



Neil Brian Gandler



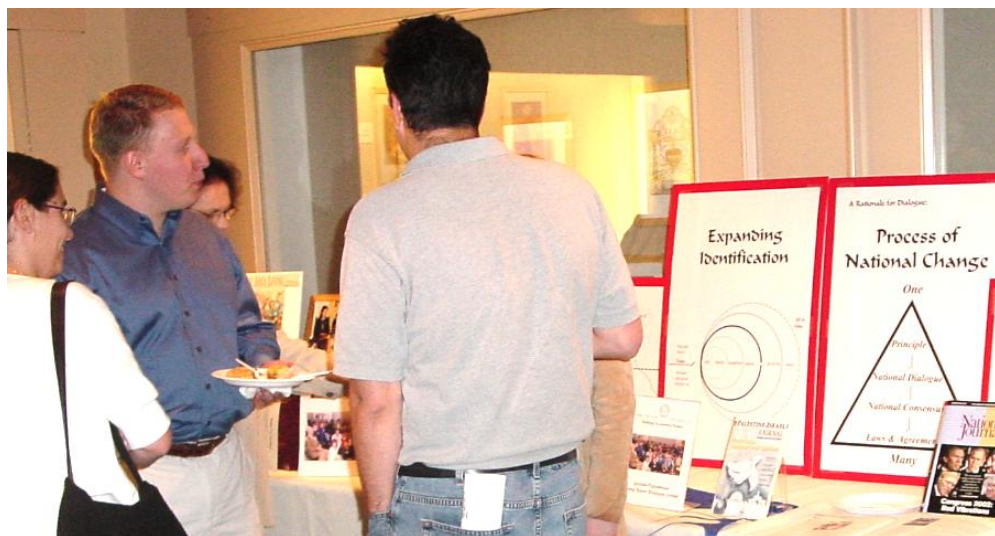
19 April 1973 (Brooklyn, NY) - 29 December 2015 (Las Vegas, NV)

Neil Gandler, born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island, NY, descended from immigrant Russian and Eastern European grandparents. His childhood home was kosher, and most of his friends Jewish — many Orthodox. Neil attended Hebrew school for eight years, nine hours a week, studying Jewish and Israeli history and religion. The first of his trips to Israel was in 1980, at age seven. Neil ran middle distances for his high school track team.



At the University of Buffalo, he earned two degrees in Electrical Engineering — his Bachelor's, then his Master's in 1997 with full scholarships based on academic excellence. Neil came to California to begin work with Applied Signal Technology, developing instrumentation for government application. He then went to the University of Michigan for his MBA degree, with his application essay being based on his life-changing experience with the [Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue](#) to which he added much until his tragic gunshot death as the victim of an armed burglary while in Las Vegas for a professional conference.

Neil was a great spirit and learner, while staying very close to his Jewish identity, community, and vision for a communicating, cooperating world, after his first experience of a Dialogue panel — part of an adult education program at Temple Emanu-El, San Francisco, in 2002.



Neal's curiosity and new hope was awakened while experiencing the poignant stories and respectful communication that humanized and dignified panelists (right to left) Israeli Arnon Moscona, Palestinian Melek Nasr-Totah, Holocaust educator Miriam Zimmerman, and 1947 Jerusalem refugee Elias Botto.





Neal participated in the 2006 and 2007 [Oseh Shalom ~ Sanea al-Salam](#) [Palestinian-Jewish Family Peacemakers Camp](#) in California at Camp Tawonga near Yosemite National Park.





"I invited Neil to my place more than once...Oh, my God! Just a huge loss of such a bright young spirit."
 ~ Huda Abu Arquob, Hebron







"He was an inspiration since he rode his bike everywhere to fight climate change...huge loss!" ~ Sandra Kahn



Always with kindness for people and Earth, and a mind for health and good economics, Neil rode his bike wherever he could.

in May, 2013, Neil rode in *Tour de Cure* to help prevent and remedy diabetes.

"It was a wonderful day in Napa. No rain, perfect temperature. Young and old, including riders living with Diabetes. The 50-mile ride was refreshing and energizing." ~ Neil



Let us continue Neil Gandler's ride into a future that includes and benefits all, living side by side as one — echad, wahad.



More Stories

[The Forward](#) • [J. the Jewish news weekly of Northern California](#)
[San Jose Mercury News](#) • [The Jerusalem Post](#)

[Remembering CES Maven Neil Gandler](#)
 by Rabbi Jason Miller



Reflections

He was a great soul.

~ Debbie Rakotomalala

[Debbie's Letter from President Obama](#)

I'm really sad! Neil was very genuine with a great heart.

My many memories with him will stay with me forever!

May Allah place his soul in peace.

I do pray this will be the end of all sad stories.

Neil will always part of our family.

~ Mohammed Abufayyad

Just heartbreaking.

May he live on in our wonderful memories of him.

- Denise Nazzal

I am shocked and depressed about Neil Gandler's tragic death.

It is indeed a huge loss to every community where he shared and contributed his love, talent and wisdom to make our Earth a better place.

~ Offuh James Offuh

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa

Knowing Neil gave me hope that

there will someday be a just peace in our region.

Neil's posts always reminded me of the TV program, Man-vs-Food.

I loved going places vicariously through his posts.

I also loved that he had a balance in his life:

Eating delicious food, yet exercising regularly.

Working hard, yet taking time out for family and friends.

I will miss him!

~ Karen Abu Zant

Tulkarem, West Bank

*Neil was not afraid to open new doors, to explore new ideas,
or to engage in a meaningful conversation with a "stranger."*

That is what made him interesting and unique.

For 42 years, Neil lived Life fully and with intention.

~ Libby Traubman

You will be missed Neil in every meeting.

We love you.

~ Raeda Abu-Nofal Ashkar

*I am Neil's sister in law.
 My heart is completely broken.
 I met Neil 25 years ago, his freshman year at Buffalo.
 He helped me navigate my way into the family.
 He was my support. He sat with me and told me exactly what to say,
 because he understood my "outsider" feelings.
 I remember always thinking "Oh good, Neil is here" at family events.
 He had an AMAZING life. His death won't be his legacy,
 these beautiful memories will be.*
 ~ Andrea Utley Gandler

*Neil was an incredible young man.
 I remember him arriving at my home energetic and sweaty,
 after bicycling over many miles and hills from Palo Alto
 for the monthly Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue.
 He was happy to have the exercise and
 impressed me with his positive energy and upbeat attitude.
 I got to know Neil's intelligence and idealism, his integrity and inquisitiveness.
 Let us spread Neil's idealism by replacing combat with compassion,
 ending aggression with friendship and agreements.
 In this way, we can ensure that Neil's memory will forever be a blessing.*
 ~ Miriam Zimmerman

*I was very sad to hear that one of the best people on earth was murdered!
 This is a huge loss to humanity!!*
 ~ Usman Mohammed Inuwa
 Bauchi, northern Nigeria

*When I think of Neil, I see the essence of goodness.
 I remember how much he enjoyed eating.
 He was a man of few words, a sincere individual
 making a difference within the lives of
 Palestinians and Israelis worldwide.
 As much as he enjoyed eating,
 he enjoyed the experience of the dialogue — company — and
 the hearts of the people — quality — and now
 Neil, is the essence of our souls.
 For he will not be forgotten in our hearts until PEACE prevails
 or maybe joining him in the decades to come.
 Neal, may you help us build for a better tomorrow,
 better for Palestinians and Israelis.*
 ~ Issa Hisham Ibrahim

*Neil was among my closest of friends, one I held in the utmost respect.
To see how much he also meant to so many others made me tear up.
Thank you for preserving his legacy in such an eloquent and meaningful way.
The work (Neil was) doing is what is really
making a difference in the long run,
not politician warmongering
and racial incitement.
As a born-and-raised Israeli,
I know how precious peace could be,
and how difficult it is to achieve it.
I hope to see some meaningful change
in this regard within my own lifetime.*

~ Ella Gotesman

Organizer

Neil Gandler's Memorial Service



Add your personal contributions with e-mail to LTraubman@igc.org
This page for Neil is preserved online at <http://traubman.igc.org/neil.pdf>