Palestinians issue call for peace

BY STACY JENKINS

The pain on the faces of local Palestinian Americans was evi-dent, as many of the Ramallah natives told stories of terror, murder and chaos in their home-

murder and chaos in their home-land.
Western Wayne County and
Oakland County has the largest
concentration of Ramilites in the
United States, said Terry Ahwai
of Canton, who is an assistant
Wayne County executive and
member of the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine.
The escalating violence in the
Iaraeli-occupied West Bank and
Gara regions of the Middle East
has prompted local Palestinian
activists to rally for peace and to
call for an end to the 35-year
Iaraeli occupation they say has
stripped their people of basic
human rights.
Iaraeli troops, on Monday, sur-

human rights.

Israel troops, on Monday, surrounded the City of Bethlichem and have waged daily attacks on the West Bank city of Ramallah, where about 10,000 western Wayne County and Oakland County residents were born.

"The City of Ramallah, our families, are under siege. They are imprisoned in their own homes," said Samir Mashni of Canton.

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Mashni, a past president of the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine, was one of several Ramilites who spoke out during a Tuesday press conference at the association's Westland meeting hall. They denounced the violence, suicide bombings and the United States financial assistance to Israel.

"We, as community, strongly emphasize there is no military solution to this conflict," said the Rev. George Shalhoub, of Livonia's St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church. "We, as community,



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The escalating violence in the Middle East has prompted local Palestinians to raily for peace.

want peace, we pray for peace and hope for peace. Sunday, we stood outside of our church and we prayed for peace. But, our people are still being crucified.

Jad Jadallah of Dearborn spoke of his 21-year-old niece, who was killed Friday while traveling in a car with her hashand and 7-month-old baby near Ramallah. An American citizen, she and her family recoulty moved back to Ramallah.

On Friday, they were driving

moved back to Ramallah.

On Friday, they were driving injured Palestinians to the hospital, following the latest round of Israeli attacks on civilians. Her husband was shot five times and was in critical condition in the hospital, said Jadallah.

"She was an American citizen," he said. "Wo, as United States citizens, have to pressure the United States. A lot of United States citizens are being hurt, too."

too."
A Catholic priest, speaking to reporters from a town near Bethlehem on Tuesday, described the

growing violence of recent days in and around Bethlehem.

The group of Ramilites gathered around the speaker phone to hear the Rev. Baderian Shwshawki's personal accounts of recent events.

The situation in Bethlehem is difficult and I think it's getting worse, he said. "Israeli troops) are attacking everything.

Two hours prior, he was informed that a Catholic priest was shot and villed and three nuns were shot in Bethlehem. The city is under siege, he added.

"There is no pressure for the leavest the state of the

added.
"There is no pressure for the Israelis to leave Bethlehem," he said. "They are shooting all of the places surrounding the nativity. They are neglecting all of the world and all of the demands of all of the leaders of the world."
Citles in the region are under 24-hour curfew, meaning they cannot leave their homes or businesses. People are running out of

food and many have no electrici-ty or running water. Palestinian homes are being occupied by Israeli troops, while the families are held hostage in one room of the home.

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The injured cannot receive medical attention from Red Cross personnel, due to the standing curfew. Hospitals and churches are being invaded by Israeli troops and the dead are not being buried.

The priest, speaking from a convent about 10 minutes outside of Bethlehem, said his church and convent are now a makesbift medical facility. People are coming in for help, he

ple are coming in for help, he said, but are fearful that the church is a bombing target. Canton's Terry Ahwal said the situation is not new, but it is cer-

situation is not new, but it is cer-rainly more intense. She recalls being 11 years old in Ramallah and having to hide under a truck for 20 minutes as she tried to sneak to a neighbor's house, three doors down, during curfew. "The same is happening today, except these kids are being shot today at close range," she said. "Violence is not going to get us anywhere."

OBITUARIES

MARION A. GUEST

Private services were held for Marion Aliene Guest, 88, of

Marion Aliene Guest, 88, of Farmington Hills.
Mrs. Guest was born March 7, 1914, in Detroit and died March28, 2002.
She is survived by her chil-dren, Judith (Larry LaVar-combe), Trilby, Margery, Lad (Christiane Modrack) and Chris-tian (Barbara); grandchildren,

Larry, John, Richard, Natalie, Eli, Eliza, Lauren, Judah, Andrew, Jamison, Nicholas, Emilia, Olivia, Aurelia, Chris-tian and Henry, 16 great-grand-children; and several nieces and nephews

nephews.
She is preceded in death by her husband Harry.
Memorial contributions may be made to the Farmington Community Library.

Earth Angels plan benefit for April 21

The Earth Angels, who do choreographed dance routines to songs of the 1950s, will host their annual fund-raiser from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. on Sunday, April 21 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. Activities will include games, dance, hula hoop and best '50s costume contests, door prizes and a performance (Triple of the Cost of the



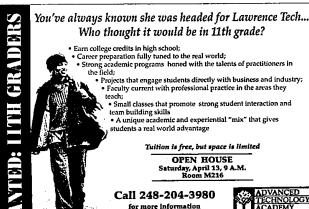
The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of Evergreen Counseling Centers May 7 - 1999. 2002.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone balleving that health has relevant information about such matters may request a public information interview with Joint Commissions field representatives at the time of the survey. Such request should be made in writing, indicating the nature of the information, and submitted to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. Send requests to:

DIVISION OF ACCREDITATION OPERATIONS
ORGANIZATION LIASON
JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION
OF HEALITICARE ORGANIZATIONS
ONE RENAISSANCE BLID.
OAKDROOK TERRACE IL 60181

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform Evergreen of the request. Evergreen will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time, and place of the meeting. All

West Bloomfield 248-538-2100



Open Enrollment April 6 - May 15

