

To see what has kept us busy in Geneva these last two months, please visit our [“Activities in July and August”](#).

Dear Friends and Supporters

Despite these tragic times, in this newsletter, we will highlight some heartwarming news from our grantees. These positive updates energize us, and we hope they will also be uplifting for you.

Our grantees have been in the spotlight this summer!

♦ A Land for All

[A Land for All](#) is a shared movement of Israelis and Palestinians who believe that the way towards peace, security and stability for all passes through two independent states, Israel and Palestine, within a joint framework allowing both peoples to live together and apart.

Please take a few minutes to watch the eloquent endorsement of A Land for All by British philanthropist and entrepreneur, Sir Richard Branson. He is presenting the main tenets of ALFA's vision as the leading vision to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“After two world wars and so much division, resentment and distrust between European powers the architects of European integration reached for the stars, and it worked. A Land for All is possible. Just imagine.” - Sir Richard Branson

Watch the video [here](#)



♦ The Jerusalem Youth Chorus

We are so proud of [The Jerusalem Youth Chorus](#) and its young Israeli and Palestinian singers for making it to America's Got Talent show! Please take a few minutes to watch their extremely moving audition and the messages of the singers at the very end of the clip. We wish them the best of luck and hope they make it to the finals and win!

"Through music, and through working together, and talking to each other, we are taking a step towards an amazing future where there is justice, and there is freedom, and there is equality, and there is inclusion. We will create more spaces just like this chorus so people can meet people that are different from them—so we can create this change." - Hadas and Dahlia, members of the Chorus

Watch the video [here](#)



The Jerusalem Youth Chorus 's founder and director [Micah Hendler](#) and [Amer Abuarquob](#) gave a TED speech in Vancouver last April. The official TED video was published in early August.

"We are raising our voices to push back against violence, we reject war, occupation and terror... At the JYC we don't share the same opinions, we have hard discussions about them, but what we do share is a shared future, despite what politicians say ..." - Amer Abuarquob

Watch the video [here](#)



Polyphony

On August 5th, [Polyphony](#) Ensemble performed at Carnegie Hall with the National Youth Orchestra-USA conducted by Marin Alsop.

Eight gifted teenage string players - four Palestinian and four Jewish citizens of Israel from Polyphony's Music & Society Seminar (a program specifically funded by B8 of Hope!) performed with the NYO-USA during Carnegie's World Orchestra Week (WOW! Festival)

The performance followed an intensive two-week training residency. Two Polyphony musicians–Dana lleimi and Laila Haimovich–were interviewed by the [New York Times](#) for an article about festival.



◆ Road to Recovery

This network of Israeli volunteers who currently drive Palestinian West Banker patients from checkpoints for life-saving treatments in Israeli hospitals was featured once again on CNN.

[Road to Recovery](#) also helps with the purchase of medical equipment in special cases and organizes vacations and special 'Fun-Day' outings for patients and their families.

The heart of Road to Recovery is its 1,200 volunteers who are reaching out every day to those in need, providing an opportunity for healing through one simple gesture – Driving. Road to Recovery is currently transporting a daily average of 40 to 50 Palestinian patients from the West Bank to Israeli hospitals.

Please take a few minutes to watch this inspiring video and listen to the words of the founder of this initiative [Yuval Roth](#).

Watch the video [here](#)



Several meaningful events took place on the ground throughout the summer!

* IT'S TIME event

On Monday, July 1st, representatives of over 50 civil society organizations and movements, many of them B8 of Hope grantees, gathered at the Menora Arena in Tel-Aviv joined online by their Palestinian counterparts.

The stage featured bereaved Israelis and Palestinians sharing their stories, families of hostages, political leaders, religious leaders, artists, and thinkers.

The 6000 people at the venue and online gathered around the message: *"It's Time: To Reach a Deal. To Stop the War. To Make Peace."*

This significant event demonstrated the unity of the peace camp in their struggle for a shared future based on mutual recognition, equal rights, security, dignity, and self-determination for all the people in the region.

B8 of Hope is extremely proud to have been supportive of the event, from Switzerland and being there remotely in spirit and in our hearts.



* The Peace and Life March

"YES to a deal and an end to the war! YES to life!"

On Thursday, July 25th, several civil society organizations and movements, including 3 of B8 Of Hope grantees : Combatants for Peace, Standing Together, and Women Wage Peace marched in Tel Aviv culminating in a Jewish-Arab rally with families of the hostages, evacuees from the North of Israel, public figures, peace activists and activists for protest.

The participants marched for peace and life, demanding a hostage deal, the end of the war in Gaza and the prevention an all-out war in Lebanon.

The march was first denied permission by the police and our grantee movement Standing Together petitioned the High Court of Justice against the decision of the Tel Aviv district police not to permit the Peace and Life March - and the police folded!



* Lissan 's Graduation Ceremony!

Lissan advances a vision of a bilingual Hebrew-Arabic Jerusalem by promoting linguistic justice and equal access to basic rights and services for all Jerusalem residents through Hebrew language instruction to East Jerusalemites.



Lissan's work started in 2013 a group of women from East Jerusalem neighborhood Issawiya approached a group of young West Jerusalemites in search of Hebrew studies that would suit their pressing needs. These women faced a language barrier in their attempts to navigate Israeli bureaucracy, access health care, and integrate into the job market, higher education, and access trade and leisure activities in Jerusalem. They also expressed how their lack of Hebrew caused them feelings of low self-esteem and dependency on others.

In response, Lissan began holding informal weekly meetings to teach and learn Hebrew. As the number of participants increased, Lissan founders started recruiting more volunteer teachers and, in collaboration with the Issawiya Community Center, established the volunteer-based "Medabrot Ivrit – Women Speaking Hebrew" program.

For a decade, Lissan has been teaching Hebrew to East Jerusalemite women to allow them access to essential services, options, and opportunities.

It is so heartwarming to see that despite of the challenging times, the program survived, and this year's graduates could have their ceremony.

* In Memory of Vivian Silver

In the heart of the humanitarian zone in Gaza, a community and food space has been opened in memory of our friend and peace activist Vivian Silver, who was murdered in Be'eri on October 7th. We knew Vivian and worked with her through our grantee movements and NGOs, Women Wage Peace and Road to Recovery.

We salute [Clean Shelter](#) for their initiative in Gaza and their gesture of honoring Vivian's memory touches us deeply.



Yonatan Zeigen, Vivian's son, said about the Clean Shelter initiative in Gaza:

"The circumstances are heartbreaking, but I prefer that my mother Vivian Silver's name helps children in Gaza instead of being engraved on a missile that would kill them."

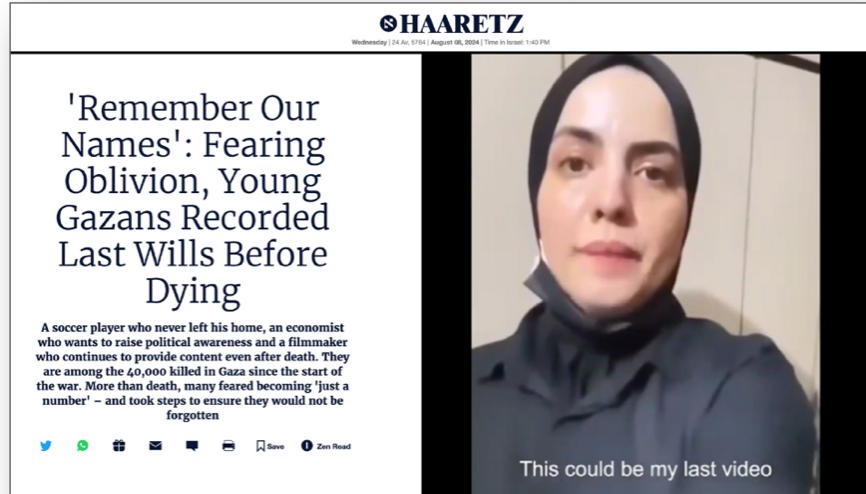
Another inspiring news is that Vivian Silver's family and friends established the "[Vivian Silver Impact Award](#)" to be awarded annually to two women, one Jewish and one Palestinian, who show great promise or have demonstrated significant accomplishments in one of the areas that embody Vivian's values and actions: Building Arab-Jewish partnership in Israel, Promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace, Advancing women to decision-making and leadership positions. We are very proud to be contributing to this award.



* In Memory of Ayat Khadoura

On another sad note, an article of Haaretz paid tribute to several Gazans who lost their lives, among whom Ayat Khadoura (young member of our grantee organization Zimam' Gaza chapter and storytellers and videographer). See the stories in this article by Haaretz.

Read the article [here](#)



The State of Civil Society Peacebuilding between Israelis and Palestinians

We would like to also take the opportunity of this newsletter to share a very informative survey and analysis, by our Jerusalem based consultants [Amal-Tikva](#), about the State of Civil Society Peacebuilding between Israelis and Palestinians – 2024

Read the report [here](#)



Upcoming B8 of Hope activity for Youth!

This is our 4th edition of B8 of Hope & [Philanthropic Adventures](#) “Let’s Talk About Peace” workshop since 2020 - an educational workshop about peace philanthropy (with an emphasis on empathy since last year’s edition).

Philanthropic Adventures is a non-profit association for young people to find information, inspiration and support to take action for social and environmental issues they care about. Philanthropic Adventures aims to democratize the concept of philanthropy and help young people define their engagement and bring change.

Philanthropic Adventures and B8 of Hope offer a free of charge in person workshop to a group of 8 to 12 Swiss high schoolers (aged 15 to 18) from different schools in Geneva and region. The workshop in the form of an after-school activity, takes place over a month and half. The participants learn about peace philanthropy and advocacy with different facilitators from B8 of Hope and Philanthropic Adventures. It is a journey towards peacebuilding through the lenses of B8 of Hope while learning the skills of philanthropy with Philanthropic Adventures

Lets Talk about Peace ☮

Learn about Peace Building in the Middle East with B8ofHope and use your time, skills and creativity to lead a fundraising campaign to support Peace.

Sign-up for a 5-sessions Workshop!

Step 1: Lets Talk about Peace (1 session)
Meet B8ofHope and get a better understanding of their mission and learn about Peace Building in the Middle East.

Step 2: Explore (2 sessions)
Explore the work of peace activists and experience an Empathy session.

Step 3: Act (2 sessions)
Learn how to lead a fundraising campaign and organise a fundraising event to support Peace.



Location
B8ofHope offices
Rte de Chêne 63

Dates
Thursdays 5-7pm
From 10.10 to 21.11 2024

Ages
14-18

Takeaways
Empathy Growth
Fundraising tools
Social awareness

Philanthropic Adventures Fees: chf 70.-/student
For more info and registration:
hello@philanthropicadventures.com



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**B8fully Yours,
The B8 of Hope Team**

