

Friends

Deze contactbrief is een uitgave van de Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth

www.friends-nazareth.nl

English edition

nummer 55 • december 2014

Tweeluik Jeanne Aouda

Invloed van de oorlog Studenten doen verslag

Halima glansrijk geslaagd!

Vriendenbijeenkomst uitgesteld

onze
studenten
bedanken u
voor uw
donatie!



Kaarten voor al uw (kerst)wensen

Koop tien verschillende unieke fotokaarten.

Voor slechts **12,50 euro** (incl. verzendkosten)

maakt u zichtbaar wat een studiebeurs betekent voor een Palestijnse student in Israël.

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t.n.v. Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth o.v.v. Fotoproject
en uw adres.

From Jerusalem, Sakhnin and Beer Sheva students gave us extensive accounts of the last six months.

[Read more on www.friends-nazareth.nl](http://www.friends-nazareth.nl).

Mona

sent us an email on 05-08-2014 from Jerusalem.

Dear friends of the Foundation Friends of Nazareth. First of all I would like to thank you for your moral support and for keeping in touch with me: your care motivated me to carry on. The academic year 2013/2014 was one of the hardest years of my academic career so far. It was a very eventful year bringing many changes, which I would like to mention in this email.

Switch of Study

The biggest change was I switched my field of study: from accountancy to business management, with a minor

that's why I switched studies. I am also thinking of doing my Masters in business management.

Volunteering

During my volunteer work of career counseling at secondary schools in the past two years I discovered that I am also very interested in teaching and that working in this field also suits me. I have been on good terms with the pupils and I have found out that they trusted me and benefited from my counseling. That made me want to study education and work in that field as well. I noticed that students these days are much more aware of the importance of a higher education and that most of them already have plans and ambitions to carry on with their education and attend colleges and universities. This kind of awareness is a new phenomenon that did not exist when I was a high-school student; it is one that I hope will continue in the future.

Impact of war on work

One of the events that greatly influenced my life this year is the war in Gaza. This war had an impact on people's lives all

Moreover I often worked late hours, which further increased my family's worries, especially since I live alone in this city far away from them. So I had to quit work at Leumi bank. However, I did get an excellent recommendation letter from them and hopefully I will start work at Mizrahi bank, in the city center. It is easier for me to get there. After my exams I will write a letter of application.

Impact war on education

Because of the military situation I was unable to take my exams in July and August, the usual examination period. I am now preparing for my exams, which are scheduled in the next two months.

Importance of group projects

In the second semester I took more than 3 courses in business management, and something struck me as a result. One of the requirements for these courses was group projects. At first I found it immensely difficult to work in groups: I was so busy with my job and studies that I could not fit the group study sessions in my schedule. In the end we managed to arrange a time finish the assignments. My point is that working in groups is fun and very useful for students, since it encourages cooperation while also

The influence of the war

in education. This was a result from my experience of working at Leumi bank, where I was highly appreciated and where I liked it very much. I have always wished to work at a bank,



Mona

over the country in various ways, especially in Jerusalem, where tensions are always high because of the various religions found there. My job was that of a telephone banker at Leumi Bank in Har Hotzvim, an area populated mainly by Orthodox Jews. I was the only Arab employee in the building (among 150 other employees). To get to my workplace I had to take two very crowded buses, the only Arab among Orthodox Jews. Because of the military situation towards the end of the academic year and the attempted kidnappings, my parents insisted that I quit my job. They were frightened that something bad would happen to me on the bus or at work: it was dangerous for an Arab girl like me wearing a Hijab.

making the students more independent and responsible. It teaches students how to express themselves, which is very useful to someone like me, who is studying business management and will be running a business sometime in the future.

Many Thanks

Finally, as always I would like to thank you, not only for the continuous support you have provided for me, but also for your support and help to other girls in my community. I am certain that all other grant students benefit from it as I have, not only economically but also morally. I wish you all the best and may you continue to benefit my community. Thank you and may God's blessing be upon you.

Khuloud

student of physiotherapy, from Sakhnin on 07th of August 2014

Although this year was difficult, it was also one of the most successful years of my life. Compared with the first year we had more subjects, even more difficult, but I felt that I could handle the stress much better than last year. We started practical work in a hospital, and here we felt that we were discriminated against. During the practical lessons we had to work together in groups, 4 Arab students and 46 Jewish students. The Jewish students refused to work with us.



Khuloud collecting clothes

in Israel

This was embarrassing, but we had to accept it. But my personal success is that I was one of the best students.

Meaningful volunteering

At the moment the group consists of some 40 students. Every other week we met to discuss our activities, especially an information day for secondary school pupils on follow-up studies which we organized. We worked with 3 schools in Sakhnin, about 300 pupils, and provided those pupils who wanted to study at university with information. Noor, one of the other students of Friends of Nazareth, gave a good talk about her studies of music. In addition, we had more projects for the development of Sakhnin. Because of all the horrible events in Gaza we decided to collect money for the patients from Gaza in hospital at Tel-Aviv. The money was used to give them food during Ramadan. We also

collected clothes and sent these to Gaza. During Ramadan we organized an event (like last year on cancer) on volunteering in one's community with 150 people present. We also gave interviews to various local media. I like working with this group and I feel I am doing something useful.

Amina

from Beer Sheva

I have finished my 3rd year as a medicine student now, and a lot has changed since my last letter, pleasant things and less pleasant ones. The happiest thing is that I got engaged last November. My fiancé Mohamad is a student of electrical engineering, and he will graduate in the first semester in 2015 and will then do his Masters. For various reasons it is not possible to say when we will get married. We both have to finish our studies first to be able to afford a house and a family. Besides I study in the south of Israel and he studies in the center and it will be difficult for either of us to move due to commitments concerning work and studies.

The war

In the past two months we had a difficult time because of the war. Ben-Gurion university in Beer Sheva (in the south of Israel and often in the line of fire) had decided to delay all exams for all

differing perspectives. I think we all agree as human beings and students of medicine that killing innocent people is against humanity, but it is clear this view cannot prevent our mutual hatred.

Social problems

I am a participant in a new volunteering project Hakerya-hachenochet Tal-Sheeba, started by professor Miki Karplus. Professor Karplus has a school in Tal-Sabea for children with special needs. There are no social workers in the school as there is an enormous shortage of them in Al-Naqab. However the families need help with the many social problems they face. After having been trained students can be of help to these families. I support the parents of children with special needs to get what they are entitled to as citizens.

Support medical care

Professor Karplus and I are entering a new phase of this project in the next few months. I am going to help families with their children's medical care. There are many children with complicated medical conditions requiring long term medical care involving many consultations of doctors. Parents can get lost in this process, also because of their inadequate understanding of Hebrew and medical jargon.



With Raghda, her Bedouin friend, Hadar her Jewish friend and Amina (right).

students. It was difficult to study because of the many air-raid alarms day and night. It was not safe to get out and be in crowded places either, therefore all university activities were cancelled. During that period I experienced some awkward situations with my fellow students. We do our utmost not to mention the war in order to avoid unpleasant conversations because of our

Into practice

Finally I am a 4th year student of medicine and the practical part of my studies will start this year. It is the most interesting part of medicine: we will see patients and be taught how to treat them. I feel more like a doctor and am becoming more of a doctor, it is going to be a wonderful year in spite of its difficulty and intensity.



Jeanne Aouda

‘My motivation in life is freedom, or the strive for freedom, freedom from oppression, discrimination and barriers between people, but as a result of this diptych I realize that every woman is looking for her own kind of freedom, freedom to study, to work, to live in dignity, to dance, or play music, and that is truly wonderful’.

Jeanne read law and international relations at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. For two years she has been a lawyer working for ‘Addameer’, a human rights organization in Ramallah supporting prisoners. She is one of 130 students so far who completed their studies on grants from the Foundation. In 2013 she had her photograph taken by Gerdien Wolthaus Paauw as part of the photo project ‘*Palestinian women, empower their future*’ commissioned by the Board. See www.friends-nazareth.nl for the other diptychs.

Friends of Nazareth

Every year some 10 Palestinian students go to university or college in Israel thanks to donations by Friends of the Foundation and Funds to the scholarship project. In the past 28 years more than 130 students have benefited from this project.

Donate

Become a Friend of the Foundation and transfer your gift to NL42 INGB 0001 4439 82 in the name of *Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth* mentioning *Studiebeurzenproject*. Give young Palestinian people the opportunity to higher education and a future.

Halima honours degree !



After four years of fatigue and sleepless nights, studying and persevering I made it! Four hard years, yet also years full of joy, I am glad I chose nursing and that I am now a qualified nurse. The fourth and final year of my studies was a challenging one in all aspects. It was a year in which I became an adult, a young woman in a big man’s world. I had to write my final papers and be trained in a hospital, and prove myself as a nurse. Thanks god I succeeded in doing all this and I passed my exams with an average of 91%. Thank you for your care for my education and studies, thank you for all the moral and financial support: you made me feel that I am not alone in this big world.

Meeting with Friends postponed to 2015

We were supported by the reaction to our proposal to organize the meeting with the Friends in 2015 instead of October 2014.

This because of the of the bad situation in Israel.

We hope to inform you about the developments of Sana Foundation, our partner in Israel concerning the scholarship program.

الوطن  Stichting
al-watan **Vrienden van Nazareth**

Stichting Vrienden van Nazareth
P.O. Box 2256, 5001 CG Tilburg
info@friends-nazareth.nl
www.friends-nazareth.nl
ING Bank NL 42 INGB 0001 4439 82

Sana Foundation
2nd of [Novemberstreet 2/7](http://www.novemberstreet27.org)
5646 Haifa, Israel

FRIENDS [contactbrief](#) appears twice a year.
Our Foundation has an ANBI status.

Design Metastudio Eindhoven
Print Drukkerij Gianotten bv Tilburg
Diptych [Gerdien Wolthaus Paauw](#)
Foto cover 2013 Cactus in Galilee
Board [Willem Arts](#), [Els Schots](#), [Rens Kessener](#),
[Hanneke Heisterkamp](#)