



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This edition's theme, *Then and Now*, implies transformations, a voyage between the past and the present, a metamorphosis from one thing to the other, or – as we chemists like to call it – a phase change. A theme like this is not easy to execute, however; its broad stroke allows room for interpretations in a variety of directions. The theme also coincides with a change at TWIP. I return to TWIP but this time as co-content editor. With me is

Tala Abu Rahmeh. For the first time, TWIP will have two content editors who can share the responsibility and the joy of putting out an issue every month.

Tala and I share a lot of things; we are dear friends, we share a passion for writing and a desire to see others' writings shine. We love books and deem them necessary for survival. We are constantly looking for talent in the most unusual places. And, of course, we share one of the most important characteristics any two people can share and that is an unyielding love for ice cream. But we also share one more thing: we both sit on the cusp of our own *then and now*.

Now is the time for new writers and adventure. This edition features two young writers, Khader Abu Seif and Yara Al Afandi, both of whom write about journeys away from home and redefining a difficult affair with an exhausting yet enchanting place. The ever-insightful Ali Qleibo writes about the good old days and their painful aftermath; Khaldun Bshara offers a meticulous understanding of a changing landscape; and other pieces explore personal tales of love, loss, and the space in between. As a bonus, there is a phenomenal collection of images from Tarek Bakri, featuring various monuments and cities from all over Palestine, *then and now*.

We are happy to announce the release of a special edition on Jerusalem, to be published in mid-February, which will contain great writing on Jerusalem by scholars and members of civil society, in addition to special coverage on the late Maha Abu Dayyeh, who left us too soon, as great ones always do.

We are all *then and now*, especially in a place that constantly struggles to prove the *then* so that it can explain to the world the importance of the *now*. Perhaps with such a painful history nothing but stories will save us from sinking into oblivion, for after all, there is nothing more beautiful than stories.

Riyam Kafri-AbuLaban and Tala Abu Rahmeh
Content Editors



Forthcoming Issues

March 2015: **Spiritual Tourism**

April 2015: **No Specific Theme**

May 2015: **Disappearing Professions**

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