



Financial Support for the Palestinian Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem

In 1999, Dr. Dan Shanit of the Jewish Rotary Club in Jerusalem was appointed by former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to lead the Peres Center for Peace. Recognizing the pivotal role of healthcare in fostering peace, Dr. Shanit emphasized addressing Palestinian medical needs, including training, clinical services, and technology. In particular, he facilitated cancer treatment for Palestinian children, a service funded by Italian foundations.

Representing his Rotary Club in Jerusalem, Dr. Shanit collaborated with Anthony Conn (RC St. Paul, MN #10) and Joachim Reppmann (RC Northfield, MN) to establish a connection with the Palestinian RC East Jerusalem through President Fadi Shurafa, whom Conn and Reppmann have visited. The two founded the non-profit charity 'Peace Letters, Inc.' and are actively seeking funds and donations to aid Augusta Victoria Hospital. In this effort they are supported by Nadine Shurafa of East Jerusalem (a visitor to Minnesota's Mayo Clinic in May 2023), the pre-med student Katherine Koehler, Rotary International President Holger Knaack, and Stefan Kuechenmeister of Nuremberg, Germany.

Named after Auguste Viktoria of Schleswig-Holstein, wife of German Kaiser Wilhelm II who visited Jerusalem in 1898, the hospital stands as a beacon of hope in East Jerusalem.

Donations to www.PeaceLetters.net

PS: The poignant backstory of the "Peace Letters" revolves around Rotarian Fulton, aged 33, who, over 90 years ago, refused to stand idly by as the Great Depression, nationalism, and totalitarian ideologies once again drove peoples apart. He passionately advocated for peace and freedom through his call to "...smoke the Peace Pipe," sending his message on behalf of the RC Keokuk, Iowa, to all 504 Rotary Clubs worldwide at the time. A total of 201 clubs responded, including the Jewish RC Jerusalem, founded by RC Cairo in 1929. The Club President wrote a day before Christmas 1931:

"We have all sorts in our Club, about ten nationalities, and we all find in Rotary a common meeting ground despite differences of Race, Religion, and Tongue. We have strong Zionists and equally strong Anti Zionist Arabs in the Club. And they all meet amicably as Rotarians, although acutely disagreeing on most other points..So, you will see that we are, ourselves, a sort of living Pipe of Peace, always being smoked."

www.KeokukPeaceLetters.com

C O L L A B O R A T I O N P R O J E C T

