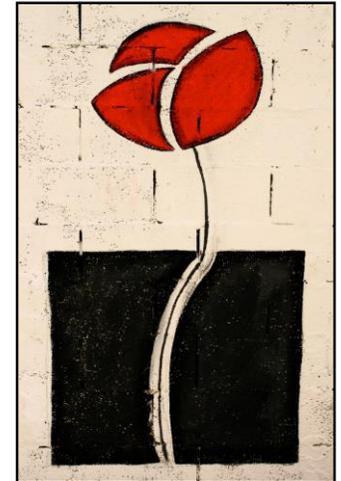


Tamer Institute for Community Education

Newsletter



Visits from abroad

In cooperation with Goethe Institute, Tamer hosted the German author Jens Rassmus. Tamer previously translated a number of his work to Arabic. Ms. Rassmus conducted a workshop in illustration targeting a group of young Palestinian artists from the West Bank and Gaza. The workshop lasted four days and was concluded with launching Rassmus new book "Can I Play?" at The Resource Center for Children Literature.

In addition, a delegation of 4 people coming from Diakonika and Nature and Culture print house visited Tamer between 09 – 12/03/2016. The goal of the visit was to learn about Tamer's activities and impact. Tamer organized field visits and other activities for the delegation. The delegation participated in meetings with young people in Ramallah, the Young Theater in Bethlehem, the mothers and children meeting in Riad Al Aqsa school in Abu Dis, and "Can I Play?" book launch.

New releases by The Resource Center for Children Literature

Since the beginning of 2016, The Resource Center for Children Literature published a series of children stories. Book launch events for two stories took place in different locations.

The book "Leila Leaves Home;" written by author Sadeq Al Khodour and illustrated by artist Dima Abu Al Haj, was launched in February. The book tackles the subject of children psychological trauma and provides suggestions for how to deal with that. The book launch was conducted at the Children Happiness Center in Hebron. During the ceremony, commentary on the text was given by the librarian Samia Al Jaabari, followed by commentary of the illustrations by artist Abdullah Qawariq . In addition, Tamer Institute published a book titled "Can I Play" written and illustrated by German artists Jens Rassmus, and translated by Mahmoud Hasanein. The book was launched in March in cooperation with the Goethe Institute at The Resource Center for Children Literature. During the book launch, Prof. Ibrahim Abu Hash-Hash and Artist About Al Haj gave their comments on the text and illustrations.

Moreover, the institute published "Ka'k and Honey" written by author Safa' Omair and illustrated by artist Nadine Saydani. The book targets early childhood, and encourages children to adopt healthy eating habits.

The Winter Youth Camp in the West Bank and Gaza

Tamer conducted the Winter Youth Camp from 07 to 11/01/2016 in Jericho. 160 young men and women participated in the camp. The activities were implemented on two phases; the first "Palm" youth group, and the second included youth groups who are part of the UNICEF project. The camp included interactive activities and tours in the palm plantations. In addition, participants discussed the importance of having libraries and stimulating their roles. The camp also screened films and discussed initiatives implemented by the youth groups. Moreover, as part of the camp activities, a workshop took place in schools to enhance the use of performing arts in educating children. In Gaza, 80 young men and women participated in the camp. The activities focused on reinforcing patriotic values such as unity regardless of political affiliation. The camp was also attended by librarians who discussed important subjects with the youth, such as collaborating with young people to integrate libraries in their daily life and the importance of self-learning.



Tayf's New Issue

In the context of developing critical literature in Palestine, especially in connection with the literary production targeting children and youth, Tamer published a new issue of Tayf. Tayf is a periodic published every six months by The Resource Center for Children Literature. The magazine provides a platform for writers, critics, and those who are interested in children and youth literature. It also lists Tamer's programs, campaigns, and activities that are implemented in the different locations in partnership with several sectors, organizations and libraries .

This issue included valuable articles about children literature and translated children literature. In addition, the magazine published an interview with the author Khaled Jum'a about his experience with writing for children. It also included a special section on Gaza focusing on the coloring initiative that was implemented by volunteer artists in partnership with Tamer in different places. Within the same section, there was a piece about Awal Al Ward Camp's experience in the last war on Gaza. Moreover, the magazine included an issue covering the experience correspondence of South African writer Beverly Naidoo with students from Al Haj Ma'zouz School for Girls in Nablus. The periodic also published a list of recent publications in children and youth literature in Palestine.

Intellectual paths for the libraries network in the WestBank and Gaza

Tamer organized intellectual paths under the theme of "A person's value relies upon what he could do best" for West Bank and Gaza libraries. The workshop was conducted on 06/02/2016 in Jericho. During the event, the film "The Great Book Robbery" was screened. In addition, Prof. Munir Fasha discussed his book "My story with Math" with the audience and librarians who gave their feedback and analysis of the content. The participants analyzed the film and book in relation to the workshop theme. The film introduced the idea of establishing branches for the national/public library in local and community libraries.

In addition, Tamer organized another intellectual path for librarians in West Bank areas on 02/05/2016 in Battir. 41 librarians participated in the workshop where they discussed visual elements in children literature focusing on author and illustrator Sean Tan. Moreover, the path hosted author Beverly Naidoo whose work was published by Tamer. Ms. Naidoo shared her experience during apartheid in South Africa, and discussed her writing experience with the librarians.

The intellectual path also hosted the Palestinian artist Suleiman Mansour, to who the famous "Camel of Heavy Burdens" painting belongs. Mr. Mansour talked about his experience in writing under occupation. In addition, he talked about the development of the Palestinian art movement in relation to the different stages of the political and national struggle.



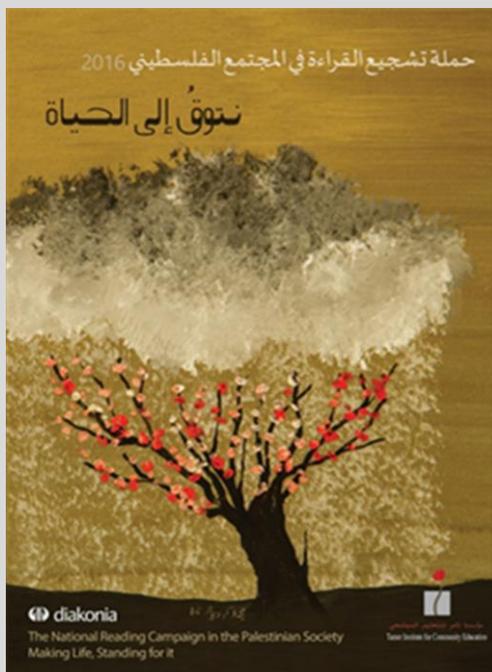
Tamer participates in a meeting between Palestine Coalition for Education and the German Institute for Adult Education in Amman

As a member in the Palestine Coalition for Education, Tamer participated in a strategic planning meeting for the coalition. The meeting started on January 21 and lasted through 23 2016 in Amman, Jordan. The meeting focused on developing a plan for the coalition in collaboration with partner organizations. In the meeting, different point of views were discussed on the important role of the coalition in education and learning processes. The participants discussed the need to organize the coalition so it is able to overcome education/academic challenges in Palestine. The meeting resulted in drafting a 3-year strategic plan for the coalition.

As a follow-up for the meeting that took place at the Arab Academy for Adult Learning in Jerash in January 2015, Mr. Abdel Salam Khaddash participated in an evaluation session for two days (24 – 26/01/2016). 5 advisory board members participated in this meeting which discussed the academy's vision, mission and values, the advisory board roles in the upcoming phase, and preparation for the 2017 academy meeting. The meeting resulted in identifying the responsibilities of the advisory board in supporting the German Institute for Adult Learning in addition to other education networks in the Arab world.

Tamer launches their annual reading campaign under the theme of “We Crave Life”

Under the slogan “We Crave Life,” the reading encouragement campaign this year took place on April 9th and lasted through the 14th. More than 370 cultural and educational organizations and youth centers in Palestine participated in the campaign, combining societal visions that consider reading one of the most important tools that contributes to the emancipation of minds and deeds, participation in learning, and the development of meanings and experiences. The slogan of the campaign for this year carries an essential human value manifested by the love of life. We, Palestinians, are people who love to live, read, and progress with culture and knowledge, as juniors and seniors. This youthful act awakens as a state of mind among all segments of society; exhilarated by reading, and recreating itself. This emphasizes that we still search and quest, and never will surrender to death. Therefore, life becomes a living experience and neither absent nor impossible. We rise together creating life and generating its meanings.



The activities were diverse reflecting the slogan literally and practically. The activities were planned and implemented by the organizations of the preparation committees in all governorates through regular meetings which started in February 2016. Other activities were also implemented in cultural organizations such as community and school libraries, and youth groups and centers in Palestine. The activities included workshops, story reading, storytelling, book discussions, drama, and local tours for young people and librarians. The week’s activities were concluded in April, however, “We Crave Life” campaign continues with more events along with our partners everywhere. We are committed to working towards enforcing values of love and humanity, as well as encouraging reading, research, and knowledge in all locations.



“Us and the Sea” in April Blossoms Festival

As an organizing partner, Tamer participated in the planning and inauguration of April Blossoms Festival that started on March 31st and lasted through April 2nd. The slogan and theme this year was “Us and the Sea.” The festival included different activities that were implemented inside libraries, such as storytelling, stone and seashells painting, singing and other sea-themed activities.

For the first time this year, Gaza and Haifa participated in the festival. This year, the sea was the common ground of the children of Palestine. This added an element to unify the idea of one nation and presented the sea as a tangible concept for the children who had not had the chance to see the sea, not even for once.





“The Home of Wishes” Book fair in Gaza

As part of the Reading Campaign, Tamer organized “The Home of Wishes” book fair in Gaza from 25 until 28 April, 2016 at the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA). The fair attracted a large number of attendees. Different activities were implemented such as storytelling, book launches, music performances, and cultural seminars.

During the fair, three books published by Tamer were launched: “A House-Size Snowball,” “The Beginning of Flowers,” and “Apollo on Gaza Beach.” The fair also commemorated the death anniversary of Palestinian writer Hussein Barghouthi. In addition to literature and music performances, the exhibition was concluded with an art exhibition by 20 young artists, with the attendance of honorary guests; artists Fathi Ghabn and Shafiq Radwan. Author Ghareeb Asqalani commented that “establishing this “Home of Wishes” book fair is the first step towards establishing a library in every Palestinian home.”

This book fair was a result of active collaboration between local community and volunteers to create open platforms for children, families, readers and artists to interact. This achievement contributed to Tamer’s vision that promotes reading as a means towards a Palestinian community that is free, safe, and eager to learn.

Tamer wins Al Taawon’s Prize for Creativity

On March 2016, Tamer Institute won Al Taawon’s prize for creativity, Falak and Abdel Karim Kamel Al Shawa prize for community organization “For Gaza.” The prize was also shared by Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection. The award was delivered via video conference between Ramallah and Gaza.

Tamer applied for the prize through its project “100 Hemmah wa Lammah”. The project started after the last war on Gaza and called for community support initiatives by youth in the West Bank and Gaza.

The project vision focused on contributing to a unified Palestinian community that is free and safe, and aimed to integrate youth as an important element in the post-war rebuilding and rehabilitation process. The initiatives reflected the depth of youth’s messages, dreams, ambitions, and passion to take practical actions that contribute to actual change and progress within the Palestinian community. In addition, the initiatives aimed to call community individuals to stand up together against the oppressive reality, and work as one unit to reignite hope to continue life in Gaza regardless of what the war destroyed.

The initiatives included painting murals on the grey walls, implemented by artists and local community. The painting took place in Gaza port, Al Zaytoun neighborhood, Al Shati camp, and the sea stadium; transforming the dead walls to facades of colors and hope.

Tamer thanks its local and international partners who participated in creating such platforms for children, youth and adults to express themselves and engage in community work. Moreover, Tamer dedicates this prize to the youth who took part in those initiatives and colored up the skies, towns, and neighborhoods of Palestine.

“Child’s Space” in Palestine’s 10th Book Fair in 2016

At the 2016 Palestine’s Book Fair, Tamer was responsible for planning and implementing all activities that targeted children through the “Child’s Space” in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. Not only did Tamer participate in the fair as a book publisher, but also as an active implementer of activities directed to children.

The goal of the Child’s Space was to conduct different unique activities and events that contribute to enriching and mobilizing the field of children literature. The Space also aimed to recruit writers, artists/illustrators, librarians, children and those who are interested in children literature.

The agenda for the Child Space this year included different activities like launching and discussing books, folk storytelling, specialized art workshops, fellowships and cultural seminars. Moreover, the activities included hosting important artists and writers such as the Sudanese artist Saleh Al Mor, the Palestinian American artist Leila Abdel Razeq, the Jordanian writer Taghreed Al Najjar, and the Palestinian artist Baraa Al Awour. In addition to their activities in the Child’s Space, each implemented their own workshops in other schools and libraries.