



Sister Farm Market Fall Newsletter

Women from Boston, the Chicago area, North Carolina, Florida, Virginia, Vermont and New Hampshire met in Jerusalem for the 3rd Women's Witness Trip in the fall of 2016. Led by Ann Franklin, Susan Langle, our Chaplain Martha Gillette and guides, hosts and wise women we heard stories that hurt our hearts and emboldened our prayer.

When we visited the office of Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans we learned about the community development strategy that is supporting many families of artisans. We stopped by the warehouse to shop for treasures for our gift boxes.

One Participant in this Witness Trip wrote: *I feel blessed to have been able to go on this trip and really liked meeting like minded women who understand the importance of empowering women economically and emotionally in their own lives and the lives of their families and communities . The leadership of*

this tour was helpful, politically savvy, understanding and caring and did so much to ensure our comfort and accommodate our needs.

Sister Farm Market is entering its **third year** of providing fair trade artisanal food and hand crafts created by women's cooperatives an small farms in Israel Palestine.

Our small operation is growing! A variety of gift boxes including Green Olive Tapenade, hand painted ceramics, felted crèches made from Bethlehem sheep by the L'Arche workshop have found a market among people of good will who want to use their funds to support women struggling to make a better and more peaceful life for themselves. We have ordered crafts from Gaza, hoping they can be delivered through the various barriers through which they must pass.

The Occupation continues. The Prayers continue. The Hope continues. The Hospitality continues.

A new group of products is being prepared for the Fall Holiday shopping season. Shipping is free. We have a **NEW PRODUCTS COMING SOON**. Check our website for embroidery, felt, glass and other treasures from women's hands in Palestine. Come and See!

Shop early for your holiday needs as the quantities of our carefully selected Gift Boxes are limited.

FIND US AT: www.sisterfarmmarket.org



During our 2016 visit to Nablus we spent a day visiting the Samaritan Holy Sites on Mt. Gerazim, now an Israeli National Park controlled by an armed park official.

We visited the family home of Azzam and Shadia Kanaan , toured their grove of ancient rescued olive trees, some almost 2000 years old.

The next day walked through the Old City, stopping at the Children's center located in what was an ancient soap factory. We had a culinary tour of the souk and had fun cooking at the women's cooperative. After we had our hands hennaed, a chorus of the Hokey Pokey broke out!



HOPE FLOWERS SCHOOL

Children who experience significant trauma have trouble learning. They learn to survive. They become hyper vigilant, always on the lookout for the next threat. They withdraw, keeping still, hiding in plain sight, becoming a smaller target for the next threat. There are a whole variety of responses, as there are a variety of human creatures trying to survive in difficult circumstances. Children who are living amid daily trauma often have trouble paying attention to their teachers, their reading assignments and the math problem on the board. Trauma informed education is attentive to creating safe spaces, and predictable compassionate adults to help children let go of their natural defenses for a time so that they can learn. Education systems that take into account the lives of children living, from the day of their birth, in a low grade war zone can help make school a place of refuge, and a place to thrive.

Hope Flowers School near Bethlehem is just such a refuge. Serving 350 students ages 5-14, half of whom are girls, this outpost of hope serves children with special needs as well as children who are simply hungry to learn. Through a grant awarded last year a hot lunch was provided to all students, a real blessing for families whose adults are often underemployed. More than half of the children come from a nearby refugee camp, where Palestinian families have lived for 50 years. The school, and its neighborhood, are under pressure from the nearby Israeli settlement that was built and is expanding in violation of international law. Students face harassment as they pass by to go to school, and as they go home.

The faculty's beautiful, hopeful work provides rests in the dedication of its teachers to help them cope with the violence and threat that surround them so that their hearts may not be hardened by what they endure, that their spirits may not be crushed. The faculty of Hope Flowers School serve as a resource to educators throughout the West Bank to help other schools in Palestine identify ways to work with all the young people in their classrooms who are living with trauma.

Education matters for life, and for the prospect and hope for peace. Hope Flowers lays the groundwork for a better future. With the urging of women who participated in the most recent Women's Witness Trip, Our Savior Lutheran Church Hanover NH has funded four scholarships for some of the little ones of Bethlehem. God Bless the children, and all the generous hearts who make this possible.

Sister Farm Market's Women Witness Trip made a gift to Hope Flowers School when we visited in October and sent additional funds in January to encourage the beautiful hopeful work the faculty are doing.

You can support the school at: **Hope Flowers c/o Coalition for Peace with Justice** www.peace-with-justice.org

See the New Hope
Flowers School Video

<https://youtu.be/J71Bvcz09F4>

Producer Spotlight

Ma'an lil-Hayat is the first and only wool-felting project in Palestine. It brings together people with and without disabilities. Founded in 2009, the workshop purchases wool from local farms, cards and washes it, dyes the wool, then the workers use their hands to shape the designs. They welcome strangers to lunch as well as to their tiny store.



Sister Farm Market has this adorable crèche available in 2 sizes. We also offer hand felted Angels and other crafts by the worker members of this L'Arche community project.

Women's Witness Trip May 3- May 13 2018



With a focus on “Meet the Producers” we will have lunch with a number of women’s cooperatives, visit the Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans Craft Village, view the newly restored mosaics in Jericho, and visit Holy Sites.

You will have the option of a city tour and a cooking class or a country tour by donkey.

The Women’s Witness Trip will gather again in Jerusalem for conversation with Christian, Muslim and Jewish peacemakers with optional daily worship and reflection on the capacity of women to keep hope alive in difficult places. Registration includes accommodations, local bus, speakers and all meals.

\$2500 single occupancy, \$2000 per person, double Occupancy.

Participants are responsible for their own airfare and medical/trip interruption insurance. Partial scholarships are available.

For a registration form, a scholarship application and more information contact: skldogwood@gmail.com
