FCP): July 2 - 11, 2017**  
The following films participated in the Short Film Competition:

- The Living of the Pigeons by Baha Abu Shanab
- The Knife by Thaeer Al-Azza
- Six Fingers by Fadi Idrees



The following awards were received:

- The Living of the Pigeons received the Jury Award
- Six Fingers received the Audience Award

## 2. *Students Short Film Festival: July 6 – 9, 2017 in Tunisia*

The following films participated:

- Day 79 by Wisam Jafari
- Burqu' Classic by Salah Abu Nimeh
- The Living of the Pigeons by Baha Abu Shanab

## 3. *Cinema Days: October 18 – 22, 2017 in Palestine*

- The Knife by Thaez Azza, which won a special recognition by the jury for the Sunbird Contest

## 4. *Qanadeel Film Festival Palestine: November 26 – 28, 2017*

The following films participated:

- The Knife by Thaez Al-Azza
- The Living of the Pigeons by Baha Abu Shanab
- Shatter by Bilal Krunz
- The Night of the Camp by Akram Warra
- Visitation by Noor Abu Ghanieh
- Tarweedat Shmali by Suliman Mkarker

## Exhibitions, Film Screenings and Performances

### • *Oud & Rumman Festival in Nablus*

Twelve students from the Contemporary Art Program (diploma & BA) participated in an exhibition organized by the festival from February 23 to March 27, 2017.

### • *Cinema Club*

DAK launched the Cinema Club in 2017, with regular monthly film screenings and discussions in addition to special screening events. The screenings included feature, documentary and short films. In total, 19 film screenings were held with at least 1000 persons in attendance.



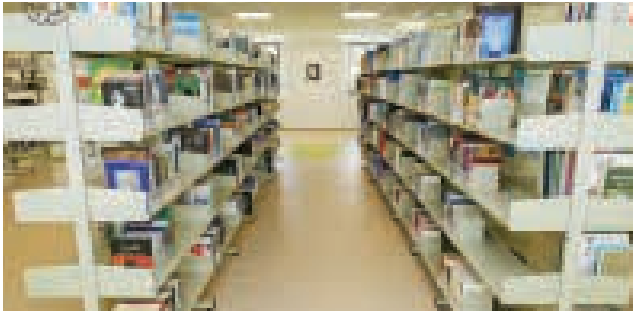
- ***Music Performances***

Music students performed at three different occasions that were held by DAK in 2017: the Spring Day Festival in April, a concert in May, and at the Graduation Ceremony in August.



- ***Library Inauguration***

Music students Waad Al-Azzah (voice) and Ayham Ayeshe (Qanoun) performed a short concert with the musician George Lamam at the Library Inauguration event in September 2017.

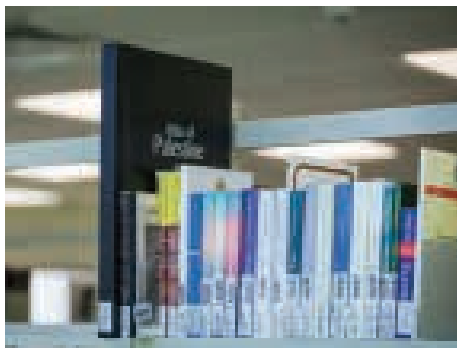




## Dar al-Kalima University College Library in Numbers 2017 Acquisitions

Number of Books	667
Number of Reference Books	21
Number of Films	35

By the end of 2017 the total number of acquisitions at the library reached 9000.



## Numbers of Students in 2017

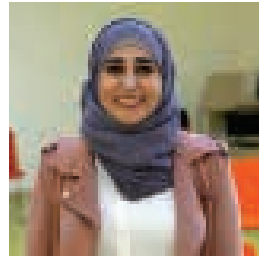
Degree	# of Students
<i>Visual Arts Programs</i>	
Glass & Ceramics	2
Art Education	7
Jewelry Making	16
Contemporary Fine Art	7
Contemporary Art	22
Graphic Design	24
Interior Design	27
<i>Performing Arts Programs</i>	
Music Performance	21
Drama & Theater Performance	1
Performing Arts	13

<b><i>Palestinian Tour Guides</i></b>	58
<b><i>Film Production Programs</i></b>	
Documentary Film Production	36
Film Production	47
<b><i>Culinary Art</i></b>	19
<b><i>Continuous Education 2-Year Programs</i></b>	
Glass & Ceramics - CE	2
Music Performance - CE	1
Culinary Art - CE	9
Film Production - CE	8
Contemporary Arts - CE	4
Jewelry Art - CE	7

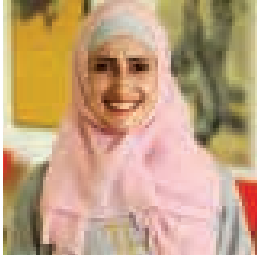
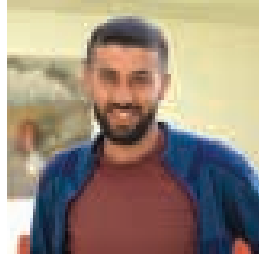
<b><i>Special Certificate</i></b>	
Leadership - CE	80
Adult Education "Curriculum GlobALE" - CE	9
Training (Design, Finishing, Marketing of Art and Culinary Products) - CE	23
Training (Culinary Tourism) - CE	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>



Students



Of



2017

# “The Palestinian Naksa of 1967 and Its Implications” International Conference

The “Palestinian *Naksa* of 1967 and Its Implications” International Conference is the 15<sup>th</sup> conference of a series that was launched back in 2005 under the topic “Shaping Communities in Times of Crisis: Narratives of Land, Peoples and Identities” as there was a grave need to begin an inter-disciplinary discussion, both among Palestinians but also with regional and international actors, on ways, strategies, recommendations and scenarios that could bring a new and brighter future to the people of the land, taking into account their culture/s and identities.

The conference dealt with an extremely critical theme and issue to the Palestinian population first and foremost but also to the regional and international stakeholders, which is the 1967 war. The 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the fateful defeat that beset the Arabs afterwards has transformed the social, religious and political terrains of the region in profound and dramatic ways. Historians regard this defeat as one of the leading causes for the fall of secular Arab nationalism (including Nasserite Pan-Arabism) and the impetus behind the rise of Islamism;



a dialectic that has played out publicly across Arab states in the Middle East and North Africa. On the Israeli side, this victory procured political and geo-strategic advantages that have served its ideological and territorial ambitions at the expense of previous agreements and international treaties.

In this context, the conference sparked a very important debate on the 1967 war and its political, social, religious and cultural aftermath, by presenting a rich and varied inter-disciplinary program of lectures, presentations, live testimonies, film screening, book launching and other activities that focused on four main themes: the displacement of Palestinians and the construction of settler communities as well as the overall human rights and political impact; the role of Christian Zionism and its political/biblical narrative; Palestinian secular nationalism and the resurgence of Islamist ideology and its sociological manifestations; and the collective memory of the conflict illustrated through the arts and its role in shaping national identity across Palestinian communities.

The conference was held for three days during October 18-20, 2017 in Bethlehem, Palestine at the premises of Diyar/Dar al-Kalima University College in Bethlehem, Palestine. In total, there were 16 speakers and experts involved in this component, aside from 6 dialogue moderators. In terms of the audience, there were at least 130 persons participating each day of the conference, who were comprised of members of the local community, including Palestinian women and youth, as well as many scholars, academicians, sociologists, anthropologists, theologians, artists,



political scientists, and community, religious and political leaders of diverse scholarly, denominational, gender and national backgrounds. The conference had simultaneous translation of English/Arabic due to the multi-national backgrounds of the participants.

Finally, many positive results emerged aside from this critical conference and the valuable papers submitted, including 14 clips of the various lectures and sessions made available online (on YouTube through Diyar Productions channel <https://goo.gl/qfYcRB>) and a 20-minute documentary film on Nabil Khoury, a Palestinian author and journalist who was the first to document through his trilogy the general mood immediately after the 1967 *Naksa*. Also, significant recommendations for follow-up actions were made including the need to continue organizing conferences that are similar in nature, and intensifying the efforts to research and document the Palestinian oral history.



# The Model Adult Education Center in Palestine

Becoming the main hub of adult education in Palestine is a core focus of Diyar/Dar al-Kalima University College. To meet this goal, one important step was made in that a three-year partnership starting in 2015 was forged with DVV International, which is the Institute for International Cooperation of the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V. (DVV), the German Adult Education Association. DVV represents the interests of the approximately 900 adult education centers (Volkshochschulen) and their state associations, the largest further education providers in Germany. A summary of the main highlights of 2017 follows:

## Curriculum GlobALE

Together with DVVI, a new training was carried out in 2017 with nine women participants. The emphasis from the beginning was to advance women trainers as adult educators, since there is a stark shortage of qualified women trainers and facilitators in the adult education field in Palestine. The women participants were closely related to the work of DAK University College as seven out of the nine women are members of the Civic Cultural Network.



The training was based on five modules that describe the relevant skills needed to lead successful courses and provides guidance on practical implementation as part of Curriculum GlobALE (CG), which is a cross-cultural core curriculum for the training of adult educators worldwide. It was developed jointly by the German Institute for Adult Education (DIE) and



DVV International. Curriculum GlobALE aims at enhancing the professionalism of adult educators working in different countries by providing a common competence standard, supporting adult education providers in the design and implementation of train-

the-trainer programs, and fostering knowledge exchange and mutual understanding between adult educators across countries and regions.

## Joint Projects

Two major, joint initiatives were carried out with DVV International in 2017, with an extensive description listed under other sections. The projects were *Products of Palestine* and *Palestine as a New Culinary Destination*.



# “Religion & State – Middle East” Project

Building on previous progress of this Project that was launched in 2008, Religion and State entered its Phase IV commencing in 2017 and continuing through 2019.

Studies commissioned by Diyar on issues related to Emigration/Immigration, Displacement and Diaspora of Middle Eastern peoples, revealed a growing fear of the future, expressed especially among Christians and more particularly among youth. It was, therefore, important to focus 2017 activities on various aspects of those issues.



A major international conference was held in Limassol, Cyprus, November 30–December 03, on the overall theme: “*A Century of Migration, Displacement and Diaspora: Demographic Shifts in the Arab World 1917- 2017.*” Forty-four participants included expert scholars from the Middle East and other parts of the world (totaling 17 countries), youth and women, who addressed topics such as: “Forced Migration and International Law,” “The Growing Refugee Crisis in Lebanon,” “Border Discourses, Asylum and Neo-Colonial Modernity – Arab Refugees in Europe, the German Case,” “How Can Identity and Mission of An Expatriate/Diaspora Church Be Understood?” “Coptic Immigrants,” “The Findings of the Latest Poll Regarding the Migration of Palestinians from the West Bank,” etc., and gave various testimonies of second-generation immigrant youth. Relevant to the overall theme of the conference, it is noteworthy that visitor’s visa applications of all 7 Egyptian participants and 2 Iraqis were denied by Cypriot authorities. Conference proceedings will be published in 2018.

Prior to the international conference, two major youth workshops were held in Amman and Beirut,

respectively, focusing also on issues of Emigration. While a combined total of 60 young adult professional male and female participants from Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon discussed existential realities and fears, they also demonstrated a vital commitment to remain proactively engaged in their homelands, and were trained to utilize effective tools of involvement and advocacy. A similar workshop for Egyptian youth was re-scheduled for the early spring of 2018.



# The Civic Engagement Program



The Civic Engagement Program focuses on providing systematic and ongoing leadership capacity building to Palestinian young men and women and enhancing their civic participation and engagement in the community. In 2017, there was one major initiative of this program, which is the Civic Cultural Network - Phase II Project.

Supported by the Olof Palme International Center, the four-year project aims at creating a grassroots youth lobby in Palestine that can contribute effectively to having the Palestinian young people actively engage in the development of their communities and practice fully their citizenship rights. A summary of the main activities and highlights of 2017 follows:

- **Training and Capacity Building**

Nine-themed intensive training workshops were carried out, which aimed at equipping the young people with skills in advocacy, campaigning, lobbying

and effective communication. Field visits were included in 2017 as part of the training on “Creative and Effective Tools in Advocacy Campaigns: Art and Culture” where the youth were exposed to graffiti and other types of street art that demonstrates how culture can be utilized for advocacy purposes. Also, the 2017 training re-enforced one theme in particular, which is media, through different topics (media campaign, social media, electronic advocacy) as it is one of the most important components when building a strategy to influence public attitudes and lobby for issues. The number of young people who graduated from the 2017 training was 80 persons, with 51 young women and 29 young men.

- **Community Service**

As part of their community service, the youth identified and developed 4 main initiatives that they collectively worked on, which were: the “Biseeresh Haik” campaign to mainly raise awareness on the electronic extortion crime in the Palestinian community, “Health and Services” as they

organized and volunteered at several health-related organizations including the Ministry of Health - Bethlehem Chapter, “Overcoming Geographical and Political Fragmentation” as they worked jointly on several activities with the Higher Council for Youth and Sports in Palestine including olive harvest voluntary work, and “Creating Job Opportunities” to combat unemployment among Palestinian youth. In total, 61 young people carried out 40 hours of community service in different localities and as a result developed more holistic growth in agency and sense of responsibility.



- **Shared Leadership**

The tenure of the former advisory committee was completed in 2017, and therefore a thorough review and a rigorous process of evaluation took place that led to an intensive re-organization and the inclusion of new members in the advisory committee, and in doing so many young women members were motivated to join and be fully involved and engaged in the running of the network. The advisory committee, key to the operations of the network, is now comprised of 22 youth representatives of different localities, with 11 women and 11 men.

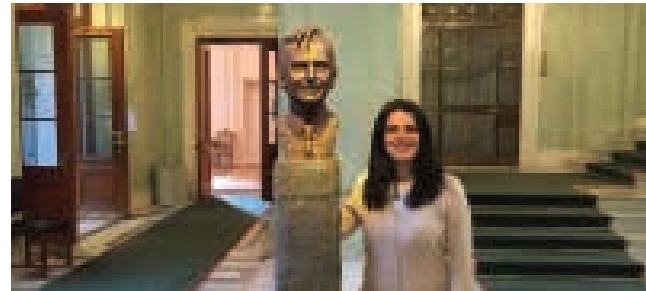
- **“Biseeresh Haik” Campaign**

A national campaign took place during the latter half of 2017 across most districts of the West Bank and thus reaching to many segments of society. It primarily aimed to highlight and discuss the electronic extortion crime in the Palestinian community. A young woman from Hebron was elected as the campaign’s spokesperson, who expressed effectively and

eloquently the campaign’s message and objectives. Many activities took place as part of the campaign so that at least 18 different events were carried out in different spots including schools, universities and colleges, youth clubs, and community centers.

- **Study Visit to Sweden**

A study visit to Sweden was organized by the Olof Palme International Center during September 17 - 21, 2017. The visit enabled the project staff to have deeper understanding of the important work of the Olof Palme International Center, the Swedish political system and parties, the refugee issue and other important topics as well.





- **Adult Education Course**

A total of 9 women members of the Civic Cultural Network completed a 12-day intensive adult education training called “Curriculum GlobALE”, and thus their training skills were enhanced to enable the implementation of a step-down approach, in that the young people who already underwent the advocacy, campaigning, lobbying and effective communication training can facilitate the training of other young people within their communities. The training

was carried out by DVV International, a leading organization in adult education.

- **Stakeholders Coalition and Alliance Formation:**

Close cooperation with key stakeholders and inter-sectorial partners is essential for the success of a grassroots youth lobby. At least 33 partners provided youth candidates to be trained in 2017, while several organizations collaborated on joint activities in multiple areas and different localities. These stakeholders included local/national media outlets, local/national civil society organizations, ministerial and semi-governmental bodies, local government authorities, private sector and others.

- **Public Relations and Promotional Efforts**

A strong presence of the young people and their issues in local/national media continued in 2017.

Diyar has introduced a unique approach into the local/national media, in that the reporting on youth activism has shifted to considering cultural and community activities as also part of the overall process of advocating for more youth rights and enhancing their role and presence in decision-making mediums and spaces. In 2017, the frequency of coverage in the local and national media in various formats was 46 times.



- **“Min Haqi” and “Jalsat Shababiyya” Online Radio Shows**

The production of the weekly online radio show “Min Haqi” continued with significant topics that were strategically selected so as to highlight some of the fifteen priority areas that are covered by the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), which guides the UN youth agenda. In total, 18 shows were aired with multiple guests and interviewees. Another one-hour weekly show called “Jalsat Shababiyya” (Youth Gatherings) was broadcasted four times during Ramadan fasting month and revolved around soliciting the youth’s opinions on different issues and daily observations.

- **“Min Haqi” Quarterly Online Newsletter**

A qualitative progress with the quarterly e-newsletter was experienced in 2017 as a young man from the network, Majd Abu Joudeh, became its editor and



by doing so introduced a new look and format to the e-newsletter, while its issues became more thematic and focused. In addition, the number of young members who contributed with articles, stories, poems, photographs and other types of creative expressions increased and as such greater youth ownership was exercised.

- **The Diyar Civic Cultural Network Blog**

In quest for enhancing the visibility of the Palestinian youth's issues and rights to the general public, including the decision makers and policymakers, the Diyar Civic Cultural Network Blog was created with multi-author blogs by young men and women, in both Arabic and English languages. The blog's address is: <https://civic-cultural-diyar-network.blogspot.com>. In 2017, there were 11 entries published by 6 bloggers, 4 women and 2 men.

- **English Brochure**

A new brochure in English was published, to be distributed as an outreach tool to youth who live in the Diaspora and are interested in the network.



# Ajyal Elderly Care Program

The major highlights in 2017 for the Ajyal Program were the following:

- **Study Tour to Jordan**

A total of 25 elderly persons joined the study tour to Jordan during November 15-19, 2017 for sightseeing, therapeutic and educational purposes. The visit included some of the most famous sites in Jordan as the group toured four main locations: Ma'in Hot Springs, Wadi Rum in the desert, Petra archaeological site, and Aqaba coastal city.

- **Two-day trip to Tiberius**

Trips and picnics are very important for the elderly. They give them the opportunity to explore new places in Palestine or revisit old sites that they no longer are able to go to, due to the restrictions on their movement by Israel, aside from their own physical challenges if they were to go alone. For two days, June 28-29, 2017 Ajyal Program organized an overnight trip for 60 seniors to Haifa and Tiberius, where the program included visiting some churches, swimming and having meaningful conversations.

- **Elderly Day Event**

This year's celebration, with at least 100 elderly attending, was a spectacular event as all the activities were planned and implemented by the seniors themselves. The most remarkable of these events was a segment presenting traditional costumes and tools that were used in the Palestinian society in the past.



- **Paris Nurse Group Visit**

The annual visit of the Parish Nurse group took place in November, with 11 participants from the US. Two main workshops were conducted during the visit on "Heart Attack and Stroke Prevention" and "Maintaining a Healthy Weight".

- **Drama Show**

The Palestinian Ministry of Health held a one-day event where local organizations and centers that run elderly programs were invited to highlight their own activities. Ajyal Elderly Care Program stood out as its drama team presented a drama show that discussed some of the elderly's major challenges, including physical, at this stage of life. Moreover, one of Ajyal's members shared her testimony about the impact of the program on her life, and how she became more active and hopeful in life.



# Azwaj Program

The 2017 highlights of this program included the following:

**“Leadership in Marriage” Workshop:** A workshop series of eight sessions were organized for the Azwaj young families in collaboration with the Guidance and Training Center for the Child and Family in Bethlehem. The topics included anger management, communication skills, expressing feelings, nourishing marital relationship and so on.

**“Ways to Decrease Stress and Maximize Performance and Creativity” Annual Conference & Retreat:** The conference and retreat was carried

out in two parts: the first was a theoretical part organized over two afternoons and conducted by a professional team from FELM organization while the second was a retreat in Tiberius.

**Hiking:** Two hiking trips were organized for the families and children during the year, in two different areas in the Bethlehem district. Hiking is one of the most enjoyable activities for the Azwaj families.

**Awareness Sessions:** A full monthly program of awareness raising sessions and meetings were organized throughout the year on different topics including health, psychology, nutrition, meditation and other themes.

## Intergenerational Activities

### **Intergenerational Christmas Celebration:**

An Intergenerational celebration was organized, where the whole family including children, parents, and grandparents were gathered to celebrate Christmas. Aside from Christmas carols, many other activities for all ages took place including Christmas dinner, games, cultural segments and distribution of Christmas gifts to the members of Ajyal and Azwaj programs.

**Intergenerational Celebrate Recovery Workshops:** There were five intergenerational celebrate recovery workshops that were conducted

in 2017. Two of these workshops were carried out by a professional team from the US while the remaining three were organized by the local trainer from Diyar. In addition and carried out separately, another 18 sessions were conducted for the youth group and 16 sessions for the senior group. As well, with the support of the Healing of The Living Stones organization, Diyar was able to send three local leaders to attend the Celebrate Recovery Summit in August 2017. Their one-week visit included exploring further the CR program.

**Ergosoma Program:** In 2017, the third training in this field was carried out, which emphasized the importance of using the body power as a healing tool. The training included 22 participants, both male and female, from different medical backgrounds and professions.

# Diyar Academy for Children and Youth

## The Theater and Dance School

The main highlight of the Theater and Dance School in 2017 was the dance and theater productions and touring:

- ***"Women" Dance Production Tour in the USA***

"Women", choreographed by Nicole Bindler in collaboration with three dancers from Diyar Theatre, is a hybrid dabke/western contemporary dance theater that explores the parallels between the conquest of the Palestinian land and Palestinian

women's bodies. The dance piece was originally created in 2015 and performed on stage on July 1, 2015. Diyar Theatre conducted a month long residency in the U.S. in July 2017 and toured the dance piece in five different cities including Chicago, New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Maryland.

- ***Flash Mobs in Germany***

Diyar Theatre, in cooperation with Ifa Germany, conducted flash mobs in Bremen, Germany, followed by teaching dabkeh dance (Palestinian folkloric dance) in public spaces, schools and universities,

and cultural centers. The flash mobs aimed to create discussion with the public about Palestine and its cultural heritage, and the role of dance and theater in the Palestinian context as tools used to empower people with hope and creative resistance.

- ***Letters from Theater Exchange***

A music theater exchange between students of Freie Waldorschule in Rosenheim, Germany and Diyar Theatre in Bethlehem, Palestine took place, showing the struggles of the young people everywhere. The theatrical process was based on letters the youth received from other young people around the world who are going through difficult circumstances.

The musical theater exchange was first performed after extensive training between the two groups in Bethlehem in 2016, then the Palestinian group traveled to Munich during July - August 2017 to continue the training process and perform in Munich and Rosenheim.

- ***Christmas Play 2017: The Marvelous Recipe***

“The Marvelous Recipe” is a 45-minute Christmas play for children, which aimed to raise their awareness about the values of hope, tolerance and respect. The play toured different parts in the West Bank and was performed at organizations, theaters, churches and schools with more than 16 performances for more than 10,000 spectators.



- *Diyar Theatre 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance and Theater Production*

The Diyar theatre team was busy in the first three months of 2017 preparing for a production that would include 120 dancers, actors and students to perform a piece in celebration of the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Diyar Theatre. Diyar Theatre consists of 8 groups and each performed a 7-minute segment.





## The Sports School

- ***Diyar Sports Week "Second Edition"***

Diyar Academy for Children and Youth hosted the second edition of its sports week in 2017. The initiative aimed to promote gender equality as an integral element in sports, and achieve acceptance for women and girls who play soccer as they fight against discrimination on all levels.

Diyar Sports Week was organized with partner organizations such as the Right to Movement and Ultimate Palestine as well as the Ministry of Education in the Bethlehem Governorate. Diyar Sports Week welcomed teams from governmental, private and UNRWA schools from the West Bank with a total of 300 participants. It is through these partnerships that we were able to reach to marginalized communities, including refugee camps and villages, throughout Palestine. These new partnerships open up further dialogue and opportunities to continue to engage women and youth in local sports, and thus

promotes our vision for sports within the Palestinian community.

- ***Diyar Soccer Tour – United Kingdom***

Diyar Women Soccer Team toured the UK from Bristol to Bath, Liverpool to Leeds and Sheffield to London. The tour was organized by Liverpool Friends of Palestine. The team participated with 18 other teams in 5 different cities, and achieved very good results while building lasting relationships.



- ***Training of Trainers Exchange in Koln, Germany***

Three of Diyar’s trainers participated in a training of trainers program in cooperation with the Sports Department of the Municipality of Cologne in Germany. The training program consisted of two weeks in Cologne in May/June 2017 and two weeks in Bethlehem in November 2017. It included coaching training, managing the training sessions and grassroots education.

## The Art School

The Art School launched in 2017 two programs to address two different age groups. The first program was the art workshop, which is a fun, interactive art club that aims to introduce children from 5 to 9 years old to the essential elements of arts and crafts while engaging in fun, energetic games. The second program was a painting class for children and youth with advanced skills whose ages are between 10 and 18 years old.

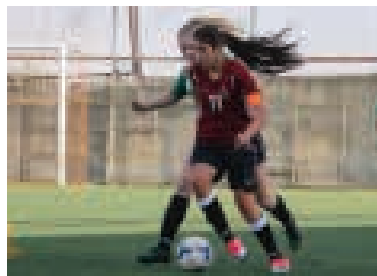


## Courses and Special Events

- **Swimming Classes for Beginners:** A very successful swimming season was implemented in 2017 as more than 650 children were trained in basic swimming techniques during June 1 to October 31, 2017. The children came from different localities in the Bethlehem and Jerusalem districts.
- **Pre-Ballet Graduation Ceremony:** 50 pre-ballet students between 3 and 6 years old performed their final annual performance at Dar al-Kalima University College for Arts and Culture on

December 20, 2017. Friends, staff and family gathered to see the students dance on stage in a performance that blended classical ballet with movement.

- Second Karate Competition: A total of 45 students took part in the karate competition and were very excited to share their passion with other children. Through these friendly club competitions, the aim is to prepare the karate students to compete in other regional and national competitions.
- Jacob Shaheen “Arab Idol” Support Performance: Diyar Theatre hosted another “Hayya” dance performance in April 2017 to support Jacob Shaheen, the new Arab Idol, who was a member of “Hayya” when it was first performed in 2016. The performance had a great turnout with more than 2000 persons as audience, in which all proceeds were designated to support his Arab Idol nomination. Luckily Jacob Shaheen became the Arab Idol and his story inspired many young Palestinians that the sky is their limit.



# Culture Program

Due to the difficult political situation in 2017, the number of cultural events slightly declined this year when compared to 2016. In total, there were 67 cultural events held at Dar al-Kalima/Diyar premises that included 18 film screenings, 12 theater plays and dance performances, 14 music concerts and festivals, 16 conferences, workshops and book launchings, and 7 exhibitions and other types of activities that ranged from a one-day to multiple-day event.

Among the 2017 highlights were the following:

- We celebrated again with our Swedish partner Bilda the “Dandanat Dance and Music Festival”, already in its 12<sup>th</sup> edition, during September 14-16, 2017. The Festival included multiple Palestinian and Swedish musical and dance groups, including a Palestinian female duo, with a total of 24 participants. With performances in Beit Sahour and Bethlehem, the groups shared the exchange experience with the local community.



- Two concerts were organized during August for two talented Palestinian young women, Dina Shilleh and Zein Khleif. Both already had produced their first album.
- We hosted for the 4<sup>th</sup> year the Visegrad Film Festival. The aim of the festival is promote cultural exchange as well as to raise awareness of the Visegrad group's culture. The Visegrad Group is a cultural and political alliance of four central European nations – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia that are members of the European Union (EU).

# Authentic Tourism Program

**Authentic Tourism Groups:** In 2017, we received 16 groups coming from Germany, Sweden, Finland and USA, with a total number of 293 visitors. The average group size was 15-20 persons.

**Face to Face Program:** The main highlight for this year was the launching and successful implementation of the innovative 30-day program “Face to Face” that targets college students, which was organized in partnership with the Council for World Mission during September/October 2017. The students participating in this unique program were exposed to different topics and themes such as the political situation, theology, women in Palestine,

art and music as well as visits to different places and locations. We are planning to make this program a yearly event.



**Studiosus Groups from Germany:** A significant increase in the number of Studiosus groups were witnessed in 2017. A total of 28 groups with 757 persons participated in the one-day Bethlehem program.

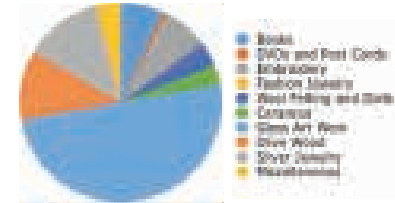


**Visiting Groups for Lectures:** In addition to Authentic Tourism Program and Studiosus groups, Dar al-Kalima University College/Diyar received in 2017 a total of 804 visitors who came to hear a lecture about the vision and mission of the organization as well as current issues. These visitors were from the following countries: USA (492 persons), Germany (140 persons), Denmark (47 persons), UK (38 persons), Canada (34 persons), Austria (22 persons), Singapore

(11 persons), Ireland (10 persons), and Finland (10 persons).



# The Cave Gift Shop



## Cave Category

- Books
- DVDs and Post Cards
- Embroidery
- Fashion Jewelry
- Wool Felting and Dolls
- Ceramics
- Glass Art Work
- Olive Wood
- Silver Jewelry
- Miscellaneous

## Facts and Highlights

- Recycled glass artwork and ornaments are half of the total sales in the Cave Gift Shop in 2017.
- 9,188 items were sold at the Gift Shop in 2017.
- New display for the “Products of Palestine” Project was installed to empower young men and women artisans.
- New embroidered church parament design, stole, chasuble and altar cloth.
- 5 new ceramic designs, plates and mugs in Palestinian patterns.
- 2 new fused glass items.
- 2 new stained glass items for Christmas.



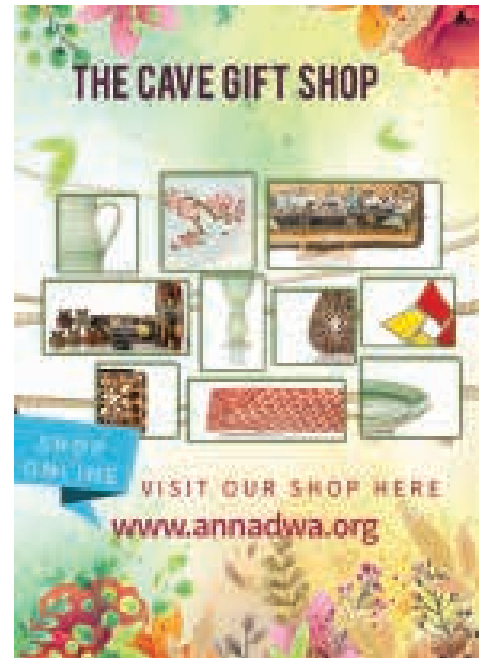
## Sales by Countries

- Sweden ranked #1.
- Denmark ranked #2.
- USA ranked #3.
- Italy ranked #4.
- Iceland ranked #5.
- Australia ranked #6.
- Germany ranked #7.

## Best Sellers

- Books: Faith in the Face of Empire #106.
- Ceramics: Christmas ceramic balls #32.
- Felted lamb's wool: small nativity and shepherds' field set #116.
- Embroidery: stoles – variety of colors and designs #42.
- Recycled glass items: different styles of angels #2365; the glass eye drop #1027; the peace dove #869.

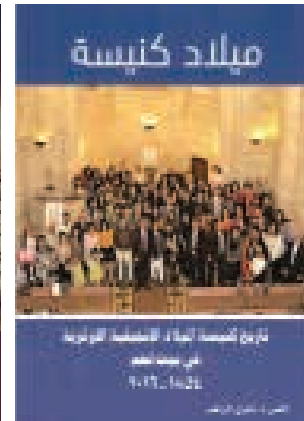
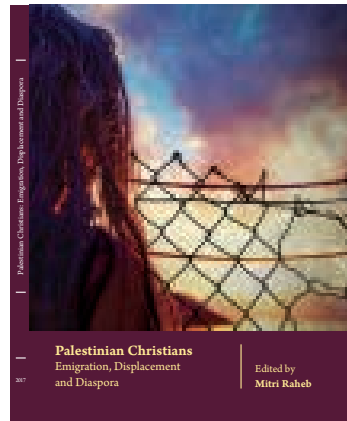
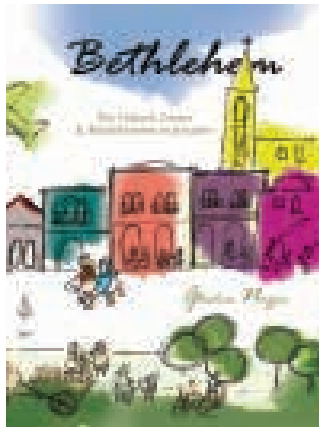
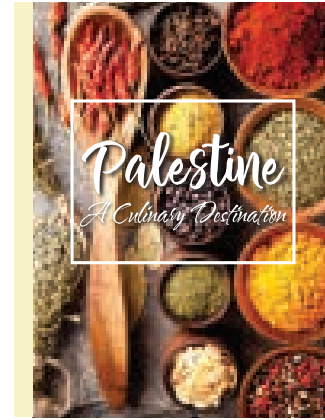
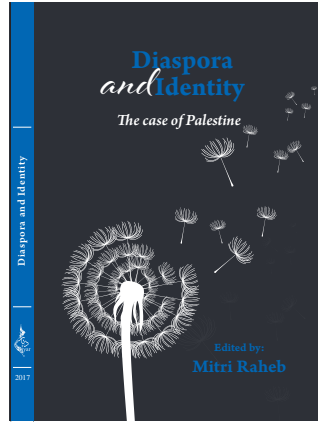
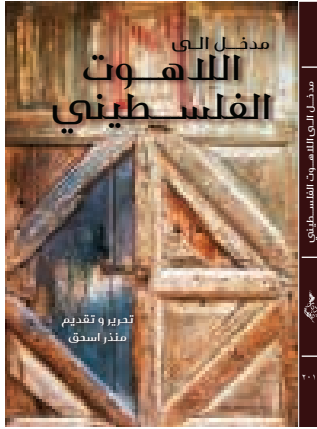
- Olive wood: olive wood hearts 5cm\*5cm #2000.
- Silver jewelry: olive leaves ring #46; zigzag olive leaf earrings and semi rolled #22; twin olive leaf pendant #40.



# Diyar Publisher

In 2017, a total of 7 books were published by Diyar Publisher. They were:

- **Bethlehem: The Historic Center & Bethlehemites in Jerusalem** (Author: Ghadeer Najjar)
- **Palestine: A Culinary Destination** (Authors: Bassem Hazboun and Gloria Strickert)
- **Palestinian Christians: Emigration, Displacement and Diaspora** (Editor: Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb)
- **Diaspora and Identity: The Case of Palestine** (Editor: Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb)
- **ميلاد كنيسة: تاريخ كنيسة الميلاد الانجيلية اللوثرية في بيت لحم ١٨٥٤ - ٢٠١٦** (المؤلف: القس د. متري الراهب)
- **العقيدة الانجيلية اللوثرية عبر الاجيال** (المؤلف: المطران د. منيب يونان)
- **مدخل الى اللاهوت الفلسطيني** (المحرر: القس د. منذر إسحق)



# Construction Projects

The Dar al-Kalima Library and Multimedia Resource Center at Dar al-Kalima University College opened its doors on September 20, 2017 after almost 15 months of construction work. During the construction period a total of 43,000 person hours were accomplished, including contractors, skilled and unskilled workers, engineers, foremen and suppliers.

It is a state-of-the-art library, which focuses on the arts and culture and will house more than 25,000 titles (books and multimedia resources). The library's main floor is equipped with computers, open area for events, book shelves areas, spaces for reading and studying for 200 students, an archive, four rooms

for team reading and group discussions, and a film screening room.



The Dar al-Kalima Library, the construction of which was financed fully by the Bright Stars of Bethlehem with a subsidy from ASHA/USAID, comprises of a total built up area of 2750 square meters. The building is composed of four floors that include one completed library floor of a total area of 900 square meters, a skeleton-finished first floor, workshop area and studios for the visual and performing arts, and a parking floor for the faculty, staff and visitors with a capacity of 26 parking spaces.

It is important to note that DAK campus will be the first campus in Palestine where it operates fully on solar energy for lighting, heating and air conditioning. It will be a zero energy facility in spring 2018 as it is environmentally friendly through solar system, LED bulbs and VRV heating and cooling systems, 100% natural lighting and ventilation. The solar photovoltaic system was donated through Förderverein Bethlehem Akademie Dar al-Kalima e.V. and WIRSOL, Germany.



# Special Thanks to...

*Our friends, supporters and donors who believe in what we do, and to those who contributed directly or indirectly to our ministries.*

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft F. Entwick (AGEH)
- Bank Of Palestine
- Bilda
- Bread For The World - Protestant Development Service
- Bright Stars Of Bethlehem
- Church Of Scotland
- Church Of Sweden
- Council for World Mission
- Diakonie Austria
- DVV International
- Evangelical Church of Westphalia
- Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW)
- Förderverein Dar al-Kalima
- Healing The Living Stones
- Holy Land Christians Society
- Italian Geographical Society
- Kamynu Trust
- Misereor - Ihr Helfswerk
- Olof Palme International Center
- Otto Per Mille ChiesaValdese
- Palestinian American Women's Association of Southern California (PAWA)
- Pilgrims Of Ibillin
- Quality Improvement Fund (Qif) - MOEHE
- Representative Office Of Finland In Ramallah
- Representative Office Of Norway In Ramallah
- The Palestinian Ministry of Culture
- The Sternenstaub Foundation
- The United Methodist Church - The General Board of Global Ministries
- United Church of Christ / Disciples of Christ
- United Palestinian Appeal, Inc. (UPA)

