



# The Arch

## A Message from our President—natalie@cepal.ca

Two months into my new post as President of the CEPAL Board of Directors, and I still remember the sound of my jaw dropping when I discovered that CEPAL was completely volunteer run.

Not even a part-time administrator? How? And now I know. It is thanks to every board member past and present, every donor past and present and every volunteer teacher past and present who gave from their heart.

I want to especially thank our Sustaining Members and long-time donors. You make CEPAL's success stories possible.

As the world tightens its belts, so do we at CEPAL. Thanks to newer technologies we have been able to put a number of cost-cutting

measures into effect, including canceling our fax line and conference call service. We receive most correspondence by email and we now use internet conferencing for most of our meetings. These two actions alone will save enough to buy an extra plane ticket each year. Every dollar counts!

We have also made changes to our donation levels. For the first time, we have updated our donor categories by adding a few more levels. Our goal is to raise \$15,000. Remember that any donation over \$25.00 receives a tax receipt. Please consider giving at any level.

CEPAL is committed to hosting at least one event in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa in an effort to raise awareness about the issues

facing Palestinian refugees today. We hope to see you at an upcoming event.

A big thank you for your ongoing and generous support.

*Natalie Zeitoun, President*

### New at CEPAL!!

- New Board of Directors for 2009
- Annual Giving Campaign New Donor Categories—Our Goal Is \$15,000
- Cost Savings
- New Website Launched
- Summer Program Recruitment Underway
- 93 Harbord Benefit Dinner on Sunday March 29 at 5 p.m.

## 2009 Summer Program in Lebanon—meaghan@cepal.ca

Sometimes we need to step back to gain perspective and to appreciate the big picture. Last summer's Needs Assessment has helped reaffirm that yes, our summer program in the camps is as important as ever, and that yes, CEPAL's role in Lebanon is significant.

Responses from our partners in Beirut and Wavel told us that CEPAL's summer program helps to strengthen skills, build confidence, nourish hope and connects the children and communities in the camps with the outside world.

We are proud to announce that CEPAL will once again send volunteers to teach in Lebanon this summer. We will be sending a smaller

number of volunteers than in the past; however they will remain for the full two-month period of July and August. After the summer, the volunteers will return to Canada and participate in activities to raise awareness about the struggle of the Palestinian refugees.

As a former volunteer in Bourj el Barajneh and Shatila camps, I am thrilled to return to CEPAL as the new Overseas Program Director, and am committed to continuing the work that came before me in developing relationships with partners and our educational program.

Thanks to the recent recommendations from our Needs Assessment, we are working with our partners to

make sure that our program and volunteers reflect the current needs in the camps. One of the changes will be to recruit volunteers with language skills, as well as various artistic and media skills, as requested by our local partner organizations.

As usual, in preparation for the summer, we are continuing to watch security trends and to update our evacuation and security procedures as needed in order to ensure that we can safely proceed with our programming.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*Meaghan Johnstone*

*Overseas Coordinator*

## 93 Harbord “A Feast for the Senses” — eliane@cepal.ca

Like many, I spent the beginning of 2009 watching news reports on the overwhelming destruction of civilian lives, homes and infrastructure in Gaza by Israeli forces.

After the ceasefire was finally called, governments began pledging sums of money for rebuilding Gaza, without addressing the root cause of the damages. Gaza was not struck by a natural disaster but by human force, and one which the international community must address if the Palestinian crisis is ever to be resolved.

With these news reports still fresh in my memory, I had the fortunate opportunity to volunteer with CEPAL as the Events Director. I am privileged to join an organisation that aligns so

closely with my own principals. CEPAL goes further than providing aid to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. CEPAL is an exchange. The children in the refugee camps receive needed help in their education. In return, our Canadian volunteers benefit by gaining valuable work experience and cross-cultural exposure that will take them further in their personal and professional lives as they return to Canada.

Throughout this exchange, CEPAL does not overlook the root cause of these challenges which refugees face and the need for organisations like CEPAL to exist in the first place. That is, people are being denied their right of return as acknowledged by the United Nations. CEPAL operates on the fundamental assumption that

Palestinians have the right to choose to return to their homeland or resettle. We provide aid through education. But our demand, ultimately, is the implementation of international law.

**CEPAL's first event will be held on Sunday March 29, 2009 at 5 p.m. "A Feast for the Senses" will include a upscale three-course dinner, live music and a dance show by Toronto's famous Roula Said. Tickets are \$55 and can be reserved by calling 416-937-7636 or through info@cepal.ca.**

We are also planning music shows and spoken word evenings. We hope you will enjoy our events, and we thank you for your continued support.

*Eliane Mazzawi, Events Director*

## New Annual Giving Campaign — shauna@cepal.ca

As Fundraising Director my first priority has been to organize an Annual Giving campaign for CEPAL.

We have expanded our donor categories to encourage the public to give what they can. We also wanted to find little ways to recognize our donors for their generosity.

CEPAL has been very lucky to have a strong base of Sustaining Members who have demonstrated great vision over the past years. We hope our new

campaign will help us attract more like-minded donors who will share the same dedication and passion for CEPAL's mandate.

We welcome and encourage companies, organizations and individuals to become members of CEPAL's donor community.

We hope that you will look at our new Annual Giving campaign to find a level that suits you. Through your generous contributions, you will play an active

role in CEPAL's efforts to assist Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and CEPAL's awareness-raising events here in Canada.

*Shauna Trainor, Fundraising Director*

*"When CEPAL's around, there is a gap. When CEPAL's not around, there is a major gap"*

*-CEPAL partner in Lebanon*

## Reaching out — shawn@cepal.ca

It is truly an honor to be Vice-President and Communications Director for CEPAL. To see an NGO that is entirely volunteer run—and run well—has been inspirational.

The new Board have been working hard to hire volunteers for the 2009 Summer Program in Lebanon and also to raise awareness at home here in Canada. None of this would be

possible without the continued support from you—our donors.

We have redesigned the CEPAL webpage as well as the Facebook group. If you are also on Facebook, please do a search for “CEPAL” and join our group where you can see photos from the camps, keep up-to-date on events and message past and present volunteers.

As the sole Board member in Ottawa, I would like to extend an invitation to all CEPAL members in the city to meet me at the office to discuss how your contributions are making a difference in Lebanon in these difficult times and how they will continue to do so in the future. Many thanks!

*Shawn Duthie, Vice-President and Communications Director*

## Join the CEPAL Schoolhouse!

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In appreciation of your generous tax-deductible contribution to CEPAL, please enjoy the following benefits:

### **\$5 - 24 – Classmate**

- ◆ Are entitled to be informed of and attend all general meetings of the organization
- ◆ Are eligible to run for a position on CEPAL's Board of Directors

### **\$25 - \$99 – Friend**

*All of the above benefits plus...*

- ◆ Are issued a tax receipt
- ◆ Receive the CEPAL Digest via email
- ◆ Receive CEPAL's bi-annual newsletters

### **\$100 - \$249 – Prefect**

*All of the above benefits plus...*

- ◆ Receive a CEPAL mug

### **\$250 - \$499 – Teacher**

*All of the above benefits plus...*

- ◆ Receive a copy of CEPAL's "Voices" DVD, a documentary film produced by a 2005 Summer Program volunteer

### **\$500 - \$999 – Professor**

*All of the above benefits plus...*

- ◆ Receive a CEPAL t-shirt
- ◆ Are entitled to call a meeting with the board

### **\$1000 - \$2499 – Dean**

*All of the above benefits plus...*

- ◆ Receive 2 Invitations to CEPAL's Donor Appreciation Reception

### **\$2500+ – Principal**

*All of the above benefits plus...*

- ◆ Receive a special gift from the Summer Program
  - ◆ Receive 4 Invitations to CEPAL's Donor Appreciation Reception
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# CEPAL Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange

## CANADIAN - PALESTINIAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

323 Chapel St.  
Ottawa, ON  
K1N 7Z2

Phone: 613-236-7825  
E-mail: [info@cepal.ca](mailto:info@cepal.ca)

Make a secure online donation through Canada Helps at [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca)



CEPAL's objective is to assist the Palestinian refugees in the pursuit of their basic human rights by increasing their access to education, and by raising public awareness in Canada about their struggle. CEPAL is the only Canadian organization that works directly with Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.



## How You Can Help

There are many ways to contribute to CEPAL's work and every bit helps.

Whether you volunteer your time or generously donate funds, you are providing the gift of education and of solidarity to those who need it the most.

### Volunteer

CEPAL is always looking for volunteers to help run the organization in Canada.

Volunteers are needed both at our events and to help with preparations.

Please email [info@cepal.ca](mailto:info@cepal.ca) for more information.

### Make a Donation

There are three ways in which individuals can donate to CEPAL:

1. Individuals can use a credit card to make a donation through the secure [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) website, located on CEPAL's website using the "Donate Now" option.

2. Individuals can mail a cheque to CEPAL's office in Ottawa. Cheques must be made payable to **Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange**, and must be forwarded to:

CEPAL, third floor  
323 Chapel Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 7Z2

3. Individuals can donate through the *United Way Payroll Deduction Program*. Government employees can give donations through either cheque or payroll deductions, and can choose to donate to organizations such as CEPAL, who are not members of the United Way.

To donate to CEPAL through this campaign, list the name **Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange** and its charitable number 862761418 RR 0001 on the donation form. Please note that the United Way will deduct an administrative fee of 11% for the donation, and an additional 4% if the donation is designated as a payroll deduction.