

Ramallah School's Response to Increased Violence and the Peace Testimony

The resilience and progress of RFS are a testament to the importance of its mission.



Guided by Quaker principles and values, enriched by being in Palestine, and strengthened by collaboration within the school community and with external partnerships, we (RFS) offer our children and youth an academically rigorous, balanced, engaging, and inclusive learning environment of the highest quality standard, every day.

We inspire our students to become living expressions of spiritual life and constantly search for God in all human situations. By doing so, we nurture confidence and intellectual curiosity through experiential learning and innovative application of knowledge and skills, enabling our students to become independent, adaptable, principled, socially responsible, and internationally minded citizens.

The History of Ramallah Friends School

Founded in 1869 by Eli and Sybil Jones, New England Quakers.

Response to the plea of Miriam Karam, a young girl seeking education opportunities for girls in Ottoman-ruled Palestine.

A Friend's boys' school was started in 1901.

In the early 19th century, the school underwent a significant transformation from a girls' school to a boys' boarding school on another campus.

Over time, it evolved into an all-day, coeducational institution. Today, it proudly accommodates 1600 students, reflecting its journey from single-gender education to a diverse and inclusive learning environment.





ELI JONES.



SIBYL JONES.

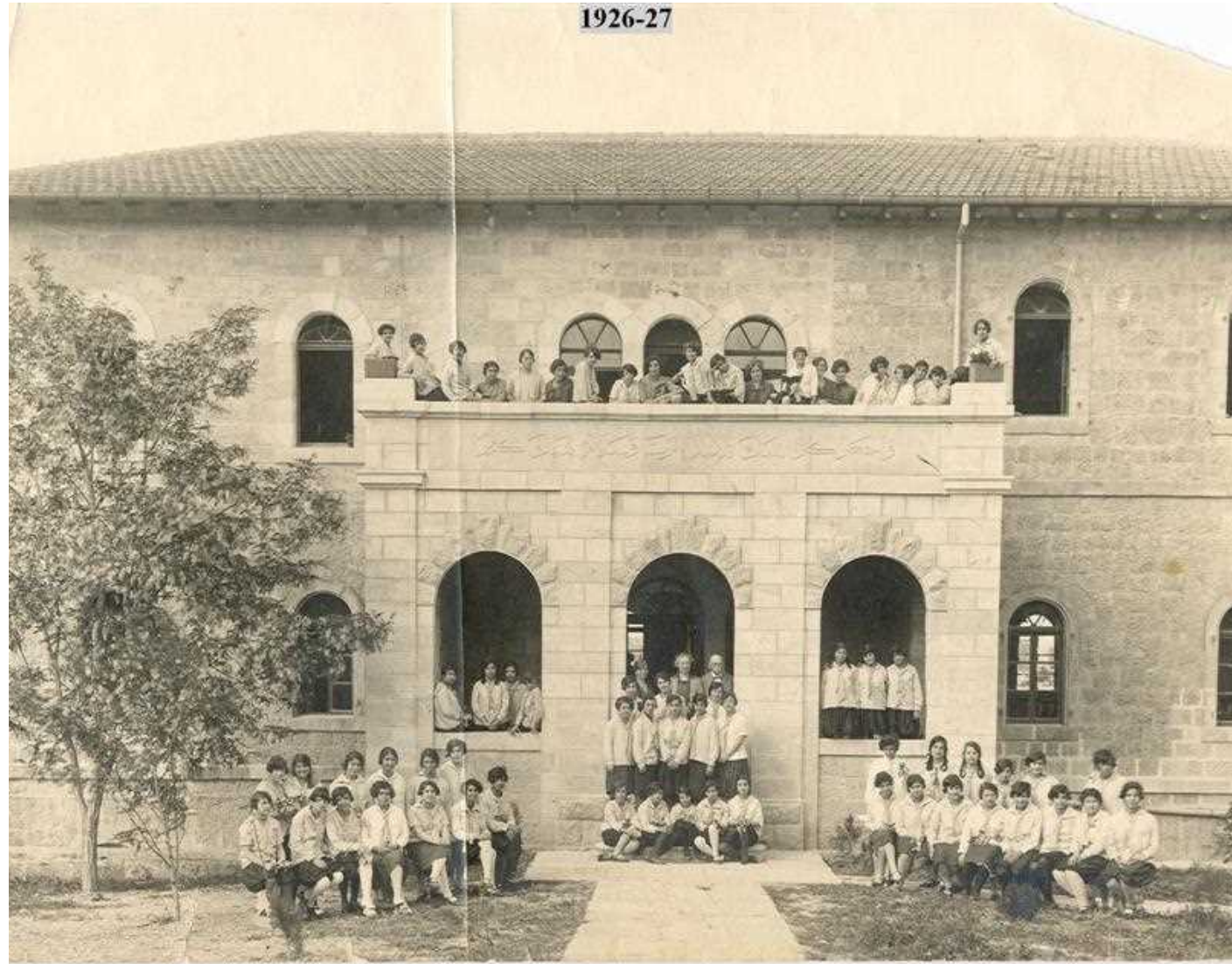


Miriam Karam offered her service as a teacher to Eli and Sibyl Jones in 1869. In the picture she is Miriam Buyick, a grandmother. (1920s)



An early village school -- Martha Totah, teacher





Values-Based Education

Graduating leaders and critical thinkers grounded in humanistic and Quaker values.



Values- Based education











Resilience Through History

Withstood Two World Wars

Endured Occupation and Rule of:

British

Ottoman

Jordanians

Israeli Occupation

Continues to Navigate Israeli Military Occupation Challenges

- : The ongoing war in Gaza has led to increased violence from settlers, exacerbating tensions in our community.

Many members of our community have experienced devastating losses, with numerous family members tragically killed in Gaza.

! " : One staff member mourns the loss of her nephew, whose wife and five children are hospitalized; two are in critical condition, and in December, she lost her sister and her family members, daughter, and grandchildren in total 11 family members. Another staff member has lost four nieces and a sister-in-law.

\$ " The continuous violence has left our community emotionally drained as we grapple with the profound grief and trauma inflicted by the war and escalation of violence from settlers and Israeli forces.



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Children may experience profound psychological trauma due to the disruption of their daily lives, witnessing violence, and experiencing fear.

Example: Shadi Khoury, a student at our school, was unjustly arrested and detained for 40 days in prison when he was in 11th grade (16 years old).

Following his release, he was placed under house arrest for another two months. Later, Shadi was allowed to attend school to showcase the resilience of our students.

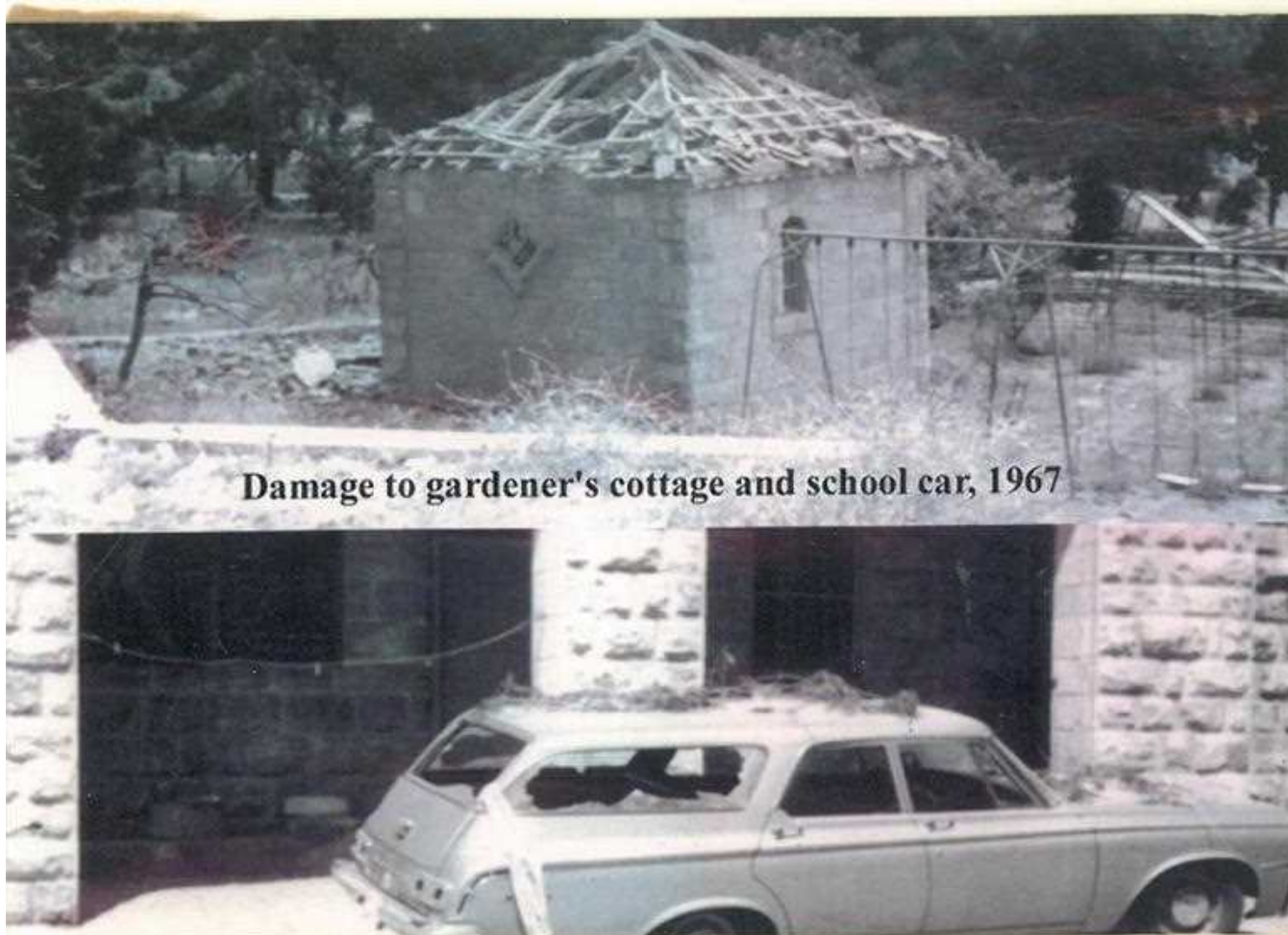
Today, April 18th, 2024 marks Shadi's 22nd court case. He has been in legal proceedings for a year and a half since his arrest.

Continued Hearings: Despite ongoing court hearings, no ruling has been issued, which causes Shadi to feel threatened as he transitions from childhood to adulthood.



The School's Journey Amidst Years Under Occupation

Damage to the gardener's cottage and the School's car in 1967. Now, the Cottage is the writing center.



_____ , tragedy struck in Jabalya, Gaza, as seven people lost their lives during the week. This incident ignited widespread anger among Palestinians in cities and villages alike. Shots were fired near the school, causing panic and fear among students and residents. A soldier, in a disturbing turn of events, fired into the school grounds, putting the lives of students at risk. Miraculously, the two students narrowly escaped injury as the shots passed dangerously close to them.



The School's Journey Amidst Years Under Occupation

Classroom damage during 2000 military attack



Classroom damage during 2001 military attack



" % \$

Learning under occupation presents challenges but also demonstrates strength and determination.

We empower our students to pursue freedom through learning, shaping a future of justice and equity.

The return on investment in our students is evident.

Parents, deeply committed to their children's well-being, recognize education's % . They aspire to nurture their children in an environment that fosters critical thinking and empathy.

Students excel not only as local leaders but also globally.

Our rigorous program and holistic approach prepare students to navigate a complex world.

Our students contribute to local and global initiatives, driving transformative change. Their achievements inspire and set examples for others.

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Annice Carter was an American Quaker principal in the mid-1900s.

Ramallah Friends School is a beacon of hope, evident in our growing waiting list.

At RFS, young minds are encouraged to dream, explore, and pursue their passions. A sanctuary where students flourish academically, emotionally, and spiritually

Ramallah Friends School symbolizes resilience, determination, and the strong spirit of our people.

RFS fosters intellectual curiosity and equips students with skills to overcome obstacles.



Standing in Solidarity: in Vermont During Thanksgiving

RFS Three Graduates Were Shot



School Initiatives in Accordance with the Peace Testimony

Standing in Solidarity: Our initiative focuses on fostering a sense of unity and support within our community.

Creative Expression: We provide students with platforms to express themselves freely and creatively through the arts and music.

Promoting Well-Being: We offer activities to promote mental and emotional well-being, ensuring students feel supported and empowered.

We have contracted with a professional to help students manage anxiety through specialized activities.



\$ %



Our students become agents of positive change, influencing society.

They emerge with resilience, determination, and a commitment to positive change.

They carry forward the principles instilled during their time at our school.

I No Longer Pray For Peace

On the edge of war, one foot already in,
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn to tenderheartedness,
and evil intentions will turn to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed will be snatched
out of harm's way,
and the whole world will be astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the "God talk" will take bones,
and stand up and shed its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.
I pray that the whole world might sit down together
and share its bread and wine.

Some say there is no hope,
but then I've always applauded the holy fools who never
seem to give up the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God.....
that we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

by Ann Weems

Prayer Requests

Pray for a swift and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza, bringing an end to the violence and suffering endured by innocent children and civilians.

Please pray for justice for the Palestinian people so that their rights and dignity may be respected and upheld.

Pray for Justice to Achieve Lasting Peace.

Pray for Shadi's safety and freedom, that he may be released from the burdens of legal challenges and rulings that threaten his life and well-being. May he be granted the opportunity to pursue his dreams and aspirations, and may his future be filled with hope, love, and opportunities.

Pray for the RFS school community so that they may find strength and resilience in the face of challenges.

May they continue to provide quality education to their students, nurturing young minds and empowering them to build a brighter tomorrow.



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