


Conflicts aside, people want to live, buy and sell, fall in love. That which is divided by politics and religion, is united by the daily, normal qualities of life and relationships. There's a world where bombs scatter death among ordinary people; sometimes when they're running one of the most ordinary errands, like shopping; this is exactly where we've tried to record the deep longing for peace of two peoples divided by an endemic conflict. It's our prerogative to photograph new collections in unusual places: we're more interested in discovering people than in selling them dreams. So here is the search for real people and real stories, here is the discovery of beauty without stereotypes; here is diversity highlighted by uniqueness. We'll distribute these images all over the world, reaching millions of people. It seemed right to share this important communicative experience with others. Newsweek had immediate faith in this unusual catalogue that's also a reportage, or this unusual reportage in which everyone wears Benetton clothes (even if no-one notices).
By accepting to write the introduction, writers Izzat Ghazzawi and Abraham Yehoshua have symbolically represented the Palestinian and Isràeli peoples in this testimony of peace. Our thanks goes to them.
Thank you also to the women, men and youths who agreed to take part in this game.
They managed to show the differences within communal purpose, commitment within frivolity.

Luciano Benetton President Benetton Group


## Gali Gold

26 years old, Israeli, lives in Jerusalem. PR in communication "For years, every Friday, on foot, in silence, dressed in black and for an hour with other Israeli women we protest against the military occupation. I would like it to stop so that I can go to the beach, to the mountains or to sleep on Fridays, like most Israelis. But in this country everything is surreal".

## Iumna Huwari

27 years old, Palestinian, lives in Ramallah Researcher, degree in Political science "I would like to feel lightness of spirit. But getting to Jerusalem is a real adventure, I have to avoid soldiers' controls, it's humiliating. I'm a woman, Muslim and Palestinian and I fight everyday for a democratic Palestinian state, for all its citizens, male and female".

# The illusion in Oliviero Toscani's pictures, and the hope. 

By Abraham B. Yehoshua

By now, the world should have had its fill of the Israel Arab conflict, and especially the conflict between the Jews and the Palestinians. Still, fifty years after the founding of the State of Israel and more than a hundred years after the beginning of Zionism, the conflict seems to attract complex and profound interest on the part of people who have absolutely no personal contact with the issue. News from the turbulent Holy Land will always find pride of place in TV channels and barely a day goes by in which no report from the scene of the conflict is published in the international press. Is this interest based only on curiosity, a quest for some juicy gossip? Or is it political concern for the fate of a key region of the world? I believe not. News from the region has long since lost its spice and is becoming more and more repetitive and decidedly monotonous.
Moreover, in an era of broad international peacemaking, the Middle East is becoming less and less important. There must be something deeper, something which draws people to want to know how the drama will develop, and especially, how it will end, between the Jews and the Palestinians. In my opinion, that something else concerns the clear moral element of this drama. With other ethnic conflicts, no less ancient and no less bloody, like the conflict in Northern Ireland, or the war in Bosnia, the moral root of the issue has been blurred and completely obliterated, whereas in the Holy Land, notwithstanding the passing years, that root is still there, in the forefront.

## A struggle between different and contradicting truths

It is a clear-cut, classic moral conflict, the kind to which we are drawn when we are observing (for example) a Greek tragedy such as Antigone. A struggle between two different and contradicting truths, each of which is right in its own way. And not only does the observer understand the justice of each of the positions, he is willing and even eager to identify with them. It is no wonder, therefore, that as the drama develops, we find ourselves on tenterhooks, deeply concerned, as the cruel moment of reckoning approaches, and praying in our hearts for a compromise which would prevent the tragedy of submission.
But ours is not only a prayer for compromise to come out of the weakness of surrender, a temporary amnesty in which feelings of disappointment and revenge continue to churn, but a compromise of a new and original integration, which will make out of two conflicting truths, a third, larger and
more just, truth. Thus, in spite of the separation and the obsessive repetition which have been part and parcel of the hundred year old conflict, from the very moment of the Jews' return to their ancient homeland and their struggle for it with its Palestinian inhabitants, and in spite of the fatigue at hearing those same oftrepeated claims from both sides - like some frozen religious ritual - and in spite of the firmly expressed desperate determinations by foreign commentators and experts that this is a hopeless conflict, which will never end, there is a clear desire among many people in the world for a solution to the Arab Israel conflict. Since many share a kind of morbid gutfeeling that if the conflict is not resolved, not only might it regress into yet another Northern Ireland-like murky swamp, there is always the terrible possibility that it might take wing and rise toward the horrible epilogue of a Greek drama, which spreads total destruction and devastation over everyone involved.

## Masters of their own fate

Indeed, if there is any moral value and significance to the Jews' attempt at normalizing their situation and finding, in the wake of their terrible suffering in the Diaspora - a scrap of territory in which they can build a reality for themselves and become masters of their own fate, it is absolutely forbidden morally for this to be achieved by denying the national rights of another nation.
And as the world stands and wonders at the wonderful and unique historical phenomenon of the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland after two thousand years of exile, so it comprehends the so special and strange and confusing experience to which the Palestinians have been and are party to, for having to pay with their lands for this historical wonder.

## Day-to-day situations

It is for this reason that the Italian photographer, Oliviero Toscani did well in not choosing to take his wonderful camera to the place where Israeli soldiers are confronting Palestinian children, nor to the Jerusalem market, where Jewish dead and wounded lie, in the aftermath of a murderous Palestinian suicide bombing, but chose instead to point his camera at mundane, even banal, day-to-day situations depicting the ties between Palestinian people and Jewish people. And if, in a few sentences, I am being called upon to accompany these very human photographs, which
observe the emptiness of humanity, but with a great deal of optimism and humour, I say: You are forever reading about horrific acts of terrorism, of people committing suicide by blowing themselves up in the middle of towns. You hear, too, of humiliation, of road blocks, of requisition of property and of a cruel army of occupation. And, indeed, all this is correct and true, but it is not the whole truth. There are other things as well. Things which are no less important, there is also a life of community, there are daily meetings.
There is negotiation on a personal level. There are feelings other than hate, enyy, anger.

## Mistrust and suspicion

But take care not to be misled. Notwithstanding the idealistic smiles and hugs in the pretty and colourful pictures, we have no way of knowing what lies deep down in the hearts of the people, Palestinians and Jews, photographed here in everyday situations. Do not be mistaken by believing that, just because they are talking to each other, laughing and patting each other on the back, they are not capable of hurting each other. History has taught us that in places where peace and harmony reigns - in Yugoslavia, for example sharp hatred and violence can suddenly erupt, which are based on mistrust, and the suspicion that not only does the other side want to take control of your lands, but of your entire identity as well.
Mistrust and suspicion can be dissolved and reduced by constantly breaking down stereotypes, not only of people, but also of relationships. And it is this which a book of photographs such as this one is aiming to achieve. In a place where you did not expect to find Jews and Palestinians cooperating, on the most intimate levels of their lives, the Italian photographer found them with his camera. Does this mean that they really love one another? Not necessarily. But it does appear to mean that they are in need of each other and who knows, perhaps even attracted to each other. But all this can be on the condition that each side is fully aware that the boundaries of his identity are very clearly defined.

## Cooperation between people

Some of the stormiest ethnic conflicts of this century broke out in places where attempts had been made to integrate one identity into another. Like Lebanon, like Sarajevo. The best solution, therefore, is a multi cultural pluralistic
society, capable of maintaining peace and respect within it. Security is essential and certain pluralism does not deny you your private cultural identity - it only enriches it. Cooperation between people must include a clear sense of equality. There is so much suspicion and pain and bitter memories in the Middle East, but at least one thing is clear - the Jews do not want to turn the Palestinians into Jews. And I believe that the Palestinians are aware of the fact that they will never be able to take upon themselves the Jewish identity, which is so unique. When a political division between Jews and Arabs includes security, when each side is sure that the other is not about to burst into his territory, that is when a new and interesting kind of cooperation can take place between two great civilizations - the Arab and the Jewish, which have already in the past fertilized each other and produced excellent fruit.

## Breaking down stereotypes

In the meantime, our task is to constantly break down stereotypes. And this is what these photographs are doing. And for me, the most shocking thing about Toscani's photographs is that in many cases I am unable to distinguish the Arab from the Jew, and I find this so disturbing, because all my life I have been sure that it would be a simple matter for me to recognize a member of my own nation and race. Does this mean, then, that geography is more powerful than history, or is it that the two nations share a common origin? I do not know. Of all the photographs, my favourite is the one of two men beside a field of water melons. While one man holds a whole water melon in both hands, the other is holding only half a water melon. Who is kissing whom? Is it the Palestinian with half a melon kissing the Jew with a whole one? Or vice versa, the Jew holding half a melon kissing the Palestinian with a whole melon? Whatever. But this picture seems to be saying that the person who has only half a melon in his possession is willing to give more love than the one who already owns a whole one. Perhaps because his own melon has already been opened and he knows just how red and juicy it is inside. And what is the political conclusion? Rather complicated. If you have only half a country, and it is fruitful and juicy, you can afford to be content and to spread love all around you.
A.B. Yehoshua is an Israeli writer known worldwide, very active in the Peace Now movement.

# Anxiety over communication with the other 

By Izat Chazzawi

I still remember that day in July 1991. We had been invited to Jerusalem by the Swedish consulate, despite the long years of occupation which had started in 1967, to meet a group of Israeli writers. As far as I was concerned, until that day I had been incapable of seeing a civil society in Israel, because everyone that I had met until then had been either a soldier, a police officer or a member of the secret service, and our lives had been filled with a sour smell and hate since ' 67. The daily shows, had been smothered in military uniforms, bullets and news about prisons.
The night before the meeting with the Israeli writers, I was very anxious. I asked myself if it would be wise to speak about the relationship between the cultural project and the complex political situation at a time when wounds were still open.
My experience of the nature of Israeli culture was negligible due to the little that I had been able to read and deduce from books translated into the English language. Between February ' 89 and May ' 91 , I had spent time in an Israeli prison because I was a political activist, but during the time of my detention I had managed to write a book about my memories, about past experiences and about how I was able to survive the period of my imprisonment. I imagined that I was able to talk to the writers that I had read and I managed to remember something in their writings that spoke of the struggle for life and the courage necessary to be able to surmount obstacles.
One of the writers with whom I shared the same ideas was Horvitz Yaeer who, in his poems, spoke of peace and birds and of the never-ending fear of solitude and exile.
I surprised myself incredibly when I discovered that I had spoken of him with so much affection and of the fact that I was able to completely separate him from the situation of bloody conflict in which we were living; that the severity of prison had been pushed aside speaking of a poet with such a great heart.

## The anxiety

The anxiety! This word is perhaps not strong enough to describe the sensation that I felt in those few hours before our meeting in the city of Jerusalem, when to enter the city I had to have a permit from the civil authorities.
This alone was reason enough for bitterness, to which were added the difficulties encountered and long procedures in order to obtain the permit. Deep inside I felt like rejecting this display. My heart would not accept the idea that the city of Jerusalem was open to everyone except the Palestinians. During that period we were very slowly leaving behind the Intifada and we were a destroyed people, tired, full of wounds, economically oppressed and not able to decide which step to take next. It was necessary to try and find a road from which a political culture open to communication with the other would emerge. And it became logical to recognize that the occupation of a whole population was neither humane nor reasonable. Refusing to recognize the existence of the other had become useless. I asked myself what the intellectual could do to be certain that his battle for life was a real fight. All this did not diminish the moments of anxiety that overcame me. I was convinced that I was presenting my ideas in all freedom and sincerity in declaring that the meeting would not be carried out on an equal footing because it would be difficult to detach ourselves from our political past even if we had wanted to. The Palestinian writer would be the one to ask for the end of occupation and the Israeli writer the one in a position to grant it.

## The duty of the writer

Despite the positive attitude towards peace seen in some Israeli writers, the attitude is not free from the feeling of "superiority" referring to what the Palestinians could gain
from the peace process. I felt that the duty of the writer was to point out the road to take without defining it clearly, because to define it clearly would be to give an answer to the question and that is not the writer's task.
This is the mentality with which the first meeting would have taken place. Along the road to Jerusalem, we stopped at the check point, where a police officer verified the authenticity of the permits and the permits themselves. It had been three years since I had been to Jerusalem, but my feelings towards the city had changed, I saw how the face of a city changes with new buildings surrounding it from all sides. It's true that it would not be possible to divide it in the same way as before 1967, but it had to be done for peace and cohabitation and not for financial interests, would it be possible? I realized that this multitude of questions weighed more on the political than on the writer's part of me and I tried to convince myself that I have more of a responsibility towards justice than towards my work which is to look at details.

## What can we do for peace?

Several Israeli writers were present. Huge smiles were not enough to get through the first few minutes neither were the words of the Swedish general consul who welcomed everyone and thanked them for accepting the invitation. It was clear that the awkwardness of the first sentence would be enormous, but the question that took precedence in that sitting was: what can we do for peace?
Nobody was limited to the literal question, as if the question could have only one humanly acceptable answer and was not open for discussion.
Each one of us had our own reserve, our own bitterness and our own story to tell: the Israelis talked of Nazism and the fear under which they lived that terrible experience and how it influenced their way of living. The Israelis spoke of their uncertainties with regards to the end of the historic
hostility. And of their doubts regarding the reality of being accepted as a people in the zone. The Palestinians spoke of their sacrifice, of the obstacles and the curfew, of collective punishments, the prisons, the seriousness of the economic situation and of the inhumanity of the occupation. Everyone spoke calmly, some without looking each other in the eye. Nothing major came out of that encounter and no-one expected anything extraordinary, but for me it was a way of seeing the other as a partner in the building of a future.

## A long voyage of sufference

It became clear to me that it was possible to think of handing our anxieties over to another people and not to a military regime, which builds most of its thoughts on the feeling of victimization. So I wanted my manuscripts to acquire a calm tone that would go beyond the wounds of the past and build a culture of peace for the future. But instead one of the first responses was the killing of my son Ramy, 16 years old, while he was trying to save a wounded person in the school courtyard. His death was the death sentence of everything that grows between a father and his son, and it was a long voyage of sufferance that I do not think is limited to the personal side. I can say that this tragedy has changed the taste of life and everything. It made me lose my equilibrium between being a father and a writer, but despite that I have decided to use the pain to cure the sadness rather than to sacrifice it. We must think of the living, who deserve life, and the fallen should serve as an example.
I wrote "Ruh El-Hadiqa"(In the spirit of a better garden) for our little ones because I wanted to convey my ideas on the discovery of the meaning of pain for new generations. This land is for all of us and we must try to find equality, and a more significant value in the existence of man.

Arab greengrocer in Jaffa and Jewish customer

## Ronen Lazarov

34 years old, Jewish, family lives in Rome. Diamond trader
"I came to Israel in '82. I was a fervent Zionist, I admit that I was a bit narrow-minded. Maybe I was full of prejudice. The Palestinians weren't a people. Today I recognize their identity and I think that they should have their own country. When I arrived here I thought that I would achieve perfection. Now I'm tired of the way in which most people behave, so arrogant and irritable, although I do appreciate their pragmatism and solidity compared to Europe. Even diamonds have begun to bore me. I've opened a pizzeria".

## Mohammed Khallaf

42 years old, Arab,
born in the Arabic part of Isra,
lives in Jaffa.
Greengrocer
"This land has always produced many fruits: grapefruit, oranges, figs. But the best melons are from the city of Jenin. It's a pity I can't sell them. I'm over the green line, in the occupied territories so I can't buy them. During the Intifadah in Jenin they used them as flags in the protests. It was forbidden to wave the Palestinian flag, but melons have all its colors, white, red, green and black".


## flags in the protests... <br> 97





Two mothers who met in hospital when their children were born. They became friends.

## Karen Cohen

32 years old, Jewish born in Santiago, Chile.
Entrepreneur Little girl: Gal
"I think that all the world's Jews should live in Israel.
I'm a Zionist. Here in Jaffa there are also Arabs, we work together so why shouldn't I respect them? Too many old prejudices.
I'm fond of Nisareen, she's very shy and sensitive. Her whole family is so hospitable, it's great to be warmly welcomed".

## Nisreen AbuKaud Sate

21 years old, Arab
born in Jaffa.

## Teacher

Little girl: Arwa
"I like teaching children.
Sometimes it's sad to find so
many bad things on our planet in the textbooks that we use, but I think that peace can be built with love and trust. Karen is so vital and full of energy, we get on well together. I hope that Arwa and Gal can play and grow together".

## Lina Batchon

16 years old, Arab.
Student
"The meetings and discussions we hold in order to write our articles are very useful. I would like to work with disabled children, they shouldn't be abandoned".

## Livnat Landau

13 years old, Jewish. Student
"I want to be a writer, I love writing stories. Lina and I like the same music. I feel really sorry for Ahmad and Maha because they're not free to leave Gaza".

## Ahmad Naffar

13 years old, Palestinian from Gaza. Student
"I want to be a doctor and be important. I like Gaza but it's sad".

## Maha Naffar

15 years old, Palestinian from Gaza. Student
"I can't wait to finish school and become a pharmacist.
I'm happy when I meet my friends at Windows".


## Aviyah Peri

15 years old, Jewish.
Student
"I want to be an architect that will go down in history. I'd like to go to the same school as Lina. I think that the best solution is to live together, we're teenagers, we can talk without fighting".

Readers and contributors
of Halonot (Windows), a mixed Arab-Israeli magazine for teens

## "I want to be a witer.."



## Samer Sinijlawi

25 years old, Palestinian. Leader of the youth organization of FATAH
"Overcoming reciprocal stereotypes, to know and rediscover each other. That's the simple problem. But we can't pretend and hide our differences. I really hope that all our children will be able to meet one another, play together and have a normal life".

## Ilanit Sasson Melchior

26 years old, Israeli.
Leader of WUJS,
World Union of Jewish Students
"Samer and I share the idea
that to change the relationship between our two cultures it's necessary to know each other firstly as individuals, in this case as young people. What's
important is that we understand one another culturally: music,
-art, food. It's a way to build trust".




## MIm obsessed

## Rana Nashashibi

34 years old, Palestinian.
Psychoiogist
Candidate in the elections
for the Palestinian Council
"I'm obsessed with the future of Jerusalem. My city dies a little more each day. They're turning Jerusalem from a cultural mosaic into an empty shell".

## Hagar Roublev

43 years old, Israeli.
One of the foundiers of Women
in Black
(women's peace movement)
"To attempt the impossible.
One country for Israelis and
Palestinians. One country for its citizens. One person, one vote".


## with the future..

## Friends

## Maya Oren

41 years old, Israeli.
Teacher
"I like going to Hala's house,
they're so hospitable.
My husband works with Hala's husband, they get on well together. I'd like it if Arabs were also allowed to take part in the Kibbutz, not just work there".

## Hala Barhum

22 years old, Arab.
Teacher
"The Kibbutz on which Maya lives is on land that, until '48, was Suba, our village. My grandfather's tomb is in the Kibbutz.
They destroyed our village and confiscated the land around it. My husband works in the Kibbutz and we socialize with Maya's family, we eat together. We're not angry at them. They're nice people".
"not all Jews are our persecutors..."


Mixed couple
Muhammed Nabulsi
24 years old, Palestinian. Technician
"Love is unfathomed, it's magnetism, there are many lights. Claire helps me put up with this rotten world, she's the solid proof that not all Jews are our persecutors. But it's not enough. I'm tired and frustrated at not being able to move around, at being at the mercy of any check point.
Tired of seeing that my family doesn't have food for its children".

Claire Liebmann Nabulsi
27 years old, Jewish, from Belgium.
Degree in Philosophy. Works as cultural officer in an embassy
"I'm Jewish, I love my culture and belonging to that culture. I'm not betraying my culture because I love a Palestinian. It's this country that betrays it with its nationalism. I grew up among books, Muhammed opened up a new life and new knowledge for me. His family accepted me after some hesitation and I love this land and these people".

# "this is a very special theater.." 

Tamara Dayan
27 years old, Israeli.
Actress
"My family comes from Morocco,
I speak Hebrew and Arabic. I lived in New York for a year. I came back
here to try and be successful.
More than anything I want to be
a mother, calm and serene. And
to make this world a better place
for my children".


## Khalifa Natour

32 years old, Palestinian.
Actor
"When I was 16 we had to present a theater piece in my village but our teacher left us in the middle of it so I found myself writing and directing the piece. Being an actor and a Palestinian creates some conflicts for me. An actor shouldn't be limited by ethnicity. I'm at risk
of becoming a schizophrenic, I'm divided between the different identities, in the theater, in love, in my cultural values. I can accept neither tradition nor modernity".

## cill Ben Ousilio

34 years old, Israeli. Actress
"I want peace, I'm not interested in the price that Israel has to pay, it will never be enough.
My daughter's father is a Yemenite, she looks African, I'm white.
I hope that she'll be tolerant".

A'asem El Shafir and son 36 years old, Palestinian. Stage manager
"I worked in the bar next to the theater and the theater director found out that I went to interior design school. It's hard to find an Arab that does this type of work. This is a very special theater. I've learnt a lot from the Israelis, they should learn to coexist with others instead of always feeling superior".



Friends, students at the Law faculty

## Ayelet Weiss

23 years old, Jewish.
Studies Law
"I like dancing, acting and I'd like to be a model.
I feel beautiful. I'd like to help the poor, no matter what side they're on. I study law because I'm interested in justice. I know there's not much of it around. There won't be peace in the Middle East, politicians don't have solutions. I can't stand fanatics of the Islam faith,
in fact I can't stand any kind of fanatic".

## Amid Makhoul

24 years old, Israeli Arab.
Studies Law
"To be accepted into Law, Arabs have to make a really high score. Studying law makes me more aware of discrimination against Arabs but despite that I prefer Israeli legislation to Arabic. I live in such confusion that sometimes I don't know who I am. I'd like to be a lawyer for a multinational. I want to leave this country. I can't live here. I find it hard to breath".

## Yaela Vahab

23 years old, Israeli. Works as waitress and studies kindergarten teaching "My husband is the most precious thing in my life. I'd like to live in the desert with a mountain -covered in sheep, water and fruit trees - in the middle. And run a kindergarten with Israeli and Palestinian children".

## Moutnaser Aweidah

22 years old, Palestinian. Studies Hotel Management "I'd like to have a Palestinian passport. Why should I be at the mercy of the Israeli government? I play football, the exercise serves as an outlet. I'll manage my father's hotel, it's the family tradition. It's not doing very well, though, there's a lot of competition and the Israelis have lots of advantages and power. We pay the same taxes, but in East Jerusalem there are no utilities".

## "ITd like to have a Palestinian passport..."




## be taught to live together.."



Mixed kindergarten with Christian, Arabic and Jewish children

## Inas Karayanni

28 years old, Palestinian with Musa, 3 years old "I would like my children to grow up without prejudice but still able to distinguish between justice and injustice".

## Eti Ben Ami Louzon

31 years old, Israeli with Jonathan, 3 years old "Scheduled meetings for parents are very important, different problems are dealt with and relationships that are then carried outside the center are formed".

## Rivka Nemirousky

49 years old, Israeli
with Avishai, 3 years old
"We also discuss politics but
in an indirect way. The decision to bring our children to this kindergarten means that we also chose to communicate. My son uses some Arabic words. It's a start".

## Nadia Kanaani

29 years old, Palestinian with Hanin, 3 years old "People need to be taught to live together as small children, we chose to bring our children into this mixed kindergarten".

## Sari Hillel Evan

31 years old, Israeli
with Gali, 3 years old
"We Jews have come from all over the world, our cultures are mixed, we should express them, not suppress them. There are many very different personalities among us".

## Diana Manneh-Saintez

33 years old, Palestinian with Laure, 3 years old
"We're privileged mothers, so are our children. Most of us are middle class and have careers, we can afford all this".



Young people who work in
the same bar in West Jerusalem

## Naama Mor

22 years old, Israeli.
Works and studies Architecture "I'd like to dance all my life until my body gives up. Dance until I'm dizzy. I hope that my children won't have to go to the army".

## Na'el Hussein Elayan

18 years old, Palestinian. Waiter
"I can't wait to fall in love and have a family. I would never marry an Israeli girl even if she were gorgeous. An Arab girl would understand me better".

Walid Saleh Mihsen
22 years old, Palestinian. Waiter
"If there was peace I could marry an Israeli girl, now it's difficult. Naama is very sweet and not racist. It's horrible to be discriminated against, you feel sick, you can never relax".


## "I would never marry an Israel gith.."



## Lea Tsemel

50 years old,
Jewish from Jerusalem. Lawyer "I hate being part of a society of dominators that are scomful of human rights, I defend the Palestinians. I'm privileged, I'm Jewish, they won't arrest me like they do many Palestinian lawyers. But it's not just for them, it's for me, so that me and my children won't have to live in such a barbaric situation. That's
why I go to court everyday to have a few years taken off a sentence, or get even measly compensation for demolished houses or for people mutilated either by torture or by the bullets of our soldiers".

## Anwar Abu Lafí

31 years old,
Palestinian from Jerusalem. Lawyer
"I used to dream of being the Baggio of Palestinian soccer. My father
wanted me to become a lawyer. I try to do it in a special way: I defend my people from the abuses of power of Jewish judges. That's how I met my wife. She'd been in prison five years, her family asked me to defend her. I saw her behind the bars, so beautiful and free. She was arrested at 15 and came out when she was $22^{\prime \prime}$.

## Nassar Abdelhakeem

30 years old,
Israeli Arab from Arraba. Lawyer "I wanted to study law. I applied for entry to the Israeli university five times. They only accepted me to study Arabic, so I went to Italy where I got my degree. There are dramatic cases in our office: lawsuits for demolition; tortured people; imprisonment without trials. I wonder when it will all end".


## Darawash Abdelkareem

29 years old,
Israeli Arab from Nazareth. Lawyer "I studied law in Italy. I'd heard of Lea Tsemel. I asked to work with her. I speak Hebrew, the language used in filed charges and in court. There aren't many Palestinians in the occupied territories that speak it, many are condemned without even having understood the accusations...

Legal studio for the defense
of human rights in East Jerusalem

## "I got my degree in Italy..."



Fathers of the first families of Neve Shalom-Wahat el Salam

Najar Abedssalam
45 years old, Muslim Arab Works in the community "I often feel Iike Don Quixote, I'd like to run a mile.
The prejudices and the complications of political views are sometimes such big obstacles. Ilan is stubborn. Our relationship is one of those that really count".

## Ilan Frisch

50 years old, Jewish
Works in the community
"I lived in a kibbutz in Negev.
I used to go to peace marches, but afterwards everyone went back to their own homes and everything was just the same as before. I heard people talk about this experience and I wanted to live these relationships daily and overcome all my prejudices. It's difficult but it's worth it".


## feel like Don Quixote..."

## "Adi and I have <br> S

Friends, daughters of the first families of Neve Shalom-Wahat el Salam

## Adi Frish

15 years old
Student
"I go to dance school, I love to dance. Maybe I'II always dance, maybe not. I do know that I'II always live here. At school they ask me if I'm scared to live with Arabs. I tell them about Laila and the others and I explain that there's no reason to be afraid".

## Laila Abedssalam

15 years old

## Student

"I was born here. Adi and I have grown up together. I'm sorry that she'll have to go to the army, even if it's for a short time. I like speaking different languages, it would be fantastic to be able to communicate with everyone".


## "our experience is unique..."



School in the community of Neve Shalom-Wahat el Salam, where both Hebrew and Arabic are studied

## Diana Shalufe-Rizek

41 years old, Arab from Nazareth,
has lived in the community since 1984
Teacher
"Our experience is most certainly
extraordinary and unique, a difficult
challenge. It's a continuous learning process.
To change you must start with yourself and
know how to accept differences".

## Galia Golan

50 years old, Israeli.
University professor
Spokeswoman for Peace Now Customer
"Keeping alive hope that peace will be a certainty in a Palestinian state that co-exists with the Israeli one. We'll make it".

## Imad Muna

33 years old, Arab.
Shopkeeper
"I would like to go to West Jerusalem in peace without receiving dirty looks or being suspected of who knows what. I like my work, I don't really ask for much. But here having a bit of freedom, to do good business, bring up my children in peace, seems impossible".

Waiters in a restaurant in Jaffa

## Maher A. Manneh

24 years old,
Christian Arab from Jaffa.
Works, and studies architecture
"I don't judge a book by it's cover, I look at and respect people for what they are.
Rita is so generous, always helpful and inquisitive.
We're young and we don't look at the past. I prefer not to think about what's happening.
As an architect I would like to plan a city for everyone, a combination of many styles. Help, it will probably be horrible".

## Rita Kratalov

26 years old, Jewish.
Immigrated from Lithuania in '91, lives in Tel-Aviv.
Works, and studies languages "I hate politics, I want to live in peace. Religious fanatics on all sides are proud to kill. My friends are white, black, yellow. I left Lithuania to find understanding, not hate.
Maher is a friend, I can trust him. I would always like to see him happy. I don't like seeing unhappy people".





Friends, both politically active

## Zahira Kamal

52 years old, Arab.
Leader of the Intifadah and Fida, the Palestinian democratic party "In order to create peace the involvement of each person is vital. Peace can't be delegated to politicians. That's why I'm in this photo, to communicate the need for peace, justice and solidarity to many people around the world".

## Naomi Chazam

51 years old, Jewish. Parliamentary
and spokesperson of Merez "The intensity and tension of political life make the need for peace even more urgent. Every human being should be able to rejoice over the little things that happen each day".

## Friends

## Barak Horowitz

28 years old, Israeli.
Craftsman
"When the territories are closed and the Palestinians can't move around, I come to Ra'ed's village and bring food. We're friends, through thick and thin. But I can't lie to myself, it's my country's government that shuts them in. But if there's not even respect between us, it's hard to imagine there being any for the Arabs".

## Ra'ed Abu Ni'meh

25 years old, Palestinian.
Painter
"Nearly every day I feel like I want to die. What kind of life is this? I work by the day, I go in without a permit. Every morning I'm terrified of being arrested. Sometimes I take the backstreets to avoid a check point, I get to work such a wreck from all the tension. Barak is like a brother, he gives me hope".





Three students. Friends.
They share an apartment in Jerusalem.

## Moshe Conforty

25 years old, from Jaffa, Jewish. Family immigrated from Europe. Political Science student "It was the smell of the coffee, the Arabic kind with cardamom in it. Marwan lived on the same floor on campus.
I followed the smell, I knocked on the door and asked what it was, Marwan said try it, it's our Palestinian coffee. Since then we've been inseparable".

## Marwan Cidon

26 years old, Christian Arab from Galilee.
Business student "We're human beings before Jews or Arabs. The two Moshes are great, we have fun together. A dove came to live on our windowsill, two little ones have been born. We thought of it as a sign of destiny".

## Moshe Rabanyan

25 years old,
from Kfar Saba, Jewish.
Family immigrated from Iran.
Business student
"We're optimistic, like Benetton.
We liked your idea, it gives out a positive message. That's why we re letting you photograph us. In fact why don't you put the kehiffa on me and the kippa on Marwan?".

## Hagit Lifshitz

47 years old, Israeli
with Asaf and Roni.
Works with a humanitarian organization
"We met bringing Ihab and Roni to kindergarten. Suhier is an extraordinary woman, so open. Our friendship is very casual, we even exchange our daily problems, fights with our husbands, worries about our children and about our youth which is over".

## Suheir Khoury

40 years old, Palestinian with Liani, Ihab and Juan Works in a mixed PalestinianIsraeli firm for economic and commercial development "I don't appreciate conformism and clichés. I have to live in this reality. As an Arab Israeli I'm most certainly discriminated against but I have a passport and a career. My children speak Hebrew, Arab and English. You have to know how to take the positive things from each situation, forget about the conditioning imposed on you by both the Palestinian and Israeli societies".

## is very casual..."



Israeli pianist and Palestinian owner of the hotel in East Jerusalem where she works

## Raed Sha'Adeh

35 years old
Palestinian from Jerusalem.
Engineer, chose to become a hotelier "Uniting the colors is like putting together all the cultures, just like Benetton. Each color is so spectacular in itself, you can see them in a prism, we shouldn't be afraid of them. I want to look at the future and believe that people are more important that money and profit".

## Lisa Magnes

54 years old, Israeli.
Pianist
"The joy of meeting and touching another person may not be much, but it's important. We should be open to the world. I love my music, playing it at the Jerusalem Hotel to a Palestinian public gives me the feeling of exchange and reciprocation".


## "we should be open to the world..."





## hate in a situation like this..."

Friends

## Moanes Zahalka

24 years old, Palestinian.
TV sound technician
"I met Rachelle in a bar, we're friends, we see each other. There are some cultural differences,
I don't really like American culture much. My goal is to be a director, I'm working hard to get there.
I'm Arab so like women and blacks it's harder to prove myself".

## Rachelle Socol

28 years old, Israeli.
Coordinates humanitarian programs for the Elie Wiesel Foundation
"Moanes and I go to parties together. He's intelligent and full of life. He stands for all the positive aspects of the Arabic culture, hospitality, warmth and he's not a male chauvinist".

Jewish barber and Arab customer

## Yehoshua Rosilio

47 years old, Jewish. Barber
"I don't look anyone in the eye, if the customer pays me then that's fine by me. What I think about them is my own business. I've cut this teenager's hair since he was little and, for the last few years also his beard. I was born in Morocco, but this is my land and that of my ancestors. Arabs can stay here as long as they behave themselves".

## Ala Badarneh

22 years old, Arab
Factory worker
"I've been coming to this barber for 15 years. He's nice. I'm in love and I'm getting married. My fiancé is Arab, we understand each other, we have the same traditions.
I wouldn't have married a Jew, not because she's Jewish but because my children would have to do the military. We Arabs are not allowed, it would be difficult for us to shoot at Palestinians, they could be our relatives".

## "I don't look anyone in the eye..."




Photographers that became friends while shooting the same problems in Hebron

## Nasser Shiyouki

30 years old, Palestinian "I photograph history, but what a shame and what a limitation to have to photograph only grief and the tragedies, wounded, funerals, fights, conflicts between soldiers and settlers.
More and more often with open eyes I see the eye of my camera recording festive images, calm faces, quite landscapes."

## Sharon Abbady

31 years old, Israeli "We live on a little piece of land, we should try and live here cooperating with each other. I meet people from all over the world through my work, Im interested in other points of view, I compare myself, like with Nassar. I would like to meet him in Jerusalem, drink a coffee together but he doesn't have permission to pass."


## Louani Idar Horowitz

27 years old, Israeli.
Tour guide in Sinai
"In '72 my parents went to Sinai
to open a center for European
tourists. We lived there for 10
years. Our house was European
in style, near the sea, the
Bedouins were all around. We didn't live like them but we exchanged many things, I speak Bedouin Arabic.
I'm still a guide in Sinai but I miss those times. Every now and then I come to visit the Bedouins that are near Jerusalem. I like sitting with them in their tents, talking to them and drinking a coffee".

## "our house was European in style and the Bedouins were all around.."




Two cameramen
who work together

## Nili Aslan

42 years old, Arab
"Having met Issa gives me a bit of hope, especially lately, since
everything has been so dramatic.
It's so simple to be human
beings, look at each other and
smile at each other. These
politicians destroy everything".

## Issa Freij

41 years old, Jewish "I like working with Nili, we look at things in the same way. We were both born in Jerusalem, we love this city. It would be great if we could make a documentary together".

Thai-Boxing instructor with two students

## Shuki Rosenzweig

29 years old, Israeli.
Thai Boxing instructor "When you go to war you forget that you're a human being, even the hearts of the young are destroyed. I love this sport. I wanted to be strong, but I don't think of it as violence, it's the acquisition of security.
I think I'm much more than just an instructor for the kids.
It gives me joy to see Matan and Hasan together, they care about each other".

## Matan Gerson

18 years old, Israeli,
lives in a settlement.
Student
"I'll be a Thai Boxing champion.
Hasan always say so.
This sport relaxes me and gives me security, which everyone needs to confront life".

## Hassan Abu Sbeih

13 years old,
Palestinian from Silwan.
Student
"One of my brothers works
at the market stall belonging to Shuki's dad so Shuki took me under his wing.
I'm very passionate about this sport, I can defend myself and I feel that it gives me strength".




## Students, friends

Rola Hassan
20 years old, Arab.
Studies Physics and Mathematics
"When I was younger I didn't know who I was or who I wanted to be. Today I proudly define myself as a Palestinian with Israeli citizenship. I'm a woman, I want to work and have a career, teaching fascinates me.
I like my friends, they're pretty, funny, intelligent".

Miri Achezkel
22 years old, Israeli.
Works and studies
"There's nothing that I don't like about Rola, she's perfect. I'm sick of people talking about war both here and everywhere else. Destruction is so stupid".

## Yifat Tassi

24 years old, Israeli.
Studies Mathematics
"My parents are Yemenites and they speak Arabic. I also like the food but I can't always eat it because it's not Kosher. Rola always describes the ingredients to me so that I can decide".

Friends at Neve Shalom-Wahat el Salam

## Suliman Boulos

18 years old, Arab Christian. Student
"I'd like to be the most famous actor in Hollywood, I don't want be one in Israel, they're not talented enough. I'll study medicine. I'm an Israeli citizen but I'm also Palestinian".

## Hila Frish

25 years old, Jewish.
Psychology student
Works in the Neve Shalom Hotel "I was the Community's first child. I'Il live here even after I get married. We're used to understanding each other, not changing one another, outside everyone wants to impose their point of view".


Track team

## Samar Diyab

20 years old, Arab.
Homemaker
"Running is a way of being free for me. My family is against it, they don't want to see me in shorts. My husband also runs so he understands. I feel free and I want to be free. I'm going to try and become a sports trainer but we don't have any facilities in our village".

## Ayalon Ben Zvi

18 years old, Israeli. Student
"I love to run, to feel all the parts of my body stretch. I live in a kibbutz but I don't know for how much longer, I like it but everything's changing. I'll have to go into the army, it's something that I must do. I'd like us to withdraw from Lebanon but it's not up to me".

## Jumaa Lutfich

17 years old, Arab.
Student
"My dream is so banal, I run, l'd like to go to the Olympics. In my village we don't have any sporting facilities so I go to the kibbutz, they have everything there, a pool, a gym, games. I was scared at first, I felt, and still feel, alone and strange among them. My family supports me, they're happy to see me run. I've become the most famous girl in my village".



Band: Youssef and One

## Habib Shehadeh

24 years old, Arab.
Plays the ud

## Nitzan Chen Raz'el

22 years old, Jewish.
Plays the violin

## Nitzan Peri

29 years old, Jewish. Plays the guitar and sings

## Youssef Hbaisch

30 years old, Druze.
Percussionist

## Gergely Barcza

25 years old, Jewish, immigrated from Hungary in '94. Plays the saxophone

## Eran Horowitz

25 years old, Jewish. Bass
"Our music makes us feel good, it helps us hear one another. We communicate just like our musical instruments.
The sound of the violin, the ud, the saxophone, the percussion in the different styles: Balkan, Arab, Jewish, Druze, for us they are life and happiness.
The differences and similarities of the Mediterranean.
We know that many generations will go by in order for us to really live together and destroy this culture of death and separation. We are already trying".
"the differences ano


8


## similarities of the Mediterranean..."



Arab doctor chosen by a Jewish family. The mother was taken to hospital. She was in danger of dying and he managed to save her life.

## Adi Qassem

44 years old, Arab, born in Haifa. Doctor
"Being a doctor is my own choice, I love everyone's life. Life here is just survival. Our two peoples are cousins, we must find a way to recognize each other. I am respected at work, but it's very difficult for a Palestinian, almost as much as for women and blacks".

## Hila Shirazi

11 years old, Jewish Gidon's daughter
"I see it on TV, the Palestinians attack us, but the doctor is good, he looks after us. I really love animals. I want to be a scientist and know all the stars and planets".

## Chidon Shirazi

44 years old, Jewish Mechanic
"Adi is a doctor and an extraordinary person. I wish there were more like him. I take care of my garage, I try to treat my clients well and I expect the same thing from them. I'd like to have lots of money and go around the world with my children".


## "life here is just survival..."



## "we must change things from the bottom.



## Muhsen Sandouka

43 years old, Palestinian.
Owner of a restaurant in the old city
"I believe in God, I'm a Muslim. Mine is one of the three monotheist religions. We should all try and understand one another. Jochai and I have founded an association to encourage people to interact in the old city. I sacrificed part of my restaurant so that we could have a place to meet. I often don't tell my Israeli friends how I really feel about things that happen, about our suffering, I'm afraid of hurting them".

## Jochai Weis

79 years old, Israeli.
Retired veterinarian
"I was born in Zurich, I arrived here in 1950, I wanted to help build Israel. I lived in a kibbutz for a few years, then I left. We have a lot in common with the Palestinians, we should respect them. We must change things from the bottom, person to person. I don't believe in politics".

Mixed family

## Ali Chalwash

65 years old, Arab, father. Truck driver
"In '48 our country was sold, we clenched our teeth and stayed. My father had been a soldier during the Ottoman Empire. He didn't let anyone scare him. For years we were like sheep, surrounded by barbed wire. Jews from all over the world settled in the abandoned houses, especially those who came from Arab countries.
They were poor like us. We could all have lived together. Everyone made many mistakes. Salimah is my second wife, the first one was also Jewish. They're freer, you don't need dowry to get married."

Salimah Chalwash David 50 years old, Jewish (now Muslim converted), mother. Cleaning lady
"My family wasn't religious. I met my husband at a friend's place. His eldest son had been killed for reasons never clarified by the police. He was charming and educated. It wasn't easy living together, we were about to get separated. Our son helped us change our minds with one sentence: why are you torturing me? We've never regretted it."

## Yussef and Amira

15 and 10 years old, children. Students
Yussef: "I'm happy to have such a cultural mix, Christian, Muslim, Jew, Arab, Israeli.
It would be great if the whole world were so mixed. We celebrate the different holidays. My future is in computers and I'm a fan of the Brasilian team." Amira: "My mother is often tired. I would like to fly, maybe I'll become a pilot."


Friends

## Ofer Machluf

26 years old, Arab
Marketing for medical equipment "A house and a job for everyone, wouldn't it be wonderful?
So many conflicts would be resolved. I would like to visit every country in the world and if I found the right woman for me I would marry her no matter where she was from"

## Amir Mosa Assi

23 years old, Jewish Marketing for mobile phones
"Ofer is a leader, full of initiative It would be great if all Arabs were like him. We're young, we want a future. Fear breeds more fear, this fanaticism needs to be stopped".





## "the idea to sell flowers came to me..."



## Sweethearts

## Musa Mazareb

22 years old, Bedouin
Business student
"I dream, dream, dream, of living together in peace, Arabs and Jews in the same country. Enyar and I live together, we run into many obstacles, but as they say, love conquers all".

## Enyar Lazarus

24 years old, Israeli
Sociology student
"I dream, dream, dream, that one day no one will want to die or kill for their religion, of the day that people accept and help one another".

Youth band
Arab-Jewish community center in Jaffa

## Community of Arab and Israeli children

The center holds different educational and cultural activities for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Peace festivals are held and Arab and Jewish artists participate. It's a center for cohabitation and mutual respect.

Creative director and photographer:
Oliviero Toscani
Managing editor:
Elisabetta Prando
Stylist and coordinator
Isabelle Codani
Casting and Production:
Brice Compagnon
Interviews:
Luisa Morgantini - Associazione per la pace
Hair dresser:
Valentin Mordacq

## Make-up:

Lloyd Simmonds
Photo assistant:
Patrice Quillet

## Layout

Salvatore Gregorietti
Production:
Ann Hammond
Color separations:
De Pedrini, Milan, Italy
Printed in Italy by:
Elcograf

Thanks to:
Silvia Ascoli
Alberto Di Consillo
Gabriela Garav
Hasia Machlis
Lior May
Luisa Morgantini and her friends
Ghada Yassin
The community of Neve Shalom - Wahat el Salam
The Jaffa hospital centre Kupa Holim "Maccabi"
All the people who helped us to make this catalog


