

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear friends and supporters of *Indiana Center for Middle East Peace*,

**Thank you for your generous support.**

I am writing this on December 15, Day 435 of Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza and the West Bank. It is halfway between December 10, the 76th anniversary of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and December 20, the UN's International Day of Human Solidarity (read about it [HERE](#)).

I've been saying for the last 14 months that this is not merely a war against Gaza and the West Bank (as awful as that is), this is not merely a war against Palestinian culture and traditions (as terrible as that is), this is not even merely a war against the Palestinian people (as horrific as that is) – it is a war against the very idea of Palestine itself, an attempt to wipe Palestine from human memory.

All while most of the world, most religious organizations and denominations, remain either silent or complicit. And that's true, even more, in the United States, which is not only complicit but criminally active in providing weapons and cover for Israel's crimes against humanity. As Ramallah-based, Palestinian-American businessman, Sam Bahour, recently told me, "This is a US war."

Yet there are some churches, community organizations, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim organizations, in the US and globally, standing in solidarity with Palestinians and other voices of conscience in Palestine and Israel.

**2024 marks the 20th anniversary of *Indiana Center for Middle East Peace*.**

We remain "*a voice of conscience for peace, justice, human rights, and intercultural encounter.*"

Below you will read of some of the ways we've tried to remain faithful to our mission this past year, as well as our ambitious plans in our 20-20-20 Campaign for next year.

We invite you to stand with Palestine by continuing to stand with us.

We commit ourselves anew for the next 20 years in solidarity with our friends in Palestine and other voices of conscience.

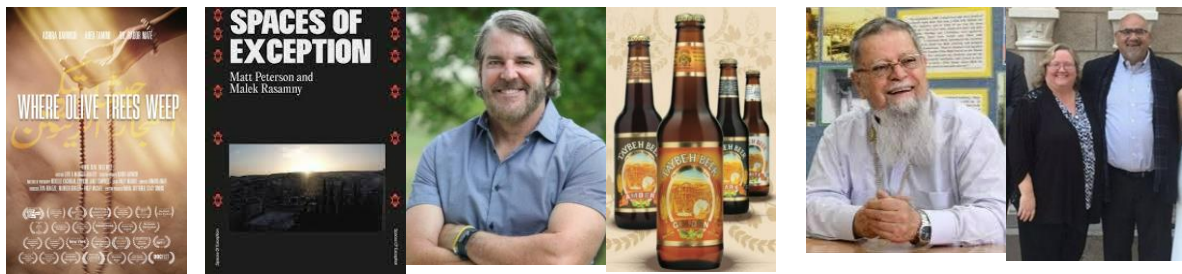
Thank you for your ongoing support.

Michael

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## IN-PERSON PROGRAMS





Dr. Josh Ruebner, *Institute for Middle East Understanding*  
 Lara Friedman, *Foundation for Middle East Peace*  
 Dr. Ron Caldwell, *ICMEP Board - South Africa and Israeli apartheid*  
 Miranda Cleland, *Defense for Children International - Palestine*  
 Tarek Al-Zoughbi, *Wi'am Palestinian Conflict & Transformation Center, Bethlehem*  
 Dr. Ahmed Abdelmageed, *ICMEP Advisory Board*  
*"When Olive Trees Weep"* screening- *Palestinian trauma and healing*  
*"Spaces of Exception"* screening- *Indigenous Peoples and Palestinian marginalization*  
 Steve Sosebee, *HEAL Palestine*  
 TaybehFest, supporting the first microbrewery in the Middle East, *"Drink the Revolution!"*  
 Abuna Elias Chacour, retired Melkite Archbishop of the Galilee  
 Zoughbi & Elaine Zoughbi, *Wi'am Palestinian Conflict & Transformation Center, Bethlehem*  
 Rev. Edwin Arrison, Rev. Rene August, *Volmoed Youth Drummers, South Africa*  
 Bryce Greene, Leader, IU Protests; **Poetz for Palestine**, with *Poetz Portal, IU's for Ceasefire*



### PROTEST TUESDAYS

Since October 7, 2023, for 14 months, we have gathered at the Allen County Courthouse to protest US complicity in Israel's war crimes.

### RALLY AGAINST ISRAELI APARTHEID

With Green Party  
Presidential candidate, **Jill Stein**

### DEMONSTRATION AT RAYTHEON, Fort Wayne

With *Veterans for Peace* and a coalition of Fort Wayne peace organizations, we protested Raytheon providing weapons to Israel in the genocide of Palestinians

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### INTERVIEWS



**Dr. Mustafa Barghouti**, physician, *Palestinian National Initiative, Palestine Legislative Council*

**Rev. Munther Isaac**, *Kairos Palestine, Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem*  
**Craig & Cindy Corrie**, *Rachel Corrie Foundation*

**Jeff Halper & Robert Herbst**, *Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions*

**Dr. Amar Ghanem & Nurse Monica Johnston**, *Palestinian American Medical Association*,  
who had just returned from Gaza

**Jill Stein**, Green Party Presidential Candidate, interviewed by Kami Neff

### "STONES CRY OUT" DELEGATIONS

**February-March and September**

In February and March at the height of the genocide, Michael led a national delegation of 23 church leaders to Palestine, 17 meetings in eight days.

The delegation then returned to Washington DC for meetings with Congressional members, direct actions, and an interfaith gathering (featuring Rep. Rashida Tlaib). DC co-leaders were Doug Thorpe and Mark Braverman.

Throughout the summer, Michael, Mark Braverman, and Doug Thorpe held a series of **"Stones Cry Out" webinars** (co-sponsored by more than a dozen national pro-Palestine, pro-human rights organizations), culminating in a September delegation to Washington DC

for more meetings with Congressional members, direct actions at the Capitol building and the Democratic National Committee headquarters, and an interfaith gathering.

## "STONES CRY OUT"

### Webinars



Sam Bahour, Palestinian-American businessman, activist - Michael  
 Josh Ruebner, *Institute for Middle East Understanding* - Michael  
 Omar Haramy, *Sabeel Palestinian Liberation Theology Center* - Doug  
 Ali Abunimah, *Electronic Intifada* - Michael  
 Dr. Mads Gilbert, ER physician, many tours in Gaza - Michael  
 Rifat Kassis, Rev. Munther Isaac, *Kairos Palestine* - Mark  
 Issa Amro, *Friends of Hebron*, Palestinian non-violent activist - Doug  
 Neve Gordon, Professor of International Law and Human Rights - Mark  
 Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb (*Jewish Voice for Peace*), Rev. Allison Tanner (*Apartheid Free Communities*), Rev. Ranwa Hammamy (*Congregational Justice Organizer, Unitarian Universalist Association*) - Michael  
 Rev. David Wildman, *United Methodists for Kairos Response* - Doug  
 Mark Braverman, *Kairos USA*, Jonathan Kuttab, *Friends of Sabeel North America* - Doug

## "STONES CRY OUT" IN DC

Following the summer of webinars with Palestinian solidarity activists, September 23-25, Michael, Mark Braverman, and Doug Thorpe led a delegation to Washington DC meeting members of Congress, for two direct actions with **Eli McCarthy** (*Christians for Ceasefire*) at the Capitol Building and the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee, meetings, and an Interfaith Gathering.

Thank you to Rev. Jenn Hosler and Washington City Church of the Brethren in downtown DC that served as our host the three days we were there.

Our guests included: **Rep. Cori Bush**, **Rep. Rashida Tlaib**, Josh Ruebner (*Institute for Middle East Understanding*), Josh Paul and Lily Greenberg Call (both resignees from the Biden administration), Laila El-Haddad (*The Gaza Mom*), Miko Peled (*Dar al-Hurriya Palestine Center*), Dr. Don Wagner, Rev. Graylan Hagler, Luci Murphy, *Black Workers Center Chorus*, Medea Benjamin (*CODEPINK*), Philip Farah (*Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace*), and Ariel Gold (*Fellowship of Reconciliation*).

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**ICMEP @ 20**  
**20-20-20 - INVEST IN PALESTINE**

2024-2025 marks our 20th anniversary as “a voice of conscience for peace, justice, human rights, and intercultural encounter.”

On our 20th anniversary, we invest in Palestine’s future!

In the midst of apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocide, in our 20th anniversary year, 2025, we “invest in Palestine.”

In addition to your regular giving sustaining our programs in NE Indiana, we invite you to contribute to one or more of the following three initiatives.

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 in calendar year 2025 for each of the following.

- + **HEAL Palestine’s** medical, surgical, educational, and humanitarian work with the children and youth of Gaza - our goal is to bring a young person from Gaza to Fort Wayne for pro bono surgery and rehabilitation;
- + supporting **our Palestinian Mission Partners** in Bethlehem, Nablus, and Bil’in;
- + **a scholarship fund for our next generation of leaders** for participation in our ICMEP Solidarity Tours to Palestine.

Our webpage will soon have designated places for each of the 20-20-20 initiatives.

Checks can be mailed to: ICMEP, PO Box 12005, Fort Wayne, IN, 46862.

**MORE 20-20-20 DETAILS TO COME!**

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**NOTES**

- + In May, Michael attended the *Global Anti-Apartheid Conference on Palestine* in Johannesburg, South Africa, attended by activists of 30 countries;
- + Michael continues his work as a member of the Communications Committee with the *Global Kairos Coalition*, in conjunction with *Kairos Palestine*; and as Co-Chair of the ICAHD-USA board;
- + In May, with Rev. Edwin Arrison and Deon Kitching (*Embrace South Africa Tours*), Michael co-led the *"In the Footsteps of Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela,"* focused on the beauty of the culture and landscape, the strength of the anti-apartheid movement, and lessons drawn from the comparison of South African and Israeli apartheid;
- + With Pastor Peter Martin and Ana Diaz Loucks, re-activated our sister organization, *Michiana Voices for Middle East Peace* in Goshen and Elkhart, IN;
- + Began a **partnership with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ** in Indianapolis, with joint programs (Michael on Palestine advocacy, and Rev. Edwin Arrison and Rev. Rene August on South Africa's solidarity with Palestine);
- + Began a **partnership with the re-activated Hoosiers for Peace and Justice in the Middle East** in Indianapolis;
- + Meeting with next generation of leaders for ICMEP;
- + Organized and funded a 17-day, 10-city tour in Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois for the **"Drumming for Unity and Healing Tour,"** with Rev. Edwin Arrison, Rev. Rene August, and the *Volmoed Youth Drummers* from South Africa. They brought smiles and joy in each of the cities where they played.

A host of individual contributors, churches, schools, community organizations, donated meals, and more. Grants from Plymouth Congregational Church and the *A. Philip*

*Randolph Institute*, and Fort Wayne and Chicago host families: Ron and Jane Caldwell, Todd and Janet Stephenson, Joe and Janet Darvish, John Gardner, Jean Phillips, Rebecca and Jim Reeder, Bill Lambert, and Andrew and Ahnee Conner. Thank you to the Stephensons, Darvishes, Mackels, Jean Phillips, and many others. A very special thank you to Ron and Jane Caldwell and the *Happy Way Foundation*, and Rebecca Reeder;

+ We have been meeting with Dr. Tony GiaQuinta, Dr. Ron Caldwell, Terry Dougherty, Linda Kerr, and others to **bring a young person from Gaza to Fort Wayne for surgery and rehab**, with support from a community of care for patient and family;

+ Made a grant supporting the ***Palestine Writes Literature Festival***;

+ Signed **dozens of petitions** condemning Israel's genocide and US government complicity, cutting of aid to UNRWA, supporting the ICJ and ICC rulings, and more (with *Samidoun*, *CODEPINK*, *Adalah*, *Kairos Palestine*, FOSNA, PCAP, AMP, JVP, USCPR, and others);

+ We continue to work with ***Playgrounds for Palestine*** selling olive oil from farmers in Palestine supporting the building of playgrounds in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and throughout Palestine - in schools, in refugee camps, and in Gaza.

+ Joined ***Apartheid Free Communities***;

+ **peacequilts** continues to meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons. Many of the quilts made this year will be given to our Mission Partner, the *Multipurpose Community Resource Center* in the old city of Nablus.

+ Michael began planning for **2025's Winter-Spring programs** - African-American activist and Co-Chair of the *Samuel DeWitt Procter Conference*, **Rev. Wendell Griffen**; *Kairos Palestine's* **Rev. Munther Isaac**; Issa Amro from Hebron; screening ***The Law & the Prophets*** with filmmaker **Josh Vis**; and collaborating with *Fort Wayne Cinema Center* in screening ***From Ground Zero***, an anthology of 22 Palestinian short films, Palestine's official entry for *Best International Film* at the 2025 Oscars.

+ In May 2025, Michael will be leading his **18th "Solidarity Tour"** to Palestine and Israel, this one the strongest and most ambitious of all. And in October 2025, Michael will be co-leading with Rev. Edwin Arrison and Deon Kitching their **third "In the Footsteps of Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela" tour** of South Africa.

### **THANK YOU TO ...**

+ ... my ICMEP's co-founders - **John Detraz**, **Patricia Pendleton**; a special debt of gratitude as we mark our 20th anniversary as an organization;

+ ... **Dannie Conner** for our new, updated, renovated website ([indianacmep.org](http://indianacmep.org));

+ ... Board Vice-Chair, **Pam Etheridge**, for editing our weekly ICMEmpower newsletter and our ICMEP Facebook page with program information, insightful articles and op-eds, actions, and more. Pam also represented ICMEP at the People's Conference on Palestine in Detroit in May;

+ ... **Kami Neff**, who so ably maintains our Instagram page; Kami's work with Instagram is directly responsible for the large turnout of young activists at our Protest Tuesday rallies and at our programs;

+ ... **Morgan Sauer**, who provided such delicious treats for our programs, including our Gala;

+ ... to all who continue to turn out weekly for our ***Protest Tuesdays***, through rain, heat, snow, cold, and all kinds of weather to keep vigil and stand witness to Israel's genocide and to show support for Gaza;

+ ... **Plymouth Congregational Church UCC** for a generous Benevolence Grant, for 20 years of partnership, and for serving as host for the vast majority of our programs;

+ ... ***United Church of Christ Palestine-Israel Network*** (UCC-PIN) and the UCC's ***Indiana-Kentucky Conference*** for grants for our programs;

+ ... **PawPaw House**, a new venue, popular among younger members in our community;  
+ ... new board members, **Bill Lambert** and **Paco Michelson**;  
+ ... Board members **Loren Woody**, **Bill Lambert**, and **Paco Michelson** for livestreaming and recording our in-person programs;  
+ ... **John Detraz** for translating the recordings of our in-person programs and Zoom interviews to YouTube and for maintaining our **ICMEP YouTube Channel**; Check out the recordings of all programs and interviews [HERE](#);  
+ ... Board chair, **Terry Dougherty**, Board Treasurer, **Ahnee Conner**, and Board member, **Linda Kerr**, for their continued work with our new Afghan neighbors in our community;  
+ ... Board member, **Amar Masri**, who earlier this year traveled to Egypt to help provide humanitarian aid, as well as his work with the *Palestinian Students Scholarship Fund*;  
+ ... Board member, **Sam Jarjour**, who provides important legal advice and for his many hours of unheralded work on court cases supporting Palestinian rights;  
+ ... **our ICMEP board members** - Ron Caldwell, Ahnee Conner, Terry Dougherty, Pam Etheridge, Sam Jarjour, Linda Kerr, Bill Lambert, Amar Masri, Paco Michelson, Barbara O'Conner, Patricia Pendleton, Loren Woody, and Recording Secretary, Margie Dougherty - for their untiring and passionate work for justice in Palestine, in our country, and in our community, and for all they do so that our programs, our hospitality, our serving you all remain of highest quality.

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### **A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS**

+ We have just learned of the death of long-time personal friend and friend of ICMEP, **Judy Wright**. Judy and Frank Wright have been with ICMEP from the start. They have attended every class I taught, every retreat I led, and virtually every program ICMEP has offered in our 20 years. And they have been faithful and very generous supporters. Judy would always ask about the friends they met in Palestine when they traveled with me, and as a retired nurse, her heart was always - *always* - with those who were suffering, especially the children. Just weeks before she passed away, Judy and Frank made a very generous contribution to the HEAL Palestine-Gaza child initiative of our 20-20-20 Campaign.

We've been informed that **Judy's wishes were that memorial monies be sent to the *Indiana Center for Middle East Peace***; Frank has told Terry that the memorial monies be designated for the **20-20-20 *Heal Palestine, Gaza* children fund**.

We will remain faithful to Judy's vision of serving those most in need of our help in Palestine, especially the children.

+ A standing ovation and thank you to **Terry Dougherty**, who is stepping down as ICMEP Board Chair after a number of years of guiding us and most importantly, creating our organizational and business infrastructure. It would be accurate to say that we would not be the vibrant, growing, financially stable, and nationally-recognized organization that we've become without Terry's knowledge, wisdom, skill, and creativity leading our board these last years.

While Terry will, thankfully, be remaining on the board, Vice-Chair Pam Etheridge will now assume the position of Board Chair, with Paco Michelson becoming Vice-Chair.

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### **A GIFT**

ICMEP hosted a ***"Drumming Extravaganza"*** at Plymouth Congregational Church

UCC when the Volmoed Youth Drummers were in Fort Wayne. Participants were: *Jenbe Drummers* (Akinlana DaDa); *Fort Wayne Scottish Pipes & Drums* (David van Gilder); *Fort Wayne Taiko* (Wolfgang Young); *Omotayo Drummers* (Diane Rogers); and the *Volmoed Youth Drummers from South Africa* (Bevil Spence, Ivey Schaefer, Siyabonga Vonco).

It was an evening of energy, joy, passion, healing, and, dare I say, love.

You can enjoy the "*Drumming Extravaganza*" [HERE](#).

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### **IN CLOSING - OUR COMMITMENT**

Friends, given the ongoing Israeli genocide and the criminal US support (which only promises to continue), our work remains more important than ever, your support, your solidarity is more important than ever before.

The struggle remains but so do we, stronger together, stronger than ever before.

The struggle will get more intense in the next four years, but we will become even more resilient and act with increased courage.

**We will stand with our friends in Palestine.**

**We will continue to resist any attempt to dehumanize, displace, and deny their dignity.**

**And we will not be deterred.**

Because we are heartened by the *sumud*, the resilience, courage, and faith of our friends in Palestine, especially in Gaza, and other voices of conscience there and here in the US, too.

And because we are in this struggle together.

It is because of you and your generous support that we have been able to grow our national presence over the last 20 years, and why we will be able to continue our work for the next 20 years and more.

Please join us in contributing to our "20-20-20" 20th anniversary Campaign.

With a heart filled with gratitude for your prayers, your many kindnesses, and your support, and a spirit committed to good trouble and creative resistance in the year to come.

Michael

*Indiana Center for Middle East Peace*

[indianacmep.org](http://indianacmep.org)

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