



creativity for PEACE

The courage to lead. The promise of change.

PEACE – I Accomplished It!

Photo by Cathy Maier Callanan

by **Michal Kaplanov**, 16

Why did I go all the way to New Mexico to make peace? Because for peace nowhere is too far. As someone who has suffered all her life from the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, I never let go of hope that peace will become reality.

On the first day of camp I was told I must sleep in the same bed with Vida, a girl from Ramallah. I started crying and refused point blank. Today she is my very best Palestinian friend.

Each day we went to dialogue, where we talked about the conflict. These dialogues were the most difficult thing I have ever done. You sit opposite your enemy and look in her eyes. On the one hand you want to defend your side and on the other you must listen and understand her side. When this clashed inside me I didn't know which side to be on.

In art, through drawing and sculpting, we worked out all the anger, sadness,



loss, and fear that we felt in dialogue. We did everything together, in cooperation.

This camp has changed my life. I learned a lot about the conflict and about myself as a human being. We had many conversations about our lives and our status as women in our cultures. I learned

about our differences and I also saw how similar we are. We are all 16 year-old girls who want this awful war to end.

I hope that one day we will succeed in understanding that Arabs are also suffering from this conflict, just like us. If we learn to honor them, we will have taken an enormous step towards the peace that we all seek.

If someone tells you that peace between Israel and Palestine is not possible, don't believe them. I accomplished it!

Excerpted from an article written by 2010 Creativity for Peace camper Michal Kaplanov for an online youth magazine in Israel. For the full text, email dottie@creativityforpeace.com.



Photo by Cathy Maier Callanan



Our People

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Creativity for Peace welcomes new directors **Amyra Rasak** and **Sam M. Hocking**. Amyra owns and operates Grayling Group, a sales promotion and promotional products company. She has been involved in community services, with a focus on women and their needs. Her interests include Eastern arts, outdoor activities, and cooking. Sam is the owner of a computer firm that outsources accounting services. He formerly worked for International Paper Company and International Business Machines. He served for five years on the Dallas United Way budget committee and was treasurer of the Dallas Shakespeare Festival.



Amyra Rasak



Sam M. Hocking

STAFF

Welcome to **Nancy Clayman**, our Middle East business manager. Nancy was born and raised in the United States, but has lived in Israel for most of the last 35 years. After three decades in the high-tech industry, supervising international activities and departments spread across the globe, she chose to use her managerial expertise to transition into more meaningful work.



Nancy Clayman

Jessi Cross, LPAT ATR, was assistant art director at the 2010 camp and is now director of our art program. Jessi has worked as an art therapist and counselor for Catholic Charities' Center for Refugee Resettlement, Juntos Youth Summit, and TeamBuilders Counseling Services. She is developing a private practice and provides supervision and consultation to student art therapists and new clinicians in the field.



Jessi Cross

Our volunteer coordinator, **Frances Salles**, grew up in England in a family dedicated to volunteerism and peace and social justice. She has worked with many nonprofits, including Rape Crisis, Women's Refuges, Age Concern, and the Council for Voluntary Services, as employee, volunteer, and board member. **Elisa Keir**, bookkeeper and administrative assistant for five years, now serves as assistant to the executive director.



Frances Salles

Key Staff

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Anael Harpaz,
Director, Campers
Jessi Cross,
Director, Art
Nancy Clayman,
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"I wish
Creativity for
Peace was a
country where
I could be a
citizen."

- Diana, Palestinian
2006 camper and young leader

SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to Emily Jaber, 18, from Nablus in the West Bank, Palestine. A 2007 camper, Emily has received a four-year scholarship to study languages and business at Birzeit University in Ramallah. In her scholarship application, she wrote, "My life completely turned around after the summer of 2007. My experience with Creativity for Peace gave me confidence and made me believe in myself. I became in every way a stronger young woman, ready to take on a challenge." This scholarship is made possible by the Arthur B. Schultz Foundation.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to 100-plus volunteers who contributed to the success of this year's camp, helping with meals, workshops, laundry, transportation, and special events. Campers loved the beautiful handcrafted gifts made by our Peaceworks Committee. This group works throughout the year and is always looking for new members. Watch for other opportunities to meet with volunteers and get involved with fun and creative fundraising events. Visit www.creativityforpeace.com/ volunteers or contact Frances Salles, frances@creativityforpeace.com.

Year-Round in the Middle East

Summer camp in New Mexico is the start of our girls' peacemaking journey. But the most difficult work awaits them at home.

Creativity for Peace's year-round program in Israel and Palestine provides emotional and practical support for campers as they face cynicism, ridicule, and outright hostility to their newfound passion for peace.

Camper reunions, to which all 162 girls from 12 camp sessions are invited, consist of dialogue, artmaking, sports, and other activities that reinforce the bonds of friendship and promote personal transformation. The summer reunion took place at Kibbutz Sdot Yam on the Mediterranean Sea near Haifa, Israel. The winter meeting is set for December at Neve Shalom/Wahat al Salam, an intentional Arab-Jewish village in Israel.

In October, the 2010 campers met at Neve Shalom/Wahat al Salam. This gathering provided our newest girls the opportunity to share their challenges and successes.



"I came home with a lot of questions," one girl told the group. "I want peace, but I want my country. Friends don't really understand." And another: "I went through a lot at camp but everything at home stayed the same. It was hard to share experiences with friends but my family was supportive."

Young leaders – 40 young women who have taken the next step in their development as leaders and peacemakers – met twice this year, in Israel and Jordan, to learn advanced public speaking, co-counseling, and compassionate listening techniques. Senior young leaders organized and led camper groups in local communities.



Young Leaders Speak in Pennsylvania, Texas, and New Mexico

Three of our most committed young leaders gave public talks in March in Philadelphia, Reading, and Yardley, Pennsylvania.

Amira Said, 23, Fairouz Abadi, 22, and May Freed, 21, each involved with Creativity for Peace for six years, visited Arcadia University, Parkway High School for Peace and Justice, Alvernia University, Bristol High School, and Yardley United Methodist Church to share stories of their lives, experiences, and efforts on behalf of peace.

In August, Maya Hochstadter, 19, Dima Khalifa, 20, and Mai Shbeta, 19, spoke at Temple Mt. Sinai in El Paso, Texas; Doña Ana Community College in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and at the Jewish Community Center in Albuquerque.

These young women, who have made peacemaking an integral part of their lives, inspired audiences wherever they went. "I was profoundly moved by and applaud all three of you," a Pennsylvania woman wrote. "Know that you are making a very important difference, impacting people by continuing to tell your stories." The president of the Jewish Federation of Reading wrote, "Their stories were raw and real. There were no labels, no angry words, and no walls..."

For young leaders the opportunity to speak publicly builds skills, empowers, and affirms the difficult task that they have undertaken. "This summer was an intensive learning experience and is not comparable to any other training," they wrote. "We will definitely use these skills in our work in the Middle East and they will serve us in our future jobs and in our personal lives."

Our appreciation to Joa Dattilo, Mary Wells, Victoria L. Seale, Robert Sacks, Rob Elliott, Emily Swantner, and Libby and Len Traubman for their financial support of the 2010 young leader tour and training in the United States.

OUR DONORS

Hundreds of individuals, families, businesses, foundations, and nonprofits support our work with cash, in-kind gifts, time, and talent. Special thanks to our Board of Directors and to Don de Laski for their extraordinary commitment to our mission.



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We nurture understanding and leadership in Palestinian and Israeli adolescent girls and women so that they take on significant roles in their families, communities, and countries that advance peaceful coexistence. Our programs include summer camp, camper gatherings in the Middle East, young leader training, and academic scholarships.



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Photo by Cathy Maier Callanan

“Learning how to communicate with people not out of anger but out of a wish to resolve a situation is possibly the most important thing I’ll ever learn in my life.”

— Amit, Jewish Israeli,
2003 camper