



A solar-lit soccer field was built in Wadi Foquin directly in the path of Israel's separation wall as an act of creative resistance and a symbol of hope for the village. The project was supported by Friends of Wadi Foquin and the United Methodist Church.

The Wadi Foquin Community Development Project is supported by the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Tax-deductible donations may be made through the GBGM at www.umcmission.org (Advance Project #3021565).

For information, to receive email updates and action alerts about the village, or to volunteer, contact us at friendsofwadifoquin@gmail.com.

Friends of Wadi Foquin

friendsofwadifoquin@gmail.com
www.friendsofwadifoquin.com

Find us on 



"With the continued building of settlements, we are becoming like an island. The village now has only one entrance, which is also threatened with closure."—Ahmad Sokar, former mayor of Wadi Foquin

FoWF Steering Committee

Co-chairs: Rev. Michael Yoshii, Buena Vista UMC & Ret. Rev. Naomi Southard; **Secretary/Communications:** Julie Harris, Buena Vista UMC; **Treasurer:** Jean Hart, Loomis UMC; **Trip coordinators:** Rev. Emily Lin, Twin Towers UMC & Rev. Mike Friedrich, Bay District

Rev. Pam Kurtz, Linda & Don Weingarten, Lake Merritt UMC; Gala King, Buena Vista UMC; Paula Rainey, member at large; Janet Lahr Lewis, advisor

Cover: Yusef Manassra was 25 in 1948 when the Israeli army evacuated Wadi Foquin, forcing residents first into nearby hills and then later into a UN refugee camp. In 1972, when villagers were allowed to return and rebuild, he vowed he would never be forced from his home again. Yusef lived in Wadi Foquin until his death at 95 in May 2017.

Friends of Wadi Foquin

Partners for justice and economic sustainability in the West Bank



Village elder Yusef Manassra facing the illegal Israeli settlement that threatens the future of Wadi Foquin

Photo by Jakob Schiller

Who We Are

Friends of Wadi Foquin is a US-based partnership with the West Bank village of Wadi Foquin. We provide fundraising support for village-initiated community development projects and organize advocacy for the village in the larger context of the Israeli military occupation. Other areas of focus include exposure trips and education. The partnership was established in 2009 by members of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and has expanded to include ecumenical and interfaith groups and grassroots organizations in its advocacy work.

To arrange a presentation, email friendsofwadifoquin@gmail.com.



Wadi Foquin is a Palestinian village of 1,300 people about 5 miles southwest of Bethlehem. It lies in an agricultural valley between the 1949 Armistice Line (the de facto border between Israel and historic Palestine) and the illegal Israeli settlement of Betar Illit, which has a current population of 50,000 and is expected to grow to 100,000.

The village's organic food crops once were prized in Bethlehem markets, but government annexation and destruction of farmland to make way for the expanding settlement—as well as contamination by Betar Illit sewage runoff, violent incursions into Wadi Foquin by Israeli soldiers and armed settlers, and controlled access to markets, jobs, schools, and healthcare—have challenged residents to continue to make a life there.

Left: Friends of Wadi Foquin members prepping for a congressional briefing in Washington, DC.

Above: Wadi Foquin-based community development coordinator Ata Manassra (left) with former United Methodist missionary Janet Lahr Lewis and Friends of Wadi Foquin members on an olive tree-planting visit to the village. The Betar Illit settlement is visible at top right.

Friends of Wadi Foquin has partnered with the village to help offset agricultural losses through alternative economic initiatives (e.g., beekeeping, women's crafts); supported youth leadership projects and development of a soccer field and a community center; led annual trips there; and organized US congressional briefings for villagers to explain what the Israeli occupation and expansion mean in human terms. In May 2016, the United Methodist Church passed a resolution calling on US government officials to intercede with Israeli authorities on behalf of Wadi Foquin.

