

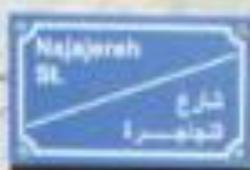
# Friends

Deze contactbrief is een uitgave van de Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth

English edition

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onze  
studenten  
bedanken u  
voor uw  
donatie!



Bezoek de nieuwe website

Op bezoek in Israël  
**unrecognized village**

Studiebeurzenproject

Onze studenten in 2013

**Sana Foundation**  
**onze partner in Israël**

**Palestinian  
women  
empower  
their future**

*Tweelink, Palestijnse student*

Noor is our youngest student, 19, and born in Sakhnin. She is a singer and plays the al-oed. Since October 2013 she has been a student of Musicology at Haifa University.

## *Palestinian women Empower their future*



In the picture, one of the portraits by photographer Gerdien Wolthaus Paauw of 'our' Palestinian students and graduates. The diptych does not just show the students' faces, but the two photographs together evoke their aspirations, their professions, or the society they live in.

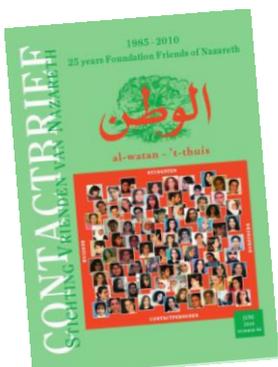
Higher education, academic or professional, for young Palestinians, primarily women, is what the Foundation Friends of Nazareth has devoted itself to for over 25 years.

As a result of this there is an ever increasing number of graduates holding responsible positions in various sectors of Israeli society. Education is a vital key to development and awareness.

### **New lay out**

A new lay-out has been on the agenda of each board meeting this year. The outcome: a new logo, the new website, this new contactbrief and, last but not least, the portraits / diptychs of several students and graduates by Gerdien Wolthaus Paauw.

Our mission is to show you and many others, young and old, what the Foundation Friends of Nazareth wishes to achieve, namely higher education for young Palestinians in Israel. Thus we wish to contribute to the improvement of the situation of Palestinian citizens in Israel and work towards peace and reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinian people.



For 27 years we have been calling for attention to the minority situation of the Palestinians in their own country (20% of the total population of Israel). Ever since 1989 the Foundation has been raising funds and donations, both small and substantial, from individuals to finance grants for young Israeli Palestinians.

### **Donate**

A special request is made for your financial support of this photo project as part of our new PR and Communication policies. After all, the gifts intended for grants are not to be used for this purpose. Please transfer your gift to

**NL42 INGB 0001 4439 82**

in the name of Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth mentioning Fotoproject. Subsequently, you will receive an invitation for the meeting of the Friends of Nazareth in the spring of 2014 and a copy of a diptych as well. For that reason, you are requested to mail your name and address to [info@friends-nazareth.nl](mailto:info@friends-nazareth.nl).

### **Visit the new website**

A modern form of communication with our present friends, and with many more who want to know about Palestinians in Israel and our students is essential. After a 14 years' service of the previous website, a new website is a vital instrument these days to draw attention to our work. [www.friends-nazareth.nl](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl) was and is the address. Have a look and be a critical reader: we would like to hear your feedbacks.

**Friends-nazareth.nl**

# Sana Foundation

our partner in Israel

Since 2009 some students and graduates have committed themselves to shape the Sana Foundation into a vigorous and viable NGO. This has taken much effort. In the first place because it is not so easy to start a new organization if this assignment is not an integral part of your profession as a doctor, dentist or lawyer. Not to speak of running a volunteer organization without any experience. All kinds of things enter into this. By now the formal foundation based on Israeli rules and legislation has been set up. The first refunds of loans to the Sana Foundation have been transferred via their Bank account. The first Sana Foundation scholarship students have started their studies. All this is intended to guarantee a continuation of the scholarship project in Israel.

## Incentives

During our visit to Israel an afternoon was reserved for talks with our 'fellow' board members of the Sana Foundation in Haifa. We took ample time to see them, talk with them, encourage them, and support them as best as we could. During this meeting, led by Rens Kessener, treasurer, suggestions of 'how to continue' were discussed: e.g. what are the objectives - short term and long term - ; division of tasks in relation to time investment and each member's abilities; the selection of scholarship students and their counseling. All this under the pressure of next day's conference in Nazareth.



## Galilee today

# Visit to Israel

Galilee Today is the name of the B&B in Sakhnin in the north of Israel, where we received a warm welcome by Trees Kosterman en Ali Zbeidat. Els, Rens and Hanneke, board members of the Foundation, stayed there the first days of our visit. Photographer Gerdien travelled along with us.

The hospitality we enjoyed was great, also that of the mothers of three students who prepared a delicious meal for us the first evening.

With Ali we made a trip in Galilee and visited Saffuriya, one of the more than 500 Palestinian villages swept away in 1948. Walking there, 65 years later, it is

inconceivable: it is a tranquil spot with stone remnants under rustling firs.

### Unrecognized village

The parents of one of our youngest students, Samaia, invited us to dinner at their place in an unrecognized village. Fatmeh Kassem, one of our contacts, accompanied us and showed us the way. It was a heartwarming afternoon and evening as there were also 20 laughing children present. It is fantastic to notice how glad the parents are with the financial support for their daughter's studies. Samaia gets

up every day at 5 a.m. and her father drives her to Beer Sheva station, 6 kilometers away. At 7 a.m. she is in one of the lecture halls of Tel Aviv Medicine faculty. At the end of the day she travels back home, five days a week. It is remarkable that it is not only the daughter who seizes the opportunity to develop her own creativity, her whole family is carried along in her development. Gerdien was also one of the guests and took a photograph of Samaia. Have look on [www.friends-nazareth.nl](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl), the result is a really impressive diptych.



### Scholarship project

An initiative by the Foundation, because young Palestinians are not entitled to grants in their own country. The reason why? The official right to a government grant expires if a person does not enter military service. We support primarily girls, since boys tend to accept grants abroad more easily than girls. In Palestinian families, often large, a brother takes precedence over a sister where study is concerned. Students apply via our contacts in Israel. After being carefully screened the student signs a contract, and agrees with the sum of the grant (about 50% of fees and costs), the refunding of the 25% given as a loan, and doing work as a volunteer during their years of study.

Twelve students received a grant at the beginning of 2013. Three of them have finished their studies this year. A new student has just been entered into the scholarship program and the selection process by the Sana Foundation has not been completed yet.

What courses do these students take? The subjects are nursing, medicine, dentistry, law, Arabic, and theory of education at the universities of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Beer Sheva a.o. Read about their experiences on our website [www.friends-nazareth.nl](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl)

## Students in 2013



Shorook's last email to the board, the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2013.  
In 2005 she started her study Medicine.

*Dear Els,  
How are you? It's really have been a long time since we last spoke my email was blocked and didn't have your mail written so we've lost contact, so glad to hear from you it's a shame i couldn't meet with you in October but i'm sure we'll meet next time you'll visit.*

*So I finished my med. school and my internship, i'm a doctor now, a great feeling after the long way i've been through i was accepted to a very prestigious program at Rambam Medical Center at Haifa, according to this program i'll be doing a research for two years in field of cancer research, in this time i'll be doing a PhD degree, and after two years (2016) i will start my residency at Otolaryngology, head and neck surgery also at Rambam, one of the best otolaryngology departments in Israel these days i'm doing a Master degree at the Technion and in the lab at Rambam and next year i'll proceed to a PhD degree so as you see i'm still a student. i don't have to pay a tuition fees since i receive a scholarship from the Technion, I do some shifts so i could manage financially as you see i can only contribute a little for the loan you talked about, i'd rather postpone the payment for the next year or two which at that time i'll be a resident with a good income.*

*Hope to hear from you soon  
Best regards, Shorook*

## Conference Sana Foundation

### Women Issues in Higher Education



For the first time in its existence the Sana Foundation organizes a conference. The complexity of the theme mentioned above becomes apparent in the speeches and the discussions following them during the first part of the day. Discussions on:

- The enormous discrepancy shown in statistics between the numbers of Palestinian students and pupils in Israel and Jewish ones. It is much more difficult for Palestinian students and pupils to achieve the educational levels required than it is for Jewish ones.
- The problems for Palestinian pupils begin in early childhood. Palestinian parents and children have insufficient tools to bridge the gap mentioned above. There is an insistent call to focus attention on very young children.
- Do not be overawed by society's demands. Discover yourself how you want to develop and what you want to be.
- Consider education in a wider perspective.
- Some of our contacts and students were panel members next to Israeli/Palestinian researchers and representatives from CEGAS, WAVO (Women against Violence), Mossawa Center and Baladna.

### Volunteering, importance and benefits

Volunteering is the item discussed after lunch. The literal meaning of 'volunteering' is work that you do purely as a hobby, because you want to, apart from any interest, such as personal gain. Yet other aspects of 'volunteering' mentioned are contributing to society, empowering your identity, and a growing awareness of what you need for your own personal development. Volunteering is part of the contract between students and the Foundation. The item is of very much interest to the people present, the students and their mothers took part in the animated and sometimes heated discussions.



Sana Foundation recommendation  
Our recommendation is self-evident and was met with much approval.

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