



IPCRI

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Book of Abstracts

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Talitha Kumi

Beit Jala

COUNCIL: LISTENING AND SPEAKING FROM THE HEART

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Abstract

Council is an ancient yet modern way of communication which is relevant in the building and maintenance of every relational situation - partnership, community, family, education and healing etc. It is also the way of healing the "anti-relationship" - conflict resolution, creating common goals in situations of enmity and conflict of interest. Based on the wisdom inherent in the personal story, council encourages use of personal stories as a way to see each other truly, connect and create community and communal wisdom in a deceptively simple manner which can be used equally with children, with people of different ages, cultures, religions and sexes.

The form is simple: a group sits in a circle, around a symbolic campfire, with the intention of speaking and listening from the heart, and of respecting each member of the circle. A talking piece is passed around the circle and those who wish to share a story do so. All practice listening. The stories told in the circle weave a "web" connecting between the people and the stories, creating a bond and a wisdom that was not present before.

The work in conflict resolution, shared society and relationship was developed by Jack Zimmerman and Dr. Jaquelyn McCandless from their work with couples. This work goes a step deeper in working with this bond: The connection between the two people or two sides - the relationship (or anti-relationship) - is acknowledged as a partner in the circle, with need and a voice of its own. The awareness of the "relationship consciousness", or in the case of shared society, the "shared society consciousness", evokes understanding of a situation from a new point of view - not just you or me, but "us". If we can understand our situation from the view of the relationship, new solutions become clear new paths and options for the future are apparent, which can take into account what is right for each side and for the relationship itself, even creating a relationship where there was enmity before.

Council was brought to its modern-day form and to schools in California 30 years ago and today is an integral part of the Los Angeles School System. It was brought to Israel and Palestine 8 years ago by Leon Berg and Ronit Rinat Weintraub. Today council is taught and used in schools and municipalities in Israel, with workshops and trainings in Israel and Palestine for peace workers, educators community workers and more.

ADVANCING HUMAN DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS

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Abstract

In this workshop, participants will receive a "taste" of the learning emerging from 15 years' experience in integrating the value of human dignity in schools. Attendees will also participate actively in experiential exercises that we use in our work in the schools. The workshop will conclude with questions and open discussion.

Grounding a commitment to peace and democracy rests partially on the ability of people to both envision and experience a peaceful world in their everyday life. A school that curtails violence within its walls and creates a school culture of respect is a school that demonstrates to children that peace and decency are possible, at the personal and immediate level of their own daily experience. Clearly, schools reflect the values of the surrounding environment. Israeli schools are rated among the more violent schools in developed countries. However, schools can also take a stand for the promotion of alternate values and new behaviors.

Dignity can be renewed where it is lacking.

Significant school change is a systemic process and begins with school leaders' declared commitment and willingness to provide a personal example in their daily behavior. Principals, teachers, and parents can unite to bring about a dignified school culture. School change tends to be ineffective when it is "modular," touching only specific classes or sectors. A shift to a dignified school culture must be system-wide and must include all participants in the daily life of the school.

Over the past 15 years, Human Dignity programs have been conducted in tens of schools in Israel, including Jewish and Arab, secular and religious schools. The initiative combines a focus on consciousness-raising and attitude-shifts, along with behavioral change and the creation of new organizational structures that deliver the dignity message. The program progresses through the school hierarchy, beginning with the principal and school staff, and proceeds to engage the children and also their parents.

As a result of this workshop: Participants will understand the school dignity program and will gain insight into their own behavior and the institutions in which they work, from the perspective of human dignity.

TRUST BUILDING WORKSHOP: BASIC TECHNIQUES TO WORK WITH THE OTHER

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Abstract

This workshop builds on the effective results of previous Trust-building workshops at IPCRI Conferences. It will be facilitated by Elana Rozenman, Executive Director of TRUST – Emun, an Israeli organization that is working to build mutual trust among people in our region. The workshop is based on years of experience in inter-religious and inter-cultural work. It will be an interactive experience using techniques of guided imagery, appreciative inquiry, facilitated small group discussion, circle principles, and SuccessWorks – leading to a practical Action Plan for each participant.

The workshop will create a safe space to experience innovative techniques to strengthen inter-personal skills and abilities. There will be an opportunity to explore possibilities for collaborative work and projects. Participants in previous workshops commented that it was “the most practical workshop I attended”, that it “gave me a real experience of trust” it “enabled me to commit to an action that I will start tomorrow”.

PEACE MAGIC: THE USE OF THE ART OF MAGIC TO PROMOTE PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING

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Abstract

For decades, through a combination of numerous accords, treaties, agreements, contracts, alliances, arrangements, conventions, negotiations and sanctions politicians have been trying to market magical peace formulas that claimed to bring a cessation of violence and an end to the conflict in the Middle East. Despite the experiments with various magical peace formulas, the violence, bloodshed, destructiveness and power struggles continue. In historical perspective, one may view the some of the various magical peace formulas as forms of sorcery, deception and sleight-of-hand, where politicians were involved in the practice of consciousness manipulation and/or autosuggestion to achieve a “desired” result. Many politicians used sophisticated fraudulent mediums and conjuring methods to perform illusions including agent provocateurs, false press reports and other phenomena for short term financial/political gain without taking into account the human rights, hopes, dreams and basic human security needs of the people the magical peace formulas most effected. In some instances, the magical peace formulas have created illusions of seemingly impossible or supernatural feats, which have in some instances only aggravated the situation.

In Peace Magic, we will discuss how magic can be used to bring people together, in order to further the cause of brotherhood, nonviolence and peace. In the workshop, we will learn how magic can teach confidence and creativity, which are essential for grassroots peace building, as well as the work ethic associated with regular practice and the responsibility that comes with devotion to an art. We will learn various magical techniques that peace educators can implement in their curriculum including Production (producing something from nothing), Vanishing (making something disappear), Transformation (transforming something from one state into another), Restoration (destroying an object, then restoring it back to its original state), Teleportation (causing something to move from one place to another), Escapology (being placed in a restraining device and escaping to safety), Levitation (defying gravity, either by making something float in the air, or with the aid of another object), Penetration/ Solid-through-Solid (making a solid object pass through another) and Prediction (predicting the choice of a spectator, or the outcome of an event under seemingly impossible circumstances). The workshop will include step-by-step explanation, hands-on instruction, group practice and individual performance.

HOW TO USE THE MEDIA TO EDUCATE FOR PEACE

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Abstract

This seminar seeks to encourage journalists from both sides to give greater coverage about peace and disseminate information on the importance of peace for the two people. It hopes to discuss how journalists can expand the dialogue between the two sides through positive messages of peace.

PEACE MAGIC: THE SHOW

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Abstract

Immediately after lunch participants in the Peace Magic workshop will join Magic Steven Ringel (The Magic Castle: The Academy of Magical Arts) in showcasing their talents in a joint magical routine performance before all of the conference participants, demonstrating how Peace Magic can be used to bring together the peoples of the Middle East by using magic as an art form through combinations of vanishes, productions, penetrations, teleportation and transformations. The performance will serve to encourage and promote public interest in the use of art of magic to promote peace and understanding, with particular emphasis on preserving its history as an art form, entertainment medium, and hobby rather than its current misuse as means of deception and sorcery.

Unlike politicians who have implemented “magical peace formulas” that have served to perpetuate violence and conflict, accredited magicians are involved in the art of illusion and conjuring in order to amuse and entertain audiences, bringing them a joint feeling of wonderment while empowering audiences to enjoy the magician's skill and cunning. Magicians do not consider it ethical to perform any magical act which claims to be anything other than a clever and skillful deception.

DEEP DEMOCRACY

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Abstract

Based on the ground-breaking work of Dr Arnold Mindell, the Center for Right Relationships www.centerforrightrelationships.com has created a body of training for coaches called ORSC - Organizations and Relationship Systems Coaching. One of the deep principles that people are trained by is the Deep Democracy - the insisting on each and every voice heard beyond the "being nice" . This is about getting the typically marginalized voices out as an important representation of one of the community's voices. In the workshop we will explain, and demo the work with deep democracy.

LAUGHTER, CATHARSIS AND PEACEBUILDING: LAUGHTER AS A MASTER KEY FOR FINDING SOLUTION AND CREATING BETTER REALITY IN THE TIMES OF CRISIS AND LOSS ON PERSONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL.

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Abstract

Laughter is well known as the best medicine. However, we know also its cathartic effect like crying and anger.

From time to time we face different types of challenges and surprise in our life, in personal level and it can be also on national level. We might get sickness, we might experience loss and we might lose hope. Some of us will start blaming others and surroundings for our pain and misery.

Laughter may be the most Cathartic way to overcome crisis on a personal level. A person who starts laughing even during his own pain, crisis, misery, loss and so on, may find the best solution and pass self empowerment. Laughter makes our problems to seem smaller than they are first seen. It is the difference between being a victim of Life Circumstances or to Master them.

My self story goes back to Ethiopia, to the Loss I experienced after I lost all what I had; Business and Home to water and fire disasters (not at the same time). Out of that, I found my endogenous laughter and I started to survive by laughter. I have been an inspiration for many Ethiopians who live in poverty and hunger. I established my project with street kids called "Let Me Be a Child" where I laughed with them and helped them with classes. We see that even in a poor country such as Ethiopia, stress has a big toll on our lives and we can overcome it by laughter giving us Positive Emotions.

Regarding the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, it is one of the reasons I came here to show the possibility of laughter as a personal solution and daily way of life for the individual to cope better with the stress, related with this national conflict situation. The situation on the personal level and on the national level won't get better if all of us continue to live, to think out of despair. In fact, despair has a negative effect on us. I came to show that anyone, even though he does not command the attention or the respect of powerful authorities, can make his life better if he adds some laughter to his own life. I give my own experience and my own survival story as a testament to this.

Now let us practice some laughter

TV AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN JEWS & ARABS

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Abstract

This is a movie that hopes to elicit a discussion on how TV can be used as a forum for dialogue and peace. This is an example of the kind of TV programs that could be used for purposes of education for tolerance and understanding.

This movie will positively affect and inspire those attending.

TAI CHI FOR PEACE

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Abstract

I live, study and teach movement and touch. I have done this for the last 20 years.

I know that this is one of the languages that can bridge any barrier.

I am offering my skills because I know they are vital for peace

See: <http://www.youtube.com/SouthernWayIsrael>

THE NATURAL WAY MEDITATION: THE WORDS OF VASANT SWAHA ON THIS MOMENT, REMEMBRANCE AND PEACE.

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Abstract

Vasant Swaha is a Norwegian modern mystic who grew up in India and was the direct student of Osho. He is sitting in the mountains in Norway at a resort called Dharma Mountain and gives satsangs. During the winters he gathers his followers and goes to Brazil or Thailand. His words are the words of truth, his heart is enormous and he brings to peace anyone who openly listens to him with his original modern mystic way, his gentleness, clarity, pure love, acceptance and freedom.

I will guide a meditation to the group reading his talk about The Natural Way, This Moment and Remembrance, the words which about six years ago were the first to bring me to the only moment ever exists - the NOW. Everyone can relate and find himself, find love.

The guided meditation will create us as an organic group along with enhancement of the individuals in it.

"When you look into the eyes of a child, you see the innocence, the naturalness, the joy, but then it's forgotten. And everybody has been innocent children and everybody has forgotten. But that space is still there... That's what Jesus means when he said we have to become like children again, it means you have to allow yourself to become innocent, spontaneous. But you can't DO that you have to allow yourself to become it again. But then you have to allow anything that is unnatural to go."

You become at ease with what is. You come back to yourself. You finally realize who you really are.

TOWARDS INTERNAL COEXISTENCE: A QUALITATIVE APPROACH TO THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF JEWISH-ARAB ENCOUNTERS IN ISRAEL ON JEWISH PARTICIPANTS

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Abstract

Jewish-Arab structured encounters have become the most prevalent form of peace education interventions aiming to improve relations between the two ethno-national groups in Israel.

This presented work offers a framework for evaluating these long-term effects and suggests several categories for examining the latter based on the literature on coexistence and its socio-psychological components. The central hypothesis behind the framework is that participation in Jewish-Arab encounters might have more modest long-term effects on participants than what is often speculated by practitioners in the field. This hypothesis was explored through a content analysis of qualitative interviews held in June 2008 with 12 Jewish high school students who participated in Jewish-Arab encounters in the beginning of 2007.

The results indicate that the encounter is perceived by former participants as a meaningful, enriching, and often positive experience amidst the conflict, and that it has left a mark on the way they perceive the relations between the groups. Former participants reported on desired changes in some of the categories included in the theoretical evaluation framework. For example, the encounter was reported by many participants to increase their understanding of Israeli Arabs' opinions, and to raise their interest in Jewish-Arab relations. Even almost one and a half years after participation many students were able to narrate personal stories of discrimination told by Arab participants. These stories have managed, according to students' own evaluations, to encourage feelings of empathy and compassion towards members of the other group. In addition, half of the interviewees agreed that their participation in the encounter has made them more open to interact with Israeli Arabs.

In conclusion, the results of this pilot study encourage the examination of the suggested framework through a rigorous longitudinal evaluation, which is currently conducted by the author as a doctoral dissertation.

**TWO ENTWINED STORY LINES: FIRA'S PAST – THE HOLOCAUST – AND FIRA'S
FUTURE – FIRITA, IT IS A DIFFERENT HOLOCAUST FILM.**

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Abstract

Fira, a 95-year old survivor gave birth to two kids who carry her father's and brother's names. Her eldest child was born in a refugee camp in Germany in February 1946 and was breast-fed blood. Recently she adopted a new granddaughter; 4 years old Peruvian Firita, who was born and raised in my grandmas elderly house and knows of the Holocaust almost as much as I do. She learned more polish than I ever will. Her mother, Magna, has been taking care of my grandma for over 12 years.

Fira has an old bill to settle down: Stacha, a beautiful Polish worrier whom after losing a husband and a father, still had the spirits to throw a secret costume ball to motivate the Jews she helped. Since forever I was obsessed with the Holocaust. Needing to live my life for myself and for another X cousins I could have possibly had. We are and still remain a tinny family.

LEFT TURN AND PEACE ROADS: TOGETHER OR APART?

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Abstract

This will be an open discussion about the political “left,” the road to peace and about whether some of us have gone too far in an attempt to promote important ideologies and values that might end up pushing peace further away.

What are the limits, if any, of a “peace ideology”? Is “peace” just a slogan or is it an actual objective that needs to set in a form of accommodation? Should there be limits or “red lines” to the Israeli and/or to the Palestinian Peace camp and are how far “left” should they both go? Could it be that some of these paths – as just as they might be – brings us further away from a real path of peace?

JUST VISION: THROUGH THE EYES OF ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN PEACE-BUILDERS

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Abstract:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is well-documented, but few people know that thousands of civilians cross lines to work for peace. Their personal stories show that individuals can change their own societies.

Teachers will become familiar with Just Vision's media and digital resources about Israeli and Palestinian peace builders. Through these educational resources, students can gain knowledge about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, confront their own stereotypes of people on both sides of the conflict, and nonviolent solutions to conflict, and empower Israelis and Palestinians to create change in their own societies.

Just Vision's **Online Portraits** and award-winning documentary film **Encounter Point** provide teachers and students a new way of learning about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, through the stories of Israeli and Palestinian civic leaders working to stem hatred, promote reconciliation, understanding and nonviolence.

The Online Portraits feature in-depth interviews with dozens of peace builders through innovative use of digital technology that allows material to be cross-referenced and searchable by themes such as "conceptions of peace", "personal challenges", "leadership", "bereavement", and "vision."

Just Vision's new feature documentary **BUDRUS** brings the story of a Palestinian community organizer who unites all Palestinian political factions along with Israelis in a Gandhian struggle to save his village, unleashing a nonviolent movement that is still gaining ground today.

Participants will take part in an exercise based on JV's materials, to explore various hopes and fears of our Visionaries as well as look into what their own might, giving them the opportunity to understand the centrality of fears and the obstacles they create in resolving the conflict

We will be presenting the trailers of Encounter Point and BUDRUS and addressing themes of nonviolent choices, and challenges in coming together.

Can this conflict be solved and how?

Gershon Baskin

IPCRI

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Abstract

It may seem that reaching the end of the Israeli-Arab conflict is further away than ever. On the other hand, I claim that we might be closer than ever to resolving it. How can the conflict be resolved? What are the obstacles to its resolution? What does the resolution of the conflict look like?

These issues and others will be addressed through a power-point presentation and a discussion. Some of the issues presented will reflect discussion I held in Washington and in Jerusalem with local and international leaders and officials.

WOMEN IN CONFLICT

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Abstract

Neta Efroni film "Kalandia" -
Discussion - What women can do differently.
Will women's dialogue open the blocks to a new way?

EMERGING FROM DEPRESSION - TAKING RESPONSIBILITY: REIKI FOR PEACE

Rahel Warshaw-Dadon

Reiki Master and director of the Israeli NGO *Reiki for Peace*

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In our part of the world, the word 'peace' is repeated again and again, in many languages, and yet, peace remains elusive. Most people do not feel peaceful. Many people are angry; and many people feel depressed and hopeless. As a result, many people just give up: they feel that there is nothing that they can do themselves, and leave action to the politicians, to the activists, to anyone who will do anything. It is hard to blame them: feeling depressed causes us to feel that everything is too heavy a burden, and that we cannot do anything. Most of all, we cannot take responsibility for what we wish to do.

Reiki, a healing modality, is easy to learn, easy to practice, and surprisingly powerful. In addition to helping us to overcome our physical ailments, it creates balance, calm, and helps us to become happier individuals.

I was inspired to create *Reiki for Peace* by conversations with Palestinians about how to make peaceful co-existence possible. Living in peace requires effective communication, and building a basis for trust. Especially when there are barriers of language and culture, just talking is not enough. *Reiki for Peace* was born of a desire to address this need: the Reiki energy leads to individual healing, and *Reiki for Peace* activities lead to reduced tensions and the development of open communication and trust.

Reiki for Peace is a non-political, registered non-profit organization in Israel that, through the practice of Reiki, works to create inner peace in our participants, peace between and among us, and trust and increased peaceful communication among Israelis and Palestinians.

Peace Education must start with our being open to creating peace within ourselves. The practice of Reiki can bring us to our center, to make it possible to nurture a culture of peace both around us and within us. In this workshop, we will talk about Reiki; each participant will receive a demonstration Reiki treatment; we will start to experience how Reiki can help us to become quiet and peaceful inside, and how to start to take responsibility.

5RHYTHMS MOVEMENT PRACTICE –A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Rivi Diamond

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Abstract

In this workshop we will experience a different means to communicate – with ourselves and one another – communication that is beyond words.

We will practice a different kind of "Road Map" – a map that leads us home – to our body and soul.

The map of the 5Rhythms:

The 5Rhythms are a simple and powerful movement practice in which each one is a dancer. There are no steps to learn, nothing to get right or wrong, no judgment.

There is the map of the five rhythms:

Flowing, Staccato, Chaos, Lyrical, Stillness

Each rhythm is a field of energies, qualities and possibilities that exist in us and in the world around us, to which we can connect and experience through movement and dance.

The 5Rhythms weaved together create a wave of energy and motion. Dancing the Wave leads us to heightened awareness of ourselves and of those around us; develops our ability for expression through movement, our ability to dive in, let go and discharge; elevates and expands us and enables us to be truly present in the moment.

Dancing the rhythms leads to the integration of all our domains - the physical, the emotional, the mental, and the spiritual, helping us live to our full potential and fully become who we truly are.

The 5Rhythms are suitable for anyone who wishes to dance, without limitation of age, shape, physical condition or prior experience.