Rebuilding Alliance

Protecting the Human Rights of Children
Our Mission: To Rebuild War-Torn Communities and Make Them Safe

Our Vision: A just and enduring peace in Israel and Palestine, founded upon equal value, security and opportunity for all.

Our Values: We serve peacemakers from all sides and walks of life who take brave steps for justice and understanding.
Rebuilding Alliance Board of Directors

1. Carin Pacifico, Chair -- V.P. Citibank, Clerk of Palo Alto Quaker Peace & Social Action Committee
2. Souzan Jaber, Secretary -- retail expert, born in Ramallah
3. Forest Preston, Treasurer -- electrical eng., senior proj. mgr. treasurer of Palo Alto Quaker Meeting, member finance committee Ben Lomon Quaker Center
4. Joseph Azam esq., in-house counsel at Oracle Corporation focused on global anti-corruption
5. Cindy Corrie, teacher, mother of the late Rachel Corrie, President, Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
6. Alan Kaufman esq., United Auto Workers lawyer, retired
7. Rev. Khader Khalil, Assistant Pastor, St. Andrew’s Lutheran church, San Mateo CA, originally from Beit Jala
8. Sarah Williams esq., Rotary Peace Scholar, Ph.D. in conflict resolution, Barrister in entertainment law
9. Amela Zanacic, aerospace engineer now at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy
Rebuilding Alliance

Staff

• Donna Baranski-Walker, Founder & Executive Director
  Recently awarded “Medal of Gratitude” by Polish Solidarity Movement
  B.S. Electrical Engineering - Massachusetts Institute of Technology
  M.S. Agricultural Engineering - University of Hawaii

• Monica Quinn, Clerical Associate

• Rudy San Miguel, Global Giving Coordinator

• Neelima Nair, Finance and Accounts Coordinator

• Guler Ozgenc, Coordinator

Advisers: ‘Homes with Dignity’ social venture

• Sameh Abboushi, architect -- and author

• Ghassan Abdullah, engineer, co-founder of PALISAD, FFIPP

• Dana Atallah-Gagan, formerly with World Bank-MENA

• Chutta Ratnathicam, former VP of Emery Transportation, is 1st Investor!
Rebuilding Alliance

• Founded in 2003

• Programs & Partnerships:
  – East Jerusalem: ‘Abir’s Garden Playgrounds’ in Partnership with Combatants for Peace
  – Gaza: ‘Rachel Corrie Rebuilding Campaign in Gaza’, in partnership with Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
  – West Bank: ‘Al Haq Kindergarten’ in Al Aqaba in partnership with the Al Aqaba Rural Women’s Association.
Abir’s Garden: a Safe Place to Grow
To make them safe:

- Nearly 4 years of RA legal work to use the U.S. Leahy Laws to advance Palestinian human rights, esp. rights of children.
- Goal: Require all Israeli soldiers to stay far away from Palestinian schools, playgrounds.
- Approach: Use Leahy Law to stop U.S. aid and training of West Bank unit of Israeli Border Police until perpetrators are brought to justice.
- This key case sets precedent.

Results

Nov. 2010: Break-through at the UN Human Rights Council with Norway presenting RA’s message in review of the US Human Rights Report

Aug. 2, 2011: Message from Sen. Leahy’s senior staff saying that now, post verdict by the Israeli High Court, the case is being raised at the highest levels of the U.S. State Dept.
In Gaza, rebuilding + NGO certification strategy to open the blockade
• In 2003, in the West Bank village of Al Aqaba, Rebuilding Alliance (RA) began building a kindergarten that now serves 130 students from all the neighboring areas!

• The Japanese, Belgians, and Norwegians paid for the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Floor! 17 other embassies, UN Agencies, and NGOs helped too!

• Recently, the RA added the Ibn Rush’d Library, and a 3\textsuperscript{rd} Floor with a Sewing Room for the Rural Women’s Cooperative! RA also helped complete housing for visiting teachers.

• From Jul 21-28, 2011, RA held a remarkable Architectural Design Charrette in Al Aqaba called “Rebuilding a Future in Palestine!”
In 2003, RA received a small grant to build a school that would not be demolished.

We thought Al Aqaba village would be our safest project because:

- Not near borders
- No settlements nearby
- In 2002, Al Aqaba won their case before Israeli High Court; the Israeli Army complied and moved their training camp out of the village!
- Villagers were now ready to move home -- so RA provided a grant to help them build a kindergarten.
In 2003, the whole village came under demolition orders
Demolition Orders on 39 buildings:

- all the homes but two,
- our kindergarten,
- the medical clinic, and
- even the beautiful Sallahudin al Ayyubi Mosque built with a double minaret in the shape of a peace sign.
In 2003, the American Embassy pro-actively helped stop the bulldozers with 2 homes demolished.

The Rebuilding Alliance helped Al Aqaba hire a lawyer who petitioned the Israeli High Court.

In 2008, as the court date drew near, the children of the village began to make “Pinwheels for Peace,” writing and drawing what peace means.
IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SAVE A VILLAGE

RA moved our office into a tent in front of the Palo Alto, CA City Hall.

Within a few days, we were invited to Washington DC to learn how to walk the halls of Congress as hundreds of Americans called in to ask their elected officials to save the kindergarten of Al Aqaba.
• Sep. 08, RA then brought the mayor of Al Aqaba, and the director of kindergarten to visit Congress

• Senator Levin’s staffers said they would help – and told us our cause is strengthened when 1000 constituents say they care.

• In Feb. 09 we delivered 6000 signed post-cards

• In Aug. 09 Senator Levin sent a public letter to the State Department asking them to assist in saving Al Aqaba – and they have.

• The U.S. State Department visits Al Aqaba regularly.
April 7, 2011: Israeli Army Demolition Bulldozers destroy Peace Road and two small homes with animal stables.
• Al Aqaba’s minivan bus makes 4 round-trips each day to pick-up then drop-off 130 kindergarteners plus 70 school children.
May 14-17, 2011
RA petitions then visits Congress

- to press the Israeli Gov. to repave and re-open the Peace Road by urging members of Congress to call Israeli Embassy and U.S. State Dept.
- While RA is in DC, Haj Sami starts repaving Peace Road!
- Aug. 3 2011: RA team meets with Israeli Civil Admin. A letter from Congresswoman Jackie Speier is on desk of the very man who issues demolition orders to Al Aqaba!
The Village Owns Clear Title to All its Land

Israeli Army’s Plan vs. the Village Plan
In an effort to save as many homes from demolition as possible, lawyers for the village will soon submit a 3rd, smallest, urban plan.
The Israeli Civil Administration made it clear: despite clear title there is NO right to build, NO Insurance against demolition
Al Aqaba is but one example:
The Israeli Army has issued over 12,500 demolition orders to Palestinian structures in Area C.

Israeli human rights group BIMKOM: Planners for Planning Rights received all the data from the Israeli Army by court order.
Dream Big with Al Aqaba
Homes with Dignity: 20 homes for Al Aqaba

1. Outstanding Architectural Design
   – affordable, meeting the needs of the families
   – Design Charrette with Village July 21-29, 2011

2. Mortgage-Financing
   – $100/mo repayment of $15,450 loan to the Village’s new co-op fund, “Al Aqaba Cooperative Assembly for Housing Displaced” (ACAHD) with bundled payments to Rebuilding Alliance.
   – ACAHD insured against nonpayment

3. Investors take full risk of likely demolition.
July 21, 2011
pre-Charrette
1st meeting of Architects & Engineers

Big Challenge: a $20K cap
Award-winning architect
Hani Hassan
DESERT HOUSE PROJECT
JERICHO - PALESTINE
INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARD 2010
July 22, 2011

Al Aqaba’s Mayor Haj Sami Sadeq and team
Saturday, July 23, 2011

Al Aqaba’s Architectural Design Charrette begins by meeting with the three families, then meeting with Village Council.
Architect Hani Hassan describing possibilities
The next day, Charrette Leader Steve Coyle begins work with Haj Sami to draw layers of a detailed urban plan like no other. Given Israel’s demolition orders, each decision to construct a new set of homes in Al Aqaba will be contingent upon the changing winds of Occupation and Diplomacy.
A big problem: the families need 3 bedrooms and have fallen in love with designs that are far too expensive.
How will we solve this problem? How can we build a big enough home when the most they can afford is 97 sq m?
Thursday, July 28 2011

Final Presentation
We have nearly found a way: 119 sq.m. expandable to include a future 2nd storey!
AREA: 119 M2
PROTOTYPE A
STAGE 3
Finance Model for 119 sq.m.

- RA: raise donations for down payments (gift)  $5000
- RA: raise investment to provide mortgage loans for new homes $15,000 (and also for nearly-finished homes < $10,000)
- ACAHD has collected 3000JD/family to provide $5,150
- Proposal: Land Guard Program Match $5,150
- ACAHD to dig foundations $700
- Families to assist in finishing $2000

Total: $33,000
Dream Big

- Village growth in Layers of development
  - Build Internet cafe, Farmer’s Market, Community Oven, Dairy products - ice cream factory!
  - Receive Vatican Land: Secondary School, Rehabilitation Hospital /birthing center, soccer field
  - Next: model green building methods!
  - Create center for alternative energy: wind-power, sun-power, biofuels
With the Prime Minister’s Help, Al Aqaba will become a Model for Palestinian villages in Jordan Valley

- Colorful, affordable homes that grow in love and value through the years;
- Town plans for development and growth even in Area C;
- Worldwide civic engagement to keep these village standing;
- An exciting, positive way to become a focal point for sustainable community!

• **DREAM BIG:**
  “In order to do something big — to think globally and act globally — one starts with something small and one starts where it counts.”

  – Professor Nabeel Hamdi, *Small Change*
We ask your help