



Mission:

1. To advocate for a sustainable negotiated settlement between Israel and Palestine leading to the establishment of two states as the essential step toward the achievement of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.
2. To encourage all American stake-holders (the U.S. government, opinion makers, and U.S. organizations in the Middle East) to create conditions for effective negotiations.
3. To educate the Syracuse community about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, about Middle Eastern culture, and about efforts of Israelis and Palestinians to live and work together in peace.
4. To educate members about the history, current situation and sentiments of the different communities in the Middle East and in the United States, regarding Israel and Palestine.

Core Membership

SAMED has limited membership, currently twenty-one members, to insure balanced representation of its constituent groups: Jewish Americans, Arab/Palestinian Americans and others who are not Jewish nor Arab/Palestinian.

*SAMED's letter to President Barack Obama, published as a letter to the editor in Syracuse Post-Standard, June 25, 2009**

President Barack Obama:

We write as members of the Syracuse Area Middle East Dialogue group, which consists of local residents with equal Jewish and Palestinian (Arab) representation, along with concerned others from neither community. For more than 25 years, SAMED members have maintained a common understanding that the peaceful resolution to the intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict is crucial to the advancement of peace and progress in the Middle East, and to America's vital interests and national security.

We wish to commend you for the comprehensive approach you are taking to advance peace between Israelis and Palestinians. We agree, as we have long believed, that sustained peace between the two peoples rests on having two states, side-by-side.

We agree with you that continued Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank is a real obstacle to peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. As you said, settlements "have to be stopped." We also believe that Israel needs to allow for Palestinian freedom of movement in the West Bank and to open the Gaza border crossings for humanitarian supplies and reconstruction materials.

The Palestinians also have responsibilities of their own, including continuing to enhance security and to help bring an end to terror and incitement against Israel and to maintain a ceasefire in Gaza.

We also support the idea that building peace between Israelis and Palestinians is most likely to occur in conjunction with peaceful accommodations with the other countries in the region. Such linkage can help provide the needed common security and economic development that will bring about and sustain peace between Israeli Jews and Arab Palestinians.

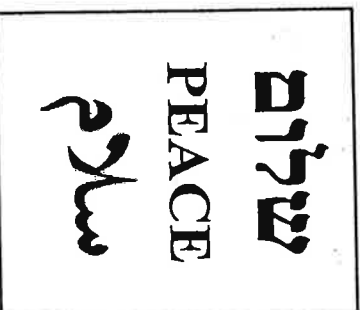
We deeply appreciate your leadership in all these regards. Thank you.



1. Receive the same general information distributed to members; (e.g., notices about the Middle East, especially the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and U.S. involvement);
2. May submit to the listserv similar information to be shared with both Friends and members;
3. Receive notice of SAMED special events and are welcome, but not obliged, to attend.
4. Are updated regularly about related activities in the Syracuse area.

To become a Friend of SAMED, please complete the membership form on the back of this brochure & return it to the display table

or
Complete the form on the SAMED web page <http://www.samed-syr.org/> and submit electronically



*Less recent SAMED statements are available on its web page (<http://www.samed-syr.org/>)