



# Diyar

ANNUAL REPORT  
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Dear Friends,

Salaam from Bethlehem. The year 2011 was an important landmark in the history of Diyar and at the same time one of the most challenging years. On the one hand, Diyar received the best coverage and recognition thus far, which gave our work visibility like never before. As president of Diyar, I received the German Media Award with all its glamour; a 45-minute TV program was aired on German television with over 500,000.00 viewers; our work was highlighted on CBS' 60 Minutes piece on the Christians of the Holy Land; several projects were covered on CNN Arabic online in addition to many regional newspapers. We do not exaggerate when we say, that Diyar became the address regarding important topics such as: The Palestinian Christian community, The Christians of the Middle East and social history in Palestine. The invitation to speak at the German and Danish parliaments was another indication of this development.

It was also in 2011 that the numbers of Diyar's friends on Facebook doubled from 1000 to 2000, while the 2011 Digital Advent Calendar that was produced by our Media Production Unit exceeded 7000 viewers.

The year 2011 will also be remembered as the year during which Diyar strategically and proactively started training the next generation of Palestinian leaders by reaching out to teenagers to discover their talents, nurture them and prepare them for the future.

In 2011, there was significant growth of programs that were initiated earlier: our nationwide leadership programs continued reaching to new young adults from Tarqoumia in the south to Jenin in the north of the West Bank; The 6th international conference on "Ur-Text, Ur-Context and the Realities on the Ground in Palestine" was organized and held in Bethlehem with participants from 16 countries; Ajyal program in the north was intensified; Diyar for Women Sport received the national championship in women soccer; a new play was produced by Diyar Dance Theater; New programs were accredited and offered at Dar al-Kalima College; and new books were published by Diyar Publishing House. The amount in fixed assets of Diyar increased in 2011 by

finishing and furnishing the construction of the Auditorium at the Higher Education and Research Building. The construction works on the Indoor Gym were also started in 2011.

Yet, in 2011 two main challenges were haunting us: on the one hand we came under heavy attack by Christian Zionist groups and Jewish radical “jihadists”, while on the other hand and for the first time in our history we were facing financial challenges that threatened the growth of this institution. However, even with such grave challenges, Diyar continues to be a success story because of all of you: the energy of its staff and board, the commitment of its friends and the programs that are unique and touch the lives of thousands of people annually.

Sincerely  
Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb  
President  
Diyar Consortium



# Civic Engagement Program



The Civic Engagement and Culture Program seeks to empower the Palestinian youth, women, teachers and future leaders, and to transform them from spectators to actors by identifying, motivating and developing their potential through a unique and holistic approach. The program offers civic education and multiple civic engagement initiatives.

## Leadership Training

In 2011, The Civic Engagement Program carried out two major projects entitled “Youth Needs Assessment/ Civic Cultural Network” and “The Palestinian Youth Leadership Training” that focused on providing leadership training to 200 young people, ages 18 to 30 years old. These projects were groundbreaking in that they included innovative leadership training workshops that use culture as the tool of training. The trainings were based on 5 components that revolved around and succeeded in enhancing the knowledge and awareness of

the trainees of important issues and current realities; equipping and empowering them with skills as part of the self-development and empowering process; presenting and familiarizing them with different tools of culture important for self-expression; exposing them to and increasing their understanding of the workings of media; and finally, activating the young people into action and

the ability to implement the newly acquired concepts in their everyday life.



There were different themes that were highlighted during the training, including:

Culture in the Arab World

Youth and the Revolutions in the Arab World

The Arab and Foreign Satellite Channels and Their Impact on Modern Societies

Social History of Bethlehem

The Palestinian Documentary Films and Societal Issues

Art and Culture of Life

Culture of Successful Management

Youth: From Reaction to Pro-action

In a context of too much disempowering aid, Diyar believes in empowering the individual and the community. The training workshops made a difference in the understanding of the trainees about the Palestinian culture and context in relation to the Arab world and they were provided with leadership and management skills to aid them in implementing the new concepts acquired in their everyday life.



The **200** Palestinian youth trainees came from the north to the south of Palestine. Trainees were from Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron districts.

# Kairos Youth

Diyar in its pursuit to work with the youth to activate them as informed, proactive citizens introduced the Kairos Youth project in the year 2011. The project entailed 3 main activities:

## Training

A 2-day training workshop entitled “Palestinian Christian Youth and the Current Challenges” was held in Bethlehem. The impact of the training was extremely positive on the trained youth, for they felt motivated and eager to start working on meeting the political, economic and social challenges they identified by focusing mainly on 2 tracks that they themselves felt it was a priority. This could constitute the starting point of a movement of youth, whose focus is on youth-related issues. These tracks are:

- How to improve the youth’s opportunities at finding work by enhancing their capacities and self-development such as time management, setting realistic goals, and self-management.
- How to create spaces for the youth, especially Palestinian Christian youth, for free self-expression through creative means such as theater and sports.

## Mapping

The mapping research on the Palestinian Christian community in Israel was finalized according to the original plan. The publishing of the findings in a book is underway and will be completed in 2012. The participation of the target group was during the mapping process very instrumental and active, for 3 public gatherings took place in Haifa, Nazareth and Ma'alia so as to test the findings on them and receive their feedback and reactions of the results. Such approach to carrying out the research and finalizing the mapping was important for it verified the findings of the mapping research, enhanced the sense of ownership among the target group, and raised further their awareness of their current situation and realities, which is a crucial step towards becoming proactive and engaged.

## Youth Parliament

2 Palestinian Christians Youth Parliament meetings out of 8 planned meetings with 100 youth gathered

at each were held. The youth who participated in these meetings came from different localities of the West Bank and had a balanced representation in terms of sex, religious denomination and socio-economic backgrounds. The majority were young people who had participated in the different programs of Diyar, particularly the Leadership program, while some were new but active in the community.

**60** young people out of 100 targeted, ranging between 18 to 25 years old, have been trained in a 2-day training workshop entitled “Palestinian Christian Youth and the Current Challenges”. The participants represented different areas in the West Bank, especially from marginalized rural localities in the north of Palestine such as the Zababdeh village, and different religious denominations.

## Culture Program



The Ad-Dar Cultural & Conference Center continues to be the cultural destination in Bethlehem. In 2011 the Culture program focused on promoting intercultural experiences in the majority of its events that took place at the Diyar facilities. The Korean film week is one of the many highlights for the year 2011 that embodies this intercultural experience; 4 Korean films were screened during that week and around 550 people attended the screenings over the four-day period. The films were translated into both Arabic and English languages.



Type of event	Name of Event	N° of audience
Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival «El Din «	Herve Koubi France/Algeria	47
Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival « Up Down»	Suzanne Miller & Allan Paivio- Canada	31
Dance Performance «Sandwishet Labaneh”	Sirriet Ramallah	39
Book Presentation “The Invention of History “	Diyar Publishing	70
Book Launching «Cultural Practices of the Palestinian Youth»		100
Theatre Play The Changling	Al Harah Theatre	122
Theatre Play Back to Haifa	Al Kilani Productions	60
Theatre play«Abu Al Raad»	Yes Theatre	360
Theatre Play «Martin Luther King «	Palestinian National Theatre	58
Theatre Play Back to Haifa	Al Kilani Productions	60
Theatre play «Abu Al Raad»	Yes Theatre	360
Theatre Play «Martin Luther King «	Palestinian National Theatre	58
Theatre Play “Souk Okath”		250
Theatre Play « Sophocle Antigoni»	Palestinian National Theatre	52
Theatre Play Ashtar Play		150

Theatre Play « Stories on the Road»	Riding Lights UK and Al Harah Theatre	100
Theatre play «Abu Al Raad»	Yes Theatre	60
Theatre Play « Al-Harah Theater & Defence for Children International-»The Trap»		250
Theatre Play « Inash - Revival « Safar and Al Amal Organization of Contemporary dance		64
Theatre play for Kids « the Wizard of Oz»	Safar theatre	170
Children's event « يوم عطلة \ "A day off"	Diyar Dance Theatre	150
Christmas Theatre Play for Kids Al Harah Theatre « Lause and Santa Caluse «		139
Documentary Film Screening	Budrus - Just vision Productions	150
« Road to Nahr El bared	«Amal Film Festival	5
Egyptian Film Screening x2	«Bolbol Hayran» « بلبل حيران ”	١٨٠ & ١٨٥
British Palestinian film week	For Cultural Purposes Only, ON THE RUN WITH ABDUL, Road to Ajja	35
British Palestinian film week	Laundry, The Astronomer's Sun, Sharaf (Honour)	42
British Palestinian film week	Taste the Revolution, House, Going Home, When Tomorrow comes	25

مهرجان افلام التخرج لطلاب كلية دار الكلمة	« بين الاكوام” - صار لازم “»	٢٠
مهرجان افلام التخرج لطلاب كلية دار الكلمة	« في ضيافة القطعان” - عشرون راكب “»	٢٠
Documentary Film Screening	« Impunity «Amal Film Festival	4
Documentary film screening	« Shooting Mohammad» Amal Film Festival	3
Documentary Film Screening	« the Forgotten Cassis « Amal Film Festival	6
Egyptian film screening	«365Days of Happiness «	169
Feature Film Screening	« Until When « Directed by Ahmad Hamad	200
Film Screening	« Incendies» - Franco - Arab film festival	16
Film screening	« Port of Memory» - Franco - Arab Film Festival	14
Egyptian Film Screening	«El feel fel mandeel «»القبيل في المنديل“»	٤٥
Documentary Film Screening	Joshka Wessels-»Valley of Hope and Despair»	35
Documentary Film Screening	« Autumn Graduation Film Festival « Dar Al Kalima College	100
Film Screening	“The Smurfs”	101
Film Screening	“Tangled “	32
Film Screening	“Kung Fu Panda2”	40
Documentary Film Screening	«Worlds»Shashat Films	40
Film Screening Festival	Korean film Festival “Woochi”	300
Film Screening	Korean film Festival “King and the Clown”	100
Film Screening	Korean film Festival “Secret Reunion”	50
Film Screening	Korean film Festival “Rough Cut	100

Documentary film screening for kids	Dalal Center	100
Musical Concert	« SVF Music - Vetter College Choir»	150
Musical Concert	« Culture Shock»	52
Musical Festival	Dandanat	266
Musical Concert	Palestinian artist Jameel Sayeh	100
Musical Concert	“Feast for fools” Musical Band from Sarpsburg – Norway	150
Christmas Musical Concert	Shibat Group «Shibat «	267
Music album Launching	« Keif Kan Album» - Momken Band	120
Rap concert	Fete do la musique – CCF	80
Bethlehem Christmas Festival 2011	Harmony international “The Hope of Christmas «	150

## Exhibitions

Having the largest gallery space in Palestine permits Diyar to host a variety of art exhibitions every year. For 2011, 17 exhibitions were hosted by Diyar with a variety of artistic styles ranging from classical drawing and painting, charcoal and pencil to photo exhibitions and mixed media exhibitions.

Title	Artist	Description	Period
Diyaruna	Palestinian Group Exhibition Palestine	Mixed Media	December 30 – July 1
Gaza:Mirroring War/ART & DIS (PLACE) MENT	George Rivera, USA	Mixed Media	February 18-March 2
Flames	Isra' Odeh, Palestine	Photography	March 18-May 4
Colors from the Palestinian Spring	EEC( Environmental Education Center), Palestine	Paintings	May 10- May14
Twining Project between Private and Public Schools	The Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Palestine	Photography	May 11 – May 20
Gardens for Palestine	Zoe Cromwell,New Zealand	Oil Colors	May 13-June 2
Blood and Soil	Samar Ghattas, Palestine	Chinees Ink	May 20 - June 18
Black and White	Sami Sholi, Palestine	Charcoal and Pencil	June 24-August 24

Bethlehem and Its Photographers	Bilda in cooperation with Diyar Consortium	Photography	July 8 – August 8
The Graduation Exhibition	The Visual Art Department Dar al-Kalima College 3rd circle, Palestine	Ceramic, glass, installation and paintings	July 16 – August 31
The Secret of Palestine	Anton Aoun, Palestin	Mixed Media	July 28 – September 10
Home	Young Palestinian Students supervised by the German photographer Anne Hornemann, Palestine	Photography	July 29 – August9
The Land of Messages	Tariq Salsa, Plaestune	Photography & Sculptures	September 9– October 14
Palestine Through my Eyes	Inger Jonasson, Sweden	Water Colors	October 21 – November 21
Freedom	Julia Hutchinson with four British Artists, England	Mixed Media	October 26 – November 26
Music for your Eyes	Heidi Niehaus, Germany & Yasser Saymeh, Palestine	Painting with Calligraphy	December 2 – January 13
Rainbow	Taleb Dweik, Palestine	Mixed Media	December 9 – January 20

132 various events and 17 exhibitions  
took place in the year 2011, serving 8539 pson.

## International Conference Theme



Religion and State: Strategy Consultation for Phase II For Phase Two of “Religion and State”, a consultation was needed to help set our course on firm foundations for the next 3 years by formulating strategies by which genuine progress can be made.

As such, a strategy consultation took place during October in Amman\Jordan that brought together representatives of different countries and interdisciplinary fields including theologians, academicians, political activists, parliamentarians, sociologists, media executives, journalists/writers, women’s groups, youth leaders, civil society organizations, and other agents of change. This particular consultation was an intra-Christian one, with the addition of two Muslim expert analysts.

A “think tank” was assembled to reflect together and advice on a strategy and emphasis that will be relevant and appropriate for the second phase, focusing on mapping critical developments occurring in the Arab World including tracking changes and reflecting on their implications, and this “think tank” also is to advice on a strategy and emphasis that will be relevant and appropriate for the second phase and shaping practical steps to advocate the newly-formulated and approved plan.

Sixth International Conference in Bethlehem “Biblical Texts, UR-Contexts and Contemporary Realities” Following its academic and contextual traditions, the International Center of Bethlehem (ICB) sponsored an international conference in 2011 to study the processes, presuppositions, and aims of interpreting the Bible in the Holy Land. The event was part of a series of academic conferences launched by the ICB on the general topic of «Shaping Communities in Times of Crisis: Narratives of Land, Peoples and Identities».

The 2011 conference mainly dealt with the general and important theme of contextual hermeneutics. The specific aim was to study the importance of culture, ethnicity, race, genre, ideology, theology, and politics in the processes of studying, comprehension, analysis, interpretation, and contextualization of the Bible.

This conference served to bring together a variety of methodologies and interpretive angles in Biblical criticism today, such as postcolonial or geopolitical, material or economic, and racial-ethnic, and





The conference consisted of five days of visits, lectures and dialogues, and also of ecclesiastic, social and political context evaluation. As part of the conference, visits to important places, institutions and religious sites in the area were arranged. This conference gathered a good group of academicians, church leaders, and professionals of diverse scholarly, denominational, and national backgrounds.

even gender criticism around the general concept of the Land in the Biblical traditions. The core focus of the event was on issues related to society and culture (e.g., material matrix and discursive production) in general and on identity in particular (e.g., race and ethnicity, the nation-state, and dominant and minority sectors in society).

Over 70 scholars together with some local institutions visitors and also various Dar al-Kalima College students participated in the conference. The participating scholars represented 15+ countries; 36 internationals, 38 locals and 27 women! Different parts of the world were represented: Palestine, Europe, USA, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Argentina, South Africa, Philippines, China and Asia.



Diyar Media Productions is an audiovisual production center. As part of Diyar Consortium, DMP contributes to the development of Palestinian society by raising awareness and promoting the values of equality and tolerance, by empowering the local community to tell its stories, and by showing the human face of the Palestinian reality to the international community.

### Advent Calendar

Twenty-six short clips that focus on the beneficiaries of Diyar’s programs. Starting on the first day of Advent, a new clip was introduced on Diyar’s website for the public to view. This was repeated throughout the Advent period. Each clip has the beneficiaries talk briefly about the programs they belong to, what made them choose to come to Diyar, and how Diyar has benefitted them.

### Kairos Palestine Film

A short film about the Kairos Palestine movement. The film’s aim was to be an introduction to what Kairos is and what it does, and a conversation starter at the conferences and seminars that Kairos organizes every year.

### Diyar Film

A short film about Diyar that introduces Diyar's work through its different programs, and presents a positive message and the constructive influence Diyar has on Palestinian society.

### Captain Honey

A short documentary about Honey Thaljeh, the captain of Diyar's soccer team for women. The film presents the alternative roles that young Palestinian women play in Palestinian society. By presenting Honey and her team's story of struggle and achievement in patriarchal, conservative Arab society, the film challenges stereotypes of women and empowers girls to pursue their dreams.

### DVD Productions

A promo about Dar Annadwa's facilities; a concert DVD of Ajyal's Mother's Day event; live internet streaming/receiving with Washington National Cathedral of the joint Christmas service; Palestine Folk Songs DVD for Bethlehem University's Palestinian Traditional Music Archive; twenty-two clips of Rev. Mitri in conversation with Mark Braverman as they discuss the Arab/Israeli conflict; and video documentation of Diyar's events.

**7000** viewers watched the advent calendar clips that focus on the beneficiaries of the Diyar programs. The clips were uploaded to Diyar's YouTube channel, Diyar's Facebook page and Dar al-Kalima's website.

# Continuous Education

In the Continuous Education Program, courses are specially designed to enable people to seek their ideals of life-long learning at their own pace, learning new skills and making the Dar Al Kalima College educational resources available to a wider community.

## Courses & Workshops

The CE program offered a variety of courses and workshops with a total number of 355 students. The courses offered were language courses, Tour guiding refresher course, arts courses in glass shaping, wheel throwing, drawing and oil painting. Two special workshops for the Drama and Theater students were held by a German and a Dutch trainer during their visit to the College in December.

9 workshops focusing on education and performing arts with a total of 72 participants were offered in the second half of the year 2011. The educational courses for this year were business & Management based; such as, such as: grant writing, Time Management, Business Planning, Management, Social Media Marketing with Facebook and Budgeting and Matrix. While the performing Arts focused were in Vocals and phonetics and Dance

## Theater/Movement.

Two special workshops for the Drama and Theater students were held by a German and a Dutch trainer during their visit to the college in December.

## International Networking

The Higher Education Program continued in the year 2011 to expand its international relations. Two exchange programs have taken place during 2011. Establishing relationships and exchanging visits were in relation to two major cooperations:

In cooperation with the Performing Arts Department and the Continuous Education Department, a relationship was established with the “Fachhochschule Osnabrueck” and “Arbeitskreis Kirche und Theater” regarding Theater and Drama and.

in cooperation with the Tourism Department in the college and the Theology Institute at the Bethlehem University a relationship was established with the Theology Institute of the University of Oldenburg

## Higher Education

Diyar’s approach to education is based on the idea that creativity empowers the graduates to be active members in establishing a strong civil society. Through the Higher Education Program, the students are empowered to join the job market as well as the artistic and free expression scene in Palestine in order to carry with them the vision of Diyar: “That we might have life and have it abundantly”.

## Accreditations

The Higher Education Program aims to provide quality and creative subjects as the focus of study. As such, the educational mission of the Diyar Consortium is to bring innovative and new specializations into the higher education system in Palestine. In the year 2011, three academic programs were accredited by the Palestinian Ministry of Education: Culinary Art, Art Education and Theater and Drama Performance. In addition, three new majors were submitted to the Palestinian Ministry of Education and are pending accreditation

## Scholarships

Scholarships were secured by the Higher Education Program to two female students. The students spent an intensive semester in Sweden and they are now back, finalizing their last semester at the Dar Al Kalimah College while teaching and transferring their acquired knowledge to their fellow students.

250 students enrolled in the various majors  
of Dar Al Kalimah College,

## Intergenerational Program

The Diyar Intergenerational Program supports community building through a set of innovative programs that focus on young families and the elderly.

Azwaj (the Young Families Program) continues to empower young parents in the Bethlehem area; by providing parents with educational workshops and recreational opportunities, Azwaj facilitates the development of strong and healthy family relationships. 2011 was a successful year for Azwaj. Membership grew to sixteen committed families. These families attended workshops about parenting, sexual health (led by trained specialists from the Arab Forum for Sexual Health in Haifa), and psychological well being. Families were also invited to attend our annual conference. This year it was held in Haddad Village on August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Sessions covered topics such as “Staying Connected with your Teen,” “The Important Role of Peer Friendship in Adolescence,” and “The Healthy Family Style.” On the second day, there was time to enjoy the outdoor pool and participate in a variety of games. Azwaj families also participated in numerous social events

throughout the year. The group held Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Christmas parties, and in November, there was a barbeque in Jericho. For the first time, the group also had an opportunity to attend a one day retreat in Hamat at Gader resort. Different generations (grandparents, parents, grandchildren) participated in this event. It is clear that such activities nurture deep and positive cross-generational relationships and commitments.

Ajyal (the Elderly Care Program) is a comprehensive elderly care program that offers basic health services, spiritual fellowship, social support and opportunities for continuous education and growth. This program is important since those who are 65 or older do not have access to health insurance or social security. Ajyal targets Christian seniors in the Bethlehem area as well as Muslims who are living in eight villages in the Bethlehem area. Annually, Ajyal hosts an array of activities: spiritual activities which focus on supporting and strengthening the faith of members which in turn makes them more relaxed, happier, and less stressed; medical activi-

ties such as lectures given by qualified doctors in the Bethlehem area on different health related topics; social and recreational activities such as trips, retreats, joint meals, and bingo games; and relaxing exercises such as yoga. Ajyal members participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of all group activities. This year was an exciting year for Ajyal. One highlight was the celebration of Ajyal's five year anniversary. Another was the decision to expand enrollment for 2012 to 450 members. 2011, also witnessed a visit of nurses from the USA. These nurses provided medical services like blood screening, blood sugar screening, etc. Additionally, one of our Ajyal members wrote a play. She shared her writings with other members who acted out the play during the Ajyal Mother's Day celebration.

Considered an extension of the Ajyal elderly care program, Dar al-Shamal fulfills many of the same functions as these programs but is available for people in northern parts of Palestine, namely Rafidia and Taybeh villages. In addition, one of the

goals of Dar al-Shamal is to organize visits and arrange joint events between group members and the intergenerational programs based in the Bethlehem area. This year the highlight of the Dar al-Shamal group's activities was the annual conference at Haddad Resort. Two young family groups from Taybeh & Nablus, along with their kids, participated in the conference. For Taybeh people it was the first time they participated in a conference, and it was a great experience for them. Topics discussed included "Stress Management" and "Positive Thinking." Another successful 2011 event was a series of workshops on sexual health. The Dar al-Shamal group, along with the three intergenerational groups from Bethlehem, attended these workshops which were conducted by qualified trainers from the Arab Forum for Sexual Health in Haifa. Dar al-Shamal members also enjoyed a trip to Golan with a shared meal in Nazareth. It was the first time that the intergenerational groups from the two northern areas ever visited this border area. Members indicate that they have greatly enjoyed these activities and look

forward to the continuation of the program.

5 years of success of the Ajyal program  
were celebrated in the year 2011.

# Construction



Diyar focuses on investing in the infrastructure and in creating facts on the ground with the aim of reaching more people and creating safe, creative environment.

Finishing Works of Dar Al-Kalima Auditorium:

By the end of 2011, all the finishing works at the auditorium were 100% accomplished. All civil works, electro-mechanical installation, acoustic walls and ceilings, painting and stage construction have been installed up to the design drawings, specifications and the supervising engineer approvals.

The Auditorium's capacity: 191 chairs plus six spaces for the disabled. The Auditorium is also highly acoustical, equipped with more than 400 square meters of acoustical panels. The Auditorium has an environmentally friendly air conditioning system and lighting fixtures and it is constructed according to the international standards for design and construction.

The Indoor Sports Hall

Diyar responded to the great need for an indoor sports facility especially in winter as students, women and others cannot participate in any sports programs or exer-

cises.

The Diyar Indoor Sports Hall is currently under construction, creating job opportunities for workers in addition to the contractor's engineers, foremen and supervising engineers. The total number of working days generated in the project up to date is 1950.

Having such a facility will promote the nurturing of a healthy body and mind, as participants will engage in physical training and exercise but also in finding a release from their stressful surrounding and conditions. Embracing and encouraging female activity in relation to sports allows for promoting gender equality and empowering women. Upon completion, the Diyar Indoor Sports Hall will work closely with existing, professional sports organizations and networks in Palestine to gather interested students from different parts of Palestine to be trained by international experts who will come to Bethlehem to carry out the trainings.



A total of **7500** blocks were installed; a total of 1100 square meters accumulative quantity of stone were built. The total area of the ground slab is 1350 square meters, and the

## Diyar Art Center



“Diyar Art Centre” seeks to empower Palestinian women by employing the arts as a vehicle for nurturing their creativity, enhancing their economic sustainability and giving a voice by advancing their productions as their personal unique expressions.

Mission: Aside from olive wood-based products, local souvenir stores are increasingly introducing machine-made mass produced souvenirs. In contrast, the “Diyar Art Center” will rely exclusively on locally produced goods to maximize the return to the Bethlehem economy. The products offered through the proposed project include:

\*\*Stone-based Souvenirs: Encouraging innovation in souvenir making by applying the Palestinian style of stone carving.

\*\* Embroidery for Church Textiles: Basing art on the traditional Palestinian methods.

\*\* Calligraphy: Keeping Arabic language and its art alive.

\*\* Jewelry: Adding the Palestinian touch to professionally made Jewels.

\*\* Glass & Ceramic Souvenirs: Inspired by the ancient techniques of crafting, painting and glazing applied in the region of Palestine.

43 women from Bethlehem area who are interested in arts and look forward for a better living were recruited in The “Diyar Art Center” project. The project started in June 2011. In addition, 3 males joined the program.

## The Cave Artisana



Since the Cave Artisana was opened in 1999, it has been striving to help local artists and to preserve traditional arts and crafts by offering courses, improving access to materials and equipment, and providing a market for the sale of art items. Given that 85% of the artists are women, there is an added benefit of helping women to gain financial independence which also leads to further self-confidence of the beneficiaries.

The sales in 2011 were divided equally between the “in store sales” and “online orders”. It can be shown that the USA and Sweden ranked in the top two countries for orders online in 2011. Our products reached Australia and the Cave built a special friendship with organizations there.

- Products & Displays

In 2011, special products were made in response to special events and occasions such as mother’s day, spring collection, graduation gifts and Christmas specials.

Also, the Cave Artisana’s products were displayed in the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) Bazaar in Jerusalem, Christmas Market at the Nativity Square

and in the Olive Harvest Festival in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce.

**3100** custom made bookmarks were ordered in 2011 by the Church of Sweden supporting at least 10 Palestinian families with an average of 6 members in each family.

# Authentic Tourism

2011 has been a very fruitful year for the Authentic Tourism Program at Diyar Consortium. Several hundreds of visitors, including tourists, pilgrims, artists, teachers, students and friends experienced one of the many authentic, rich itineraries that the Authentic Tourism Program offers.

These visitors came from many places including the USA, Germany, UK, Norway, Sweden, Australia and other countries.

## Nya Spår Project:

Nya Spår is a program that was launched in September 2010. It is a journey in Palestine, based on 4 core foundations, namely “Be part of nature; Be part of the people and the community; Be there for one another; and Be part of history” allowing the traveler to independently recognize and understand his/ her place and role in this vast globe.

In the year 2011, the main objective of this project was achieved, which is to increase the Swedish tourism to Palestine by % 10 as well as create a spiritual, responsible, and deliberately learning experience within a jour-

ney of discovery. The goal was achieved through training sessions for 10 Swedish tour leaders who were then certified as a Nya Spår tour leaders in the year 2011. The vision is to utilize tourism as a medium for peace building and cross cultural encounters between Swedish and Palestinian communities through a spiritual experience. Out of the 10 leaders, 6 brought Swedish groups to Palestine through this program in the year 2011.

#### Studiosus Groups:

Since Diyar has signed the agreement with Studiosus Reisen München GmbH Company in Germany, we have received Studiosus groups during the year. During the year 2011, the International Center of Bethlehem received 55 Groups (1381 pax) of Studiosus.

#### Other Groups

2992 guests from different nationalities visited the Diyar Consortium throughout the year 2011. The groups were mostly American and German. England ranks the third in this distribution. The other groups came from Switzerland, Norway, Finland, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, France and Austria

# Community Health

The Wellness Unit initiated a six-month course for Drama and Dabkeh (Palestinian Cultural Dance) for 40 children between the ages of 8 – 13. The outcome of the course was a short performance about the dream



# Diyar Sports Program



ince 2008 Diyar founded the Diyar for Women Sports unit that is currently extremely active, providing all-year athletic training program in soccer and basketball, as well as volleyball. This training has led to the formation and advancement of the top national soccer team in Palestine, the Diyar Women Soccer Team, while basketball and volleyball teams are in the process of being formed.

The Diyar Women Soccer Team has become very successful and has already made impact on the national, regional and international levels. On the national level, the team won in 2011 the first ever Palestinian Women Football League Championship. Also nationally speaking, more than 8 of the Diyar Women Soccer Team are part of and represent the Palestinian National Team for Women's Soccer.



# Diyar Dance Theatre

Inspired by the vision of Diyar Consortium “To Have Life and Have It Abundantly” and initiated by the Leadership Program, Diyar Dance Theater seeks to create a forum for young adults to celebrate the Palestinian culture and history through dance.

## Touring

Twelve dancers, invited by the Ministry of Tourism, traveled to Madrid, Spain to perform at the International Tourism Trade Fair. At this fair, more than 5000 people attended the performances of Diyar Dance Theatre, including Queen Sofia of Spain and the Palestinian Minister of Tourism, Dr. Khoulood Deibus.

Twelve dancers from Diyar Dance Theatre also traveled to Germany for two weeks of training with the Dance Company of Leipzig. The two weeks of training resulted in a 60-minute piece they performed together with dancers from Palestine and dancers from Germany in the Kirchentag in Dresden. A total of 6000 people watched the performances.

Diyar Dance Theatre and Sharjah Theatre group signed a contract of a dual production of the historical play of

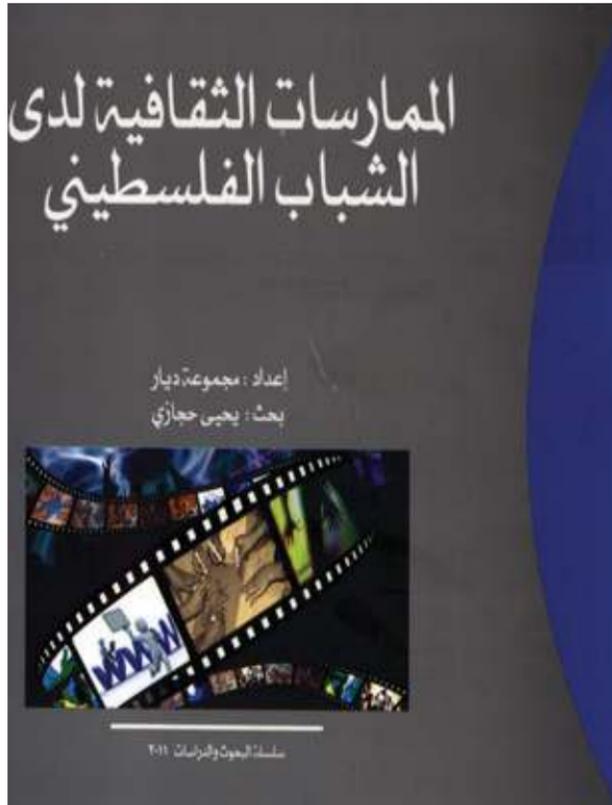
Nimrod, written by the Governor of Sharjah, Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi. It is the first time for Diyar Dance Theatre's team to engage in a full production which combines drama, dance, scenography, design and music. Producing the work showcased a large number of local artists with tremendous talent. Nimrod will be launched in February, 2012 in Sharjah, Arab Emirates. This launch will be followed by a grand opening in Bethlehem, Palestine in March, 2012.

#### Diyar Dance Theatre : 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation

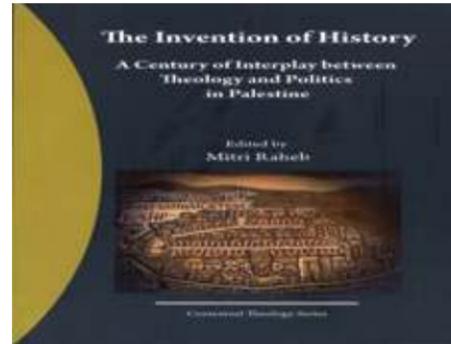
The Dance Theater in 2011 offered ongoing, weekly drama and dance training to 60 dancers, offered additional drama and dance training to 40 children, ages 8 - 14 years, thereby establishing a second generation of artists.

11,000 person in total attended Diyar Dance Theatre's show both in Germany and Sharjah in the 2011 tours of the Dance Group.

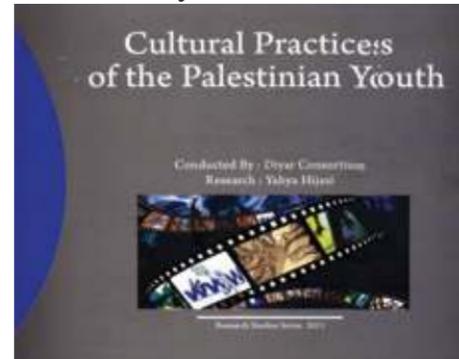
# Diyar Publishing



In the year 2011 Diyar Publishing published 5 books that tackle the most important topics in the Palestinian context and that “The Invention of History”



“Cultural Practices of the Palestinian Youth” Study



“Religion & State: Theology, Women & Media” (Available in Arabic Only)



“Karimeh Abboud: Pioneer Woman Photographer in Palestine”



- “Democracy and Participation in Youth Work”



A total of **970** books by Diyar Publishing have been sold at “The Cave” for the year 2011

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