



## Report to Donors

January 2017

Dear Seraj Friends:

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to The Seraj Library Project. You can read about Seraj's mission, libraries & projects on our website (including past newsletters) at [www.serajlibraries.org](http://www.serajlibraries.org). To date, we have established Seraj Libraries in eight West Bank communities and sent more than \$340,000 to Palestine for Libraries and programs.

At each calendar year-end we provide a brief financial overview of how we are managing your generous gifts.

### Our Fiscal Year 2016 (July 2015 through June 2016)

172 persons and organizations donated (including 53 new donors who had not given in previous years)	\$ 99,507 (includes Benefit tickets)
Carry over from 2015	43,749
In fy 2016 we spent:	
Library grants to Palestine	\$ 55,100
Benefit Expenses & Fund Raising	16,990 (17%)
Establish Reserve Fund	30,000
Organizational Expenses	3,570 (3.6%)
Balance, committed for 2017 projects, see below	\$ 37,596

### First 2 Quarters, Fiscal 2017 (July 2016 through December 2016)

- ◆ Our **Benefit** on October 8, 2016 at the Unitarian Church in Evanston netted **\$23,268**. We appreciate the generous participation of so many; we sold 189 tickets, 126 auction items and \$3,215 in raffle tickets.
- ◆ **Projects** for calendar 2017 include:
  - 1) Completing the new **Jordan Valley Library** at Jiflek. Working in an area like the Jordan Valley represents a new venture for Seraj. See a fuller description: [www.serajlibraries.org/jordan-valley](http://www.serajlibraries.org/jordan-valley)
  - 2) Extending the **B.J. Wagner Fellowship Program** supporting Palestinian college students who are volunteers at our libraries. This is an important and enthusiastically appreciated new program of Seraj.
  - 3) Supporting the **various local programs** (like Ramadan Nights) that make our libraries so vital in their communities. See a fuller description on the reverse.

We are delighted to be in partnership with you. There is much more to be done!

Cotton Fite, Board Co-Chair

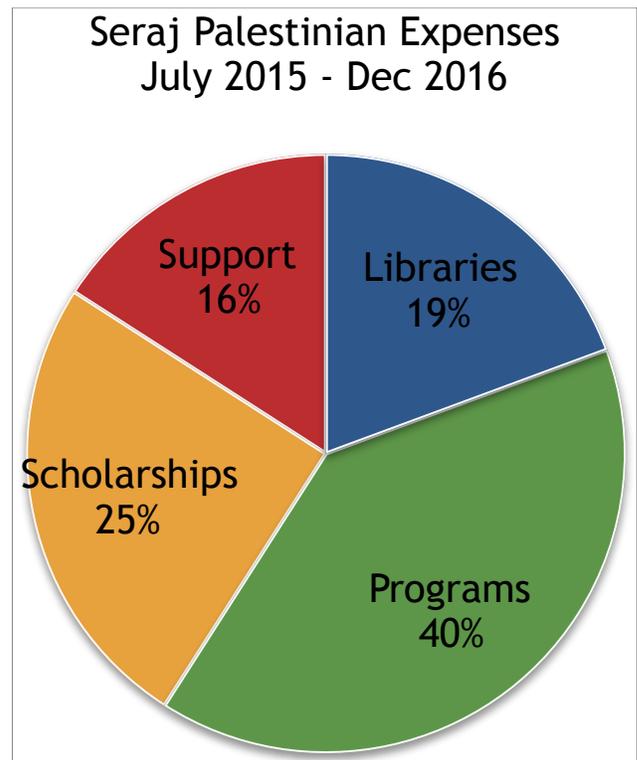
[cottonfite@me.com](mailto:cottonfite@me.com)

John Cassel, Board Co-Chair & Treasurer

[johnjcassel@gmail.com](mailto:johnjcassel@gmail.com)

*See more financial reporting on the reverse*

Seraj Palestine Expenses - for West Bank Libraries. July 2015 - Dec 2016	
New Libraries, & upgrades for existing Libraries	\$15,818
Children's & Community Programs	\$32,435
College Scholarships	\$20,453
Administrative Support	\$12,955
<b>TOTAL West Bank EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$81,661</b>



**Seraj Libraries have grown in more than numbers.** We've always been clear that these libraries belong to their communities. Seraj provides the resources and our Palestinian partners go about establishing something that truly serves their community. Because of the work of the Palestinian Advisory Council and that of our talented Library Coordinator, Fida'a Ataya, the libraries have become **true community centers**. Programs like *Ramadan Nights* and *Reading Under the Olive Harvest* and *Storytelling* are engaging all ages.

The Seraj Library Project is also enthused about the establishment of the **BJ Wagner Fellows Program**. The program provides scholarships for the young volunteers who serve our libraries (17 students funded in fall 2016). You can see pictures of some of the recent recipients at [www.serajlibraries.org/seraj-fellows](http://www.serajlibraries.org/seraj-fellows).

These are encouraging new initiatives for Seraj. They allow Seraj to more fully serve our partner communities in Palestine. And they provide increased opportunities for our supporters (you) to enhance life in Occupied Palestine...



**Thanks for your generous support!**