

## WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?

### GBGM missionaries make a difference in Israel and Palestine

General Board of Global Ministries Missionaries the Rev. Alex Awad and his wife, Brenda, have volunteered in Israel/Palestine for the past 26 years.



The couple recently returned to the Upper New York Conference – the couple served as peace and justice educators in upstate New York from 1990 to 1991 – to share their experience through the years in Israel/Palestine. Go to [www.unyumc.org/news/article/awads](http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/awads) to read the full story and watch a video about the Awads' missionary work.

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Bishop Mark J. Webb's District Days tour:

Oct. 26 – Adirondack District, Glens Falls UMC

Oct. 27 – Albany District, Jonesville UMC

Conference Council on Youth Ministries Fall Gatherings

Nov. 13-14 – Fall Gathering East: Schenectady First UMC

Nov. 20-21 – Fall Gathering West: Aldersgate UMC, Rochester

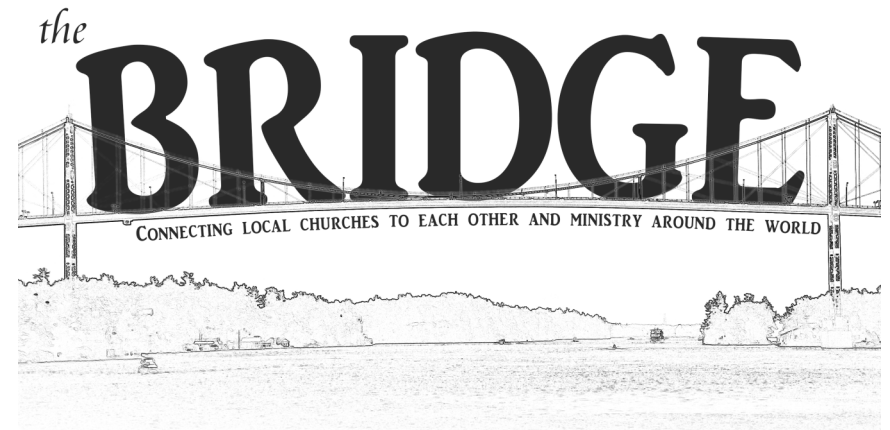
Nov. 14 – Free grant writing training at University UMC, Buffalo

[www.tinyurl.com/grantwriting111415](http://www.tinyurl.com/grantwriting111415)

*The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Conference and the world.*

[www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)

ON OCT. 18, WE CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAITY!



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

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# UNY asked to fill shoe boxes for Red Bird Mission

When you think about filling shoeboxes around Thanksgiving, Samaritan's Purse's ministry probably comes to mind. But there is a stateside ministry that also needs your supplies: Red Bird Mission.



The Red Bird Mission and Clinic in Beverly, Ky., has provided ministries in the Appalachian Mountains region since 1921. Today, the need remains critical in this isolated, rural, distressed area. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, and rugged mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this area. Red Bird Mission strives to meet these needs through ministry in five areas: Education, Health & Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity, and Community Housing Improvement.

And shoeboxes can help address the

needs of both the Health & Wellness and Community Outreach areas.

There are two different styles of shoe boxes: adult and children.

Items needed for the adult shoe boxes (**please mark them as for a man or women**) include a comb/brush, shampoo, hand lotion, deodorant, toothbrush and paste, chap stick, full size bath soap, wash cloth, mittens, disposable razors, shaving cream, scarves and hats, nail care supplies, socks, and work gloves.

Items for the children's shoe boxes (**please mark for a boy or girl, and the age category: 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14**) include two or three toy items, two or three school items, bar soap, children's toothbrush, children's toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, wash cloth, comb/brush,

chap stick, mittens, hats, socks, and small flashlights. Christian bookmarks, wrist bands, and other spiritual items are also appreciated.

Visit [www.tinyurl.com/RBItemsList](http://www.tinyurl.com/RBItemsList) or a list of other acceptable items.

Upper New York lay member Dave Alexander is organizing this year's Conference-wide collection and driving the donation to the Red Bird Mission.

In 2014, more than 730 shoe boxes – plus additional clothing, cleaning supplies, and monetary donations – were given to the mission.

Although shoe boxes can still be used, Tracy Nolan, Director of Community Outreach at Red Bird, is asking for small plastic storage containers to be used instead of shoe boxes, when possible. The plastic containers provide needed dry storage for their clients. Walmart sells a 10-pack of containers online

([www.tinyurl.com/WMStorageTote](http://www.tinyurl.com/WMStorageTote)) that you can have shipped to your local store for free.

All boxes must be dropped off by Nov. 25 at the Endwell United Methodist Church, 3301 Watson Blvd. If needed, Alexander may be able to arrange pick-up at your church; call him at (607) 743-8955.

"We're hoping to leave right after Thanksgiving to go to Kentucky," Alexander said. "Monetary donations to help cover truck rental and fuel would be appreciated. If anyone knows or has connections with a truck rental firm and could help us get a great deal on the rental that would also be appreciated."

This year's goal, he said, is to fill a 26-foot rental truck full of the needed items.

For more information, contact Alexander at [Dalexander4@stny.rr.com](mailto:Dalexander4@stny.rr.com).

## Reminder: October is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

*The following information comes from the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.*

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). It evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in October 1981, which aimed to connect advocates across the nation who sought to end violence against women and children. The Day of Unity later became a week-long event with activities focused on themes of mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence. These themes remain a focus of DVAM today. The first DVAM was observed in October 1987.

Go to [www.nrcdv.org/dvam/DVAM-history](http://www.nrcdv.org/dvam/DVAM-history) for more infor-

mation on DVAM. To view DVAM resources compiled by the United Methodist Women's magazine, "Response," go to [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response), page 18.

## Media Resource Center is home to thousands of titles

Did you know that the Media Resource Center is a **free** lending library supported through your ministry share dollars? A multitude of DVD studies, curriculum, and support materials are available for your use. Resources include help with small group studies, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, church-wide studies, and special events. Consultations by center Director Diane Miner are always available. Not only can you order resources in person (53 McKinley Ave., Endicott), you can also order them through the online catalog ([www.tinyurl.com/MROnlineCat](http://www.tinyurl.com/MROnlineCat)), by email ([diane@unyumc.org](mailto:diane@unyumc.org)), or by phone (800) 799-9664, and they will be mailed right to your church.