

October 2019

# Seraj Library Project:

Reporting from our successful 2019 Benefit

## *Sharing Palestinian Stories*



**An enchanting evening of fellowship, storytelling, and fundraising... in support of Palestinian communities!**





[Click cover to see all 16 pages of the program.](#)

An interesting and comprehensive document about Seraj today.

---

## Highlights:

- **Supportive attendance** for Palestinian communities. We hosted many of our long-time supporters and friends, as well as welcomed new folks. We were thrilled to host so many for the afternoon.
- The **music of Wanees Zarour and friends** ([click to hear a sample](#)):



- The benefit program, **Sharing Palestinian Stories**, was a treat for all:



**Elizabeth Trost**, board member Seraj US, introduced us to a variety of Palestinian stories from her 2 years of teaching in Nablus.



She then introduced the very talented & dramatic **Fida'a Ataya**, Seraj Palestine's Master Storyteller and Program Coordinator.

[Click here to enjoy a storytelling clip from Fida'a.](#)



- A rewarding **silent auction**, bringing in over \$6500! Palestinian art, crafts & artifacts, along with a host of other gift packages filled the silent auction tables.

---

## **FUND THE NEED!** [click to hear about supporting Seraj](#)

**Galen Burghardt**, chair of the Seraj Board's Development Committee, ended the evening with a live auction and a request to *Fund the Need*.

Lucky winners of the live auction will soon enjoy:

- 8 Maine lobsters delivered to the their home
- An authentic Palestinian Dinner for a Chicago gathering

**We see the NEED.**

**Can we all step up and FUND these opportunities?**

Attendees were given the opportunity to choose how to support Seraj programs:

- Palestinian Storytelling Center (project in process)
- BJ Wagner Fellows Program, which provides scholarships for our college-age volunteers
- Books to replenish & enhance our library collections

Finally, Galen challenged all in attendance to consider a **monthly donation** to Seraj. Our

website makes it easy. Just designate the amount and your credit card will be charged each month. And budgeting and planning will be enhanced for Seraj.

[Make a monthly/or quarterly commitment here.](#)

**We are most thankful for the generosity of our supporters!**



---

Let us know your questions or concerns, or how we can help you. [Contact Us.](#)

[www.serajlibraries.org](http://www.serajlibraries.org)



Follow us on Facebook for frequent updates & stories from Seraj US & Seraj Palestine.

---

The Seraj Library Project [vision](#):

**"Access to a community library for every Palestinian child and family."**

[Donate Here](#)

This newsletter crafted by the Communications Committee; Amelia Miller, Chair