

Dispatches from Seraj

2022 TOUR



Al-Mizzra/Al-Sharqiyyah/Abu Falah/Ramallah
Friday, October 22

Up and Down the West Bank Myths Dispelled

By Anne Cordes, Trip Scribe



Several times over the past week I've heard one of my travel companions remark about how limited, and one-sided, our understanding of the Middle East has been. We all remember Paul Newman in *"Exodus"* and Liam Neeson in *"Schindler's List."* In recent weeks we watched Ken Burns' *"The U.S. and the Holocaust."* But what about the other side of the story?

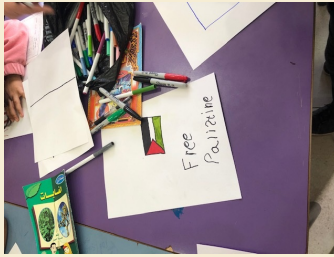
Where are the handsome actors to portray the Palestinians who have been working on a non-violent resolution to this conflict for over 100 years? And where is the news coverage of the night raids documented by Military Court Watch at militarycourtwatch.org ? At the **Palestine Museum**, we learned history through art: a mosaic of shards from destroyed buildings in Palestinian villages that no longer exist.

More than one of my companions has remarked that folks back home were concerned about them making this trip: "Will you be safe?" "Aren't you worried about terrorists?" If only more of these folks could experience the welcome we have received here! The days are full of unexpected kindness, from everyone we meet.

A mosaic of shards from destroyed buildings.



This afternoon we visited two Seraj libraries. At **Al-Mizzra Al-Sharqiyyah**, over 30 children made origami boxes and drew pictures of "what you love most" alongside us. At **Kirbet Abu Falah**, the librarian and her sisters demonstrated the math tutoring they offer in this space, while their mother and sons served us coffee and sweets.



A drawing of "one of my favorite things."



Patrons enjoying warmup exercises at Al-Mizzra Al-Sharqiyyeh library.

We'll continue sending updates on our journey. Watch your email.

See the full 2022 tour itinerary [HERE!](#)

See past tour Dispatches [HERE!](#)

18 PEOPLE are exploring Palestine up close and personal with our SERAJ executive director, Laurie Salameh, and her dedicated staff. October 16 -25. We hope you enjoy these reports.

REMEMBER we are dependent on your support for the programming and the maintaining of the libraries.

JOIN US and learn more at our Benefit on November 13. www.serajlibraries.org

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