



Beit Sahour Municipality

Newsletter of March 2017

*Municipal News, Activities, Projects, Achievements,
International Participations*

Mayor of Rhodes Visiting Beit Sahour Municipality



The Mayor Mr. Hani Al Hayek and a number of Municipal Council members have welcomed on Thursday March 23, 2017 a Greek Delegation represented by Mr. Fotis Chatzidiakos Mayor of Rhodes and Fr. Issa Muslih, spokesman of the Orthodox Patriarchate, in a visit to crown the relations between Beit Sahour and Rhodes, which came after the visit of Mr. Hani Hayek to Rhodes to sign a twinning agreement for opening the doors of cooperation between both cities.



In their meeting, the two mayors praised the strong relations between the Palestinian and Greek peoples, pointing to the importance of this twinning, which comes from the efforts of both municipalities to cooperate for the development of tourism and the exchange of experience in this field, in addition to linking between scout groups in both cities and church cooperation, as well as linking between youth groups in both cities in order to create youth development programs involving youth institutions at all levels

The Grand Opening of (Finjan Wa Kitab) Cultural Forum



Beit Sahour has witnessed an important event on Friday March 3, 2017, which was the grand opening of the Cultural Forum (*Funjan wa Kitab*) that was conducted by the Arab Orthodox Club Scout Group in cooperation with Beit Sahour Municipality in an notable ceremony that was attended by the Mr. Hani Al-Hayek Mayor of Beit Sahour and a number of the councilmembers long with a large number of local scholars, writers and researchers, and local community institutions.



In his opening speech, Al Hayek pointed to the significant municipal vision through which Beit Sahour Municipality offers its full support for the local community institutions to create a generation that takes reading and education as an important method to rise above ignorance and able to build a better future for the city, emphasizing on the importance of this event, praising the effort of the team which consists of members in the scouts group along with a large number of people from the local community who are interested in voluntary work in the city who also stressed on the importance of the municipal contribution to the success of this cultural edifice through the adaptation of Dar Dakarat to be the incubator of this Forum.

It is worth mentioning that this edifice is a cultural meeting place for all ages, that maintains the cultural continuation in Palestine the cradle of civilizations, and due to the lack of knowledge, science and culture sources in this historic country, the Forum will create a platform will help to create a generation that is thirsty for education, learning and culture, and to motivate them to read and develop a self-management dialogue by discussing philosophical and literary books along with other extracurricular activities.



Based on the slogan "For a Better Future", The team of (*Funjan wa Kitab*) is also working on the development of children's abilities, talents and interests in a distinct creative ways through reading, painting, puppets plays and various workshops under the supervision of specialized staff in each area. The Forum will also distribute a monthly events schedule containing all the events, activities, workshops and courses that the Forum will host.



Completion of the Shepherds Field Hospital in Beit Sahour (Phase III)



The field tour for the completion of the Shepherds Field Hospital in Beit Sahour (Phase III) has taken place on Monday 20th of March 2017, where the Municipal Engineers have given a brief summary about the works that will be implemented in the presence of Design Offices representatives and a number of contractors, preceded by the preliminary meeting held at the Dar Abu Sa'da Building in the municipality of Beit Sahour, knowing that Beit Sahour Municipality has received the third grant from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to continue the completion of the Shepherds Field Hospital, where the project will include mechanics works, aluminum and steel works.

The project will be implemented in cooperation with the Engineering Department of Beit Sahour Municipality and under the supervision of the Design Offices which are: Khaled Engineering Office and Ideal Design Office, and in cooperation with the Municipality of Beit Sahour.

Almond Blossom Festival in Agrigento / Sicily



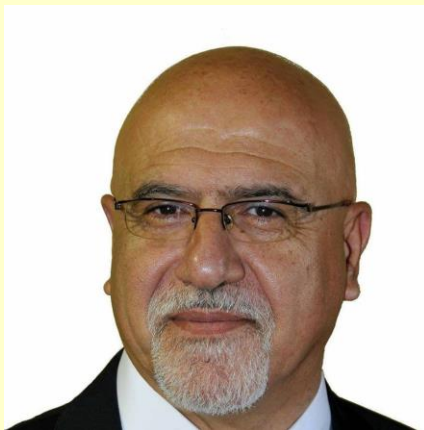
The city of Beit Sahour takes huge pride in its sons and daughters in Baqoun Dabkka Group for Palestinian Folklore for winning the first place at Almond Blossom Festival in Agrigento / Sicily, Baqoun is an active and promising Folkloric Dabkka Group of youth that works under Beit Sahour Municipality's umbrella and has participated in numerous international events presenting the Palestinian heritage and traditions worldwide through their creative Dabkka performances.



Berlin Film Festival



Another enormous achievement that we at Beit Sahour take extreme pride in is the international accomplishment of the son of Beit Sahour the Palestinian Filmmaker Mr. Raed Andoni for winning the prize of the best documentary film at the Berlin Film Festival for his film "Hunting Ghosts", as Raed is another promising Filmmaker that Beit Sahour has given birth to knowing that his work and successes are recognized and acknowledged globally.



International General Assembly for International Defense for Children

Another splendid success achieved by the son of Beit Sahour Mr. Rifat Qassis, as he was elected as the President of the International General Assembly for International Defense for Children in Geneva for the next four years.

The notable success of Mr. Rifat has shined throughout his long work and sincere contribution to his society and for serving his people in Beit Sahour. His local and international contributions have enabled him to take his rightful place among those who are able to make a change and sustain that change for generations yet to come.

West Asian Paralympic Games



Sports wise, Beit Sahour is a city that is well known for its cultural and sports character and has given birth to notable athletes. Today, we take extreme pride in Beit Sahour's young athlete and the member of the Board of Directors of the Arab Orthodox Cultural Club Mr. Atallah Al Hayek for winning the silver medal in the individual tournament and the bronze medal in the teams tournament at the West Asian Paralympic Games that was held in the city of Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirates.



Cultural Divan of Beit Sahour - Poetry Day

On the occasion of the Palestinian Culture Day, the Cultural Divan of Beit Sahour held a seminar on March 16th, 2017, in which a group of poets from Beit Sahour took part in that important event. They read poems from their poetry in the presence of a large audience from the region's residents. Among the participants were Khalil Salem Abu Saada, Nader Dakkarat, Kamel Dannoun, Anton Youssef Shomali, Hani Odeh and Khaled Yaqoub Shomali, Ta'lat Shuaibat and Jeries Al Mashni. The Poet Mr. Kamel Danoun has astonished the audience with a collection of poems that addressed cultural, folkloric, local and social issues.



Beit Sahour Municipality launches a monthly newsletter that is prepared and done by the Public Relations Department involving the Municipal Achievements, Projects, Local Institutions News and Events that take place in the city so as to share it with all our contacts and International Partners to keep them updated and maintain transparency and discloses.

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