

# HANDS of PEACE

Peace is Possible!



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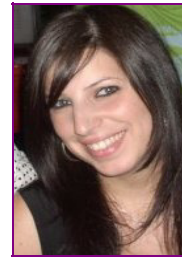
**THE 2010 SUMMER PROGRAM DATES ARE:  
FRIDAY, JULY 16—MONDAY, AUGUST, 2!!**

## News from Julie Kanak, Executive Director

We are already very busy planning for Summer 2010! Recruiting for **host families** and **participants** will be underway soon, so please help us spread the word. For information on becoming a host family, please contact **Gail Tatsuda** at 847-559-0599 or [gtatsuda@hands-of-peace.org](mailto:gtatsuda@hands-of-peace.org). For information about participation, contact **Mary Ann Topping** at 847-729-9126 or [mtopping@hands-of-peace.org](mailto:mtopping@hands-of-peace.org). All online applications will be available on our website by December 1, 2009.

## Our Middle East Staff is Growing!

Welcome to Rana Haddad, our new Arab Citizens of Israel Regional Coordinator (ACI RC) as she joins the HOP Middle East Team! Rana lives in Haifa, was an '03 Hand and an '04 XL, has helped HOP with recruitment and other activities in the Middle East, and was also a chaperone. We are thrilled to have her on board with her experience, dedication, and ever-ready smile...



## October 2009

Board member **Laura Bernstein** reports that her article entitled "Hands of Peace: From Epiphany to Reality" will be published in the upcoming anthology *Peace Movements Worldwide*. Laura conducted and transcribed 18 interviews with staff, participants, host families and Board Members, and she thanks everyone for their enthusiastic participation. Publication is scheduled for April 2010 through Greenwood/Praeger (an imprint of ABC-CLIO).

**And from the Middle East...** The Regional Coordinators are busy planning a two-day retreat in December open to Hands from all years. There is much excitement and enthusiasm for this kind of event, which will include a variety of activities, in-depth dialogue sessions and opportunities for Hands to form new bonds and strengthen old connections.

## Reflections on the 2009 Summer Program, by Ashley Bates, Program Director

I'd like to once again thank this year's staff, volunteers, and participants for an incredible 18 days filled with laughs, friendships, tough discussions, creativity, cooperation and personal growth. This Program was HOP's largest to date, with Hands and XLs adding up to a total of 40! Some additions for this year included the participation of two US Hands who were not from the N/NW suburbs (one from San Diego and one from Chicago's west side), greater responsibilities for the XLs, and a research project on critical thinking skills conducted by Alan Rubin. Other highlights included many returning staff members, great press in local papers, radio and on the web, and the immensely positive feedback we received from participants, host families, volunteers and staff. And all the old traditions—Cultural Cooking Night, Handshake Games, and the Farewell Banquet, among others!—were as fun and fulfilling as always.

**News from Jim Tatsuda, Operations Committee Chair...** We bid fond farewell to Maggie Cain who is retiring from her role as the Communications and Public Relations Chair. Maggie has been in charge of the database, the Newsletter, the Hands Across the Water electronic newsletter, fundraising materials and all PR—she has done the work of three or more! We are also saying goodbye to Ceil Scanlon who is retiring after serving two years as Secretary. Her extremely accurate minutes and thank you notes will be missed! We were happy to recruit Sue Minkus as our new Secretary—Sue has served as PTA Secretary, so she's no "rookie." We are also thrilled to have Marlene Feibel as the new Newsletter Editor, and we have Marlene to thank for the great new look for this edition. Many other exciting changes are in process, so stay tuned!

**And introducing a new volunteer...Linda Tandet!**

Linda has recently joined HOP and will be working with the US Hands throughout the year, guiding them as they set group goals, continue learning about the Middle East and developing their peace-building and leadership skills. Linda has her MSW from the University of Chicago, has been in private practice for many years, and has also taught Psychology at colleges and universities. She heard about HOP soon after a life-changing visit to Israel during the 2006 Lebanon war and decided to get involved. Linda was on site every day of the Summer Program, and she says,



"Watching the change in the Hands was amazing, and to be able to contribute to this experience, even in a small way, is very gratifying!" Welcome, Linda!

**News From Joanna Sullivan, Our New HOP Board Chair...** We thank Debby Fosdick for serving as the 2008-2009 Chair—she did an outstanding job, and we are pleased she will remain on the Board as the Past Chair, lending her expertise and experience. Thanks to Laura Bernstein for her secretarial duties— she attended every meeting and took minutes with amazing detail and accuracy. Laura will serve as Vice Chair for 2009-2010.

**We are pleased to introduce Kholoud Khoury and Kit Harper, our newest Board members!** Kholoud is a Palestinian American currently working for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chicago as a consultant for Arab and Middle Eastern ministries. She has worked with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, Doctors Without Borders and as a teacher in Palestine. Kholoud says, "I am interested in joining Hands of Peace for the opportunity it gives to all these teens, coming from different faith backgrounds, to talk about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to promote peace and justice, and to broaden the learning about their culture." Kit has been affiliated with the Learning Clinic at Northwestern University and is a speaker on dyslexia and learning disabilities. She learned about HOP during 2008 when she and her husband hosted the Middle East staff. Kit says, "If we are ever to have peace in the world, we need to teach our young people to recognize and revere our common humanity across race, religion, and culture, so they are free of blind hatred." Welcome to both!

**In September Gretchen Grad, HOP Founder,** joined a United Church of Christ (UCC) mission trip to Israel/Palestine. The group spent 12 days touring sites in Israel and the West Bank and meeting with human rights groups and church partners. She was able to attending the first follow-up meeting since this summer's program, held in Jerusalem on September 4—the biggest follow-up meeting ever, drawing participants from all years! The 34 attendees were split into 2 groups led by facilitators Husam Jubran and Avigail Jacobson. The discussions were lively and passionate but full of connection and sharing. An extra bonus was the presence of Program Director, Ashley Bates, who was in the region doing journalism work.

Gretchen shared, "Even though this was my fourth trip to the region, it definitely felt different this time. The HOP community has become so widespread, I felt there were friends everywhere I went! I ran into '06 alum Bashar Sorri while waiting at the post office! And I so enjoyed meeting Avigail and Avner's baby Yehonatan and spending a delightful evening with Husam and Jumana's daughters, Mayar and Lamar. The HOP family is growing in more ways than one!"



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