



Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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What: Joint YWCA and YMCA Witness Visit to Palestine: Working Together towards a Just and Durable Peace

When: Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 PM

Where: Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek 94596



Muriel Smalheiser traveled to Palestine September 24-October 2, 2009 as part of a 30-member joint YWCA/YMCA Solidarity Mission. The Mission serves as an information, advocacy and awareness-building instrument on the situation in Palestine. Muriel will give a slideshow presentation on the visit, covering glimpses into Israel, visits with Israeli friends, the transition into the West Bank, and the journeys, meetings, and conversations in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron and Jericho. Muriel will be joined by Mira Rizek, the General Secretary (CEO) of the National YWCA of Palestine.

Muriel is President of the board of the YWCA of Contra Costa County and co-chairs the World Relations Council of the YWCA of the USA, among many other accomplishments. She was a delegate to the World YWCA council held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2007.

Since their inception, the YWCA of Palestine and YMCA East Jerusalem have valued the support and solidarity of YWCA and YMCA movements around the world as they responded to the needs of their communities, especially those of women, youth and children in a context of conflict and occupation.

Through their work and unrelenting commitment to peace and social justice, both the YWCA and YMCA as part of a global movement have given much hope and inspiration to countless youth, women and children in many parts of the world. This global solidarity has strengthened both movements and enabled them to develop a unique expertise to address issues related to poverty, violence, juvenile justice, unemployment, youth and community development, and women's empowerment

This event is free (donations accepted).

Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center was founded in 1969 and is your local voice for peace. Many volunteer opportunities are available. Membership, participation and contributions are welcomed. It is a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization.