



**UN GENERAL SECRETARY  
VISITS RAWABI FOR THE  
SECOND TIME**



**RAWABI ACADEMY TO  
START ITS 2016/2017  
ACADEMIC YEAR**



**MOHAMMED ASSAF  
INAUGURATES RAWABI  
AMPHITHEATER**





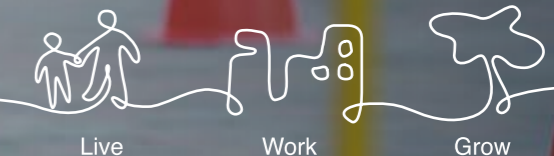
## SUMMER SMILES REFLECT THE JOYS OF LIFE AT RAWABI

Rawabi truly represents a historical first in Palestine. With each day, the dream is further realized and the city is closer to fulfilling its destiny as an icon of Palestinian architecture and culture. Today, with summer in full swing, the very stones of Rawabi echo back the sounds of happiness from residents and visitors from dawn until late into the evening.

The festival of Palestinian summers at Rawabi included a number of musical events held in the city's open-air auditorium. Rawabi's residents were joined by thousands who flocked from Ramallah, Jerusalem, Nablus and beyond to experience the fun and excitement of high quality musical entertainment by international and local talent.

With each day, Rawabi offers up something new, something beautiful, or something original. Shops, restaurants and cafes are filled with the sounds of families enjoying the days and nights of summer. Another significant milestone achieved was the first month-long celebration of Ramadan at Rawabi, with memories made and traditions created. There is no doubt that everything at Rawabi grows more spectacular with each day, with more to look forward to in the months and years that lie ahead. Palestinian singers have performed in Rawabi and there are still more events to come:

**"THE BEST IS YET TO COME."**



Rawabi is a new community for Palestinian families providing opportunities for affordable home ownership, employment, education, and leisure; an optimal environment in which to live, work and grow.

Rawabi, the first Palestinian planned city, provides more than 5,000 housing units with multiple floor plans spread across 23 neighborhoods, each with its own individual aesthetic and wonderful modern amenities. The City Center offers a retail business district with hotels, cinemas and a convention center, all supported by the latest smart technologies and a high-speed fiber optic network. Rawabi also features education and medical facilities, houses of worship, public green spaces and recreation facilities – creating a new Palestinian economic and cultural destination.

Watch us now on Rawabi Live 24 hours a day  
[www.rawabi.ps/cams.php](http://www.rawabi.ps/cams.php)

Panoramic view  
[www.rawabi.ps/panorama.php](http://www.rawabi.ps/panorama.php)



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# PALESTINIAN STARS LIGHT UP THE NIGHT SKY ABOVE THE RAWABI AMPHITHEATER



## ABDUL AZIZ AMMOUN: UP AND COMING PALESTINIAN FOLK SINGER PERFORMS AT WADINA

Rawabi is establishing itself as a patron of the fine arts and strongly promotes the preservation of Palestinian folk culture. Abdul Aziz Ammoun is a musician and vocalist from the village of Der Al Assad. His specialty is traditional Palestinian musical compositions – old songs sung in the familiar way that delight Palestinians young and old. His songs seemed particularly fitting as he sang them out across the ancient Palestinian landscape surrounding WaDina.

Ammoun said he was proud to be launching his professional musical career at Rawabi. His performance at WaDina was his first before such a large audience and in such a major venue. He shared his feelings about his craft after the show. He said, “Music and art are food for the soul and communicate our innermost feelings. The passion for music becomes a passion for culture and artistic expression that spreads throughout society.”



## RISING PALESTINIAN SINGER NOUR FRETEIKH: RAWABI HELPS LAUNCH A YOUNG SINGER'S CAREER

Nour Freteikh is an aspiring young female soprano who studied voice at An-Najah University in Palestine and is rapidly becoming known for her sweet, clear folk songs and modern melodies.

On the night of her May 13 performance at Rawabi, she rose from her seat in the audience and came onto the stage to sing, “Rawabi, the best is yet to come”, an original composition commissioned by the city and performed by Freteikh while she was still a student.

**Today, Freteikh is busy with new folk compositions about Palestine. She looks forward to a long and productive relationship with Rawabi going forward.**



## HAITHAM KHALAILY PERFORMS AT WADINA

Renowned Palestinian vocalist Haitham Khalaily gave a surprise performance at the Rawabi amphitheater at WaDina, emerging suddenly onto the stage to the delight of the unsuspecting audience. Khalaily has risen to international stardom and is the pride of Palestinians everywhere. Greeted with shouts of joy and excitement, Khalaily soon had the audience on their feet, clapping and singing along.

The Palestinian vocalist spoke with admiration of Rawabi, the first Palestinian planned city. He said: “This amphitheater is a tremendous performance venue. I was so surprised to see how large it is – it’s much bigger than many of the concert halls I’ve played in other parts of the world.”

Khalaily said he was delighted to be performing in Rawabi and offered his thanks to the developer for creating something of which the Palestinian people could be very proud. He promised to return for another performance in the future.



# Rawabi

## Kicks Off Family Community Calendar with Two Fun-Filled Events

As part of its ongoing program of organized community activities, Rawabi recently hosted 2 outdoor family-friendly events to bring neighbors and friends together in a convivial atmosphere of fun. With invited guests streaming in to the neighborhoods of Rawabi to join family and friends, the streets of the city came to life with the sights and sounds of children's play and laughter. Parents watched over the festivities and chatted with neighbors while kids rejoiced in the freedom of safe play areas, wide sidewalks and ample green space.

On March 25, Rawabi's first community get-together (called "Nawwarat" or "lively atmosphere") lived up to its name. Residents were encouraged to invite friends and family from neighboring towns and cities to join in the fun. Families strolled and chatted, enjoyed picnics and kids of all ages put the playgrounds to the test. The feedback from the first event was so enthusiastic that a second was quickly planned.

On May 15, Rawabi decided to invite prospective homeowners to join the event, and brought in even more entertainment. Live music and a young men's debke troupe headlined the afternoon; soon, the dancers had everyone on their feet in what is probably best called "Rawabi's first dance-off". The spontaneity was contagious and even the most stage-shy guests were soon showing off their dance moves. A special area was set aside for children's games and an art corner kept kids busy with pastels and markers for hours, delighted to spend an afternoon creating masterpieces for their parents.

The community calendar is an ongoing event at Rawabi, with monthly activities to keep friends and family entertained year-round.



# RAWABI MUNICIPALITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST ELECTIONS FOR THE RAWABI RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Rawabi is the first Palestinian city that plans for all aspects of daily life to guarantee residents a modern environment of the highest standards. It represents a model to be imitated not only in the meticulous care and attention paid to the construction of facilities and buildings, but also in the participation of residents in the city's sustainable development. Residents are the most important component of the city and creative means have been sought to secure a high quality of life for residents and their families. The concept of a residents' association was initiated to give residents a sense of responsibility over their neighborhoods, buildings, and joint facilities.

Rawabi's mayor, Majed Abdul Fattah, explained that the residents' association in its current form would allow residents the opportunity to plan their lives in the city. It will also contribute to strengthening social relations between residents of neighborhoods by selecting representatives to attend Rawabi Municipality meetings and to coordinate on all issues and services.

## RAWABI MUNICIPALITY APPOINTS A COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE ELECTIONS

Rawabi Municipality seeks to give city residents a role and responsibilities

towards their city. Therefore, it is now time to take serious steps to elect members of the residents' association. At the first general assembly meeting, the city municipality appointed the supervisory committee which will supervise the elections on August 27, 2016. The registration of candidates and voters has already started.

## NOMINATION AND ELECTION

To consolidate democracy and the principle of equal rights and duties, any person who owns one or more apartments in a building in the neighborhood has the right to nominate himself and to vote, thus becoming part of the general assembly of the association. Each apartment is allocated one vote in association meetings and each member in the general assembly has at least one vote. A proprietor has the right to appoint a person to act on his behalf in attending and voting in the

meetings, provided that this person does not act as a representative for more than one proprietor. The voting rights of the proprietor are suspended for any period during which the proprietor does not pay subscription fees or other expenses due on the apartments he owns; the board of directors has the right to suspend the voting rights of any member who violates the bylaws or published rules of the association.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A board of directors will be elected for the residents' association. The board will consist of seven to eleven members made up of people who own apartments. The board will be elected upon the approval of a majority of the members present in the general assembly meeting, provided that a committee is formed by Rawabi Municipality to supervise and monitor the elections. The committee will consist of a number of persons from the neighborhood and a supervisory member from Rawabi Municipality to guarantee the integrity of the elections.

Members of the board will be elected for a period of four years. At the end of the term of the board, it shall continue to run the affairs of the association pending the election of a new board, provided that this takes place within a period not exceeding two months from the date of the expiry of the term of the previous board.



**RAWABI RESIDENTS ELECTED THE FIRST OWNERS ASSOCIATION IN PALESTINE 2016/8/27**



## THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

**"I WAS ASTONISHED; I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE A CITY LIKE RAWABI IN PALESTINE."**

On June 28, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid his second official visit to the City of Rawabi. As he toured the city's infrastructure and its new neighborhoods with families in residence, he expressed his personal amazement at the pace of development since his first visit four years ago.

Ban Ki-Moon was accompanied by a senior delegation of UN officials and representatives of the Palestinian Authority and its ministries. CEO Bashar Masri and executives of Massar International accompanied the delegates throughout the Secretary-General's tour.

One of the most important elements of the delegation's visit was a presentation on the challenges the city has overcome

and those still unresolved. The Secretary-General praised Palestine and the developers of Rawabi for the momentous achievement and observed, "I did not expect to see a project of such size and beauty here."

*Ban Ki-Moon stated, "Rawabi City is an impressive show of determination and innovation despite the constraints of the occupation." He added, "Plans for Rawabi also represent a great opportunity to stimulate much needed growth in Palestine."*

Masri thanked the Secretary-General and his delegation for the UN's unfailing support since Rawabi's inception. He noted the UN's encouragement, alongside that of other esteemed

international agencies, had been very instrumental in helping Rawabi surmount political obstacles.

Masri said: "The UN's support demonstrates that the world stands with the Palestinian people and their just cause, and not merely with this one project." He expressed the hope that Rawabi not be viewed simply as a real estate venture.

Masri affirmed that the new city is rightly seen as a key step forward in the nascent Palestinian state's development, construction, economic and social arenas and as an important milestone in the effort of nation-building, undertaken hand-in-hand with the Palestinian Authority.

## RAWABI ENGLISH ACADEMY WELCOMES STUDENTS AT THE START OF THE FIRST SCHOLASTIC YEAR



ON AUGUST 27, RAWABI ENGLISH ACADEMY OPENS ITS DOORS TO ITS FIRST CLASSES OF PRIMARY GRADE STUDENTS. THE SCHOOL'S UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM COMBINES A RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOUNDATIONAL CORE VALUES AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN EVERY CHILD. DIALOGUE, PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL RESPECT ARE INTEGRAL COMPONENTS OF THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY.



### THE ACADEMY OPENS ITS DOORS FOR THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR 2016-2017

Preparations for the Academy's flagship scholastic year included English language assessment testing administered by Academy personnel to prospective students to ensure that the children were ready to assume the challenges of an all-English curriculum.

The school's curriculum follows the UK standard International Primary Curriculum (IPC). IPC begins at the kindergarten level, with an emphasis on creative learning and critical thinking skills to lay the foundations for informed, tolerant exploration of the multifaceted world in which we live.

Students are recognizable in the

Academy's distinctive gray and green uniforms and sturdy blue backpacks, personalized with each child's name. As the first class of students and successive grades matriculate, the Academy will expand its academic program to include the British IGCSE curriculum at primary and secondary stages. This integrative curriculum is fully accredited and used in more than 130 countries throughout the world, encouraging skill set-building through experience and experimentation.

### RAWABI ACADEMY ADMINISTRATION

The Academy is proud to announce the appointment of George Pawley as Principal. Mr. Pawley comes to

his position with 40 years of experience gained over a lifetime career in education. He has served as Principal of international schools in the United Kingdom, Kuwait, Malawi and Nigeria. One of his key strengths is the leadership of teams of top-notch educational administrators and faculty members. As classes commence, Mr. Pawley and his four distinguished administrative colleagues are eager to lay the foundations of a strong, progressive school administration at the Academy to support its philosophy and academic goals.

Mr. Pawley is confident that Rawabi's new school will rapidly set and achieve new standards of excellence for the Palestinian educational system.

### EXPERIENCED, WELL-TRAINED FACULTY MEMBERS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Because strong teacher-student relationships are the very essence of a successful education, Rawabi Academy's 17 new faculty members were selected with meticulous care; two of whom come to us from teaching careers in the U.K. to head the English language department.

Diana Abdul Nour, a member of the Academy's founding committee and a preeminent Palestinian education expert, affirmed that the criteria for teacher selection included the ability to assert a strong presence in the classroom, to convey information effectively and above all, to display a true passion for teaching. She is confident that Rawabi Academy will provide an ideal environment for student success in the classroom.

### ADVANCED FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN A CONVENIENT LOCATION

Rawabi Academy was designed to stand as one of the architectural landmarks of the city of Rawabi. Built to the highest international standards for educational facilities, the school's grounds include large classrooms, science and computer labs equipped with the latest technology, art and music studios and spacious indoor and outdoor courts and playing fields.

Every element of the school's construction takes into consideration students with special needs. Other important features include abundant natural lighting, smart safety and fire systems and year-round heating and air conditioning.

### BUILDING WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE

The students of Rawabi Academy will benefit from a standard-setting educational infrastructure designed to optimize the school experience not just in the primary years, but for their entire academic lives. The Academy's goal is to help foster growth and development along the path to adulthood, creating model students and citizens who will play an important role in the future of their homeland as well as contribute in positive ways to the global community.





## RAWABI RESIDENTS ORGANIZE THE CITY'S FIRST COMMUNITY IFTAR AS IT CELEBRATES RAMADAN



Awaiting athan, the evening call to prayer, Rawabi's first families came together in the spirit of giving and observance to prepare iftar, the daily breaking of the fast during the holy month of Ramadan. With many hands and warm hearts, the work of readying the shared meal was a task made easier by the spirit of community and the company of friends, family and neighbors.

The ambiance of the festive occasion was enhanced by charming Ramadan ornaments; lanterns and crescent

moons adorned the communal space. Participants expressed gratitude not only for the delicious meal but also for the comfort, safety and warmth of their new homes at Rawabi and the wealth of friendships being made. After iftar, neighbors strolled outdoors in the cool evening air and children laughed and shouted and played late into the night; relaxed bedtimes are one of the luxuries of Ramadan in the summertime.

This year marked the first in which Ramadan has been celebrated by families in residence at Rawabi. The first

major holiday celebrated in a new home is always a milestone. The city never seemed more lovely than it did this year during Ramadan, reflecting back the happiness and contentedness of its new families. Worshippers prayed together, old traditions were made new and compassion and warmth spread from home to home.

The "first" community iftar can only happen once, but with each passing year the celebration will grow larger, the bonds of friendship even stronger, and the spirit of unity will endure.

## PALESTINE'S MINISTER OF CULTURE:

### RICH CULTURAL LIFE AT RAWABI WILL DRAW ARTISTS, AUTHORS, MUSICIANS, HISTORIANS

Dr. Ihab Bseiso, Palestinian Minister of Culture, recently toured the City of Rawabi and its sophisticated, large-scale infrastructure specifically designed to promote cultural, literary and artistic expression in Palestine. During his visit, the Minister met with Rawabi founder Bashar Masri and his team members dedicated to making Rawabi the country's premiere destination for music, theater and the fine arts.

At the outset of his tour, Minister Bseiso first noted that the architectural style of Rawabi is one of its most unique elements, where each neighborhood has the comforting ambiance of traditional Palestinian building practices. Dr. Bseiso further observed that intellectuals, historians and connoisseurs of Arab architectural tradition would recognize and appreciate the historically accurate features of Rawabi's stone building facades, arched entryways and enclosed central courtyards.

Rawabi team members pointed out that in addition to its traditional appeal, quality of life in the city will be enhanced by the best of modern municipal governance practices. Neighborhood supervisory committees will help uphold aesthetic standards and ensure the maintenance of facilities and green spaces.

At the Showroom, as the Minister took in the commanding view and the majestic Palestinian flag waving in the breeze, he affirmed that Rawabi stood as a proud symbol of resistance against the encroachment of Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands. He further stated that Rawabi is a testament to the national aspirations to an end to occupation and for freedom and independence for the Palestinian people. The tour's highlight was the Minister's visit to WaDina, Rawabi's

landmark outdoor amphitheater and entertainment complex, which spans more than 135,000 square meters. Dr. Bseiso offered the important historical observation that the name "WaDina", which means "valley", is particularly apt for a cultural venue of such scope and significance. He stated that early civilizations took root alongside the rivers and streams of Mesopotamia and along the Nile as they wound through protective valleys; thus, humankind's cultural life was in fact born and flourished in these ancient valleys, rather than on the mountaintops that surround them.

Dr. Bseiso expressed delight at WaDina's outdoor Roman amphitheater built for large concerts and performances from Arab and international artists. Noting the venue's impressive, modern equipment and sound and lighting

systems, the Minister compared WaDina's amphitheater to Jarash and Bayt al-Deen, Jordan and Lebanon's world-famous performance arenas which draw hundreds of thousands of participants to cultural events every year. Dr. Bseiso also noted with pleasure that WaDina in Palestine is now the largest entertainment venue in the entire region.

As the tour concluded, Mr. Masri and Dr. Bseiso discussed a strategy of joint cooperation between the city and the Ministry to promote and sustain the creative arts, promote quality entertainment and contribute to a vibrant cultural life in Palestine at Rawabi. Working in close concert with the Ministry, WaDina and Rawabi will provide a robust infrastructure and an enabling environment to place Palestine squarely at the heart of the region's rich cultural landscape.





# 10,000

## PERSONS ATTEND THE OPENING OF RAWABI AMPHITHEATER AN ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE CELEBRATES THE ARAB IDOL

Palestinian singer Mohammed Assaf performed live in front of a large audience of 10,000 people on the third day of Eid Al-fitr.

Assaf, a Palestinian superstar who won the hearts of the world over with his triumph on Arab Idol, delighted the audience with a 2-hour non-stop show. His performance was one of historic significance and Palestinian pride marking the launch of the largest concert venue in the region with a capacity of more than 15,000 people. The Arab Idol expressed his happiness at performing in his homeland for his countrymen and women, lovers

of music and song. Assaf said, "I expected this to be a special evening, but to be honest, I was expecting a crowd of about 5,000. I never expected to sing for 10,000 people -the size of the audience was a thrill and really motivated me to put my heart and all my creative energy into my performance."

He added, "I am really at my happiest when I'm singing for my own people. It is truly an honor and personal joy for me to be the first Palestinian artist to sing at this great amphitheater, at Rawabi." The engagingly humble singer went on to say, "I see this new,

beautiful concert amphitheater as a source of pride and cultural enrichment in Palestine. It is truly a venue of historic significance in a very special location. Its size and Roman-style design provides a unique environment I have not experienced elsewhere. I've sung at so many Arab and international festivals: I've not yet seen such a large amphitheater as this one in Rawabi."

Assaf issued a call to all Arab and international artists to come to perform in Palestine and to experience the warmth and hospitality of Palestinian audiences.







PALESTINIAN PRIME MINISTER

## RAWABI IS A NEW SUCCESS STORY ACHIEVED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PALESTINE.



Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah visited the city of Rawabi to take a closer look at this major architectural landmark and to inspect the ongoing project of building the first model city in Palestine.

The Prime Minister visited the city's main facilities and residential quarters accompanied by the Head of the Board of Directors of Massar International, Bashaar al-Masri; several engineers; the Minister of Local Government, Dr. Hussein al-Araj; Public Works and Housing Minister, Dr. Mufid Hasayneh; and the advisor to the PM on Arab and Islamic Funds, Dr. Jawad al-Naji.

The Prime Minister reiterated that building and strengthening the Palestinian

presence on every inch of land is the practical response to illegal schemes aimed at uprooting the population and evicting people from their homeland. Construction is the consolidation of a natural right to live in freedom and dignity on national land just like all other global populations, and is further proof that the so-called Area C regions are a natural extension of the homeland.

Hamdallah expressed his pride in Rawabi as an innovative venture that is not merely for profit but represents a pivotal point in creating a culture of creativity and modernity that generates hope and change.

Hamdallah described Rawabi as the

largest housing and investment project implemented by the private sector and a story of Palestinian success in the field of construction. It demonstrates that the Palestinian private sector is capable of implementing high quality investment projects on a large scale that create job opportunities in key sectors and boost the national economy.

Several challenges facing the project and the financing of building public facilities, especially industrial zones, were discussed by al-Masri and the Prime Minister.

Hamdallah stated that the government was working to overcome difficulties with the resources available in order to secure

the expansion and sustainability of the city. During his tour, Hamdallah met with residents who moved into the city last summer. He listened to their feedback and proposals for improvements after living in Rawabi for one year. The Prime Minister expressed hopes that more major investment projects would follow in the steps of Rawabi city and attract external investment and Palestinian capital from the homeland and Diaspora.

Bashaar al-Masri thanked the Prime Minister and accompanying ministers for their visit and stressed the importance of government support to the Rawabi project in a strategic partnership between the public and private sectors to mobilize and improve the Palestinian economy.

## RAWABI BECOMES THE BIRTHPLACE OF A NEW GENERATION



Dara Al-Barqawi will lead the new generation in the city of Rawabi as the first baby born in this model city, chosen by Dara's parents as a site to start their family.

Shifa' Salah, Dara's mother, said: "The date of June 16, 2016, was a special day in my life. I cannot find the words to describe my feelings of happiness and joy. Dara is our baby and she is the first baby born in Rawabi. We as a family are one of the first families to move and settle in Rawabi. I am an engineer and have worked in Rawabi for the past four years, accompanying the city from its start, and I have waited a long time to see this dream of my house, workplace and life come true."

Salah and her husband were happy that they could choose for their daughter a model location that is beautiful and organized, a site with a modern lifestyle that all Palestinians deserve. She described the moving in of hundreds of families one year ago as a historic moment for the people who worked in the city. Now, the city's neighborhoods and facilities are full of life.

Ms. and Mrs. Salah are also happy that Dara was lucky enough to meet the prime minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah and the Accompanying ministers in their visit to Rawabi.

One year on, the families that chose Rawabi as their home have given their children better opportunities for the future in this model city, where a new generation will grow up just as the buildings of the city were built stone by stone. Dara is the first baby in Rawabi, but not the last; Siwar Mu'taz was the second baby in the city and these children will be followed by others until a new generation completes this city.

WADINA IS THE DESTINATION FOR HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES

## A SUPERB SPACE AMIDST BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SCENERY

The main features of the Wadina region are its abundance and generosity; this area lies like a magical landscape before the eyes of anyone looking at its natural beauty, the fertility of the land, and its diverse facilities covering an area of 135,000 square meters, the largest area for leisure in Palestine.

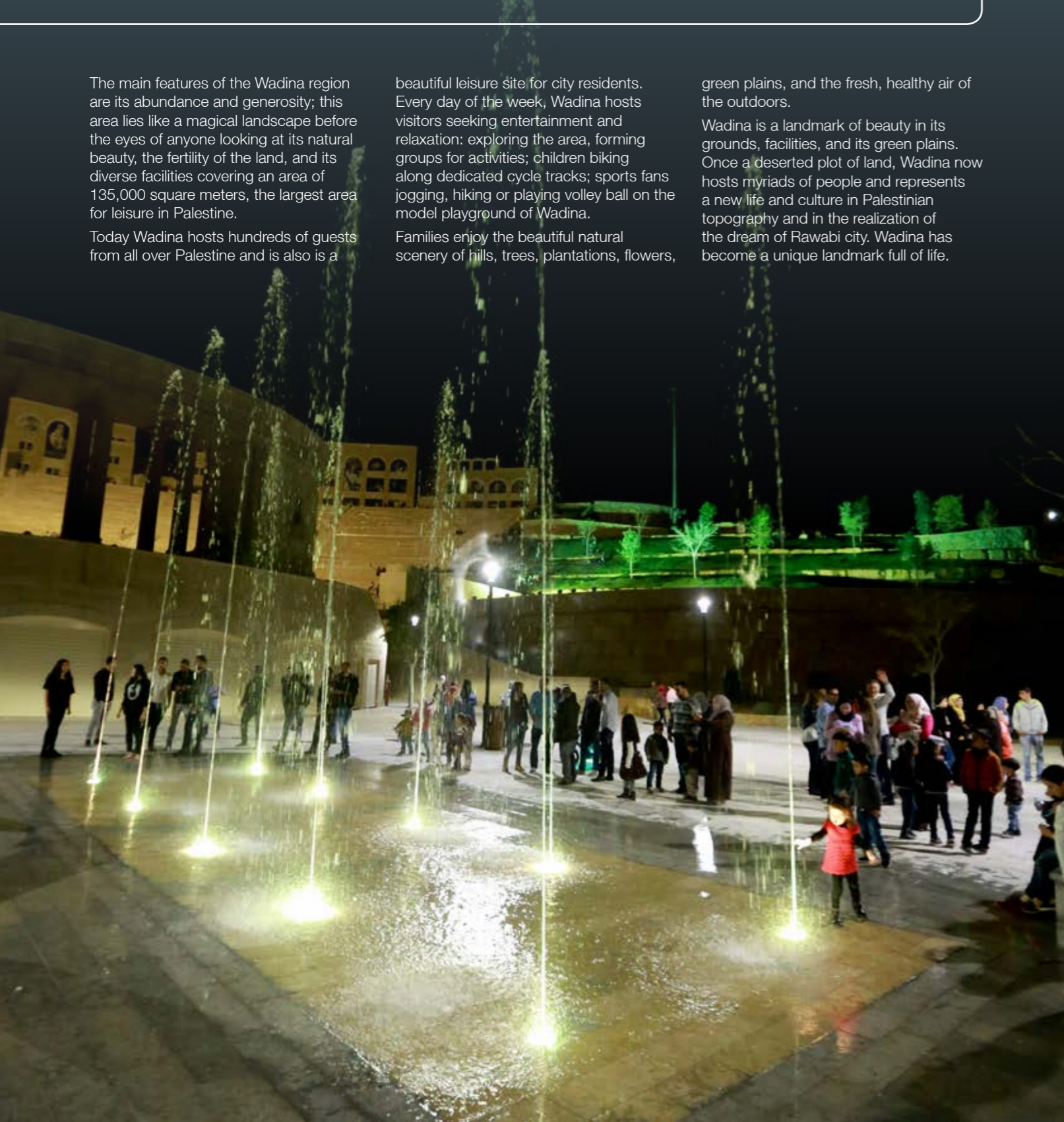
Today Wadina hosts hundreds of guests from all over Palestine and is also a

beautiful leisure site for city residents. Every day of the week, Wadina hosts visitors seeking entertainment and relaxation: exploring the area, forming groups for activities; children biking along dedicated cycle tracks; sports fans jogging, hiking or playing volley ball on the model playground of Wadina.

Families enjoy the beautiful natural scenery of hills, trees, plantations, flowers,

green plains, and the fresh, healthy air of the outdoors.

Wadina is a landmark of beauty in its grounds, facilities, and its green plains. Once a deserted plot of land, Wadina now hosts myriads of people and represents a new life and culture in Palestinian topography and in the realization of the dream of Rawabi city. Wadina has become a unique landmark full of life.



### HEAD OF PALESTINIAN JUDGES' ASSOCIATION SIGNS OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY AGREEMENT IN RAWABI

The Head of the Palestinian Judges' Association, Judge Abdul Kareem Hannoun, signed an agreement that permits judges who are members in the Palestinian Judges' Association to purchase apartments in Rawabi city at reasonable prices. The agreement defines the relationship with the city's developer and provides for financing appropriate to the nature of the work and income of judges. The signing ceremony took place in Rawabi with Bashar al-Masri, Head of the Board of Massar International, and in the presence of several judges and staff from the company responsible for developing the city.

Judge Hannoun expressed his pleasure at signing the agreement, which will enable judges to purchase a conveniently located and beautiful apartment offering a high degree of privacy at a reasonable price. He anticipates further cooperation with Rawabi city in the future.

Al-Masri stated that efforts are being made to strengthen links with all sectors of Palestinian society to incorporate them within a diverse community in Rawabi. He described members of the judiciary as important pioneers and leaders who will contribute to the culture of the city, Al-Masri added that partnerships are also being built with various professional unions as part of the goal of attracting different sectors to Palestinian society in the city.

### GRAND PHARM OPENING AT ITS NEW RAWABI LOCATION

The Grand Pharm Pharmacies Network opened its 12th branch in the city of Rawabi after obtaining a license from the Ministry of Health.

The manager of the Grand Pharm Network, Shadi Nasr Eddin, chose Rawabi as the location for his new branch and described Rawabi as the most beautiful city ever. He added that he felt pride in becoming part of the city landmarks and would express his humanitarian work on the ground through the medical services delivered to residents. The pharmacy team started work delivering medical supplies to residents of city neighborhoods and nearby villages following an opening ceremony in the presence of dignitaries, residents, and friends.





## MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION

# RAWABI CONTRIBUTES TO THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL ECONOMY

The Minister for Transportation, engineer Sameeh Tubaila, confirmed that Rawabi is a truly national project that contributes to the Palestinian economy. These statements were made during his visit to the city with a ministry delegation that included undersecretary Ammar Yaseen.

The visit took place to examine more closely the architectural achievements in Rawabi as the first model city in Palestine designed according to a structural zoning scheme.

During the tour, the minister admired the outstanding architectural design and engineering of the residential quarters, the commercial center, the entertainment and health facilities, and the Roman-style amphitheater, which is a unique landmark in the region.

The minister and accompanying delegation also examined other aspects of Rawabi such as its modern and advanced infrastructure, including the gas supply and fiber optics. The delegation met with the administrator of Massar International, Bashaar al-Masri, to discuss potential support from the ministry for internal and external transportation to the city, and the use of some city facilities for national purposes, particularly the gas reservoirs. Used in the correct manner and with PA support, these reservoirs could supply regional demands.

**TRANSPORTATION MINISTER: HAND IN HAND, WE WILL INVEST EVERY EFFORT TO OPEN A PERMANENT TRANSPORTATION LINE TO THE CITY OF RAWABI, AND WE WILL ENSURE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.**



## COMEDIAN MAYSOON ZAYID CHOOSES RAWABI AS THE LOCATION FOR AN EPISODE OF HER COMEDY SERIES



On May 31, 2016 Rawabi's WaDina Amphitheater became the backdrop for Maysoun Zayid's award-winning web series, *Advice You Don't Want to Hear*. Zayid shot the first season of her comedy series in Arizona; when Season Two started ramping up, she knew that WaDina would be a perfect, one-of-a-kind location.

Zayid chose Rawabi amphitheater because, in her words, "I knew that Rawabi amphitheater would be a great location for a shoot because it is an exceptional place." She added that WaDina is a most beautiful location for filming in Palestine and a very close second only to the Dome of the Rock.

*Advice You Don't Want to Hear* is a comedic micro-talk show featuring Zayid's droll advice to questions submitted at random to the show from her fans. Zayid's vastly divergent areas of personal "expertise" include how

to become a millionaire, getting a job vs. attending college, and the eternally debated "Does Makloubas tastes better with chicken or beef?"

One of Zayid's happiest discoveries while filming at WaDina is that the amphitheater-style stone seating is wheelchair-friendly. Recognizing that the developer was proactive towards the rights of the disabled, she immediately decided to capitalize on that to attempt to negotiate a permanent "Maysoun-only" handicap parking space right by the front door. Needless to say, her demands are still being negotiated, so stay tuned.

Zayid's family hails from the Palestinian village of Deir Debwan; her 2014 TED Talk is one of the series' most popular and she is a recent recipient of the "Awesome without Borders" award. On her *Advice You Don't Want to Hear* project, she said, "My mission

is to mainstream disability by placing me, a woman with cerebral palsy, in a position of helping others. It's rare for a person with a disability to be portrayed as someone who helps, rather than "IS" helped. The advice I dish out on AYDWITH is always good, (except when it's not), but always, always funny."

She added, "Although Palestine is the backdrop, Season Two is no more or less political than Season One. *Advice You Don't Want to Hear* is my version of that beautiful vintage VISIT PALESTINE poster. I want to show people the side of Palestine that is both human and magical, which is so rarely shown in mainstream media. As far as magic goes, WaDina is practically a Palestinian unicorn."

The city of Rawabi was pleased to host Zayid and her team, and looks forward to her return to WaDina in the near future.



YOU CAN WATCH ALL EPISODES IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH ON THE BELOW WEBSITE:  
[WWW.MAYSOON.COM](http://WWW.MAYSOON.COM)

# HIGH INTEREST FROM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



Columbia University



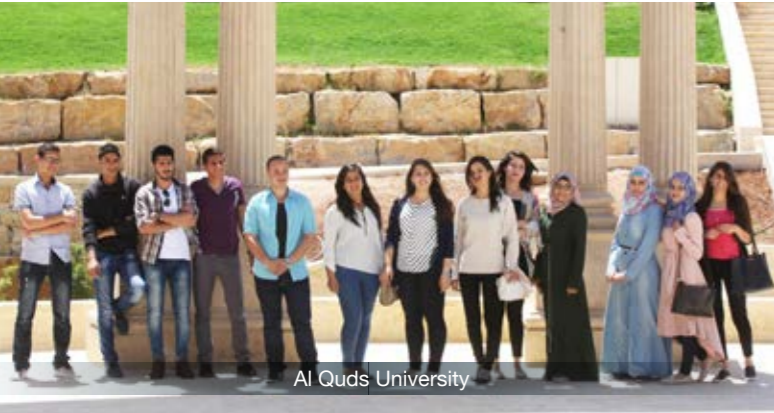
Dickinson College



University of Pennsylvania



City University of New York, New York University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice



Al Quds University



Tufts University



Harvard University



New York University



Durham University



Al-Quds Open University



University of Zurich



An-Najah National University



Palestine Technical Colleges



Boston University, Emerson College, Ithaca College, Florida International University, University of Idaho, Miami University, Kent State University, York University, University of Arizona, Santa Monica College, University of Georgia, Texas A&M University, University of Minnesota, Emerson College

# HIGH INTEREST FROM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



Brooklyn College, Boston College, Southern Connecticut State University, California State University-Long Beach, Air University, Lehman College, Kalamazoo College, American Jewish University, California State University-Northridge, York University, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, University of San Francisco, Southern Methodist University, Duke University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Louisville, Wake Forest University, Reed College



Harvard University



Queens College



Gettysburg College



University of Michigan



Northeastern University



Humboldt University of Berlin, University of Bonn, The Graduate Institute, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, King's College London - German at King's, University of Paderborn, University of Hamburg, Paris Institute of Political Studies, Technical University of Dortmund, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, University of Freiburg, Heidelberg University, Technical University of Berlin, University of Cologne, Bucerius Law School, University of Giessen



San Diego State University



An-Najah National University



Stanford University



Birzeit University



Cass Business School, City University London



## JOURNEY TO THE PAST IN RAWABI'S HILLTOP TENT

On the far eastern reaches of the city, deep in Rawabi's park land stands a beautiful, traditional Arab gathering tent. Unlike the more rustic "Bedouin" tent, Rawabi's gathering tent is permanently fixed to the hilltop by sturdy wooden posts, and covered with a strong, waterproof, breathable fabric to provide both shade and shelter.

Seated within the tent, guests have an panoramic, unobstructed view of the Palestinian hills, and a comfortable area in which to stop, relax and take in the

beauty of the natural landscape, listening to bird calls carried on the breeze.

Gathering tents have been part of the Palestinian narrative for centuries, a gathering place for a village, town or large families. But Rawabi's Tent takes the best of the past and infuses it with a few discreet modern conveniences to make the experience even more comfortable. With a natural local stone and mortar floor, and walls adorned with woven tapestry, textiles and handcrafted ornaments, guests will be transported

back to a simpler time, when outdoor celebrations were preferred and the food was local, fresh, unfussy and delicious.

The Rawabi Gathering Tent is available for use by all residents of Rawabi or non-residents upon request for occasions, weddings, birthday parties, business retreats and occasions of every kind. The facility can host up to 150 guests and is available for rent by pre-arrangement and reservation with the Rawabi sales team.



# RAWABI MOURNS SWEET SASHA, RAWABI MASCOT...

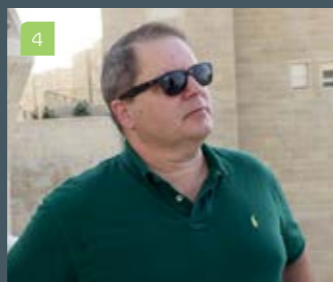
The vast natural diversity of Rawabi is one of the most important and enduring aspects of its beauty. Wild-growing fruit and olive trees, herbs and flowering plants provide an exquisite habitat for many of God's beloved creatures both great and small. With a deep respect for the elements of His creation, Rawabi seeks to be a gentle partner as expand man's world to create room for our own families to live and grow.



Readers of this newsletter will remember the story of the small wild dog rescued and rehabilitated three years ago when she was discovered badly injured at the Rawabi construction site. Sasha, as she came to be known, recovered quickly and soon claimed a place in the heart of every member of the Rawabi team. To everyone's surprise, Sasha brought us 8 bouncing puppies, raised lovingly by the members of the landscape crews and a source of delight for visiting children. Sasha and her family grew alongside the city and became charming fixtures of the Rawabi landscape. Dignitaries, officials, prospective homeowners and workers all came to know and love the story of this small, resilient dog and her offspring.

So it is with heavy hearts that we share the sad news of our dear mascot's passing last month. We like to believe that Sasha led a happy life during her time with us at Rawabi. Some of her pups, now grown, are still with us and remind us of her each day. Sasha repaid the kindness and mercy shown to her one thousand-fold with years of loyalty and affection. She will be missed.

# Rawabi Visitors



1. Delegation of British Parliament Members
2. Delegation from Central Conference of American Rabbis
3. Delegation from Project Hope Organization
4. J.R. Atkins, Co-Founder, Something Different Companies - USA
5. Thabit Yousef, Ramallah Office Director, Amjad Ibrahim, Director of Environmental Assessment, Lamis Fahd, Inspection and Supervision Department - Environmental Quality Authority
6. Group of Journalists - Australia
7. Group of Entrepreneurs - USA

8. Nickolay Mladenov, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process - USA
9. Khaled Shawabkeh - Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Palestine
10. Andrea Nasi, Head, Representative Office of Austria to the Palestine, and Guenther Schabhuettl - Head of Advantage Austria Organisation
11. Participants of Go Palestine Summer Camp
12. Hashem Dabbas, Principal, Global Special Situations, Abu Dhabi Investment Council - UAE

# Rawabi Visitors



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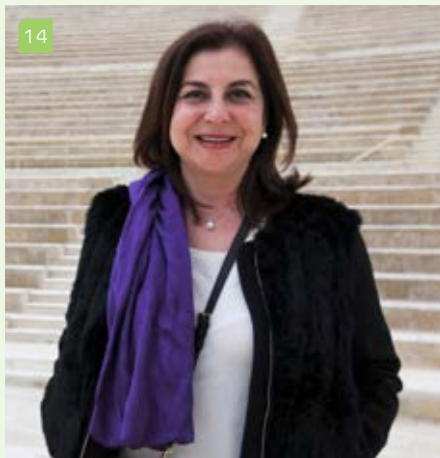
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- 13. Delegation from Foundation for Defense of Democracies - USA
- 14. Suha Bawab, Executive Director - Friends of Jordan Festivals Company
- 15. Irwin Federman, Partner, U.S. Venture Partners - USA
- 16. Ziad Jallad, Deputy Director General, Mohammed Assi, Direct Sales Manager - Quds Bank
- 17. Delegation from World Presidents' Organization - USA
- 18. Group from Faith-Based & Community Organizations - USA
- 19. Participants in Evangelical Thought Leaders - USA

- 20. Keith Ellison, Representative for Minnesota's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District - USA
- 21. Delegation from Academic Exchange program - USA
- 22. Peter Mollema, Representative and Head of Mission - Netherlands
- 23. Karen Bass, Representative for California's 37<sup>th</sup> Congressional District - USA
- 24. Group of Journalists - UK
- 25. Maysoun Manasra, Journalist, and her daughter Dima - Ajyal Radio Network



# Rawabi Visitors



- 26. Anas El Hasnaoui, Consultant, Islamic Development Bank - Saudi Arabia
- 27. Arman Pahlavan, Partner, Perkins Coie Company - USA
- 28. Lillian Pinkus, President, Howard Kohr, Executive Director, Richard Fishman, Vice Chief Executive Officer, Cameron Brown, General Manager - American Israel Public Affairs Committee - USA
- 29. Delegation from Movement of the Enterprises of France, led by President Pierre Gattaz
- 30. Dr. Basim Abu Asab, Chairman, Ahmad Mushasha, Chairman of Finance and Investment, Adnan Hijazi, Chairman of PR Committee, Tamer Obaidat, Official Spokesman, Isam Issa, Head of The Social Committee, Hani Abdeen, President of Health Committee, Jamal Ghosheh, Executive Director, Diya Shwaiki, General Secretary - Hilal Al Quds Club, and Husam Zomlot, Co-Founder - Palestine Strategy Group

- 31. Numan bin Mohammed Al Mundhiri, Assistant Director General for Information and Statistics, Muhammad Ibn Abdullah Al Khalili, Check Service Manager, Mohammed bin Hashel Owisi, Director of Post Classification, Ministry of Civil Service - Sultanate of Oman
- 32. Michael Hellinger, Colon & Rectal Surgery Doctor, Nanci Hellinger, Dietitian - USA
- 33. Group of Journalists - Germany
- 34. Group from Munich Academy of Fine Arts, and Heinrich Böll Foundation - Germany
- 35. Delegation from Scottish Parliament Members - UK

# Rawabi Visitors



36. Edwin Lee, Mayor of San Francisco City - USA

37. Marianne Montalvo, Deputy Chief of Party, Rula Saad, Partnership Specialist - The Partnership with Youth Program - Palestine, Emely Martinez, Senior Director, After School All Stars Organization - USA, and Amy Montalvo, Founder, One Pass Productions - South Africa

38. Delegation from Peace and Dialogue Leadership Initiative - USA

39. Delegation from Interfaith Leadership Institutes - USA

40. Delegation from World Presidents' Organization - Canada

41. Delegation from United Nations Ambassadors - USA

42. Group from Academic Partners for Peace - USA

43. Ibrahim Al Hanash, Regional Manager, Mohammed Shoubaki, Ramllah Branch Manager, Yahia Atari, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Nael Sannaa, Branches Director, Saad Abdullah, Facilities Department - Jordan Kuwait Bank

44. Hazem Khairat, Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, and his spouse Manal Salah

45. Group of Palestinian Youth from the Diaspora - Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation

# Rawabi Visitors



46. Don Beyer, Representative for Virginia's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District - USA

47. Carey Kriz, Chief Executive Officer, Nader Moghrabi, Founder, Andrew Parkes, President of Medical Services, Rashed Darwazeh, Chief Operations Officer - Keystone Healthcare Enterprises, Lambert Montevecchi, Founder, Boost Consulting - USA

48. Students from Vocational Training Center - Beit Ur

49. Delegation of British Parliament Members

50. Group of Businessmen and Business Women from Palestinian Diaspora - USA

51. Azmi Afifi, Owner - Afifi Group, and Shakeeb Husaini, General Manager - Palestinian Global Representation Company

52. Group of Senior Pastors and Christian Media Experts - USA

53. Abdul Salam Majali - Former Prime Minister of Jordan

54. Dr. Ahmad Barrak, Attorney General

# Rawabi Visitors



55. Michelle Pace, Professor with special responsibilities, Roskilde University, and Somdeep Sen, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Copenhagen - Denmark

56. Group from Axel Springer Media Corporation - Germany

57. Javier Santos Plazarte, Ecuador's Ambassador to Palestine

58. Delegation from Philos Project - USA

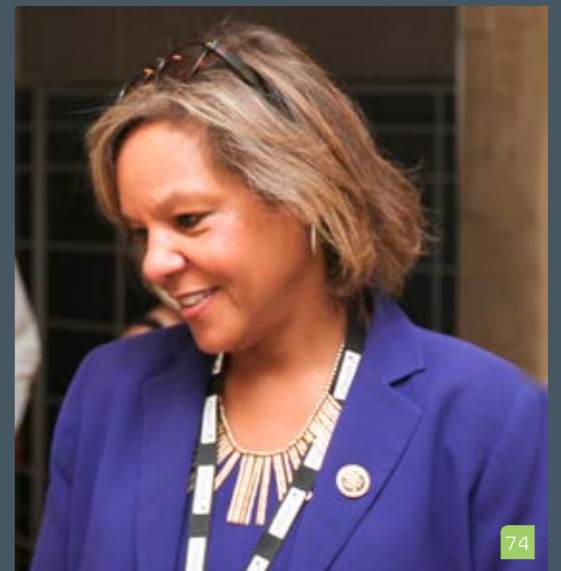
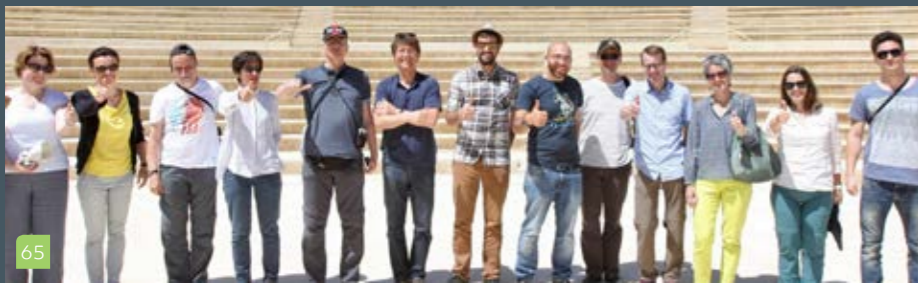
59. Group of American Rabbis

60. Juan Manuel Moreno, Lead Education Specialist, Samira Hillis, Program Leader Human Development, Jutta Franz, Consultant - World Bank, and Suha Khalili, World Bank Projects Director at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education

61. Ted Deutch, Representatives for Florida's 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District - USA, Donald Blome, Consul General - U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem

62. Congressional and Leadership Delegation, J Street Organization - USA

# Rawabi Visitors



63. Mohammed Zaru, General Director - General Directorate of Petroleum  
 64. Patrick Iama, Palestinian Musician  
 65. Group of History and Geography Teachers - Switzerland  
 66. Hayel Obeidat, Director General - Jordan Food and Drug Administration - Jordan, Iyad Masrouji, CEO, Jerusalem Pharmaceuticals Company  
 67. Riyad Mansour - The Permanent Representative of The State of Palestine to The UN  
 68. Delegation from American Israel Public Affairs Committee - USA

69. Terence Waite, President of the Board, Adam Leach, CEO, Youth Care International Organization – UK, and Andre Batarseh, General Secretary - The East Jerusalem YMCA  
 70. Group from The Weinberg Foundation - USA  
 71. Students from Hillel International Organization - USA  
 72. Delegation of Senior Representatives of the European Union countries  
 73. Wijnand Marchal, First Secretary - Netherlands Representative Office to Palestine, Coen van Haeringen, Senior Expert, and Amjad Qasas, Local Representative - PUM Netherlands Senior Experts Organisation  
 74. Robin Kelly, Representative for Illinois's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District - USA