

## ABOUT *the* AUTHOR CATHY SULTAN

AS A YOUNG AMERICAN from Washington D.C., Cathy Sultan moved to Beirut, Lebanon, in 1969 with her Christian Lebanese husband and two small children. Sultan and her family survived the first eight years of Lebanon's civil war until they were forced to leave Beirut in 1983. The experience left her with a mind-broadening education about the realities of Middle Eastern politics which she hauntingly depicts in her 2005 memoir *A Beirut Heart: One Woman's War*. After leaving Lebanon she continued to study the Israeli-Palestinian situation and in March, 2002, she traveled to Jerusalem and the West Bank to better understand the human aspects of this conflict.

Sultan interviewed Palestinians in refugee camps, teenagers, teachers, businessmen and peace activists. She spoke with scholars, Israeli soldiers at the Wailing Wall, discussed politics with an Israeli Army Major and toured settlements. The result of her journey was this book: *Israeli and Palestinian Voices: A Dialogue with Both Sides*.

Sultan sits on the Executive Board of the National Peace Foundation, an NGO (non-government organization) in Washington, D.C., where she coordinates programs designed to educate NPF members about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In spring 2005, Sultan worked with Partners for Peace, another Washington-based NGO, to co-sponsor the Midwest tour of "Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision." These three women, one Muslim, one Jewish and one Christian share experiences and hopes for a just peace.

In a recent appeal letter, Sultan invited NPF's 5,000 members to initiate Israeli-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Groups in their respective communities. She strongly believes that participation in conversations that cross information boundaries while building identification and respect for the 'other' is the best way to initiate change which will ultimately bring about stability in this troubled part of the world. Sultan and the staff at NPF are also working with the Bereaved Family Circle, an organization of parents and families who have lost loved ones because of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sultan, who has started writing another book about the Middle East, visits Rome frequently to be with her daughter and granddaughter. She also travels often to be with her son and his wife in Oaxaca, Mexico. When she finds time, Sultan loves to scuba dive and indulge in her other passion, underwater photography. She lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, with her husband.



CONTACT  
INFORMATION

David Unowsky  
651.698.3178  
david.unowsky@gmail.com