

# HANDS OF PEACE



Hello Friend,

It's hard to believe we are almost half way half way through the year. So far, 2020 is a year of agonizing uncertainty and unprecedented events that unfold by the hour. The news is impossible to ignore, especially as it effects our Hands of Peace community.

Around the world, people are crying out after the senseless killing of George Floyd in the Minneapolis and Iyad Halak in Jerusalem by police. The parallels were chilling, representing the brutal and deadly consequence of systemic inequalities and oppression. We mourn each person lost due to violence and share the pain and suffering of their families. Board Chair Peg Lee [shared this message](#) with our community after Floyd's death, acknowledging that we have a lot of work to do to contribute to justice for all.

And, with annexation of large portions of the West Bank by Israel looming as a possibility as early as July 1, we are called to [raise up our values](#) of "self-determination and basic human rights." Unilateral annexation, like all decisions that affect Palestinians without their inclusion, would create an obstacle to positive peace -- a peace that is just and equitable for all people in the region. Only in equal partnership by all sides will freedom, equality, justice and peace for everyone be achieved.

Yet we remain hopeful; the future depends on the leadership of the next generation.

Yes, we say that a lot. But there's never been a more critical time to inspire, support and energize young leaders. Our alumni are educating themselves about these issues and bringing others into the conversation. They are raising their voices in protests all over the world, writing to legislators and media.



Alumna Camille Chang at a protest in Encinitas, CA. "We have to make an effort to change and rebuild," she says in [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#).

Others joined a powerful conversation about racism through our

Raising Youth Voices program.

Preparing young leaders to make positive change is now more important than ever. Through their participation in alumni focus groups as part of Reimagining Hands of Peace, we are learning more from them with each passing day.

Rich Katz  
Interim Director

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## A Conversation about Racism

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On July 7, youth facilitators from the Hands of Peace: Raising Youth Voices (RYV) program and Alumni Circle led a dialogue on racism. The virtual event was hosted by RYV Coordinator Dania Zanaid and Outreach Coordinator Maeve Plunkett. Hands of Peace initiated RYV in 2019 with funding from the San Diego Foundation's Peacemakers Fund.

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It was very helpful to have people from different cultures and backgrounds come together and share ideas on how to combat these issues.

-Cassandra

After two trainings on facilitation and another on virtual dialogue, the teen facilitators selected the topic and developed discussion questions they used in a “A Conversation about Racism” — led **by youth for youth**. They put their facilitation skills into practice and built their confidence guiding more than 30 high school and college students in the conversation. They learned from one another's lived experiences and increased their own understanding of their role as leaders of change.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT RAISING YOUTH VOICES](#)

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## Nominate or Apply for Scholarships and Awards Deadline: Friday, June 19

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### Scholarships

Each year Hands of Peace supports Hands of Peace alumni who need financial assistance to complete their college or university education with four \$1,000 scholarships -- one scholarship

per delegation. These scholarships are created through the generosity of donors. The Don and Ellen Clark Scholarship Award was the first scholarship awarded in 2015.

[ALUMNI APPLY HERE](#)

### **Rooftop Consciousness Award**

Many Hands of Peace alumni fondly remember Ron Miller’s annual “House of Consciousness” talk, which used the metaphor of a house to describe levels of consciousness regarding “the other”—from the basement (where dialogue is not possible) to the rooftop (where a person recognizes that despite our many differences, we are all connected as one human family).

After Ron passed away in 2011, Hands of Peace established the Rooftop Consciousness Award to recognize outstanding alumni who exemplify this higher level of thinking about “the other” and who demonstrates this level of consciousness in their daily life. The annual award recognizes someone who demonstrates through their work and volunteerism that, despite our many differences, we are all connected as one human family. Hands of Peace staff, alumni, host families, volunteers and alumni family members can nominate alumni using the simple form linked below.

[NOMINATE FOR ROOFTOP CONSCIOUSNESS AWARD](#)

**The DEADLINE for Scholarship Applications and  
Rooftop Consciousness Nominations is:  
Friday, June 19**

### **IMPORTANT information for Alumni**

Hands of Peace has many opportunities for you to share your stories, practice your speaking skills, and represent Hands of Peace at events, for visiting delegations, and at the Spring Benefits. We also publish alumni stories on our website and in social media. Please fill out this form so we can connect with you about potential speaking/media opportunities and learn more about what you are doing as a leader of change.

[SEND ALUMNI INFORMATION](#)

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**Executive Director Search**

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Hand of Peace is seeking an experienced and dynamic Executive Director. Details are on our website:

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB POSTING



### Hands of Peace Food Lovers

Our Summer Program participants enjoy meals donated by generous service clubs and local restaurants.

## RESTAURANT LIST HERE

Now, these restaurants need our help. Show them our appreciation by ordering take-out or delivery service, purchasing a gift card for future purchases, or visiting them when they open. We are so grateful that they have supported us and now it's our turn to support them.

## SUPPORT YOUTH LEADERS DONATE TODAY

Hands of Peace | (224) 406-5045 | [info@handsofpeace.org](mailto:info@handsofpeace.org) | [www.handsofpeace.org](http://www.handsofpeace.org)

### STAY CONNECTED

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