

## Powerful Hope at a Seemingly Hopeless Time

For all of us who have the blessing and gift of being alive, the war between Israel and Hamas- in addition to the polarization and radicalization taking place across this earth - is frightening.

It can be so hard to feel hopeful about ... almost anything.

And yet, after a short 1-hour call last Thursday, I feel a powerful and rare sense of hope and possibilities for change that can create critical ripple effects around the world.

For me, when I look at the violence and suffering in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, I see a concentrated "model" of too many traumatized peoples controlling the narratives of fear and the need for violence that further inflicts trauma. The problems seem to me to be a sort of crystallized version of problems that exist with their own particular valence in other ways and in other parts of the world.

But where problems reside, amazing solutions **can** come forth from dedicated leaders, and as these solutions become clear and gain traction, they can likewise spread around the earth.

An amazing organization, [Inter-Act](#), is hosting a series of 4 talks about [Israeli and Palestinian Women Peace Leaders](#), and last week was the **inaugural event series at the InterAct Education Center**, which is dedicated to amplifying the peace-builders in Israel and Palestine, and providing critical educational content that inspires, uplifts and helps to build a better world.

Here is a [link](#) to watch the recording from last week's talk, the first of this free series.

Last week's topic was "What Does it Take to be a Woman in Leadership?" with **Rana Salman**, Executive Director of [Combatants for Peace](#) and **May Pundak**, Executive Director of [A Land for All](#).

May Pundak noted that this time period is the biggest crisis for Israelis since the 1948 War of Independence. The opportunity of this time period is for Israelis to remember that unexpected solutions *can* indeed be arrived at, and now is indeed the time for that, for everyone is suffering in the current situation. As Rana Salman reminded us,, "when we act from 'an eye for an eye,' we end up with a lot of people walking around blind."

I'll be hosting a Zoom debrief conversations at 7 pm eastern on the evening of each talk. **Please email me by 3 pm on each day so that I know to expect you, and can give you the password to our Zoom room.** (The link is on the calendar at [Oseh Shalom](#)).

In addition, check out the links below to

- learn more about each organization,
- donate to them to support their critical work,
- sign up for their emails to stay abreast of their activities, (leaders from *A Land for All* are coming to the US!), or
- learn more about Inter-Act's partnership with Mejudi Tours for a February and March missions to Israel and Palestine!

[Inter-Act](#) - support

[A Land for All](#)

[Combatants for Peace](#)

[Israel and Palestine Trip: Beyond the Headlines](#)

And most importantly:

1. sign up for the rest of this series and learn from powerful women peace maker leaders, and
2. **share about this work broadly!!** (All sessions are recorded and zoom links are available afterwards, fyi. The next session is on 1/15 at noon, eastern time).

With hopes for continuing to grow the possibilities of peace, starting between Israel and Palestine,

Daria

PS I shared about this work with a colleague. After watching it she told me, "Thank you! I haven't felt that much hope in a very long time!")

PPS On a personal level, over the past couple of years my work as a spiritual leader has deepened in many ways. I had the great honor of getting trained in a transformational coaching methodology through the Institute for Women-Centered Coaching & Leadership, and am about to begin the Vita Coaching training in Sex, Love, and Relationships. I have been so humbled by the impact of this work in the congregation, and am passionate about the possibilities for continuing to help the yearnings held within our hearts to have the simple, yet critical support needed to

realize this latent human potential. The ripple effect I have already seen has been awe-inspiring!

If you are interested in learning more about this, please reach out to me, and I look forward to being in touch!