



U.S. Popular Palestinian Conference

8/8/08

Bi – Weekly Newsletter

03/07/08

Prog. Committee

Workshop Proposals

The Program Committee (PC) has selected a few workshops that are in need of leading. In total, they are hoping to organize 27 workshops, 9 at a time in 3 different concurrent sessions, throughout the conference weekend. They are reserving 9 of the workshops to be led by Palestinian organizations that are doing tremendous work on the ground and are representative of our U.S.-based community; 5 of the workshops are open call meaning there is no set leader or topic; and 13 of the workshops have been identified as necessary issues to be addressed. The 13 workshop application can be found at <http://www.palestineconference.org/workshop.htm>

Please note, there is a concentration on cultural and internal struggle issues because the PC felt that most of the applications we will receive will focus on political and advocacy issues.

Internet

Programming Committee New Blog

This site is meant to keep us all updated and coordinated in regards to the conference program. It includes a timeline and quarterly goals, a skeleton program, workshops and themes, and a newly created blog for PC members to write to one another in real time without risking being lost in cyberspace over listservs.

http://web.mac.com/nourae/National_Palestinian_Popular_Conference/NPPC.html

For USPCN members, who are not members of the PC, please visit this site often as a way to stay posted on the program's development.

Newsletter

This is the 2nd edition of a bi-monthly newsletter we will be using to keep all the members updated on the USPCN progress and planning. This issue was delayed since very little material had been contributed. If you have material about meeting outcomes or new initiatives please contact Firas AlShafei at F.AlShafei.newsletter@Gmail.com.



In this Issue

- PC Workshops
- PC Blog
- Forum Usage
- Local Committees
 - San Francisco Meeting.
 - Youngstown, OH Meeting.
- FAQ

A reminder, although posted in the last issue, we still feel the need to emphasize forum usage. The forums on the website are a great organizational tool that is much underused. The forums would provide a place for groups to collaborate and stay in touch. We would be able to keep all the information in a single location instead of it being scattered throughout the email.

How to use the forum:

- Go to www.palestineconference.org/forum.
- Click on the “Register” link in the top of the page and fill out the necessary information.
- Log in using the information you provided while registering.
- To post a new topic click on the “New Topic” button and create a posting in the category you desire.
- To reply to a post click on the “Post Reply” button.

Note: The cities listed are the cities that provided updates for inclusion in the newsletter. We have to emphasize the deadline as 3 days before the newsletter release.

San Francisco, CA

The local committee had a meeting to discuss current and upcoming events. Conference planning is proceeding according to schedule with the following updates:

- American Muslims for Palestine locally has indicated their support for the conference.
- A creative publicity committee was formed to further publicize the conference and increase members.
- The local committee will lead a GUPS workshop about Palestinian student organizations in the Bay Area.

The local committee is planning a local concert on May 10th in the Civic Center to raise funds. The committee is seeking help with fundraising, outreach, and planning.

Youngstown, OH

A meeting was held on March 9th to create a new local committee. The meeting was an informal introduction to the conference, its goals, and proposed action of the local committee.

A second meeting was planned for March 23rd to discuss community outreach, fundraising, and planning.

Each issue will feature a few frequently asked questions about the conference. A full list can be found at the conference website <http://www.palestineconference.org/faq.htm>.

What is the U.S. Palestine Conference Network (USPCN)? Is it an organization?

The U.S. Palestine Conference Network is not an organization. It is an open arena and network where Palestinian-American organizations, associations, village and town-based clubs and Palestinian individuals residing in the United States can come together to:

- Get involved.
- Compare and refine strategies.
- Interlink efforts.
- Plan joint actions.
- Inform one another and the community about their work on behalf of Palestinian national and human rights.

What is meant by Palestinian national and human rights?

Palestinian national and human rights include, but are not limited to:

- Self-determination and equality for the Palestinian people
- The right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their original homes, lands, properties and villages (a natural right supported by international law and UN Resolution 194)
- Ending Zionist occupation and colonization of Palestine

These principles constitute the overarching framework and foundation for the National Popular Conference and serve as our points of unity.

