

HANDS of PEACE



Peace is Possible!

SAVE THE DATE: FAREWELL BANQUET, SUNDAY AUGUST 1! More info on website soon!



THE FIRST ANNUAL HOP GALA!



On April 24, HOP held its first Annual Gala “Celebrate the Magic of Hands of Peace” at Reza’s Restaurant in downtown Chicago. A sold-out crowd of more than 200 people listened to music by Alison Breitman, watched magician James Sanden do some amazing magic tricks, laughed at the edgy humor of comedian Ray Hanania (co-founder of the Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour), and dined on Reza’s delicious Middle Eastern fare. There were some wonderful raffle prizes as well, and the two fabulous live auction items were a week’s stay at a condo in Mexico and an in-home dinner party provided by two chefs from Roti Restaurant. It took a lot of time, energy and effort from a lot of people to make this evening such a success...HOP owes a big “thanks” to all of them, but especially to volunteers Lisa Fisher and Karen Boton – without them the Gala wouldn’t have happened. The plans for next year’s Gala are already underway!



News from Julie Kanak, Executive Director

SUMMER PROGRAM COMING SOON!

Preparations in the US are in full swing. The US Orientations for Hands, their parents and host families are scheduled for June 10th and July 15th, and the US Hands will soon begin their Education Sessions. This year’s Summer Program officially begins on Friday, July 16th when the 21 participants from Israel and Palestine arrive and get settled in with their host family—their home away from home for the next two weeks! The program will really get rolling the next day, after a good night’s sleep for all. We’ve added some new things this year including a local chaperone for the American participants, some very excited new staff members, and some new program activities, too. One thing remains the same, however—the **Farewell Banquet will be held on the last Sunday evening of the program (August 1st) at JRC in Evanston! More information and ticket purchases will soon be available on our website.**

June 2010

PROGRAM DIRECTOR ASHLEY BATES REPORTING FROM THE MIDDLE EAST... Ashley has been working as a freelance journalist in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for the past few months, writing about a variety of issues. She has had a number of articles published in both print and online publications. Ashley will be returning to the US in order to run the Summer Program, and will happily share her adventures with everyone back here at home!

GET TO KNOW ONE OF OUR VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteer Gail Tatsuda has been helping HOP for years. She and her husband Jim (currently the Chair of the Operations Committee) have been host parents, and Gail has also organized lunches for the Summer Program – no small task! This past year, Gail was in charge of Host Family Recruiting, and handled everything from accepting online applications, arranging and conducting home visits, and finally matching up host families and Hands! She will be on duty throughout the Summer Program helping host families in any way she can to ensure a good experience for all. Gail has given countless hours to HOP – **thank you, Gail!!**



ORIENTATION FOR MIDDLE EAST HANDS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 18 IN JERUSALEM

Executive Director Julie Kanak will be heading to Israel/Palestine in June loaded down with Orientation Manuals and purple t-shirts she will be bringing to the new Middle East Hands! They will all come to Jerusalem along with a parent on June 18th in order to meet Julie, the regional staff, and Ashley, who will still be working in the region. The teens usually bring a LOT of excitement and eagerness to meet the others, and the parents usually bring a LOT of questions...everyone leaves eager for July to come!

Want to get more involved in HOP? If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Julie Kanak at 224-406-5045, or through our website. We could still use some help with various activities this summer!

And speaking of our website...It has a new look thanks to volunteer webmaster Mort Stern! Mort devoted many hours of time this spring to updating our website—see for yourself at www.hands-of-peace.org!



2011 HOP TRIP TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE!

Some other exciting plans are underway for next year too...we are in the preliminary stages of planning a Hands of Peace Trip to the Middle East for some time in 2011. While this trip will include visits to some of the major sites and sights in the region, it will also have its own very special HOP spin. More information on the trip will be in the Fall Newsletter.



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