

Sandy Baird, Esq.

Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Program

PO Box 8486

Burlington, Vermont

October 16, 2013

The Honorable

Mayor Miro Weinberger

Mayor of Burlington

City Hall, Church Street

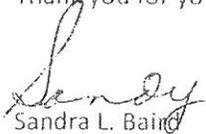
Burlington, Vermont, 05401

Re: Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Program

Dear Mayor Weinberger:

Enclosed please find the report of our Sister City Activities for the year 2013. We are now applying for the budgetary amount to fund this program. If you have any questions please contact me at 802-862-2001 or at sbaird@burlington.edu.

Thank you for your continued support.


Sandra L. Baird

cc: Kristin Peterson Ishaq and Moussa Ishaq

Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Program
Report for 2012-2013

October 2012:

We participated in two public programs in conjunction with the Vermont International Film Festival:

- October 18 – Joint Sister Cities program of short films featuring several of Burlington’s sister cities (Arad, Bethlehem, Bilwi [Puerto Cabezas], Yaroslavl); the free, public program was followed by discussion and refreshments; North End Studios.
- October 20 & October 28 – Sponsorship of two screenings of the Israeli film *War Matador* during the Vermont International Film Festival; the October 20 showing was followed by a moderated discussion; North End Studios (10/20), ECHO (10/28).

January 2013:

We contributed \$500 to the specialized pediatric hospital in Bethlehem through the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation.

With the Mayor’s Office, we prepared for the visit to Burlington of the Mayor of Bethlehem, Vera Baboun, in February 2013. Unfortunately, her very busy schedule in Washington, D.C., kept her from traveling to Burlington. We were, however, gratified to be in contact with her and that she considered coming to visit.

In preparation for the Bethlehem Mayor’s visit, an exhibit of photographs of Bethlehem came to us on loan, which went on display in Waterbury (there being no space in City Hall at that time).

February 2013:

We contributed \$500 for a partial scholarship for a student from Bethlehem to the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music through American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA).

March 2013:

We wrote to the Mayors of Arad and Bethlehem, inviting them to visit Burlington on their next trips to the U.S.

April 2013:

We agreed to sponsor the Australian film *Make Hummus Not War* in the 2013 Vermont International Film Festival. We will make special efforts to reach area students.

July 2013:

We cosponsored a free, public program with Volunteers for Peace at which we showed a short film by Bethlehem youth, followed by a discussion about Israel/Palestine with some twenty young volunteers from around the world as well as members of the general public; Fletcher Free Library. Our volunteers videotaped the program for broadcast on RETN Channel 16, local public-access educational television.