



***Jewish-Palestinian
Living Room Dialogue Group
of San Mateo County***

May 20, 2009

Dear President Obama,

We wish to help you however we can, as the oldest sustained Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue of its kind in America, perhaps anywhere — **after 205 meetings over 17 years**. In our collective wisdom, **we urge a two-state agreement**.

We are Jewish, Christian and Muslim U.S., citizens, refugees of the Holocaust and the 1948 Palestinian Catastrophe (Nakba), with family members who have suffered and died from the wasted violence. **We know how to help “enemies” communicate well.**

For five years we co-created a resident peace camp, Oseh Shalom-Sanea al-Salam, demonstrating these two excellent peoples from 50 towns in Israel and Palestine can develop relationships and live side-by-side. **Our experience** is that people can’t “want” peace and not first have citizen relationships that reduce fear, increase trust, and release unprecedented compassion and creativity. No leader or people will go down a road where they cannot see what life looks like around the corner. Still today, **almost no Jews or Palestinians have ever met, here or in the Holy Land.**

We show what the new life looks like in our two enclosed videos: (1) [PEACEMAKERS: Palestinians & Jews Together at Camp](#), and (2) DIALOGUE [AT WASHINGTON HIGH](#)

To begin, we find it important to:

- 1. listen equally to everyone – no exceptions.**
- 2. seek the best for both peoples, equally.**

See thousands of human successes in Palestinian-Jewish relationship building on our Web site. Google [“Jewish Palestinian Progress”](#) and [“Jewish Palestinian Success”](#)

To help your government work succeed, it is imperative to **fund and encourage the parallel public peace process** of citizen, face-to-face engagement and creativity. This best-assures political successes. **“Yes, we can,” Mr. President.**

Here for you, for the 27 of us,

Elias Botto

Fanny Botto

Eric Gattmann

Hilde Gattmann

Adham Salem

Nahida Salem

Len Traubman

Libby Traubman

Mohammed Abufayyad, Raeda Ashkar, Hossan Bazian, Araxi Bezdjian, Joe Bezdjian, Robbie Franco, Rochelle Goldman Marv Goldman, Sergi N. Goldman-Hull, Aktham Jarrar, Sandra Kahn, David Leventhal, Nazih Malak, Arnon Moscona, Adele Bueno Adel Nazzal, Denise Nazzal, Debbie Rakotomalala, Ellen D. Sanders, Judy Serebrin, Miriam Zimmerman

1448 Cedarwood Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403
Phone: 650-574-8303 Fax: 650-573-1217
E-mail: LTraubman@igc.org
World Wide Web: <http://traubman.igc.org/dg-prog.htm>