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SPECIAL "LIFE IN GAZA" SERIES IN DODGEVILLE OCTOBER 15-29

Dodgeville has been selected as the site for a fascinating photo exhibit, to be shown Oct. 15 to 29, and two important lectures, on Oct. 19 and 27, on the topic of Gaza. One of the most troubled spots in the world, Gaza is home to 1.5 million human beings. These people have been caught in the crosshairs of the Israeli-Arab dispute for decades. "How do they live?" This is the question that Skip Schiel, a frequent visitor to Gaza, seeks to answer in his important photograph exhibit, "Windows into Gaza." The exhibit, sponsored by the Dodgeville Public Library and the Grassroots Citizens for Peace, will be displayed in the **Dodgeville Public Library from October 15-29.**

The lectures are scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 19 and Thurs., Oct. 27, at the Dodgeville Public Library, 139 S. Iowa Street.

The photographer, Skip Schiel, has been traveling to Israel and Palestine since 2003 to investigate and portray conditions and struggles. He has worked with a variety of organizations, both Israeli and Palestinian, volunteering to make photographs for them that he also can circulate as slide shows and print exhibitions. Skip's hope is to open eyes, encouraging awareness and action. Since 1990 Schiel has been teaching at the Cambridge Center of Adult Education, ranging from basic photography to digital darkroom and photographic field workshops concentrating on light in photography. He has also taught photography at the Landscape Institute formerly at Harvard and the Quaker Palestine Youth Program in Palestine.

The photo exhibit portrays daily life in Gaza. While it does not gloss over the effects of Operation Cast Lead, the Separation Wall and the Israeli embargo, it also shows children at the Beach refugee camp, men dancing the traditional Palestinian dance Debka at a Popular Achievement Festival, a child at the Rachel Corrie Peace Center in Rafah, and dinner at Ibrahim's.

On **Wednesday, October 19, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** UW Professor, Dr. Joe Elder, will give a presentation entitled, "Spotlight on Gaza." Dr. Elder is Professor of Sociology, Languages and Cultures of Asia, and Integrated Liberal Studies in the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was one of five authors who prepared a book titled "A Compassionate Peace: A Future for the Middle East" for the American Friends (Quakers) Service Committee in 1982. It was revised and re-issued in 1989 with the title, "A Compassionate Peace: A Future for Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East." Dr. Elder will distribute maps and a Gaza Strip timeline that he has developed from a course he currently teaches titled, "Social Structures of Muslim Societies."

On **Thursday, October 27, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** noted Lutheran scholar Dr. James L. Bailey, Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, will give a presentation entitled, "Conflicting Religious Perspectives on Israel/Palestine." Dr. Bailey taught at Trinity Lutheran Seminary (1970-74), Concordia College in Moorhead, MN (1975-1985), and Wartburg Seminary (1985-present). He retired from full-time teaching in 2003, when he began his part-time work for the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin as the Director of the Center for Congregational Leadership, which included the Lay School of Ministry (2003-10). Dr. Bailey first visited the Holy Land in 1977 and most recently in January 2009 during Israel's incursion into Gaza. He has taught courses and made numerous presentations on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

These discussions will take place in the **Dodgeville Public Library**, 139 Iowa Street. They are free and open to the public.

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