

עושה שלום peacemakers صانع السلام

Oseh Shalom ~ Sanea al-Salam

Fourth Palestinian-Jewish Family Peacemakers Camp

Welcoming travelers from Israel, Palestine, Canada, and the U.S.



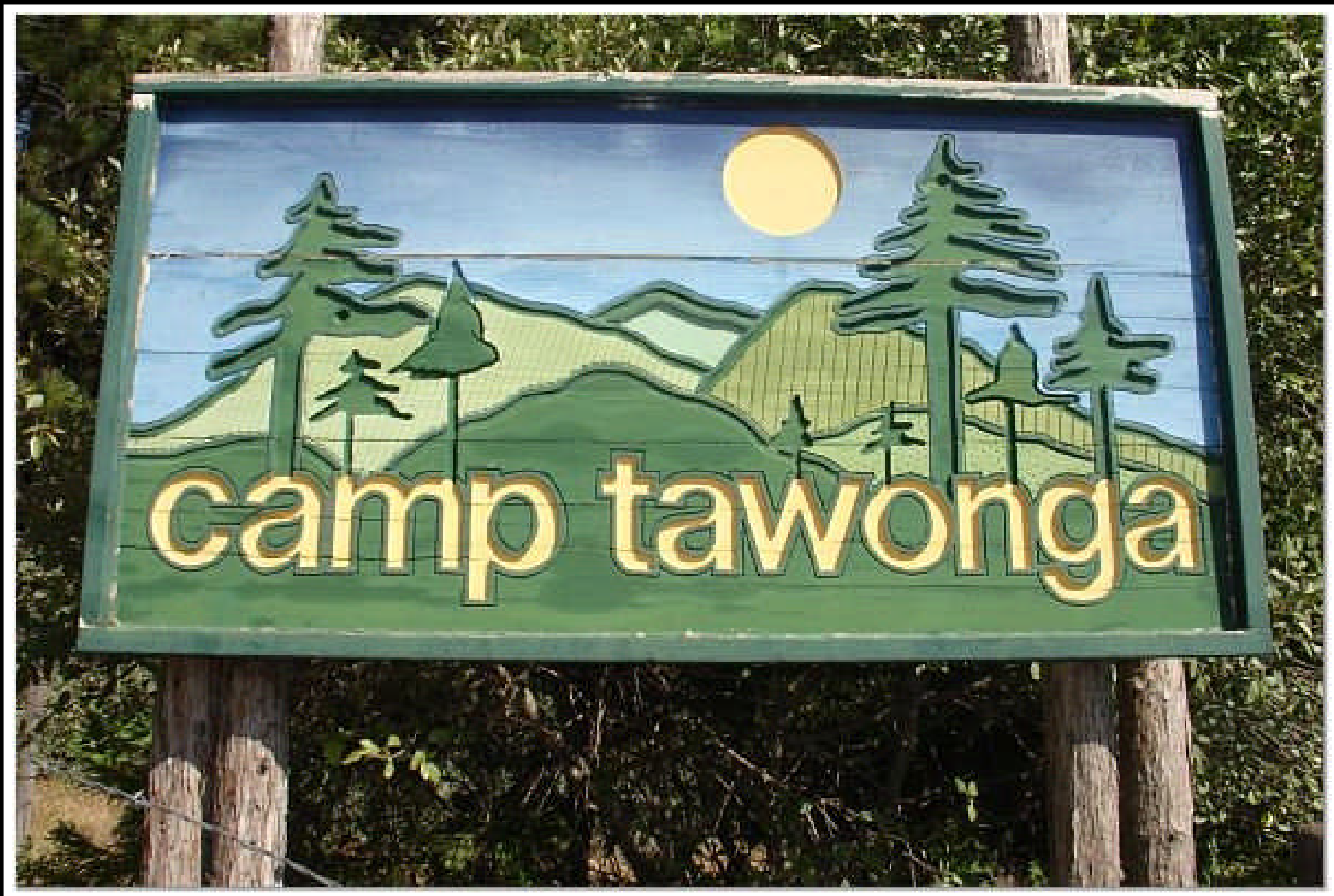
● Friday-Monday, September 1-4, 2006 ●

Palestinians and Jews *Listening* in Dialogue



This was the fourth camp, organized by the SF Bay Area Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group







Each year, since the first camp, attendance has gone up.
This camp had 250 participants of all ages.



The camp was in a beautiful, natural setting. The communal living created intimacy, and an atmosphere which was conducive to dialogue.





“Breaking bread together” - Typical meal scene...



The camp lasted for a long weekend, Friday till Monday afternoon. It had a structured program of workshops and artistic cultural time in the evenings.

Name Game - In this first activity, Palestinians and Jews were asked to share personal introductory information.





Another creative exercise of getting to know each other.





“Graffiti Wall” - A visual way of sharing stories.







This was a display of personal items like photos and other objects, where participants shared their families' histories.



In the evenings, just before dinner, there was usually some cultural ceremony, like a blessing, or some home grown entertainment.



In the first evening, after dinner, we started with the first small group listening exercise.



Each morning we would begin with an Energizer, gathering around the Peace Pole, where a pair of campers would lead the whole group with a song, prayer or a chant.





After the Peace Pole on the first day, we all went to
Makom Shalom.



Makom Shalom is an open air amphitheatre, where most of the group dialogue workshops took place.

The workshops were always co-facilitated by Arabs and Jews, and were translated into Hebrew and Arabic.





The workshops usually continued in the afternoon, in smaller groups.



... and there was time to cool off...



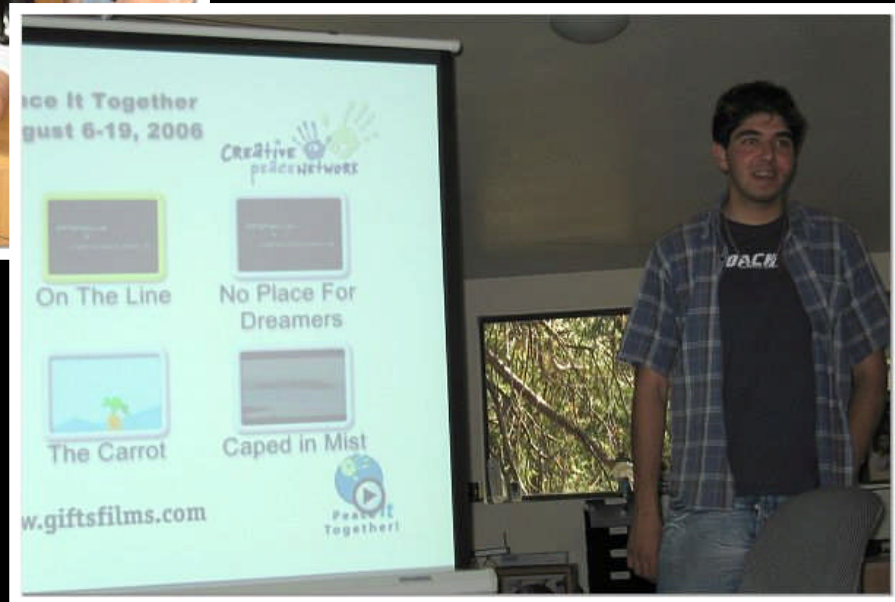
Red Light Green Light Workshop







On the second day, in the afternoon, there was an Organizations' Marathon. Participants from different organizations introduced themselves and their activities. These are 3 members from Combatants for Peace.



Here is an introduction to Peace it Together. Canadian summer program of dialogue and film making, for Israeli, Palestinian and Canadian youth.



A spontaneous women's circle by the water.
Brainstorming on what can we, in North America, do to
make positive difference in the Middle East.



In between dialogue sessions, there was plenty of time scheduled for fun. These are scenes from evening performances.





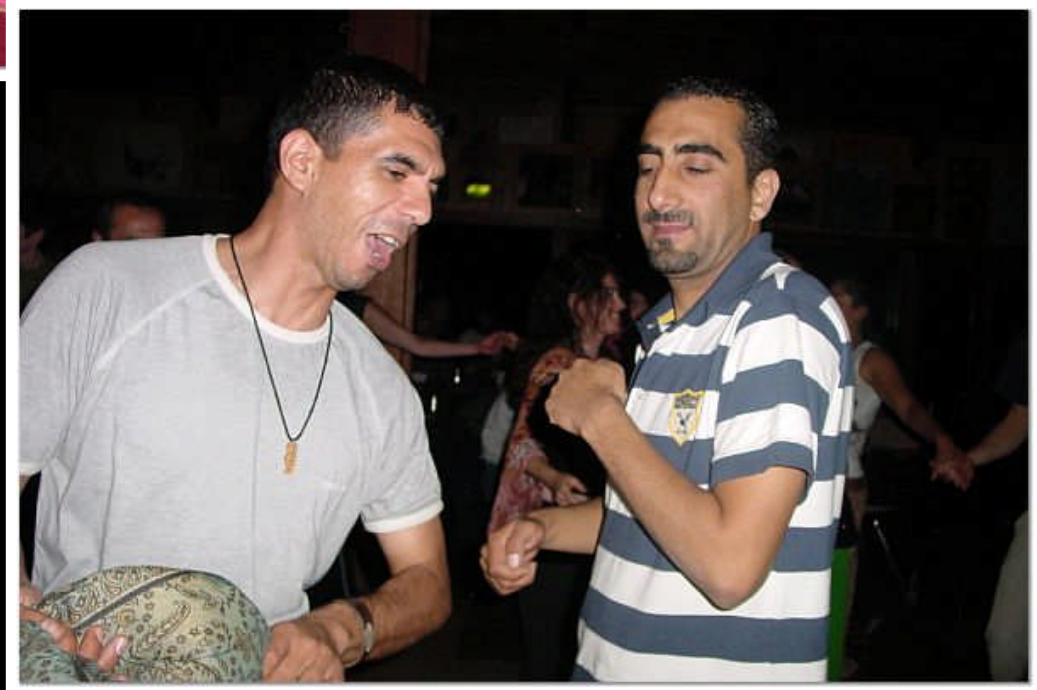


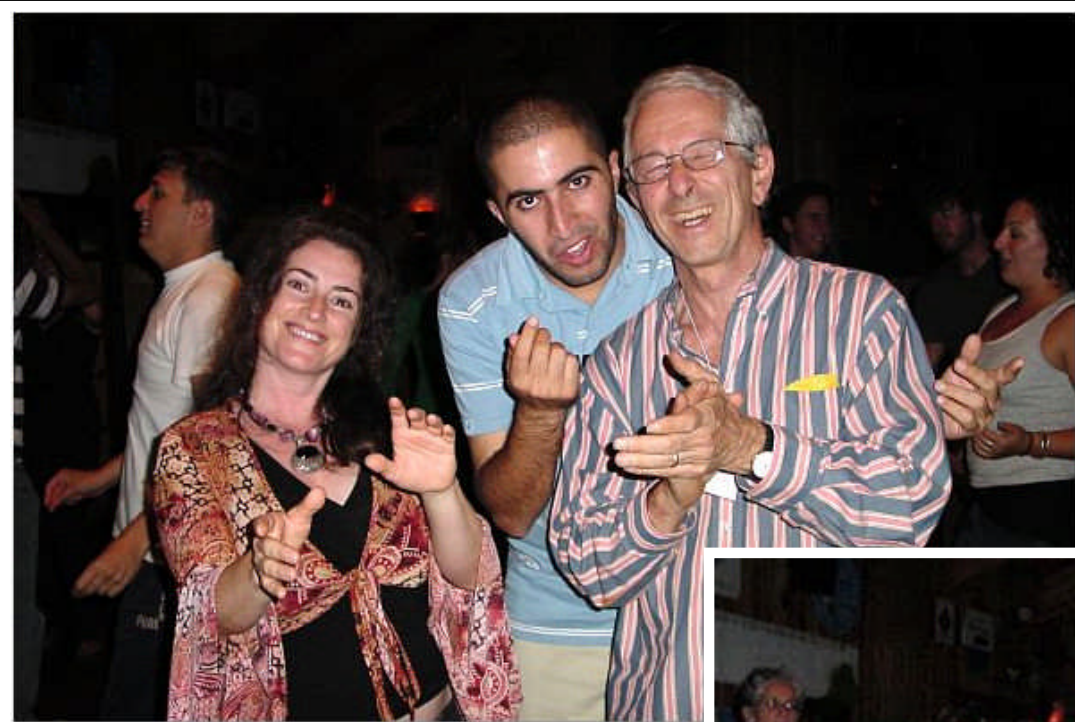


After performances, a midnight snack...



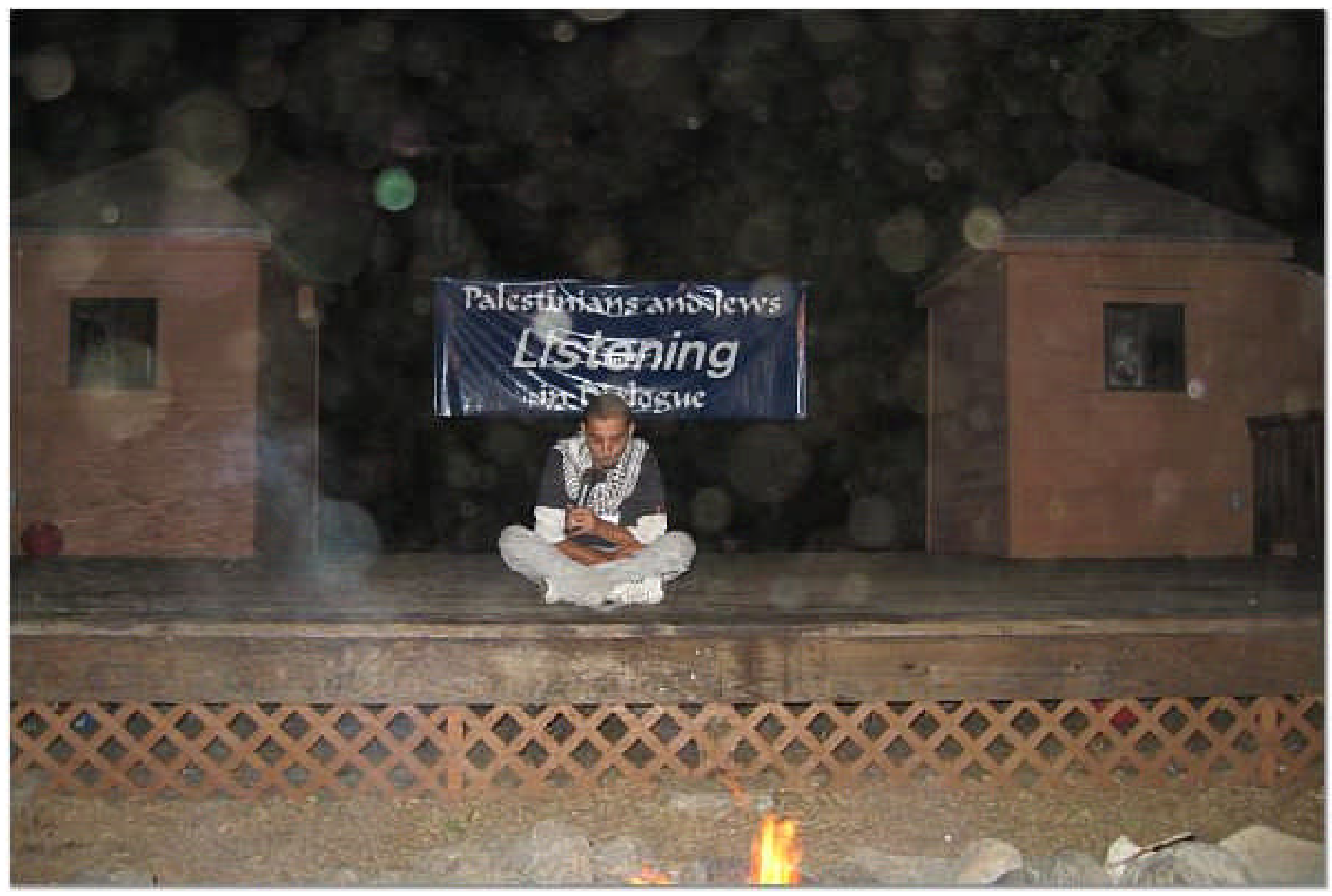
More dancing and
fun!







The last evening ended up as a one of sharing painful personal stories of both Palestinians and Israelis.









Despite the tensions on the evening before, the feelings on the final morning seemed to be ones of warmth and openness.



Our final exercise was to take the first step from talk to action. We were asked to write a letter of commitment, of one or more peaceful actions towards personal and social change. The letter was to be put in an envelope, and sent to our home address.





Finally we all walked down to the river, where we did a beautiful symbolic ritual. We picked a partner – someone we wanted to ‘cleanse’ our relationship with – and washed each other’s hands in the water.



These Palestinian and Israeli girls were reading their letter of commitment in the name of all the teens in the camp, stating their intention to keep on working for peace and co-existence as future leaders in their communities.



Time to say goodbye before our concluding meeting in SF.



The last evening event in a church in SF. It was well attended by the local community, and covered by the media.



The evening started with an introduction from Libby and Len Traubman and Elias Botto, their Palestinian partner, who started the dialogue group 14 years ago in SF.



The next part of the evening was a panel of 4 Jews and 4 Palestinians of different ages, talking about their personal transformation through the camp's program.



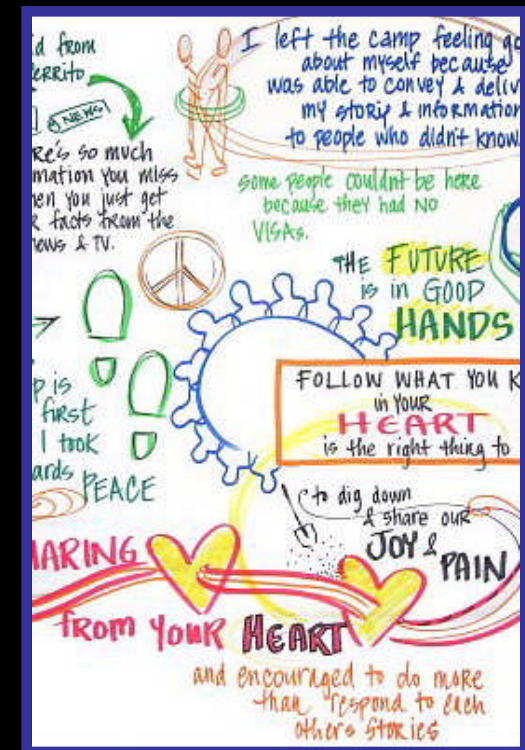
People in the audience were touched, moved and inspired.



There was also time for comments and Q&A from the audience.



The evening was graphically recorded.





The program ended with a candle lighting ceremony.



Manar's personal story.



You can't come away from a camp gathering without all getting together and singing one final camp song!



An enemy is someone whose story you haven't heard.

