Sadaka-Reut Arab Jewish Youth Partnership

Annual Report
September 2013 – August 2014
Sadaka-Reut Arab Jewish Youth Partnership educates and empowers Jewish and Palestinian Israeli youth and university students to pursue social and political change through bi-national partnership.

Sadaka-Reut was founded in 1983 by a group of Jewish and Palestinian Israeli university students who shared the vision of a better future for both communities. Our grassroots dialogue and leadership development program seek to address the deep-seated injustices caused by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and create a new generation of young activists promoting a shared, equal and just society.

We seek to provide our participating youth with adequate knowledge on the conflict and its history and the necessary tools and experience to engage in social and political change initiatives. We truly believe that youth and young adults have the capacity to influence and change the future of relations between Jews and Palestinians in Israel.

Through the years, Sadaka-Reut worked with thousands of youth and gained a strong reputation as an organization that has expertise both in bi-national political education and in youth activism. It is known as one of the few truly bi-national movements in Israel, and even more so as a genuine bi-national community that develops and nurtures activists with a shared political analysis and vision. We are proud to find our graduates involved in social and political change for many years of their lives, both at Sadaka-Reut and in other organizations and movements that promote similar values and goals.
We must begin this report by acknowledging the war and related ongoing events since this past summer. As individuals and as an organization, we have been, and still are, affected by the violence, racism and fear that is simmering in our society. Yet, we insist on providing you with this report which tells the stories of our participants. We asked them to reflect on their experiences in Sadaka-Reut in order to present you with the story of our year through their unique voices. They tell of the challenges they face and the satisfaction they gain as they grow, re-examine and change their opinions and views.

A lot of people ask us if the recent escalation has weakened our belief in Jewish-Palestinian partnership. We answer: on the contrary! The violent outbreaks of the conflict can only strengthen our commitment to partnership. Violence cannot resolve this conflict, neither will ignoring it. Only partnership has the potential of ensuring better lives for Palestinians and Jews. We will not compromise on our vision of a shared, equal and just society.

Our mission is becoming harder. Violent outbreaks and the waves of hatred and racism that follow them, make reaching out to youth and asking them to join us even more challenging. Yet, it has never been more important to work with youth on issues of racism and the conflict. Our amazing and dedicated staff members are out there in schools, universities and community centers creating connections with youth and introducing them to our programs. We have passed through some difficult years, yet I remain confident that this year will be just fine.

Yours, Hana

November 2014
Gemini: Dialogue and Activism Groups in Universities

The Gemini program aims to enhance a culture of dialogue and activism among Palestinian and Jewish university students in Israeli University campuses where Jews and Palestinians come into daily contact with one another, usually for the first time. Jewish and Palestinian students gather in facilitated bi-national groups to meet, engage in dialogue and eventually organize a community initiative. Through this process, the students acquire greater understanding of the other’s narratives and are encouraged to assume responsibility for their social and political environment and act within it.

Rachel Lidhover, 24, Jewish Graduate from Ashkelon, studying education at Achva College:

“What Gemini teaches is not taught in school these days. We only study the history of Israel, only what Jews have done, not what Palestinians have gone through. I didn’t know anything about the Nakba. They teach us what they want us to learn and leave out a lot of what went into creating this country. Yom Ha’atzmaut, for example, is our independence day. I knew it was a happy day for Jews, but I didn’t know or appreciate how sad it was for Palestinians. I had no idea how much they’d lost.

I think a lot of people need to learn to see and understand. There is a lot of anger in the Jewish community... They don’t want to listen. Maybe if I didn’t go through this experience, I wouldn’t want to listen, either. Maybe I’d be angry like them. Next year, I am graduating and becoming a teacher.

That’s how I think I can help. I think it all starts with the education of children—on both sides. It’s so important to show kids the whole picture.”

It is not only the students who are affected by their participation in Gemini, I am changed as well. When I go to the university and work with Palestinian and Jewish students, I understand that I am working directly with a generation who will still be here years down the road. I feel the pain they live with, but I also know they will be here and will carry on with our mission. They teach me about the possibilities of our future.

Rajaa Natour, Palestinian Coordinator
Ahmad Amer, 25, studying medicine at Tel-Aviv University, Palestinian Graduate from Kafr Qasim, currently working as a facilitator in Building a Culture of Peace project:

“I grew up in a non-political family so my first year in the Gemini program was my introduction to my political identity as a Palestinian. They helped me to read history from a critical perspective, and to connect to my history as a Palestinian. I did not want this to end.

The scariest thing for Palestinians is the ambiguity of the future. It is really hard for us to even imagine what our future could look like. I was always facing this uncertainty in my life and Gemini gave me ground to stand on and confront it. What kept me coming back was a sense that I had a family in Sadaka-Reut that was willing to confront it with me.

This is the most important thing—the fact that we all have this compulsion, a will to take part in things. That is why I think leaders are an outcome, a healthy outcome, of well grown and well-informed communities and societies. You need educated people capable of dealing with challenging situations at all levels. That is why I consider my time at Sadaka-Reut to be a gift. I look at my older brothers who did not get this gift. I have different terminology, different perspectives, and different associations. Then I look at my younger brother who is also a participant in Sadaka-Reut and I see his outlook and the skills he is learning. These are the people, people like my little brother, who are truly important. These are the people I am trying to encourage now through Building a Culture of Peace.”
Community in Action: Volunteering and Leadership Development

Community in Action is a volunteering and leadership development project for a group of 16 young Palestinian and Jewish high school graduates and students aged 18-25. The participants volunteer in informal educational frameworks in Jaffa, mentoring Jewish and Palestinian children and youth of marginalised communities. With a rich educational process, the project creates a cadre of young committed, bi-national activists and leaders who have the tools, knowledge and capacity to promote social political change and the vision of a just society.

The leaders we hope to develop and nurture are centred around the community. They are attentive to the needs and aspirations of the community. They facilitate innovative action through a grassroots approach, working within the community and evolving from it. Through the educational process, participants are equipped with knowledge needed for their activism and apply this knowledge to practical scenarios. They engage with the community through volunteering at local educational institutions for young children and taking part in local activism.

Education is an invaluable political tool as it permits social mobility. In reaching out to local children at after-school clubs, our participants expose the next generation of Jaffa Jews and Palestinians to an alternative vision of the mixed community in which both groups work in support of each other to promote equality and justice. Through the exposure of the children to the bi-national group of local volunteers as their role models, we aim to instil a culture of volunteerism and activism in Jaffa, which in turn will build a more inclusive and stronger community.

Yael Atia, Jewish Coordinator

Project Summary

- 14 Palestinian and Jewish participants
- 9 months educational program of two days per week, two 3-day seminars and 6 tours.
- 2 public outreach campaigns initiated and executed by participants
- 4 local community centers
- 2,142 hours of volunteering with Jewish and Palestinian students

Racheli, (middle) with Community in Action participants Maria (left) and Amit (right), working on an ad-busting campaign
Racheli Sikron, 20, Jewish Graduate from from Ma’ale Edomim:

“Coming from Ma’ale Edomim [a large settlement near Jerusalem], I was raised in a right-wing household to distrust Palestinians and see them as enemies. I knew very little about the Palestinian experience before coming to Sadaka-Reut. I came at the suggestion of my girlfriend - a former participant - who wanted me to better understand the experience of Arabs in Israel and the West Bank. I faced a lot of opposition in my life—from my family for deferring from the military, from other program participants regarding my LGBT identity, and the group consensus that dehumanized settlers. In Sadaka-Reut I learned how to justify and defend various aspects of my identity while still remaining receptive and considerate to those of others.

Volunteering with children at the Weitzman School as part of the program helped me too. All of it has empowered me feel more confident, comfortable, and closer with the various identity groups I belong to - as a woman, Mizrahi, lesbian, Jerusalemite, and so on. I insist on looking at these identities, and all identities, from different perspectives and not conforming to stereotypes. For me, Sadaka-Reut occupies an essential spot in Israeli society in that it raises taboo social issues and promotes social introspection.”

Kammle Hassaian, 19, Palestinian Graduate from Jaffa:

“Just about everyone came with different narratives and was ‘politicized’ differently, including myself. At first, I was angry towards Jews and did not make a distinction between Jews and Zionists. But now I have been exposed to Jewish Israelis who are pro-human rights and advocate for justice for Palestinians. This changed my entire perception of the other side and I gained a lot from it.

I’ve always had a personality in which I found it difficult to appreciate an opinion I disagree with. I’ve always been very convinced of my own beliefs. Sadaka-Reut made me confront this and taught me how to listen. I became a lot more confident in my ability to express myself and engage with individuals outside of my identity groups. I became much more aware of the various aspects of my identity and how they relate to others. Even though I have lived here my entire life, volunteering in the local community through the program exposed me to the problems Arab children face in building their own identities. This struggle for identity is something everyone goes through. That is why good leaders need to engage with those around them. Leading requires you to accommodate a broad range of different beliefs and opinions.”
Building a Culture of Peace: Local Youth Groups and Schools’ Workshops

The **Building a Culture of Peace project** is a unique initiative that seeks to raise a generation of young people who are socially and politically aware and involved in their communities. Aged 14–18, most of the youth come from socially disadvantaged and politically marginalised communities. The goal of the project is to encourage youth to critically examine injustices and racism, and to initiate and participate in efforts to secure social and political change. The program includes participation in local youth groups, attendance at bi-national activities that allow for constructive and respectful encounters between young Palestinians and Jews, and engagement in local activism.

**Adan Tatour, 17, Palestinian Graduate from Jaffa:**

“Before joining the program, I had participated in several other bi-national programs. Normally these programs pretended we, Israelis and Arabs, were the same, as if we had equal and identical problems. They ignored the power inequalities and only allowed us to talk about feelings, not facts. That made productive dialogue really difficult. Sadaka-Reut is very different. They understand here that Jews and Arabs are not equal in our society and do not pretend that they are. They target disadvantaged communities, where there is less privilege, and thus a better chance for understanding.

The most important thing Sadaka-Reut helped me realize is that talking is not enough. What we need is activism. I learned how activism works and how to organize it. We went on a three day journey to several places where we participated in demonstrations against racism and met activists. This is something that we as Palestinians can do. These are the tools we need for the future. The dialogue can help, but I believe that we need to lead our own struggle.

You can see Adan in the photo p7, in a protest in Jaffa in support of political (administrative) hunger strike, with other Sadaka-Reut graduates. She is first on the left.

As part of Building a Culture of Peace, the Kafr Qasim youth group initiated a campaign called “Like the Other”. They utilized creative techniques and social media to translate what they had learned about racism, sexism and discrimination into videos that grapple with challenging issues in an accessible and humorous way. One of the videos presented a Gender Devil pressure young women and men to behave according to the prescribed gender roles, not allowing them to be themselves and challenge society. The videos gained over 2,300 views as the campaign was a hot topic of discussion in the community. You can watch the videos here: The Face http://tinyurl.com/ln5l9qh, The Gender Devil http://tinyurl.com/k699hq3. You can see the group in the photo on page 5 with their facilitator Ahmad.
Bar Boldov, 16, Jewish Graduate from Kiryat Shalom, South Tel Aviv:

I still don’t know how to end the conflict and I’m not even sure it is possible. But, we can change other things. For instance, my group tried to fight discrimination and racism in our community. We made posters and flyers and posted them all over. We had people sign a petition against discrimination and we sent it to local government. I think it helped. We also fought discrimination in our school. My group, all of us together, went to our school principle and told him about the racism and discrimination we see in the hallways and classrooms. We told him how wrong it was that kids from the north [of Tel Aviv, mostly Ashkenazi Jews] were racist towards kids from the south [Mizrachi Jews]. He was actually surprised. He didn’t seem to know how bad it was in our school and he really wanted to do something about it. He made it mandatory for teachers to talk to their classes about it. People need to know that we will not accept discrimination.”

Local Youth Groups (long-term process):
- 101 Jewish and Palestinian youth
- 8 Local groups
- 15-session educational program
- 8 bi-national encounters, including 2 overnight seminars
- 8 local public outreach initiatives and a project-wide summer campaign.

School Workshops (short-term process):
Through a set of workshops in Arab and Jewish high schools we expose students to historical content and promote critical examinations of social political realities as a stepping stone to active engagement.
- 675 Palestinian and Jewish high school
- 98 workshops
- 5 schools and the Christian Orthodox Scouts

The Qalansuwa Building a Culture of Peace youth group during their campaign to name some of its un-named streets. The group initiated the campaign following a session with a local activist who raised their awareness to the lack of street names in town and its implications. Since the photo was taken, the local council has officially adopted some of the street names!
Working with Local Partners

Along the years we have been building strong relationships with several educational partners in the communities we work with. These relationships show the wider impact of our work, leading on from the youth activities at Sadaka-Reut’s core to influencing key stakeholders in community centers, schools and universities.

“I consulted Sadaka-Reut in every project that relates to multi-culturalism in the college, they helped me a lot. I see them as partners far beyond just the scope of Gemini project. Access to their knowledge and ideas has also been a wonderful result of our partnership”
Michal Revivo-Steiner, Dean of Students, Achva College

“For me, the influence of Sadaka-Reut is its role as an anchor that strengthens other activities. Sadaka-Reut is a new force on our campus and has become an integrated and concrete part of the campus landscape.”
Doron Rabina, Head of HaMidrasha School of Art, Beit Berl College

Following a few years of cooperation with Lev Yaffo Municipal Community Center through Community in Action, we were approached by the director of the center, Arkadi Rodman, with a request to train his staff on how to do better work with kids from multi-cultural backgrounds that attend the center and how to confront the themes of racism, identity and belonging.

Through the training, the center’s staff were asked to reflect on their own personal stories. An Ethiopian man spoke about contradicting feelings he has: belonging to the Israeli society on the one hand and feeling alienated and disregarded due to the colour of his skin on the other. One woman spoke about how her mother cannot find a job because she is Mizrachi. As part of the program, participants met with two young Mizrachi poets from the Ars-Poetica group who shared their poems and talked about discrimination in Israeli society.

“This was a good and effective training. Every workshop enlightened me. I found out how I should have treated things differently in my work with youth. After each workshop – the next day I stumbled on something we have discussed. Before the training I didn’t recognize such issues.”

The participants learned tools to expose oppressive mechanisms through their work with youth, while ensuring that youth felt empowered and not discouraged through this challenging process.

Following the training and the positive impact it had on participants, we were approached by the director of the Communities Department in Tel Aviv municipality and asked to develop a similar training for all the community centers’ employees in the city. The training program will be implemented in the activity year 2014-15.
This year Sadaka-Reut conducted its first organization-wide staff training and development program. There were 6 day-long training sessions provided across the program cycle that brought together 30 staff members, including Project Coordinators, free-lance Facilitators and interns from all of Sadaka-Reut’s programs.

These training sessions are part of our ongoing organizational commitment to improving the quality of our programs and providing our staff with the tools and resources they need to transform theory into practice on a daily basis. Another purpose of the training was to create a dialogue within the organization so that we can learn from one another. We want to strengthen the ties within Sadaka-Reut that spans the various programs. Topics covered in the experiential training include: critical pedagogy, working with a bi-national group and activism.

We received great feedback from our staff and will continue to provide training and development to them in the following activity year.

“The training was effective, It changed my perception… It made me operate differently than I would have a year ago. Sadaka-Reut and the training are not only ‘an experience’ but an important stage in my life and in the process I’m going through.”

Over the summer, 6 Sadaka-Reut staff took part in an international exchange in Russia that brought together staff and facilitators from organization based in Chechnya, Belgium and Holland as well. This conference was part of an ongoing cooperation that has been happening with these diverse organizations for the past 6 years. While the social and political context of our work differs, all of our organizations engage in activist training with youth coming from nations dealing with ethnic conflict, racism and war.

“This training was a way for all the organizations to share experiences and knowledge in order to learn from one another and advance our efforts in our home countries. We explored the use of art as a tool for working with youth who experience trauma—whether personal, cultural, historical etc. Together, we learned about the benefits of art as a tool for coping with trauma, as well as strategies and methodologies for integrating art and creative expression into our work as an organisation.”

Adi Maoz, Jewish Co-Director
Model: Promoting Jewish Palestinian Partnership in Marginalized Communities

Sadaka-Reut is dedicated to creating wide-spread, sustainable social change in communities throughout Israel. One way we do this is by capitalizing on over three decades of experience and expertise in anti-racism education and bi-national political education to create a model that can be adopted by like-minded organizations. The model for promoting Jewish-Palestinian partnership in marginalized communities is the product of cooperation between Sadaka-Reut, Mahapach-Taghir, and Oxfam GB in a project funded by the European Union. The model was developed through joint learning processes and is based on insights gained by the organizations in the field as they have developed effective educational and community activities over the years. We believe that meaningful social change that significantly undermines the existing order, can and should grow from the margins of society. It is precisely there that we can create strong connections and joint struggles. The model is intended for civil society organizations (CSO) and activists and for those who are involved in facilitating bi-national encounters.

We hope that readers will find the model to be a practical tool offering guiding principles for work in today’s reality in the context of the conflict in our region, and perhaps in other areas of conflict around the world.

The full model can be found in English, Arabic and Hebrew at [http://en.reutsadaka.org/?page_id=2619](http://en.reutsadaka.org/?page_id=2619) and is available to anyone—please share it!
AUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

CURRENT ASSETS:
- Cash and cash equivalents: 251,449 / 36,437
- Receivable donations: 86,804 / 488,753
- Prepaid expenses: 29,890 / 27,000

Fixed Assets: 85,738 / 54,695

CURRENT LIABILITIES:
- Suppliers and Check payable: 114,255 / 123,994
- Deferred revenue: 266,376 / 189,675
- Creditors and Accounts payable: 213,024 / 317,601

LONG TERM LIABILITIES:
- Employer-Employee relationship, net: 58,146 / 53,637

NET ASSETS:
- Unrestricted Net Assets: (283,658) / (132,717)
- Applied to acquisition of fixed assets: 85,738 / 54,695
- Applied to activities: (197,920) / (78,022)

AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST

GROSS INCOME FROM ACTIVITIES
- Revenues: 2,779,549 / 3,364,430
- Total cost of activities: 2,728,370 / 3,013,971
- Revenues (expenses) net, from activities: 51,179 / 350,459
- Operating expenses: 304,904 / 219,755
- Revenues (expenses) net, before financial expenses: (253,725) / 130,704
- Financial expenses, net: 21,505 / 10,807
- Revenues (expenses) net, after financial expenses: (275,230) / 119,898

AUDITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Applied to acquisition of</th>
<th>Applied to activities</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance as of January 1, 2012</td>
<td>77,310</td>
<td>73,009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net expense during the year</td>
<td>(275,230)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted assets applied to acquisition of fixed assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>43,566</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Amounts used to cover annual Depreciation charges: (30,837) / 30,837

Balance as of December 31, 2012: (197,920) / 85,738 / (283,658)

Net income for the year: 119,898 / 119,898

Amounts used to cover annual Depreciation charges: (31,043) / 31,043

Balance as of December 31, 2013: (78,022) / 54,695 / (132,717)
During this activity year we have started our first ever friends association!
We already have 60 paying friends and the total contribution was over 11,000 ILS.
We expect to double the number of friends during the coming year by approaching graduates of previous years and inviting them to give to Sadaka-Reut a little of what they have received. With time, we hope, that the association will become a substantial source of support for Sadaka-Reut.

Thank You!
Our work is possible only due to the dedication and contribution of so many people and organizations. We would like to thank:
Our amazing staff and facilitators who put Sadaka-Reut as their top priority and continuously search for innovative and effective methods to promote the organization and better its work;
Our volunteers and board members who dedicate time and effort for the benefit of the organization;
Our partners in local communities who invite us in, allow and help us to access their communities and join hands with us in out efforts to change society;
Our Friends Association members for their long-lasting dedication and support of our vision;
Our supporters and partners all over the world who believe in us, in our vision and our work and fund our program:

In Europe:
The European Union (EU)
In France:
CCFD
Secours Catholique
In Germany:
Bread for the World
Misereor
Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
In the Netherlands:
Diakonie kerk van Peize
Het Solidariteitsfonds
Kerk in Actie - ICCO Cooperation
Sivmo
In Switzerland:
Anna Frank Fonds
Caritas Switzerland
In the UK:
The Calpe Trust
The Sobell Foundation
In the USA:
CRS and USAID
Karen Wilk Klien
Middle East Peace Dialogue network
In Israel:
The New Israel Fund
Shiri Ritbo

How to Support Us:
For wire transfer donations:
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15 Jerusalem Blvd.
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Swift code: IDBLILIT
IBAN:
IL 37 0110 2600 0000 1223 641

For a UK tax deduction, please make out a cheque to the New Israel Fund, write on the memo line/attach a note that the cheque is for Sadaka-Reut: Arab-Jewish Youth Partnership - NIF ID 5805. The minimum donation accepted by NIF (UK) is of £70. Please post the cheque to New Israel Fund, 26 Enford Street, London W1H 2DD, UK.

To join our Friends Association and contribute 30ILS per month through your credit card, please contact us at info@reutsadaka.org or call +972 (0)3 5182336.

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www.reutsadaka.org

For a US tax deduction, make out a cheque to the New Israel Fund, write on the memo line/attach a note that the cheque is for Sadaka-Reut: Arab-Jewish Youth Partnership - NIF ID 5805. The minimum donation accepted by NIF (US) is of $100. Please post the cheque to New Israel Fund, P.O.Box 91588, Washington DC, 20090-1588 USA.