



December 2005

The Compassionate Listening Project

A nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching skills for everyday peace-building, healing polarization, and building bridges between people, communities, and nations in conflict

Blessed Are the Peacemakers: voices from our 20th training delegation in Israel and Palestine

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Thank you to our
Volunteers!!

Shirley Green
Beverly Neff
Phyllis Selinker

"An enemy is one
whose story we have
not heard."

- Gene Knudsen Hoffman,
Compassionate Listening
Pioneer



Souliman al-Khatib: "I was one of four Palestinians on the historic 'Breaking the Ice' expedition with Israelis to Antarctica in 2003. The experience provided me with my first human contact with Israelis, and led me to establish the Abu Sukkar Center for Peace and Dialogue in the West Bank. I was imprisoned for over 10 years for violence against soldiers when I was a teenager. One of the new initiatives I'm involved in is 'X-Fighters' - 50 former Israeli and Palestinian combatants who are educating youth on both sides about the costs of violence. Our Center is involved in summer peace camps, religious dialogues and many joint activities with Israelis. I'm personally convinced that both sides want peace and security."



Ester Golan cheated destiny when she left Germany at age 15 on a Kinder Transport to England. Her parents did not survive the death camps. In a beautiful unfolding of events, Ester has come to peace with Germany and returns there each year to tell her story to school children and to dialogue with Germans. In 2003, Ester joined 250 Jewish and Palestinian Israelis on a profound journey to Auschwitz, led by Father Emile Shufani of Nazereth.. Ester continues to suffer from the costs of war...her beloved grandson was killed in Jenin while serving in the Israeli Army. Ester says, "The way out, is we must find ways to recognize the humanity of the other."



Jamil Roshdy (pictured with his son Mohammad) will likely be elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council in January. He has been hard at work leading the Popular Campaign for Peace and Democracy - a grassroots movement supporting the "Peoples' Voice" initiative of Ami Ayalon and Sari Nusseibeh, (www.mifkad.org.il/en/). "Ninety percent of my days are filled with anxiety. I hear tanks and I get up and get dressed, because I expect to be taken. We want to live with honor, peace, dignity and security. I was imprisoned for 9 years and I can tell you that the price of peace is nothing compared to the cost of war. We have only one choice."



Sarah Karajeh, director of the Hebron Women's Society: "In 2002, the Israeli-Palestinian Bereaved Families Circle asked me to help them locate participants from the Hebron area to join bereaved Israeli parents for an event at the United Nations. My husband believed in this work and helped me to select the participants. Two months later, he was killed by the Israeli military at a checkpoint, and I myself became bereaved. After he was assassinated, a reporter called me and said, 'Now that your husband was martyred, will you continue to work for peace?' My answer was, 'I will continue to struggle and struggle and struggle for peace.' I am now a member of the Israeli-Palestinian Bereaved Families Forum."



Hagit Raanan, founder, Bridges for Peace: "I am the daughter of an Israeli commander of the right-wing underground, Irgun. I was raised on the Zionist dream. I've seen far too many wars. The war in Lebanon in 1982 took the life of my beloved partner. Soon after his death, our child was stillborn. I will never forget what happened to me, but I decided it should motivate me in positive ways. I'm not a victim and I don't believe that any of us are victims. I wish to make it possible for others to move beyond their own 'inner stalemate.' I created the Culture of Peace Educational Program as one such initiative, to help cultivate the awareness that peace starts with me."

photos by Leah Green

Healing the Wounds of WWII



Brian and Lisa Berman have created a ground-breaking "Compassionate Journey" for all those interested in helping to heal the still-simmering wounds of World War II. The delegation, which the Bermans have designed as an intensive Compassionate Listening training, is open to participants of all nations and backgrounds. "Many people still avoid going to Germany" Brian said, "because they carry the generational and collective wounds of WWII and the Holocaust. Lisa and I have created this Compassionate Journey for those who are ready to cross this bridge - not alone, but together as members of the delegation. It offers a path for healing and for building peace and reconciliation."

Participants will listen to each other's stories, as well as to Jewish and German survivors and community members. The trip includes touring memorial sites and accommodations in an art-hotel.

The Bermans are uniquely qualified to lead this delegation. Brian, an American Jew, and Lisa, a German native and longtime Berlin resident, met during the first Jewish-German Compassionate Listening project in 2002 in Germany. They were married within a year and since that time have taught Compassionate Listening and led Jewish-German reconciliation programs throughout the U.S. and Germany. They are certified Compassionate Listening facilitators, and a living testament to Jewish-German reconciliation. The program, which runs May 2nd - 9th, is approximately \$1,525 (\$1,445 if registered by January 15, 2006). Early registration is recommended, as space is limited to 20. For more information and registration, go to: <http://www.bermanhealingarts.com/CompassionateJourney.htm>, or contact Brian or Lisa Berman at (360) 297-3358, or by email: info@BermanHealingArts.com.

TCLP Welcomes 2005/2006 Advanced Training Class



In November 2005, twenty-five participants began their year-long advanced training in Compassionate Listening with Training Director Carol Hwoschinsky and a team of our certified facilitators. The group will return to Camp Brotherhood for parts two and three in February and May. At the end of the training they will be eligible to apply for facilitator certification. This new group of advanced students brings a wealth of skills and energy. It's exciting to witness the work moving into ever-widening circles, as this group comes from 11 states in the U.S., as well as Alberta and British Columbia. We expect to offer another Advanced Training Series in the fall of 2006. If you would like to sign up, please let us know. You'll find more information on our Workshops page on the website.

THE COMPASSIONATE LISTENING PROJECT 2005 PROGRAM REPORT

In our most successful year ever, 3,000 people participated in Compassionate Listening Project trainings, programs and events. Twelve of our certified facilitators offered nearly 100 programs, including our introductory intensive training, keynote speeches, presentations and film screenings. Thousands more learned about our work through interviews, articles, books and radio interviews. Thank you to our community of friends for your remarkable support!

HEALING OUR WORLD FROM THE INSIDE OUT: INTRODUCTORY INTENSIVES

Mendocino, CA
Steyerberg, Germany
Berlin, Germany
Hildesheim, Germany
School for International Training, Brattleboro, VT
St. Mary's College, South Bend, IN (3 trainings)
Santa Fe, NM
Mt. Vernon, WA
Denver, CO
Port Townsend, WA
Santa Monica, CA

ADVANCED TRAINING

Mt. Vernon, WA

TRAINING DELEGATIONS

Israel and Palestine, November 2005

INTRODUCTORY EVENTS & CLASSES

West Hartford Peace and Justice Activists
Elat Chayyim, Jewish Spiritual retreat Center
Shelter Rock Unitarian Universalist Church, Long Island
Citizen's Alliance for Middle East Peace, Hartford, CT
Practice group, Monroe Congregational Church, CT
Spiritual Leadership Forum, Hamden, CT
Homeless Shelter for Women and Children, Seattle, WA
Practice group, S.F. Bay Area
Together In Faith Conference, Ypsilanti, MI
High Holy Day workshop on "Hot Topics", Berkeley, CA
Women and Youth Supporting Each Other, UCLA, LA, CA
NW Quaker Conference, Spokane, WA
One-day training, February and May, Seattle, WA
Provender Alliance, Bellingham, WA
Two evening introductions, Seattle Friends Center
One-day training, Mt. Shasta, CA
National Buddhist Conference, Lynchburg, VA
NonViolent Communication group, Oakland, CA
Facing A Challenge – Anti-Semitism on the Left
conference, Berkeley, CA
Bringing Compassion Into The Fire, Berkeley, CA for
Lehrhaus Judaica series on anti-Semitism
Keeping Hope Alive class on Israel and Palestine,
Kehilla Community Synagogue
Global Citizen Journey participant training, Seattle, WA

KEYNOTE TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Women and Democracy, University of Washington, Seattle
NW Quaker Conference, Spokane, WA
Noetic Sciences International Conference, Arlington, VI
Center for Women's Interfaith Leadership, St. Mary's
College, South Bend, IN
One Community, Many Stories, Suquamish United
Church of Christ
Listening for the Oneness of Humanity, Sermon at
Suquamish United Church of Christ, Suquamish, WA
Jean Houston's School for Social Artists, Ashland, OR
Reframing Peace Conference, Ashland, OR
Chicago Theological Union, Chicago, IL
National Buddhist Conference, Lynchburg, VA
Northwest Catholic Women's Conference, Seattle, WA
National Council of Jewish Women, New Haven, CT
Spiritual Leadership Forum, Hamden, CT
"Days of Rememberance", U.S. Navy, Keyport, WA
Together in Faith Conference, Ypsilanti, MI

JEWISH-GERMAN PROJECT (JGP)

Screening of "Embracing Story" - 8th Annual Celluloid
Bainbridge Island Film Festival
Jewish-German Project presentation, Stuttgart, Germany
JGP presentation and film screening, Ft. Collins,
Denver and Hamburg
Training with Berlin practice group
Introductory evening, Hildesheim, Germany
Jewish-German Project Reunion, Steyerberg, Germany
Presentation for Council House, Seattle, WA



Jewish-German Project, Steyerberg, Germany

2005 Program Report

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ANNUAL AND ON-GOING EVENTS

2nd Annual Compassionate Listening Summer Gathering, July 2005, Mt. Vernon
Bainbridge Island/N. Kitsap Practice Group
N. Seattle Practice Group
Ashland, OR Practice Group

PRESS/PUBLICATION/RADIO

Column on Compassionate Listening in The Sentient Times, by Eryn Kalish
Article on Compassionate Listening in J Magazine, by Rabbi Amy Eilberg
Interview with Leah Green, The Source newspaper, Church Council of Greater Seattle
Interview with Leah Green, Seattle Woman magazine
Chapter in "The Soul of Success for Women" by Jennifer Hawthorne
Interview with Leah Green on Future Talk Radio with Zohara Heironymous
Chapter on Compassionate Listening in book by Dr. Stephen Post, Case Western Reserve Univ.
Interview with Andrea Cohen on the Jewish-German Project, KUOW, Seattle Public Radio affiliate
"Peace building with Compassionate Listening" by Lisa Berman, Peace-University Hagen/Germany
"Zur Psychologie der Friedensarbeit - Psychology of Peacework" by Lisa Berman, "ZFD impuls"
Carol Hwoschinsky on Compassionate Listening, Sentient Times

Save the date:

3rd Annual Summer Gathering!

August 4-6, 2006

Beautiful Camp Brotherhood
Mt Vernon, Washington

*Drink from the well of spirit and community.
Newcomers to Compassionate Listening welcome.*



photo by Linda Wolf, Summer Gathering, 2004

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The Compassionate Listening Project



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