

# HANDS of PEACE

Celebrating 10 years of dialogue and friendship!



1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL 60025

[www.handsofpeace.org](http://www.handsofpeace.org)

Questions? Call 224-406-5045

## The HOP 2013 Birthday Bash

On April 13, Hands of Peace rang in its 10th birthday in style! Several hundred guests—alumni, volunteers, Board and Advisory Board members, and many others who have helped HOP to grow and thrive—gathered together to celebrate our past, present, and future. The evening included moving presentations from HOP alumni and from Founder Gretchen Grad, a beautiful 10-candled birthday cake lit by HOP supporters, high-spirited music from the Not-For-Profit Band, and a lively Silent Auction table. John Tillman once again handled his Master of Ceremonies role with grace and humor. Deepest thanks to Gala Chair Barbara Lauesen and her entire committee, who worked for nearly a year to pull together this wildly successful event!



## To California and Beyond

It will not be long before teenagers in San Diego are singing the HOP song! San Diego Site Director Scott Silk has held several successful fundraisers and information sessions, and has elicited donations from foundations, religious organizations, and individuals in support of our expansion efforts. We plan to launch the San Diego program in 2014, and we are still in great need of additional donors and volunteers.

## Introducing Associate Program Director John Bannon

We are thrilled to introduce John Bannon, who is joining Ashley Bates in organizing the Summer Program this year. John will be the Program Director in 2014, when Ashley will be working with the new Hands of Peace program in San Diego. John served in the Peace Corps in Macedonia, earned an MA and BA in International Relations, taught English in Mexico and South Korea, and currently teaches English as a Second Language in the Chicago area. Welcome, John!



## Tickets on Sale for Our July 21 Farewell Banquet!

Come meet our 2013 staff and participants as we celebrate the Summer Program with delicious food, personal reflections, and creative videos directed by our teens. Tickets (\$25 per person) can be purchased with a credit card at [www.handsofpeace.org](http://www.handsofpeace.org) or by mailing in the form below. The banquet will be held from 8 to 10pm on Sunday, July 21 at the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation (303 Dodge Ave. in Evanston).



### Hands of Peace Farewell Banquet Ticket Order Form

Send this form and a check to: Hands of Peace, Attn: John Bannon, 1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL 60025.)

Your Name:

Your Phone Number:

Your Address:

Funds Enclosed (\$25 per ticket):

Names of Your Guests:

## Alumni Club Updates

Our Middle East Alumni Club Spring Seminar took place in March and was attended by Israeli and Palestinian alumni from four different Summer Programs. The participants “roughed it”—they stayed at an environmentally sustainable conference center called EcoME, where the accommodations were rustic, to say the least! The seminar included a visit to Masada, backcountry meals prepared over a campfire, two powerful dialogue sessions, discussions with members of another peace group called Hagar and Ketura, and a group hike to a beautiful waterfall. The remote, serene setting minimized distractions and facilitated stronger personal connections—many said it was the most unique and meaningful seminar they had attended!



The US Alumni Club has been holding regular meetings and American alumni have been busy helping with presentations to schools and foundations. The US Alumni Club has also designed and constructed a Peace Pole that will be given to Oakton Community College during our upcoming Summer Program. “May Peace Prevail on Earth” will be inscribed in Arabic, English, and Hebrew on each side of the pole.

Alumni Club activities are so crucial to maintaining connections, building upon the process that starts during our Summer Program, and expanding our impact beyond the HOP community. We are so grateful to everyone who makes these seminars possible!

### Featured Volunteers: Kevin Schrimmer, Linda Sheehan, and Laila Bergmann

As our 10th Summer Program approaches, we would like to recognize three volunteers who have donated their talents for many years. Kevin Schrimmer is a chef by trade, and he donates his culinary expertise to our “Cultural Cooking Day.” Kevin manages 42 teenagers preparing a feast of Israeli, Palestinian, and American dishes—and always manages to stay calm and cheerful throughout. Linda Sheehan and Laila Bergmann teach a hilariously fun and interactive drama workshop that draws out the creativity of every participant. Linda and Laila also help the Hands plan their Culture Night skits.

Thank you to Kevin, Laila, and Linda—and to all of our generous volunteers. It really takes a team of Operations Committee members, Board members, host families, lunch donors, event organizers, activity leaders, chaperones, and so many others to keep HOP going! If you are interested in volunteering this summer, we still have many openings! Please contact Program Director Ashley Bates at [abates@handsofpeace.org](mailto:abates@handsofpeace.org) for more information.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**  
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[www.handsofpeace.org](http://www.handsofpeace.org)

Want to be added to our electronic mailing list?  
Send your email to [abates@handsofpeace.org](mailto:abates@handsofpeace.org).

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