

Announcing

A new program in support of Palestinian
cultural identity and heritage

The Palestinian Storytelling Center!

Seraj Library Project is enthusiastically announcing the establishment of a **Storytelling Center** in Palestine. We will choose a central location to make it widely accessible. The Center will give Palestinians the opportunity to tell, write and record their stories. Seraj will catalogue these stories and make them widely available.



Fida'a Ataya, our
Library
Coordinator and
an expert
Storyteller, has led
the way for Seraj.

"Stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower and to humanize."

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Nigerian author

Our storytelling vision: We live in a world where stories matter. This is especially true in the Middle East where every word and every stone or brick has a compelling history. Often those stories struggle to be heard. In places where conflict persists, stories are buried and forgotten. As a result people lose touch with their humanity, allowing injustice to prevail.

Palestine is a classic example of this. But it doesn't have to continue. Seraj Library Project has a moral responsibility to rescue those stories from the ashes. We do not intend to negate any other people but to bring people together and replace injustice with justice and peace for all.

Since the inception of Seraj, we have focused on traditional community libraries. This time we are evolving to a national presence that preserves the oral history of Palestinian communities. The Storytelling Center will give people the opportunity to tell, write and record their stories. Seraj will store them in one place and make them available to all. These stories will not only be archived, they will be interactive. Seraj will train people in how to collect stories and use them as a basis for plays, music, art, writing and traditional storytelling.

The Cotton Fite Memorial Fund will Support the Palestinian Storytelling Center



Cotton Fite, who died suddenly a year ago, was a long-time enthusiast for Seraj Library project. His leadership helped us grow and mature in both the US and Palestine

The Seraj Board has chosen to honor Cotton Fite by attaching his name to the Storytelling Center. We hope to raise \$100,000 for the Fund. Cotton always asked those he met, "Tell me your story."

The Storytelling Center is an exciting project that will engage Palestinians for generations.

We count on your support to make it happen.

You are invited to make a gift in tonight's Live Auction in support of Cotton's Legacy and the development of the Storytelling Center.

In addition the Live Auction will feature other key Seraj projects.