

Creativity for Peace News!



March 2017

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I observe the socio-political situation in our country with grave concern. At Creativity for Peace we know all too well what it means when people are pitted against one another, when stereotypes are perpetuated and used to foment fear, and neighbors are no longer able or willing to talk with one another. This is our work - and it is needed now more than ever.

ACHIEVING PEACE EVEN IN CHALLENGING TIMES

For over a decade our young women have demonstrated that it is possible to put aside pain and anger in order to understand the perspective of another. Our techniques are crucial in Israel/Palestine and increasingly in the United States. American young people who have participated in our programs say that they are better able to:

- Handle conflict in their family
- Deal with school bullying
- Understand that, even when they live in an atmosphere of violence, they can choose a path of peace
- Make a commitment to being a leader and peacemaker

Politicians are frequently poor role models. That is why, two years ago, we initiated a project in which young Israeli and Palestinian women at early stages of careers in politics learn about one other, study and initiate actions together, and develop a Code of Inclusivity that they will live by and widely share. Participants include young women from the political right and left and from the spectrum of religions and perspectives.

We live in "bubbles." Because we tend to surround ourselves with those who hold similar beliefs, we have limited opportunities to listen, learn, and understand. That is why we offer young Americans a chance to hear the stories of others and share their own through projects such as girls' circles and talks by young Israeli and Palestinian women in American high schools. Back in 2013, when Pueblo, Hispanic, and Anglo girls spent a weekend together learning techniques for conflict resolution from Creativity for Peace Young Leaders, most said it was the first time they had gotten to know someone from a different culture and background.

We are challenged to discuss difficult issues. It can be very hard to talk about emotionally charged subjects without reverting to anger and frustration. That is why the foundation of everything we do - from our summer program to Young Leader training, public talks, and even the management of our organization - is the practice of compassionate dialogue.

What is needed, more than ever, is what we teach:

- Communicating across divides
- Speaking from one's experience, rather than blaming, shaming, judging or mocking
- Listening with an open heart
- Putting oneself in the shoes of the other
- Identifying common goals and partnering to achieve those goals

Thank you so much for believing in our young women and their passionate, steadfast work for peace.

Warm regards and much appreciation,



Dottie Indyke
Executive Director



[Visit Our Website](#)

Creativity for Peace News

We are pleased to welcome Alysha Shaw and Nisreen Mazzawi to our staff!

Alysha, our new coordinator of volunteers and youth outreach, has focused on the intersection of art and social change. She has more than a decade of administrative and organizing experience with grassroots nonprofits and political campaigns. She holds an MFA in Art and Social Practice from Portland State University and is a performer and teacher of Balkan and Middle Eastern music.

Nisreen, our Palestinian director of operations, has worked as a program manager, educator, and dialogic facilitator for many Israeli and Palestinian organizations



with an emphasis on conflict resolution, women, intercultural relations, and youth leadership. She holds two masters degrees and is a fellow of the Heschel Center for Environmental Leadership.

Alysha and Nisreen are delighted to join the Creativity for Peace team, and they look forward to connecting and collaborating with you!

Contact Alysha at alysha@creativityforpeace.com or 505.795.8096.

Contact Nisreen at nisreen@creativityforpeace.com.

2017 Young Leader Tour in Texas





Israeli and Palestinian Young Leaders Deema Yusuf, Sivan Kedem, Mai Shbeta, and Dima Khalifa went on tour in February with Creativity for Peace Executive Director, Dottie Indyke, giving talks about our work for peace in Austin, Texas.

For 10 years Creativity for Peace has sponsored speaking tours that allow our most advanced Young Leaders to share their life experiences and personal journeys as peacemakers with students and adults in high schools, universities, faith communities, and other private and public venues.

These tours are an opportunity to raise awareness and inspire action and are an important training tool for our young women, who have reached more than 10,000 people throughout the United States.

Upcoming Events

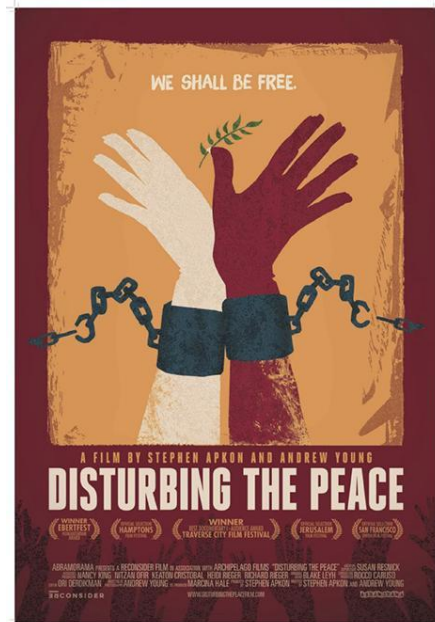
March 23, 7 PM

***Disturbing the Peace*, Film Screening and
talk with Marcina Hale**

at the Violet Crown Theater

[Tickets are available for \\$20 at the Violet Crown
Box office](#)

In a world torn by conflict- in a place where the idea of peace has been abandoned- an energy of determined optimism emerges. When someone is willing to disturb the status quo and stand for the dream of a free and secure world, who will stand with them? *Disturbing the Peace* is a story of the human potential unleashed when we stop participating in a story that no longer serves us and, with the power of our convictions, take action to create new possibilities. *Disturbing the Peace* follows former enemy combatants- Israeli soldiers from elite units and Palestinian fighters, many of whom served years in prison- who have joined together to challenge the status quo and say "enough." The film reveals their transformational journeys from soldiers committed to armed battle to nonviolent peace activists, leading to the creation of Combatants for Peace. While based in the Middle East, *Disturbing the Peace* evokes universal themes relevant to us all and inspires us to become active participants in the creation of our world.



Marcina Hale, co-producer of *Disturbing the Peace*, was closely involved in the underlying concept and structure of the film. She has been working with Combatants for Peace on the dissemination of the film in both Israel and Palestine and around the world, and has also developed a workshop to be used in conjunction with the film. She has spent extensive time in the region with the completion and distribution of the film.

A portion of the ticket sales will be provided to Creativity for Peace. Seating is limited. [Please purchase advance tickets here.](#) [View the film's trailer here.](#)

April 8, 2-3:30 PM

New Volunteer Orientation

at the home of Larry and Stephanie Feldman

for more information, [please contact Alysha Shaw](#)

July 6
Camp Setup

July 13-August 3
2017 Summer Camp

July 27
2017 Summer Event (Details TBA)

July 30
Camp Open House

August 9
Camp Take Down



Volunteer Profiles

We love our volunteers. In this newsletter, we are featuring reflections from two of our key volunteers, Stephanie and Larry Feldman.

Stephanie and Larry are both from New York, and were both teachers for 30+ years. Larry taught in NYC, and Stephanie taught on Long Island. Larry is an avid golfer, and they both are docents for a number of New Mexico cultural institutions including the New Mexico Museum of Art, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, and La Fonda on the Plaza.

"In the last 50 years Israel has struggled to survive while enduring wars, failed peace accords and terrorism. Politicians, diplomats, and soldiers have not been able to achieve peace between Palestinians, Israelis, and their neighbors. In my opinion, the only avenue to a lasting peace in the area is for both sides to compromise and make concessions that each side can live with. Every summer our Creativity for Peace campers learn how to co-exist with the "enemy" and many learn how to become ambassadors for peace. This is what inspires me to be actively involved as a volunteer with Creativity for Peace."

-Larry Feldman

"I think the only way for peace to exist in Israel and Palestine is by both sides learning about each other's daily lives and struggles. This is what Creativity for Peace does. The Creativity for Peace motto that an enemy is only someone whose story you don't know is so wonderful. By bringing the girls from each faction together to share their stories, they learn that they really aren't enemies, just friends.

I have gained so much from these girls over the last four years. The words hate and enemy are not part of my life because of these wonderful young women. We are all one people-- just human beings."

-Stephanie Feldman

Get Involved by Volunteering for Creativity for Peace!

Creativity for Peace exists in large part because of the generosity of our donors and volunteers. Last year, 150 volunteers donated more than \$40,000 worth of goods and services. We hope you will consider supporting Creativity for Peace by volunteering. Some of the ways you can help include:



- Camp setup or take down
- Provide a meal for the campers, Young Leaders and staff
- Drive campers and staff to and from the airport and to field trips
- Work on events like our summer fundraiser and Camp Open House
- Assist with mailings or host a mailing party
- Solicit gifts-in-kind from local merchants
- Join a crew to maintain the memorial garden and land art at camp
- Provide accommodation for an intern and volunteer during camp
- Host new volunteer orientations at your home
- Wash towels or bedding after camp
- Offer bodywork to staff on-site at camp
- Chaperone the campers during staff meetings
- Manage our merchandise for display and sale at events
- ... or a variety of other tasks throughout the year or at camp

Meet our Youth Volunteers

Jessica Embry and Rachel Zelizer have participated in our programs for American youth over the years, and are now giving back by coordinating our Peace Ambassadors program. Jessica was born in Las Cruces, and is a senior at Capital High School. In addition to her work with Creativity for Peace, she serves her community by working with HOSA, National Honor Society, Culture Club, Quivira Coalition, Santa Fe Watershed Association, NAMI, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Emergency Youth Preparedness Council, and United Blood Services. Rachel was born in Taos, and is a junior at Monte del Sol Charter School. In addition to her work with Creativity for Peace, she is involved in Model United Nations and National Honors Society. She participated in the New Mexico Human Rights Project's group in Model International Criminal Court, and is currently a semifinalist for CBYX, a German exchange program.



"I have had the privilege to work with Creativity for Peace for the last three years. When I first joined the summer youth program and met the campers from Israel and Palestine, I knew very little about the Middle East and the conflicts between Israel and Palestine. Through the activities that I took part in with the girls, I came to realize that people living in conflict do not embody the conflict themselves. They do not have malice in their hearts; they are

normal people just like you and me.

Through my experiences with Creativity for Peace, I fell in love with the people the organization works with, and the stories that they share. I am very honored and proud to be co-leading the 2017 Peace Ambassador program with Rachel Zelizer. I have learned a lot about myself and conflict resolution through my time with Creativity for Peace."

-Jessica Embry



"I took part in a Transforming Conflict workshop led by Young Leaders from Israel and Palestine in 2015, and was amazed by how much I learned, both about Israeli and Palestinian culture and about conflict resolution. The Young Leaders were so inspiring to me! Their courage and dedication to peacemaking encouraged me to do more in my own community. I enjoyed the experience so much, I decided immediately that I wanted to do more with Creativity for Peace.

I am so grateful to Creativity for Peace for all they have taught me about conflict resolution and both Israeli and Palestinian culture, especially at such a tumultuous time. I am so excited for my upcoming projects!"
-Rachel Zelizer

Get Involved in Our Programming for American Youth!

We are recruiting for our summer youth program! We are looking for local girls between the ages of 15 and 17 to participate in a life-changing program that offers them the opportunity to meet and interact with campers from Israel and Palestine. Exact dates are TBA, but the program will take place over the course of one week in mid-late July.



We are also seeking summer interns. Interns will work with staff in Santa Fe and at the camp location (near Glorieta, New Mexico) to gain practical experience in the areas of fundraising, public relations, education, volunteer coordination, event planning, camp management, and general organizational operations. Each intern will also be expected to complete at least one independent project, to be determined by staff with intern input, by the end of the internship.

For more information on volunteering and our programs for American youth, please contact Alysha Shaw

Interested in volunteering? Interested in our programming for American youth? Or do you just want to say hello to Alysha? Email her at alysha@creativityforpeace.com, or call her at 505.795.8096.