

Middle East Network Newsletter

March 31, 2011

CMEP Conference May 22-24 + "Lutheran Day" May 25

Calling all Lutherans concerned for the Middle East: The ELCA Peace not Walls team invites you to a strategy day in Washington DC following the Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) conference.

The "Lutheran Day" will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill from 5 pm Tuesday, May 24 to 1 pm Wednesday, May 25. We will strategize together about new ideas for the campaign, networking, advocacy and what we can do to reach and motivate new people. ELCA Middle East Desk Director and Coordinator of the Peace not Walls campaign, Rev. Robert Smith, will give an analysis of current events in the Middle East and how these affect our work. The ELCA will be hosting meals; each person is responsible for his/her own housing. Please RSVP to Julie Rowe at julie.rowe@elca.org or call 773-380-2720 with questions.

Register for the CMEP conference at www.cmep.org.

Augusta Victoria Hospital inaugurates new medical linear accelerator

On March 17, Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem celebrated the introduction of a new medical linear accelerator in the hospital's Radiology Unit. The system is the second of its kind at the hospital. The state-of-the-art system will benefit cancer patients from the West Bank and Gaza who come to AVH, which is operated by The Lutheran World Federation. The accelerator was purchased with a grant received one year ago from the U.S. Agency for International Development's Palestinian Health Sector Reform and Development Project.

For more information, [click here](#).

Film, *Miral*, now showing in U.S. theaters

Filmed on location in the West Bank and Israel, the film, *Miral*, depicts the decades following the 1948 Arab-Israeli war from the perspective of a young Palestinian woman named Miral. Based on the novel by Rula Jebreal and directed by Julian Schnabel, who also directed *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, *Miral* opened in U.S. theaters March 25.

Hear an interview with the director [here](#).

New OCHA Reports on Gaza and East Jerusalem

- [East Jerusalem, Key Humanitarian Concerns, March 2011](#)
- [Easing the Blockade: Assessing the Humanitarian Impact on the Population of the Gaza Strip, March 2011](#)



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