

## On a Mission, Armed With Paint

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An old damaged Syrian tank, overlooking Syria, was spray painted with graffiti.

Credit: Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times

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## Using art as therapy for the children near Gaza

August 21, 2014



A classroom is transformed to a bomb shelter and a learning center where children use arts and crafts as therapy



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# Keeping kids' psyches safe from rockets with clay and bubbles

Advocacy group Artists 4 Israel distributes emergency art therapy kits for children in the south to help alleviate the trauma of rocket fire

BY MELANIE LIDMAN | August 14, 2014, 3:45 pm | 1



**K**IBBUTZ ALUMIM, southern Israel — For parents on the Gaza border who found themselves running for the bomb shelter over and over during the summer, there are issues beyond just getting to a safe place in time. What do you do with your kids once you're there? How do you talk to your children about feeling safe and secure when you come back outside? What tools can help ease the fears of a 3-year-old, a 13-year-old, a 33-year-old?

That's where calming therapy comes in.

"Studies show that in order to prevent PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder], children need to receive therapy within three hours of the events and also before bed, because that's when memories crystallize," said Craig Dershowitz, the executive director of Artists 4 Israel, an art advocacy organization.

"When trauma happens, there are some physical changes in the body," explained Esther Marcus, a resident of Kibbutz Alumim in the south and an art therapist who specializes in trauma. "Your throat closes up, making it hard to breathe. Also, the brain stops communicating between the left and right side of the brain. This is part of what leads to PTSD, this lack of communication and later a breakdown. When we get people to do art with their hands and the brain at the same time, it helps rebuild those connections quickly."

**'People think of art therapy as this airy, non-scientific thing. But what we're trying to say is that it's as important as physical health'**

For the past year, Artists 4 Israel, a pro-Israel art advocacy organization, has worked on an emergency "healing art kit" fashioned in the same shape and size as a first aid kit. The idea is to keep one in the shelter at all times, so that immediately after a siren goes off, parents have calming, therapeutic activities to do with their children while waiting a few minutes before they can leave. Or a kit can stay in the house, to help parents and children talk about their feelings after alert is over. In the future, Artists 4 Israel hopes to expand the healing art kit to ambulances and homes across Israel.

"People think of art therapy as this airy, non-scientific thing," said Dershowitz. "But what we're trying to say is that it's as important as physical health."



Kids at Kibbutz Alumim decorate journals in their emergency art therapy kits on Wednesday. (Melanie Lidman/Times of Israel)

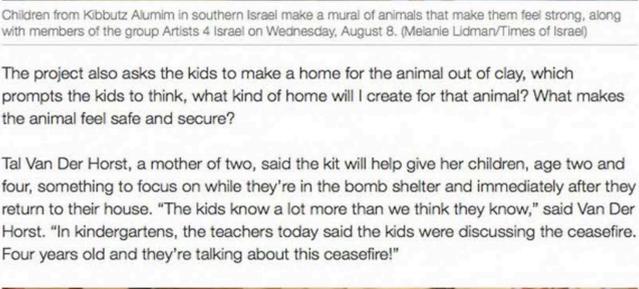
The organization planned to roll out the healing arts kit in October. But after the war in Gaza this summer, members worked intensively with volunteers to come out with an emergency version, with only part of the supplies and activities they planned. As soon as the kits were ready, they jumped on a plane, arriving in Israel as the country began a bout of on-again, off-again short ceasefires.

On Wednesday, Artists 4 Israel visited Kibbutz Alumim, in southern Israel near the Gaza border, to work with the kids and train the parents how to use the kits. The majority of residents of Kibbutz Alumim stayed on the kibbutz for the duration of the war, and the children spent their days inside because it was too dangerous to play outside, even right next to a protected building.

The emergency healing art kit includes things like soap bubbles, which promote deep breathing, and are fun for both kids and adults. There is also modeling clay, because molding soft material with one's fingers is a tactile activity that feels good and promotes calmness. The clay was tough to get through customs, admitted Dershowitz, because airport security thought it looked like TNT; some of it had yet to be released five days later.

**Are they scared? What makes the animals feel strong? It's easier for children to talk about a toy's emotions than their own**

Another project included in the kit is animal finger puppets. In an explanation sheet, parents are encouraged to ask their children how the animals are feeling. Are they scared? What makes the animals feel strong? It's easier for children to talk about a toy's emotions than their own, Rena Grosser, an art therapist in Chicago who volunteers with Artists 4 Israel, explained to the parents. Also, identifying with characteristics of, say, lions and tigers can make them feel strong.



Children from Kibbutz Alumim in southern Israel make a mural of animals that make them feel strong, along with members of the group Artists 4 Israel on Wednesday, August 8. (Melanie Lidman/Times of Israel)

The project also asks the kids to make a home for the animal out of clay, which prompts the kids to think, what kind of home will I create for that animal? What makes the animal feel safe and secure?

Tal Van Der Horst, a mother of two, said the kit will help give her children, age two and four, something to focus on while they're in the bomb shelter and immediately after they return to their house. "The kids know a lot more than we think they know," said Van Der Horst. "In kindergartens, the teachers today said the kids were discussing the ceasefire. Four years old and they're talking about this ceasefire!"



Parents from Kibbutz Alumim in southern Israel do some art therapy with members of the group Artists 4 Israel. (Melanie Lidman/Times of Israel)

A4I has partnered with WIZO (the Women's International Zionist Organization) to try to widely distribute the kits across Israel. This is A4I's first foray into home projects and clinical art therapy, and the organization has a lot of growing pains, including disorganization and challenges making connections with existing Israeli art therapy organizations. However, Wednesday's first test run at Kibbutz Alumim showed there is passionate interest in the kits.

Since the kit is still in the preparation stage, Dershowitz and Grosser asked the parents for their input. Van Der Horst suggested they add something that makes noise. For children on the kibbutzim and towns on the border, over the past month the scariest thing was hearing the IDF artillery because it was so loud and so close. Even though they knew the artillery was to protect them, explosions are explosions, and they all sound scary to children, she said.



Kids at Kibbutz Alumim with the emergency art kits distributed by the group Artists 4 Israel. (Melanie Lidman/Times of Israel)

The idea of art therapy is to engage all of the senses, so an item that the kids can manipulate to make noise, like a clicker, can help them feel like they have control over that sense as well.

The "Code Red" alert noise is also a source of fear. Marcus, the local art therapist, said that many children refuse to use red and don't use red in their art projects because "red is the color of fear," she said. "But to get back that sense of security is going to take a lot. Our answer to being in trauma is to be creative." She noted that in Kibbutz Nahal Oz, where she worked for a number of years, members plant a tree wherever a rocket falls, and the kids run around with butterfly nets pretending to catch rockets falling from the sky.

This is the sixth trip Artists 4 Israel, which is based in New York, has made to Israel since the group was founded in 2009. The organization's goal is to use art to promote a balanced view of Israel abroad, and to bring artists who are well-known in their creative circles to share their art in Israel. They have also hosted plays and indie rock concerts, though their best-known work is inviting respected graffiti artists to paint bomb shelters around the country, including dozens in Sderot and the Golan Heights. Just before arriving in Israel this week, A4I held an art vigil in New York City, and there is currently an interactive bomb shelter museum traveling in the United States to help people understand what being in a bomb shelter entails.



Artists 4 Israel director Craig Dershowitz paints the inside of a bomb shelter with a kid from Kibbutz Alumim on Wednesday. (Melanie Lidman/Times of Israel)

On Wednesday for the first time, A4I decided to paint a bomb shelter with the help of local children rather than solely by graffiti artists. At first parents worried if it was a good idea – not for artistic reasons, but because if a rocket alarm went off, it would be difficult to fit all of the painters inside a single bomb shelter. But the ceasefire was still holding on Wednesday afternoon, so A4I handed out dozens of cans of spray paint, told the kids to go crazy. They ended up with a kaleidoscope of colors on the bottom half of a nondescript bomb shelter.

New York graffiti artist "Broker," who refused to be photographed or give his real name because he frequently does illegal graffiti in New York, then turned the riot of color into a cohesive mural featuring the words "safe" and "love" inside the shelter. The mural broadcast a message of security while simultaneously and perhaps inadvertently, acting as an ad for safe sex.



New York Graffiti artist "Broker" transformed the painted walls inside and outside of the bomb shelter into a cohesive mural, though his message could be interpreted in different ways. (Melanie Lidman/Times of Israel)

Artists4Israel left the south just a half hour before Hamas shot rockets at Ashkelon and around Kibbutz Alumim on Wednesday evening, as the 72-ceasefire tottered toward a five-day extension with a number of violations around midnight. On Thursday morning, some sirens sounded in the region but were later determined to be false alarms.

Marcus said many of the children have regressed during the current conflict back to bedwetting or refusing to let their parents out of their sight, even when going to the bathroom. "Most of the rockets have been out in open fields, and there hasn't been major damage here," she said. "But to get back that sense of security is going to take a lot. Our answer to being in trauma is to be creative." She noted that in Kibbutz Nahal Oz, where she worked for a number of years, members plant a tree wherever a rocket falls, and the kids run around with butterfly nets pretending to catch rockets falling from the sky.

Dershowitz stressed the need for art and culture especially during times of conflict and trauma. "Look at ISIS in Iraq. The first thing that they go after are the cultural sites and they destroy museums. There's a reason for that," he said. "Creativity gives you control."



A girl at Kibbutz Alumim spray paints a bomb shelter with the group Artists 4 Israel. (Melanie Lidman/Times of Israel)

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Leigh Buchanan | Inc. magazine

Nov 16, 2012

## Invincible Ball Brings Joy to Kids (& Lions)

Soccer balls from the One World Futbol Project stand up to life in a refugee camp.



*Soccer is enduringly popular in many poor countries. Unfortunately, soccer balls are less enduring. One World Futbol Project, a for-profit based in Berkeley, California, is bringing a measure of joy to children in refugee camps, impoverished villages, and other places where balls expire quickly on harsh, rocky terrain. The company's virtually indestructible balls were designed by Timothy Jahnigen, whose protean portfolio includes inventing an infrared warming system for hospitals and producing concerts for Sting. Mal Warwick, a One Futbol co-founder, described the venture to Inc. editor-at-large Leigh Buchanan:*

It was about six years ago when Timothy, who is an inventor and musician in Berkeley, California was watching a documentary on CNN about refugees from Darfur. There was some footage of children playing with a ball they had made themselves out of trash and twine. They were kicking it around on this rocky surface, which is typical of refugee camps. Timothy had traveled extensively around the world--even worked on a cruise ship for a number of years. So he was familiar with the terrain in poor communities and the problems facing poor people generally. He also knew about soccer and that soccer balls in rough terrain don't last very long. He said we've got to be able to solve that problem for those kids.

So he stayed up two or three nights in a row, madly doing sketches and calculating how to use different materials to make a new kind of ball. He settled on something called pop foam, which is a cross-linked, closed-cell foam. It's very similar to the material in Crocs shoes, which supposedly last a lifetime. And he came up with a solution: a soccer ball that would never go flat, that would never need a pump or needle, that even if you punctured it you could go on playing.

The problem was he didn't have any money. He and his wife had just invested in another company that was selling one of his inventions. So the idea languished for two years until one day he had breakfast with Sting. Tim is one of the managers for Sting's Concert for the Rainforest every two years at Carnegie Hall. Tim started describing his idea for the soccer ball to Sting, and Sting's eyes lit up. He said, "You do it. I'll pay for it." He put up the money immediately for the R&D. After 11 months, after spending probably \$30,000, Tim had a viable prototype.

Sting got another friend to come up with money to produce the first 10,000 balls to be field-tested. They were sent to a child-soldier rehabilitation camp in Rwanda and to rural areas in South Africa, Haiti, and Iraq. The balls performed marvelously. So by the end of 2009 the concept was solid and the manufacturing arrangements had been made. Tim and his wife, Lisa, reasoned that it would be impossible to raise enough money from philanthropists to finance millions and millions of balls around the world. They decided to launch a for-profit company that would put mission first and money second.

My primary business in the past was a fundraising consultancy for nonprofits. Lisa and I had done business through that earlier. She called me, and I was immediately intrigued. We brought in a fourth partner and launched the company on July 7, 2010. We began to spread the word among the sport-for-peace-and-development community, which is a term widely used in the United Nations network. NGOs and UN agencies use sports, especially soccer, as a teaching tool to introduce subjects like HIV/AIDS prevention, conflict resolution, and gender equity to children.

General Motors approached us and worked out a sponsorship deal, which we announced at the end of May. They are paying us to manufacture and distribute one and a half million soccer balls in both adult and child sizes to disadvantaged children around the world. The production line began operating in October at the rate of one container per week--that's over 5,000 balls. We're now operating at peak capacity of 11,000 balls per week. They are being shipped out as soon as they come off the line to Liberia, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Zanzibar, Vietnam, you name it. We are well on the way to meeting our goal of a minimum one million balls in our first three years.

The business model includes a number of different revenue streams. We sell the ball at retail online with a buy-one, donate-one model. The price online is \$39.50 plus shipping. So it's a little pricey, but given the long term ROI it's a tremendous deal. We've sold thousands of balls that way. We are also experimenting with in-store retail sales. We have one store--ABC Carpet and Home, here in Manhattan--that is selling the ball. They sold it last Christmas and did fairly well and are hoping to do even better this year. We sell the balls at discount to nonprofit organizations and to companies that are going to donate them. Unicef has been a big customer. We have a number of other NGOs around the world buying the balls. And individual philanthropists will pay for a number of balls to be given away. We are also in talks with a couple of other big companies about possible sponsorship deals.

In July, at the end of the World Cup, we gave two balls to the biggest lion in the Johannesburg Zoo. Those balls are still in use there. The keeper told one of my colleagues that previously they had had to supply Triton, the lion, with six balls per hour because he tore them to shreds. On [YouTube](#) we have film of Triton trying to destroy the ball and finding out he couldn't. Now he's like a kitten with it.

Our objective is to bring the spirit of play to children for whom it is often denied.



**Leigh Buchanan** is an editor at large for Inc. magazine. A former editor at Harvard Business Review and founding editor of WebMaster magazine, she writes regular columns on leadership and workplace culture. @LeighEBuchanan



Photo by: Ariel Ben Solomon

## American art therapists help kids in South cope with trauma

By LIDAR GRAVE-LAZI

14/08/2014

Artists 4 Israel emergency healing kit lets children blow bubbles, sculpt Play-Doh to deal with stressful situations.

The revelation during Operation Protective Edge of a sophisticated network of Hamas tunnels from Gaza leading into neighboring Jewish communities has shocked residents. For many of the children, living in a reality where "monsters under the bed" are real has led to trauma.

To help them, art therapists from the United States made their way to the communities Wednesday in an attempt to heal or prevent post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through the use of Healing Arts Kits.

The kits were developed by Artists 4 Israel (A4I), a New York- and Israel-based non-profit that provides awareness and support about Israel through the universal message of art. They are being distributed in the South, and soon will be distributed throughout Israel, in collaboration with the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO).

"About five years ago we came to Israel to start painting bomb shelters, and while we were here we realized the power of art to uplift these communities," Craig Dershowitz, A4I executive director, told The Jerusalem Post on Wednesday.

The activities included in the Healing Arts Kits are simple, though designed to take advantage of the latest research to help prevent, or at least alleviate, trauma and PTSD.

Blowing bubbles guides children as young as 18 months into deep breathing, one of the best ways to remain calm.

Playing with Play-Doh or drawing helps children reliving frightening visual memories to shift to a tactile mode designed to access another part of the brain. Telling stories through finger puppets enables them to directly relate to the power, strength and beauty of animals.

"These healing kits are another layer of caring for Israeli children," said Hila Stern, executive director of WIZO's New York branch, "providing them with tools to overcome the trauma that is based upon living in constant fear."

The project was to be launched in Israel in October, but because of the outbreak of hostilities A4I brought the kits this week.

"We decided to launch on a smaller scale and bring the kits over right away," Dershowitz said, "so this is an emergency, scaled-down version of the kit, but this is when the children are most in need of them."

Accompanied by art therapist Rena Grosser; Ariela Robinson and Christian Aldunate, both art teachers from the US; and Israeli artist Benji Fischer, the group has volunteered its time to meet with children in the South and distribute the kits. On Wednesday it visited Kibbutz Alumim, one of the communities surrounding Gaza.

Ayal Yon, 29, was raised on Kibbutz Alumim, where he now lives with his wife.

While Yon is proud that when all neighboring communities evacuated the South due to the constant barrage of rockets, Alumim residents refused to leave. For weeks on end, the children had to stay indoors while the IDF searched for nearby terror tunnels and code red sirens sounded on a constant basis, followed by the loud booms.

He admitted that the events of the past month had taken a heavy toll on many of the younger residents.

"I have a friend with a large family," he said. "Their 3 yearold will not even go from her bedroom to the bathroom without one of her parents holding her hand. The ones who really need help are the children."

According to Dershowitz, the inspiration for the project stemmed from one of the organization's artists who also served as a first responder, including during the September 11 attacks in New York City.

"It is well accepted that you can only prevent PTSD within the first three hours of the traumatic situation," he explained. "So we created a kit... that first responders could give to children while they deal with the situation."

In October A4I plans to distribute an additional 500- 1,000 kits to children in communities throughout Israel.

"Our goal is to have one in every ambulance, every school and everywhere a child is in need," Dershowitz said.

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## SoCal Iranians launch rally against Iran's regime, Russia and China

February 11, 2012 | 10:56 am

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Iranian pro-democracy activists have called on opponents of Tehran's Islamic regime throughout Southern California to rally against repression and hardship in their homeland.

The weekend protests are being staged to coincide with the Feb. 11, 1979, anniversary of the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty in Iran and the establishment of an Islamic republic, which drove hundreds of thousands to flee the country.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's suspected pursuit of nuclear weapons has drawn harsh economic sanctions on the country, inflicting hyperinflation and shortages on the Iranian people, say activists within the New Iran movement, which is behind the weekend demonstrations.

"Not since the phony elections that kept Ahmadinejad in power [in 2009] has there been so much anger welling up out of Iranian Americans," said Parviz Haddadizadeh, one of the organizers of the rallies, which are expected to draw thousands from the Persian community. "It is no longer, 'Where is my vote? It is where is my freedom?' Regime change is the only solution."

Activists called on opponents of the Islamic regime to gather outside the federal building at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and to converge on the Chinese consulate at Shatto Place on Tuesday to protest China's support for the regime. Organizers said the Tuesday demonstration at 11 a.m. would unveil a 30-foot mural by New York graffiti artist Cycle depicting the Iranian, Chinese and Russian leaders on a "wall of shame."

"In exchange for oil and nuclear reactor contracts, Russia and China have used their veto power to water down or block the most powerful pressure that could be put on the Islamic Republic," said Bijan Karimi, executive director of the New Iran pro-democracy movement. "As a result, the regime feels free to ignore the international community and continues to refuse to give power back to our people, respect human rights or halt their nuclear ambitions."

-- Carol J. Williams

*Photo: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gestures as he delivers a speech Saturday at a rally in Tehran to mark the 33rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that toppled the country's pro-Western monarchy and brought Islamic clerics to power. Credit: Vahid Salemi / Associated Press*



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Iranian pro-democracy dissident and activist Dr. Iman Foroutan, second from left, explain the meaning of the mural "Wall of Shame," right, setup across the street from the Russian consulate on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011 in New York. The graffiti mural by the artist known as Cycle, was created to show "the cost to freedom of Russia's corrupt selling of their U.N. veto to the Iranian regime, " as stated in a media release from Dr. Foroutan and the organization The New Iran. (AP Photo/[Bebeto Matthews](#))

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**Gil Troy**

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American presidential historian, McGill professor, author of eight books on US history, working on a book about Clinton and the 1990s

## I [Heart] Israel -- Creatively, Authentically

Posted: 11/19/2014 4:50 pm EST | Updated: 11/19/2014 4:51 pm EST



Last week, an international graffiti gang "bombed" Netanya, Jerusalem, and other Israeli cities. Those edgy, hyper-colorful, spray-painted murals New Yorkers in the 1970s called "vandalism," beautified ugly concrete walls in schools and community centers. One "piece," as street artists call their handiwork, flowed up from a schoolyard's beige-colored dirt into two beige-colored hands, whose thumbs and pointers together made the shape of a heart. A day later, the artist magically superimposed on the hands yet somehow behind them too a big, bold, yellow word in cursive: PEACE.



Yes, Artists 4 Israel was on the loose again, spreading its hip-hop message of peace, love, healing and creativity, mobilizing tattooed and body-pierced angels from Brooklyn, Puerto Rico, Spain, Portugal, and the Czech Republic. Founded in 2009 by Craig Dershowitz, an artist bold enough, unconventional enough, to escape the far left's bash-Israel groupthink, this art collective supports Israel in ingenious ways. A4I brings art into bomb shelters to soothe children; imports artists from all over the world to decorate targeted communities or depressed areas; and uses art, particularly "contemporary, urban and disruptive arts" in the US to celebrate the Middle East's one pocket of artistic and political freedom.

Free of the usual rhetoric burdening so many Israel-oriented discussions, these artists inject a fresh perspective. Encountering the Gaza security barrier, they painted pictures of Third Worlders protected by a purple sun, adding this message on Facebook: "The images of a native, indigenous people in need of love and respect are the images of the Israeli people who have come from afar seeking shelter and protection in their native homeland." Indeed, Jews are not colonialist, imperialist interlopers but, as the Canadian human rights activist Irwin Cotler teaches, the original aboriginal people, speaking the same language, developing the same culture, and tied to the same homeland for millennia.

The world has gone topsy-turvy. Memri and Palestinian Media Watch fill my inbox daily with translations of official, mainstream Palestinian hate demonizing Israel, spreading anti-Zionism, fomenting Jew hatred. Palestinian terrorists, excuse me, "martyrs," are lionized for running over babies or shooting up synagogues. Yet systematic desensitization works. If once every six months Mahmoud Abbas's supposedly moderate regime incited toward violence, it might make headlines. But this stream of hatred flowing as steadily -- but more violently -- than the Jordan River, dulls our capacity for outrage.

I am proud that the occasional anti-Arab outburst from Israelis still generates headlines - such bigotry remains exceptional. I am even prouder of Israelis' many initiatives to fight hatred and ensure that Israel lives up to its highest, Zionist, democratic ideals. One shining, all-too-overlooked model is the TALI School Network's extraordinary coexistence program called "Dialogue and Identity," introducing Jewish and Arab schoolkids to each other.

Fulfilling its mission of bringing Jewish studies to secular Israeli schools, TALI cleverly has Jews, Muslims, and Catholics teach each other about their traditions. Since 2006, more than 3,000 children and 100 educators have hosted each other in their respective schools. With 18 schools now, the program works because it is time-intensive, participatory, and puts everyone on an equal footing.

Despite this year's tensions -- and worries before they met -- on November 10, 60 fifth and sixth graders from the TALI Oranim School in Yokneam and the Latin Patriarchate School of Yefiyah. (Jaffa of Nazareth), learned and laughed together, this time in Yokneam. "I was really frightened at the beginning of the day that I would not be able to speak with" the TALI children, one Arab student admitted, "but after only a few activities, I felt more comfortable and I made a number of friends!!" "I already miss my new-found friends from Oranim," another student added. "When will we meet again?"

The Jews were equally enthusiastic, enjoying the mixed Arab-Jewish basketball teams and the formal meetings. A TALI teacher reported the big complaint: "most of the children felt the meeting was too short." They wanted more organized activities and "informal" time during the break where the freedom and space created helped them in connecting with their Arab guests." "We do not promise peace," TALI's Eva Halahmi says wisely, "but a first positive experience that breaks down stereotypes and the barriers of fear. Each child is allowed to experience the complex identity of the 'other,' but only in tandem with learning about their own culture and religion."

Both Artists 4 Israel and TALI's "Dialogue and Identity" program succeed because they are welcoming, unscripted, and authentic. This generation is wary of being manipulated. Open, grassroots, passionate exchanges and experiences are essential.

That authenticity explains Taglit-Birthright Israel's success, too. This summer, the 400,000th Birthrighter visited Israel. When the war began, Birthright's educational team encouraged every group to stop at any time and discuss the situation. This insight defied many Israel advocates' protective instincts to dodge unpleasantness. Addressing whatever participants were thinking and feeling, in real time, built trust as participants saw that Birthright educators weren't hiding anything; they were teaching not propagandizing - often working through their own confusion. Having confronted the current events, participants could then concentrate on the day's historical, cultural, identity-oriented - and fun - activities.

As the ideological war against Israel intensifies, as the ugly Green-Red Islamist-Far Left Alliance propagandizes and perverts the truth, we should trust our own messy, honest, democratic practices. We need the Artists 4 Israel's out-of-the-box passion. We need TALI's warm, direct exchanges. And we need Birthright's integrity and flexibility. Totalitarians' enforced uniformity often appears stronger but our genuine democratic chaos will ultimately triumph.

Full disclosure: my family hosted the artists for Shabbat, we contribute to the TALI program, and I am the voluntary chair of Birthright Israel's International Education Committee. Journalists might call this a conflict of interest -- we Zionist activists call it a confluence of values.

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I24NEWS

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## US groups seek to heal rocket trauma with art

**Kits distributed to Israeli children aim to calm children facing rockets, tunnels threats**

To prevent and heal PTSD in children who suffered from the threat of rockets from above and terror tunnels from below, a small group of American art therapists are visiting Israeli communities on the front lines of the Israel-Hamas conflict, bringing with them the most advanced techniques available

Healing Arts Kits developed by Artists 4 Israel and distributed in partnership with the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO) is the culmination of intensive coordination between leading child psychologists and art therapists within Israel and the United States.

According to a press release issued by the group, the activities in Artists 4 Israel's Healing Arts Kit are deceptively simple, but each are designed to take advantage of the latest research to help prevent, or alleviate, trauma and PTSD. For example, blowing bubbles quickly guides children as young as 18 months into deep breathing, one of the best ways to release calming endorphins. Playing with play-dough or drawing helps children shift from the PTSD inducing reliving of frightening visual memories into a tactile mode designed to access another part of the brain that helps fight against the consolidation of traumatic memories.

"When we originally brought the world's best graffiti artists to Israel to paint bomb shelters in Sderot in 2009," remembers Craig Dershowitz, the tattooed-covered Executive Director of Artists 4 Israel, "we learned that resilience of the Israeli kids living near Gaza was unprecedented. They were comforting us with each explosion. Now, it is our chance to return some of that same support."

"These Healing Kits are another layer of caring for Israeli children," says Hila Stern, Executive Director of WIZO's New York branch, "providing them with tools to overcome the trauma that is based upon living in constant fear."

According to the statement, recent research indicates that while working with these specific art therapies helps at any stage, they are particularly effective in the hours immediately following trauma because it during sleep when the brain consolidates memories - traumatic or otherwise.



# Photo of the Day

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Iranian freedom activists protest in front of the federal building during the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, which the activists call "The Black Day," Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

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## On a Mission, Armed With Paint

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At an abandoned former Syrian army camp, Chemis painted an eye.

Credit: Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times

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## On a Mission, Armed With Paint

◀ 7 of 8 ▶



An old damaged Syrian tank, overlooking Syria, was spray painted with graffiti.

Credit: Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times

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An artist at work at the Alonei Habashan settlement, an arms deposit building.

Credit: Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times

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Vincent Santovella and Mr. Dershowitz along the Syrian border. Since the onset of the Syrian uprising, the Israeli military has prepared for a possible spillover of the violence, and the longstanding quiet is now constantly threatened by the raging civil war next door.

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The area where the artists were working is adjacent to the no man's land that for 40 years has divided two nations that remain technically at war.

Credit: Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times

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## On a Mission, Armed With Paint

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Chemis spray-painted his art on a bullet-riddled wall of a bombed building near Quneitra.

Credit: Rina Castalnuovo for The New York Times

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## On a Mission, Armed With Paint

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Craig Dershowitz, head of the project Artists 4 Israel, ran with a paint canister on a roof on an abandoned building overlooking Syria.

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## On a Mission, Armed With Paint

◀ 1 of 8 ▶



More than a dozen international street painters spent several days recently leaving their unlikely marks on the edge of the 1.8-mile-wide demilitarized zone between Israel and Syria. Chemis, on the second floor and, Norm, on the first, worked on their art in an abandoned former Syrian building near Quneitra.

Credit: Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times

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## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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NOVEMBER 5, 2013, 8:07 PM

## Graffiti Artists, With Paint As Their Weapons, Fight Back Against The Syrian War

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Used to be, graffiti was something you tried your hardest not to see. It covered the subway cars of the Number 1 line up Broadway to van Cortlandt Park, the train I took every day to high school and back in the dark ages of the '70s. Sure, the outsides of the subway cars were colorful and bright, but inside, the scrawl of names, a desperate gesture by the anonymous

New Yorkers of the ghettos to be seen, to be known, were like so much visual litter thrown against the windows and the walls.

Fast forward several decades, past Keith Haring and Kenny Scharf and Banksy, and graffiti, become art, has a whole different existence and an equally contrasting place.

And that's where Craig Dershowitz and his organization, [Artists 4 Israel](#), come in.

This week, Dershowitz will lead an international group of graffiti artists through the danger zones that mark the border between Israel and Syria, prepared to meet the horrors of war and destruction with the power and optimism of their art. An all-volunteer mission, the self-styled art army, using brushes, cans, and markers as their weapons, aim, very simply, to change what they can to improve lives desperately crying out for happiness and hope.

This is not Art4Israel's first such mission, however. The organization first was created in 2009, following a benefit exhibition of works by young graffiti artists in New York aimed at raising funds for bomb shelters in Israel – needed as a result of the 2008-2009 conflicts in Gaza. But while the event raised consciousness, says Dershowitz, that was simply not enough. "We became frustrated," he says. "Our vision of this wasn't happening. We weren't going to stop the conflict. Children were being traumatized by bomb shelters. Even if they didn't use them, they walked by them on the way to school every day, which was a constant, horrific reminder of what was happening."

He decided it was time to do more – and that meant going to Israel. "We said, 'this is where we are able,'" he says. "The bomb shelters looked like canvases to us – they're what we paint anyway." Artists4Israel called volunteers, pooled pennies, and headed off. Over the course of a week, from April 25 to May 1, 2010, seven artists painted fifty bomb shelters, a shelter for battered women, and a school in a low-income area of South Tel-Aviv. When not painting, they lived largely on hummus and slept on the floor of a high school gymnasium.

The current project on the Syrian border was inspired by the most recent expedition in 2011 – Dershowitz's third. "When we saw what was happening on the Syrian border," he recalls, "we realized how it was affecting those living there. Civilians were completely shell-shocked. Israelis have no idea why they're the victims of attacks of what is supposed to be a civil war in Syria. This is an area where people move to live in peace and tranquility and calm. It's the demilitarized zone. And now you have these rocket attacks coming. No one even knows if it's coming from Assad or the rebels, either, since they hate Israel equally. So people are now living in fear of these attacks."

For Dershowitz, this was a call to action. "We realized," he says, "here again is a time for the art world to raise a red flag and say to the world to look at what's happening and not be a silent voice, a way for the US to respond without militaristic means and give Syria and Israel a bit of hope and beauty in a small piece of that area."

Among their targets during the one-week expedition: an abandoned Syrian army barracks ("you can't get a better metaphor than art on a bare army barrack," Dershowitz observes); the abandoned ruins of the former Quintra Hospital; a community center for impoverished children; a center for Sudanese refugees (who face their own crisis in Israel); and several bomb shelters.

And then they'll see what else turns up.

These are not, of course the graffiti artists of the 1970s Number One IRT. They paint images, not just their names; they paint for others, not themselves.

And they dodge rocket attacks, not the NYPD.

They are also no longer anonymous: among those making the trip, which is paid for largely through private donations and through grants from the Alumni Community, a division of Birthright Israel, are familiar names in the graffiti and street art community, including MED and CES from [Tuff City](#), [GetLostALot](#), and [7<sup>th</sup> Letter](#).

"Between us, though," Dershowitz admits, "I understand that this is somewhat idealistic, and that when there are lives on the line, to think that art work is going to heal the world is foolish. But what did we see happen in the rest of the world? When the Egypt revolt took place, what was looted was the history and art museums. Art is essential to life in so many ways, and it's what we can do. Everyone plays a role. This is our role. This is what we know. This is where our power lies."

Tags: [7thLetter](#), [artists for Israel](#), [artists4israel](#), [Craig Dershowitz](#), [GetLostALot](#), [graffiti art](#), [Israel](#), [street art](#), [Syrian war](#), [TUFF](#)

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by Regina Santorella  
November 7, 2013 at 9:42 pm

Great work. GOD BLESS YOU GUYS N GIRLS...XO

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**NEWTOWN MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION VOWS TO BREAK 100,000 BOARDS FOR CHARITY**

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by NYMetroParents Staff

December 21, 2012

Related: what newtown residents are doing to help support children, newtown resident and martial arts champion to break boards for charity, leif becker to raise funds for charity.

**A Newtown, CT resident and martial arts champion Leif Becker vows to help raise funds for The REACH Foundation, a non-profit based in Connecticut.**

When tragedy struck just minutes from his home in Newtown, Connecticut, martial arts champion [Leif Becker](#) was on day four of a journey to visit 12 non-profits in Manhattan over 12 days to help kids overcome barriers, a modern take on the 12 Days of Christmas.

The two-time world record holder in board-breaking was saluting their work by coming to learn, volunteer, and award the organization a black belt for helping their kids break through their barriers.

From Sept. 27-28, 2013, Leif Becker will attempt a new world record by breaking 100,000 boards in 24 hours in Central Park. A neighboring Connecticut non-profit, [The REACH Foundation](#), will be working with Leif so that each board is registered on behalf of a child trying to overcome a barrier and is an opportunity to support kids and fund organizations that are helping them.



Courtesy [LeifBecker.com](#)

When the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting happened a few miles from his home, Leif decided that he needed to come home for a few days to comfort his family and grieve with his neighbors.

"It made me realize even more so the importance of what we're doing," says Becker. The stories he has been hearing from neighbors and childhood friends have only put more iron in his hands and sharpened his steely determination to do what has never been done before in way that will help hundreds of thousands of kids and help the organizations on the front lines of the barriers kids face every day.

After a few days at home, with a renewed seriousness to his training, Becker decided to continue his 12 visits to children's organizations.

Leif is inviting media to come with him and see in action the power of Breaking Barriers. Both Leif and [The REACH Foundation](#) took away from their visits so far, that the children truly are the real heroes. "To watch a child with autism run laps or dance, to play with inner city youths who have seen violence their whole lives shrug it off to play basketball with strangers," says Leif, "it inspires me. The children are the fuel for what I'm doing."

"And we inspire each other, the kids who are breaking barriers make me more determined than ever to help bring their struggles badly needed attention and funding," Leif says. "And when they hear I'm planning to break 100,000 boards in 24 hours, first they disbelieve, then I walk them through the process of reaching that kind of goal — and 'snap' just like a board breaking I see in their eyes that wall of self-doubt drop away and a sparkle in their eyes that says, 'if he can do that, I can do anything.'"

One little girl from the [New York Cares Sports Explorers](#) program, Denise, said, "I want to be part of [Breaking Barriers](#). When I heard that Leif was going to break 100,000 boards, and all for kids like us, he's like a barrier hero coming to the rescue!"

"I know the exact feeling, says Becker who already holds two board breaking world records — 487 in one minute, and 140 in ten seconds. It is the reason I started breaking boards, not for strength, but to prove that I can do something my mind tells me is impossible."

"That's it," says Mark Wilson, founder and President of The REACH Foundation. "That is the gift that we want to give children across America, the realization that they can break through the barriers holding them back."

So far the Breaking Barriers "12 Days for Kids" has visited with [New York Cares](#) programs throughout the City and awarded honorary black belts to organizations tackling illiteracy, bullying ([Hudson Guild](#)), physical fitness ([Sports Explorers](#)), and disability awareness ([Achilles Kids](#)). Over the next three days we will be visiting organizations working with children to overcome the barriers of homelessness, academic performance, social activism, and civil rights.

John Moore, whose son has autism, said of the Breaking Barriers program, "For Max, Achilles Kids and New York Cares has been tremendous for us. A program like Breaking Barriers that will help to finance these programs we rely upon will have a huge impact for upon us, and the entire community."

"This 12 Days visit is just a start," Wilson says "A way to acknowledge that no one organization has all the answers for the barriers that children face, but that together we can help kids. We can make a life-changing difference through sharing our knowledge, harnessing the media attention, and raising funds — beginning with our official kick-off on January 10th and the final 24 hour board-breaking marathon in Central Park on September 27 and 28."

The actual Breaking Barriers Event next September will be an opportunity for kids mirroring Leif's journey as an inspiration to break their own barriers. They will have a chance to witness their hero accomplish his own near super human feat in person. It will be a celebration for families with a focus on guiding the children through fun activities that challenge them to push past their limits. And it will be a premier opportunity for The REACH Foundation to bring national awareness for the work companies and nonprofits are doing for children's causes.

"We're hoping one of the morning or talk shows will partner with us at our launch to take the message of empowerment for young people to every corner of the country," says Mark Wilson of The REACH Foundation.

If you are interested in registering a board for your child, coming on as a partner organization, or helping as a corporate sponsor, visit [breakingbarrierevent.com](#) and help kids break through their barriers.

**About The REACH Foundation**

The REACH Foundation, based in Farmington, CT, is a 501(c)3 non-profit founded by Mark and Wendy Wilson in 2000 to help children in need - physically, socially, and financially. The REACH Foundation provides innovative programing to assist children, advocate on their behalf, and to improve their environment. The Foundation's mission is simple, "If in only one life, make a difference." For more information on The REACH Foundation, visit [thereachfoundation.org](#).

**About Leif Becker**

Leif Becker, a 5th Degree Black Belt in Tang Soo Do, is one of the most recognized Martial Artists of in the world of board breaking. He has been featured worldwide for his abilities and holds the world records as the Fastest Breaker - once breaking 487 boards in one minute with one hand, and on another occasion breaking 140 boards in under 10 seconds. In addition to his work within the martial arts community, Becker is the author of Breaking Barriers: Your Guide to Personal Mastery and travels both nationally and internationally as a frequent speaker and consultant on the topic of unlocking personal potential. For more information on Leif Becker, visit [breakingbarrierevent.com](#).

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JANUARY 2, 2013

Posted by FV Editors

## You Think Your New Year's Resolution is Tough?



**Leif Becker, a 41 year-old martial arts champion who already holds two world records for board breaking, is setting his sights high for his New Year's resolution.** So high, that if you stacked the 100,000 wooden boards he plans to break in a 24 hour period one on top of the other, they would be five times higher than the Empire State Building.

To become a Black Belt in many martial arts, the aspiring Black Belt must break half-inch thick, square-shaped wooden boards - usually around 25. But for Becker to achieve 100,000 boards broken in 24 hours, he will be training intensively for nine months to reach the point where he can break 70 boards every minute, and 4,167 boards every hour for 24 hours straight.



"But this is not about a feat of physical strength," says Becker, "it is about strengthening children across the country." The REACH Foundation, a Connecticut-based non-profit known for their work with youth, has created a program with Mr. Becker called "Breaking Barriers - Building Futures."

Each of the 100,000 boards that Leif Becker will break will be registered on behalf of a child facing a barrier. Similar to a walk-a-thon model, participants will register a board online and fund-raise to address that cause. Donations are tax deductible and all will go to helping children overcome their barriers, and the individual donor can choose any non-profit to directly receive funding. So if a parent has a child struggling with reading who has been helped by a local literacy organization, that parent can register a board for their child at [www.BreakingBarriersEvent.com](http://www.BreakingBarriersEvent.com) and help raise funds for that organization. Also, their child can receive educational resources from other Breaking Barriers Partners, and even literacy-based incentives from sponsoring companies (like gift cards to book stores) to help break through their reading barrier.

"No one has done anything like this before," says Mark Wilson, Co-founder of The REACH Foundation, "as Leif breaks through these boards, children across America will be inspired and the organizations that help children break through barriers will receive new resources and attention from donors who might never find them on their own. Our goal is simple, to help as many kids as possible."

Like any New Year's resolution, this one is going to take time and dedication. Breaking Barriers is launching in January and will have several lead-up events around the country, but the final world-record breaking attempt will take place on September 27-28, 2013 in New York City at the Wollman Rink in Central Park in front of thousands of spectators.

Every day Leif Becker is moving closer to his goal with a tight training regimen and mapped out milestones. And that is also something the Breaking Barriers program hopes to pass on to children - the ability to work towards and overcome a long-term challenge. Breaking Barriers has enlisted Youth Advocates to help kids work towards their goal in sync with Leif. So if a child is trying to become better at reading, the child might decide that by the time Leif reaches his milestone of being able to break 10,000 boards, the child will reach a milestone of reading a whole novel.

While Leif Becker may be the only person alive able to break the world record of 100,000 boards in 24 hours, the good that Breaking Barriers hopes to accomplish will take as many people as possible helping in different ways.

"I'm not doing this alone," says Becker, "every parent, teacher, non-profit organization, and company sponsor who is helping these kids is what is going to give me the strength to achieve my goal. I am going for a world record, but the boards are a symbol. I am grateful to the REACH Foundation for a chance to show America's children that anything is possible. And we want kids to know they are not alone as they struggle to break through their barriers."

"That is what is so special about this program," says Wilson, "For every board Leif breaks, someone has made a big difference in the life of a child. Actually, we hope to break two world records: one for the number of boards ever broken in 24 hours, and another for helping the most organizations that assist children. Join us and we can make history together." To learn more, register a board, or become a youth advocate, visit [www.BreakingBarriersEvent.com](http://www.BreakingBarriersEvent.com) and choose a cause on behalf of a child.

*The REACH Foundation, based in Farmington, CT, is a 501(c)3 non-profit founded by Mark and Wendy Wilson in 2000 to help children in need - physically, socially, and financially. The REACH Foundation provides innovative programming to assist children, advocate on their behalf, and to improve their environment. The Foundation's mission is simple, "If in only one life, make a difference." For more information on The REACH Foundation, visit [www.TheReachFoundation.org](http://www.TheReachFoundation.org).*

*Leif Becker, a 5th Degree Black Belt in Tang Soo Do, is one of the most recognized Martial Artists in the world of board breaking. He has been featured worldwide for his abilities and holds the world records as the Fastest Breaker - once breaking 487 boards in one minute with one hand, and on another occasion breaking 140 boards in under 10 seconds. In addition to his work within the martial arts community, Becker is the author of *Breaking Barriers: Your Guide to Personal Mastery* and travels both nationally and internationally as a frequent speaker and consultant on the topic of unlocking personal potential. For more information on Leif Becker, visit [www.breakingbarriersevent.com](http://www.breakingbarriersevent.com).*

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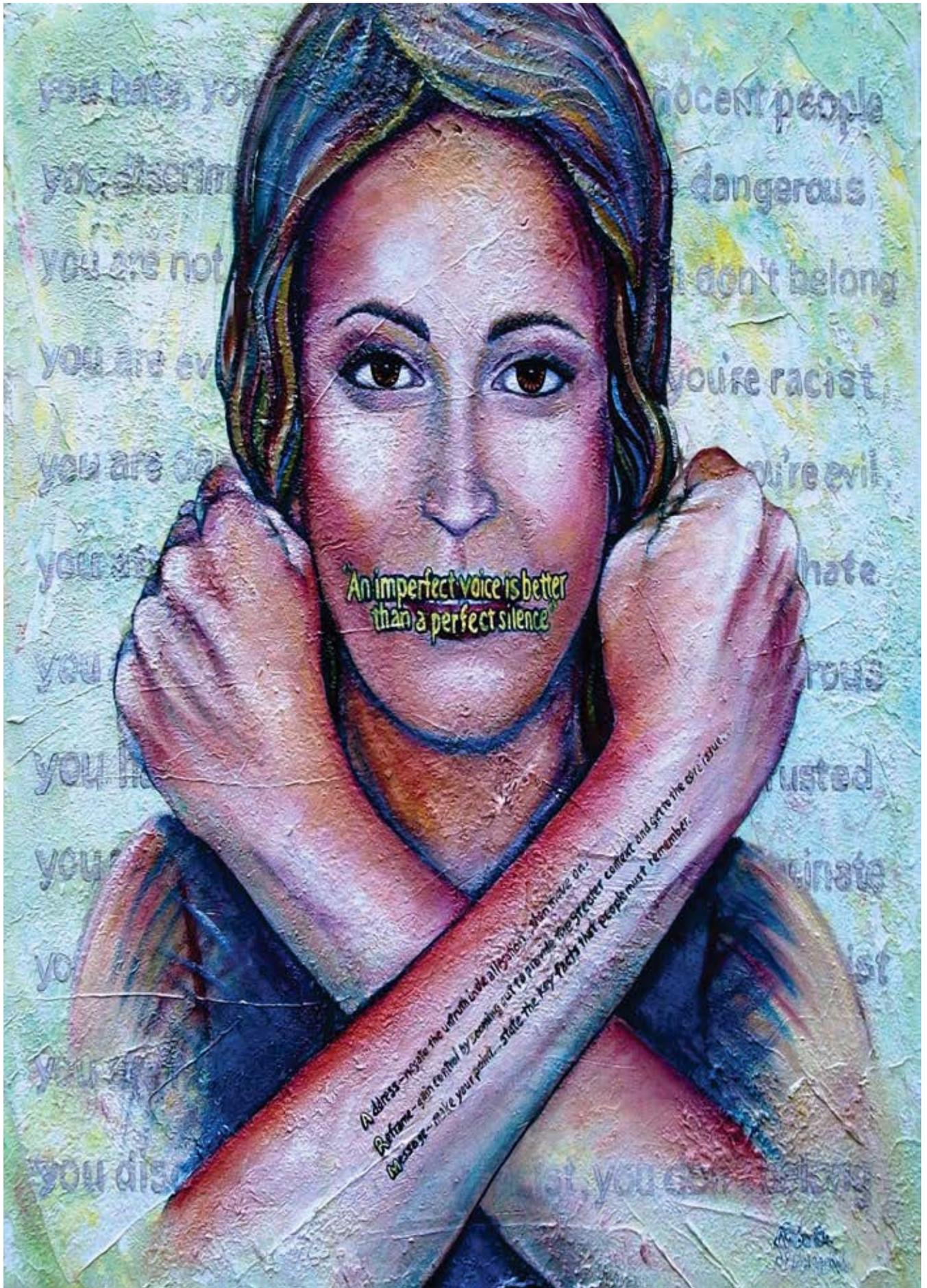
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SEPTEMBER 2011



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1 of 50

People watch as artists Belin (3rd L) from Spain and Cycle (2nd L) from New York spray paint a mural on the outside wall of a bus stop reinforced against rockets, in the southern Israeli town of Sderot April 26, 2010. A group of urban artists sponsored by a New York non-profit organization called Artists 4 Israel, arrived in Israel on Sunday and will spend two days painting artwork in Sderot as a show of support for the town which is often in the line of rocket fire from the Gaza Strip. REUTERS/Amir Cohen (ISRAEL - Tags: SOCIETY CIVIL UNREST POLITICS IMAGES OF THE DAY)

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04/26/2010 4:11 AM

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Artists Belin (L) from Spain and Cycle from New York spray paint murals on the outside wall of a bus stop reinforced against rockets, in the southern Israeli town of Sderot April 26, 2010. A group of urban artists sponsored by a New York non-profit organization called Artists 4 Israel, arrived in Israel on Sunday and will spend two days painting artwork in Sderot as a show of support for the town which is often in the line of rocket fire from the Gaza Strip. REUTERS/Amir Cohen (ISRAEL - Tags: SOCIETY POLITICS CIVIL UNREST)



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# Pro-Israel Gay Rights Mural Installed in Hudson Square

Updated May 17, 2012 8:25am

May 17, 2012 8:25am | By Andrea Swalec, DNAinfo Reporter/Producer

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HUDSON SQUARE — In the wake of **President Barack Obama's endorsement** of gay marriage, a group that advocates for Israel is courting west side residents with a massive new mural on **gay rights** in the Middle East.

A wall-size mural installed on the west side of 111 Leroy St. between Greenwich and Hudson streets compares treatment of LGBT people by Israel and by other countries in the region and asks "Who would you want at your wedding?"

Two figures holding hands on the mural — which is credited to Birthright Israel's New York area alumni group — grip sides of a scale that weighs the pros of gay life in Israel against the cons of gay life in neighboring countries.

In Israel, the mural reads, "Same sex couples can legally adopt children, gay people serve openly in the military and government, and more than 10,000 people celebrated at Tel Aviv's Pride Parade in 2011."

SEE MORE PHOTOS

The other side of the mural, which locals said was installed last weekend, faults other countries in the Middle East for persecuting and discriminating against LGBT people.

"In Iran, homosexuality is a crime punishable by death, there is no pride parade in Egypt, Jordan or Gaza, and homosexuality is illegal in Syria," it reads.

President Obama's endorsement of gay marriage May 9 sparked the creation of the mural, Rebecca Sugar, the director of the tri-state region Birthright Israel Alumni Community **told the Foreign Policy Association**.

"Members of the gay community need to understand that there is only one country in the Middle East where a free and safe life is available to them — Israel," she said. "We hope that significance is not lost."

The squat Leroy Street building on which the mural is painted is owned by developer KMG Partners, which is planning to build a glass building on the site, **their website says**.

KMG Partners did not immediately return a request for comment.

Birthright Israel has sent nearly 300,000 Jewish youth on free trips to Israel since 2000, **according to their website**.

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## City Room



May 17, 2012, 8:00 AM

## A West Village Mural Weighs Gay Rights in the Middle East

By ANN FARMER

## Correction Appended



Hiroko Masuoka/The New York Times

A new mural in the West Village contrasting gay rights in Israel with those in some of its Arab neighbors caught the attention of Israel Vazquez, a courier, on Wednesday.

Even before the new mural at 111 Leroy Street in the West Village was completed, the mud was flying. [On Queerty.com](#), an online magazine that covers gay issues, the mural was characterized as “heavy-handed” and worse. “Completely pointless and in poor taste,” [one commenter declared](#).

Others counter-attacked, [saying the mural was](#) “celebrating a safe haven for LGBT individuals in Israel versus the surrounding region.”

Finished on Friday in time for the anniversary of the day that Israel declared independence Monday, the mural dominates a wall in a parking lot at the corner of Greenwich and Hudson Streets, an industrialized block close to the Hudson River piers, where gay men traditionally gather to socialize.

The mural shows the outlines of two men holding hands below the headline: Who Would YOU want at Your Wedding? The male figures also hold up two balancing scales that offer a stark contrast between the state of gay rights in Israel and in some of its Arab neighbors.

Above one scale, the text notes that Israel lets same-sex couples adopt children, that “gay people serve openly in the military and government” there and that more than 10,000 people celebrated at Tel Aviv’s 2011 Pride Parade.

On the other scale, labeled “Israel’s neighbors,” the text says that homosexuality is illegal in Syria and punishable by death in Iran. “There is no pride parade in Egypt, Jordan or Gaza,” the mural reads.

The mural was commissioned by the [Alumni Community of Birthright Israel](#), an organization that has sent hundreds of thousands of young Jews from America and elsewhere to Israel in the last 12 years to strengthen their bonds to that nation.

The group’s executive director, Rebecca Sugar, said the mural grew out of conversations with returning alumni who were offended by how “Israel is often attacked and maligned for things that aren’t true.”

“There is only one country in the Middle East where you can live freely, as you are,” she said. “The surrounding countries who accuse Israel of prejudice and bias are prejudiced and biased.”

[Artists 4 Israel](#) collaborated on the design of the mural, which was executed by a former graffiti artist, [Chris St. John](#) (also known as Cycle).

Craig Dershowitz, founder of Artists 4 Israel, brushed off the online charges of “pinkwashing,” a term coined by members of the gay-rights movement to describe what they viewed as public-relations tactics to mask Israel’s violations of Palestinians’ human rights by promoting the country’s progressive gay-rights agenda.

“We’re doing this to promote dialogue,” Mr. Dershowitz said.

Keren Gelfand, senior press officer for the Consulate General of Israel, said that all of the statements in the mural regarding gay rights in Israel were accurate. Israel does not allow same-sex marriage, but it recognizes same-sex marriages performed abroad.

But Adem Carroll, a member of the steering committee of the [Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition](#) for Truth and Justice, called the mural “blatantly divisive, opposing Israel against its neighbors in the region.”

“Is Arab-bashing really a constructive approach to human rights protection?” Mr. Carroll asked. “Is this very negative messaging an encouragement to Arab nations to implement broader rights protections, or will it have a more negative backlash effect?”

The mural is expected to remain “until defaced,” according to a news release from Birthright Israel.

On Wednesday, the mural appeared in pristine condition. A 65-year-old woman getting into her car, who gave only her first name, Mona, called it “a great idea. It makes a statement.” A Jewish printer who works in the neighborhood, Andy Hort, said it offered “a positive spin on Israel” but seemed “self-serving.”

A courier, Israel Vazquez, stopped to read after he saw his first name on the wall. Although he said he was confused as to whether the mural was for or against gay rights, he was sure of one thing: “It’s the hot topic these days.”

Especially after President Obama declared his support for same-sex marriage, Mr. Vazquez said, “Everyone is jumping on the bandwagon.”

## LOWER EAST SIDE & EAST VILLAGE

### Volunteers Bring Hanukkah Cheer to Lower East Side Residents

December 19, 2011 8:07am | By Sonja Sharp, DNAinfo

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Volunteer Zachary Peikon, 27, shares a smile with Yelena Kotlyir, a resident of the Lejb and Golda Orenstein Building on the Lower East Side. (DNAinfo/Sonja Sharp)

**LOWER EAST SIDE** — A small army of volunteers braved the freezing temperatures Sunday morning to bring warm smiles and boxes of Hanukkah treats to elderly Jewish residents living on the Lower East Side.

Yefim and Freida Morozovski were among the more than 80 low-income, Russian-Jewish tenants who received kosher care packages just in time for the Festival of Lights, which begins Tuesday night.

The pair, both in their 80s, live in the heart of what was once the city's largest Jewish community. Like many of their neighbors, they rely in part on donations from the non-profit Project Ezra, which partnered with J-Care to provide the Hanukkah boxes that included cereals, dried fruit, gefilte fish and other kosher items.

"It's not Santa — the idea is to say hello," said Dalia Abott, a Project Ezra social worker who helped coordinate Sunday's event. "This population we work

with is so needy."

Some residents of the Lejb and Golda Orenstein Building near Grand Street were so excited they rushed out of their apartments to greet the volunteers, who deliver packages for Jewish holidays throughout the year.

Though several were helping out for the first time, the overwhelming majority of volunteers at Sunday's event were seasoned veterans.

Jason Shechter, 29, of Midtown, said it was his fifth time delivering food for the holidays.

"They love it," he said of the recipients. "They miss their friends, they miss their kids. Some of these people have probably been there 50 years in the same apartment. It's the same holidays every year, so they come to look forward to it."



Volunteers prepare boxes for elderly Jewish residents of the Lower East Side before Hanukkah. (DNAinfo/Sonja Sharp)

May 24, 110 Monday 19 Sivan 3870 15:38 IST  Print

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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Photo by: Courtesy

## Graffiti group to bring solidarity message to Sderot

By E.B. SOLOMONT, JPOST CORRESPONDENT  
14/03/2010

"Artists 4 Israel" to paint bomb shelters, work with PTSD children, paint a women's shelter and create a mural with the help of local kids.

NEW YORK – Sometime during Operation Cast Lead, Craig Dershowitz's graffiti magazine, *BOMBIN'*, became something of a forum for pro-Israel views.

However unlikely, the graffiti community, touched by 9/11 and smarting from increased police cameras that stopped them from freely painting, sympathized with Israel. In the face of widespread public criticism of Israel's military operation, the graffiti artists – rebels to the core – sided with the Jewish state.

"It was this weird mishmash, this group of issues that made the graffiti community care about Israel," said Dershowitz, a 32-year-old tattooed Taglit-birthright Israel alumnus, who quickly mobilized artists to form Artists 4 Israel.

Largely non-Jewish, the group has had gallery shows and produced off-Broadway plays in the past year. Next month, 12 artists plan to travel to Israel; with actress Meital Dohan acting as their liaison, they will bring their art to Sderot from April 24 to May 2.

"This is a huge untapped resource," said Dershowitz, referring to his effort to get artists to promote a positive message about Israel.

According to Dershowitz, the group got its start during the Gaza war, when he and a few friends attended a pro-Israel rally at the United Nations. Like protesters do, they made signs; but as artists, theirs were "prettier" than most and were emblazoned on the back with "Artists 4 Israel."

A week later, Dershowitz organized a gallery show in New York City on the night of the winter's first blizzard. Some hip-hop artists showed up and jumped on the turntables. Two women took off their clothes. "I was like, 'OK, it's a party now,'" Dershowitz recalled. By night's end, 500 people had showed up, the place was packed and people inside could barely move.

"That was the point when we realized that unlike every other advocacy group... we had the capacity to reach a young, non-Jewish audience that had maybe never heard about or discussed the Middle East," he said. "And we were going to be the first ones in their ears and their hearts and their minds discussing this important topic."

An outline for an advocacy organization took shape with a mission of reaching people through pop culture and the arts.

"We're not a Jewish organization," said Marianne Pane, a mother of five who is the group's director of information. "We are looking to advocate beyond the Jewish and Israeli community," she noted. "There are

people beyond that circle who don't know that much about what's going on.”

Brought up Roman Catholic, Pane learned about Israel about seven years ago, when she delved deeper into her own faith. The daughter of an Irish father and a Filipina mother, she drew parallels between her heritage, the struggle of her parents' native countries and Israelis struggling today.

“The bottom line is, I'm a pacifist and I'd like to see the descendents of Abraham be able to claim their land as their own,” she said.

In December, Artists 4 Israel sent four artists to Art Basel in Miami, a sister art show to Switzerland's Art Basel, where they painted pro-Israel murals. A month later, the group staged an off-Broadway production discussing gay rights in Israel. This month, they hosted an “Indie Rock for Israel” concert.

With no shortage of passion, the group can sometimes seem unfocused. Among the things it is working on is a cookbook, with recipes related to freedom. Another program has its members, calling themselves the fashion police, handing out tickets to women who are dressed in tight or short clothing; the tickets give the history of women dressed immodestly in Iran and Saudi Arabia. The group also holds monthly life drawing classes featuring nude models; there is always an Israel connection, such as a class focusing on Israeli environmentalism, where models came out painted in green body paint.

The trip to Israel, though, carries a message of solidarity. The art is meant to help “the Israeli people to see that they are not alone,” said Pane, and to beautify parts of their neighborhoods with a permanent message of unity. “We're looking to unify beyond the Jewish and Israeli communities,” she said.

While in Israel, the group plans to paint bomb shelters in Sderot, work with children suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, paint a women's shelter and create a mural with the help of local kids. The artists plan to stay with families during their trip.

“Hopefully, they will come back inspired and willing to become even greater advocates for Israel in the American press and in their arts communities,” Dershowitz said.

Notably, none of the artists are Jewish and all are volunteering their time. Among them is C.J. Reilly, a 25-year-old mural artist who met Dershowitz at an art show.

“I'm not a really big political advocate,” admitted Reilly. “I support Israel and I support democracy.”

To him, mural painting represents a platform for congregation and something people can admire together. “It's not this great thing that solves everything. It becomes a nice facet for people to sit with,” he said.

“I'm not really here to talk about politics, but to teach drawing, to teach painting” to children in Sderot, he said.

“With that, I'm very serious and really committed to helping kids that want to participate in this mural work, to help them create a substance that we can leave behind that they can benefit from.”



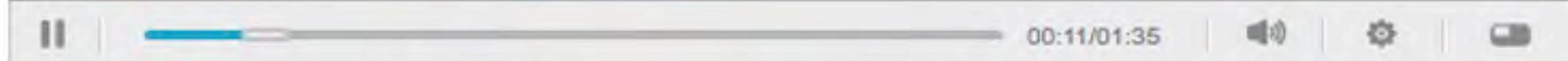
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5:17 57°



BOMB SHELTER



# Mobile Home Shelter Is Driven On The Streets Of Manhattan



CBS 2's Cindy Hsu reports

## RAW VIDEO: Mobile Bomb Shelter



### Summary

A mobile bomb shelter drove through Manhattan on Thursday. The mobile museum parked at the U.N. and two CUNY campuses to educate students and diplomats on what it is like for people to live under fire. The mobile bomb shelter stopped at Hunter College and Baruch College.

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# Bomb Shelter in Washington Square Park

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AS REPORTED IN:



DAILY NEWS



The Jewish Week



NYBLUEPRINT

Tablet



BALTIMORE Jewish Life

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THE JERUSALEM POST

## Latest News

## 'Bomb Shelter Simulation w/ John Santucci'

Mar 30, 2011 - 1:36 - bomb shelter



John Santucci: It's an art project with a message.

Seth Hamlin, Artist: "This is a message that is really important. Children shouldn't be in bomb shelters."

John Santucci: Artists 4 Israel have designed this simulated bomb shelter to give people a glimpse into what happens when the Jewish State is under attack. Fifteen seconds is all you have once you hear that siren, after that you have to go into the shelter. And it's unclear how long you'll be in here for.

Rebecca Sugar, Director of Birthright Israel Alumni Community: "Imagine being a five-year old child, stuck in a box like this. Even for a half hour, in the dark, with no electricity, nothing, and sirens going off overhead and not knowing what those sirens mean? It's a terrifying experience."

John Santucci: Most of the artists who designed this project may not have Israeli blood but they traveled to the war-torn nation to understand what people go through each day.

Fernando Romero, Artist: It was an amazing experience, just to be there and see the reality of it, seeing the simplicity of everyday life, yet in the back of your mind you know at any minute things could get crazy.

John Santucci: Visitors also saw first-hand the conflict between the supporters of Israel and Gaza. A small group of protestors arrived showing just a glimpse of the tension between the two nations. Art in many ways can bring people together, in this case, it brought groups together, but at the same time, kept them divided.

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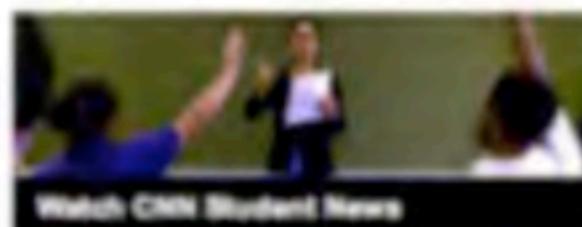


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# Bomb Day- Washington Square Park NYC

March 28, 2011 | New York, New York | [Vetting explained](#)



Posted by:  
**aherman00**

- Viewed 8,764 times
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## CNN producer note

“**aherman00** explored the art installations and graffiti at The Bomb Shelter, an immersive multi-media installation exhibit in NYC's Washington Square Park yesterday. The project gives the opportunity to foster innovation and educate the community at large in the struggles Israeli citizen face during terrorist attacks. Art is a powerful tool to showcase the feelings emotions and reality in what is happening in Israel today," he said.  
- **zdan**, CNN iReport producer

## iReport —

Today the New York community got to see for themselves what it is like to go through a rocket attack. Artists 4 Israel and The Birthright Israel Alumni Community created a Bomb Shelter Project to educate the New York community what Israeli's face on a regular basis. From 1pm until 4pm today, THE BOMB SHELTER, an immersive multi-media installation exhibit was open to the public. A periodic siren will sound and participating park goers had 15 seconds to get from where they are in Washington Square to the shelter - the same length of time that those facing rocket attacks in Israel have to reach safety.

"The artists wanted New Yorkers to viscerally feel what Israelis went through this week during the bombing of a Jerusalem bus stop and repeated rocket strikes," says Craig Dershowitz, President of Artists 4 Israel, the non-profit that created the installation.

As soon as visitors line up to enter the shelter, the deceptively calm Tzeva Adom warning begins to sound. This is the same siren that gives residents of Sderot in southern Israel notice that they have just 15 seconds to find shelter before the rockets launched from Gaza by Hamas begin falling. Then, like in Sderot, visitors heard the sound of explosions. As they rush into the shelter amidst the blasts, immersive video continues the heart pounding experience as an actual Qassam barrage hitting Sderot unfolds around them - all from the perspective of being in the crowd suffering through the attack.

"The students who have gone on Birthright Israel trips have developed life-long friendships with Israelis and are deeply concerned for them," says Natalie Solomon, Associate Director of the Birthright Israel Alumni Community who is sponsoring the exhibit. "After so many years, it becomes easy for Americans to just read past the headlines. We hope this will help people better understand what it is like to live under terror and renew their passion to see it end."

The bomb shelter exhibit is also a message of hope. It serves as a museum for works of art created by the children of Sderot who have endured more than 10,000 rocket strikes. "You'll see how the kids turned getting to the nearest bomb shelter into a racing game, and hear the song parents made up to help young ones be prepared to move quickly when they hear the siren. The ability of the people to continue to hope in the face of fear and pain is what inspired our artists the most when they visited Sderot last April," says Dershowitz.

Inspired by the resiliency of the children who have suffered through terrorism and how they combat it with art, some of New York's top graffiti artists will cover the outside of the bomb shelter with uplifting images. "It is our way of covering hate with something better," says Solomon.

THE BOMB SHELTER exhibit was open to the public free of charge from 1pm-4pm in Washington Square Park and will next travel to college and university campuses. The exhibit was educational and colorful. Through art we can learn to embrace peace and become a stronger community.

Tags: birthright, kasam, rocket, hamas, artists, israel, 4, the

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**cleveodan**  
March 31, 2011

I think it's a good post. Thankfully, us as Americans don't have to live this way and worry about getting to a bomb shelter. But you know, it doesn't hurt to have a demonstration like this so we can see how others have to live in other parts of the world. May be a useless idea to some, but I personally think that demonstrations like this can at least open eyes to a few and maybe make a difference down the...  
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## Bomb shelter in Washington Sq. Park

'Artists 4 Israel' install a bomb shelter and multimedia exhibition in Washington Square Park to simulate rocket attacks in Israel from ...

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DAILY NEWS

### Bomb shelter in Washington Sq. Park

'Artists 4 Israel' install a bomb shelter and multimedia exhibition in Washington Square Park to simulate rocket attacks in Israel from neighboring Palestine.

(1:03)



#### EDITOR'S PICKS



Three more bullets were found in L.I. bringing the total number up to 8 as officers search for more clues in a possible serial killer spree.

11:00



The Egyptian cobra missing from its cage since Friday at The Bronx Zoo was found early this morning and has been

#### On-camera statement from Craig Dershowitz, President, Artists4Israel:

Right now we're in Washington Square Park, in the middle of downtown Manhattan, a place of many protests, and we're putting on our own protest today, a protest of beauty and truth and information. What I have behind me is the "Bomb Shelter Museum of Living History". It is an exact replica of what you find in Sderot, Israel. These are horrible, ugly reminders of the terror and the war that the children of Sderot constantly face. We created this as an installation art piece and as a museum so that if anyone wants to know what's happening they don't have to read the news, they can come here and experience this firsthand and see exactly what living under the threat of Hamas terror is like for the average Israeli civilian. We're looking to bring it to college campuses throughout the Tri-State area as an opportunity for the students to learn and to see. It's going to be going on a tour starting next semester and it might be popping up at protests and rallies, anywhere where the safety of Israelis and the safety of truth is threatened, this just might make an appearance.

**Live From America - Campus Talk**

Wednesday Apr 06, 2011

**Educating on a Rocket Reality**

Citizens in Western Negev towns of Israel have been facing the constant threat of rocket fire from Gaza since 2001. Following Operation Cast Lead, Hamas declared a "ceasefire" with Israel, which has not been maintained because 635 rockets have landed in Israel since then. Throughout that time, much of the media turned a blind eye to the rocket fire and instead only focused on delegitimizing Israel through bias and sometimes untrue reports about Gaza. The recent surge in the firing of rockets into Israel last month makes it of utmost importance to ensure that students on college campuses understand the impact that many years of rocket fire has had on Israeli civilians, along with being exposed to the biased media that ignores these attacks and instead demonizes Israel.

Noam Bedein, photojournalist and Director of the Sderot Media Center, has been traveling across the US on his sixth campus tour to get this message to students. His tour was primarily sponsored by CAMERA with ZOA co-sponsoring a couple of tour dates. Over the past few years, Mr. Bedein has traveled internationally to deliver presentations on college campuses worldwide as well as to the United Nations (UN) and government members in the European Union, and on Capitol Hill.

Bedein moved to Sderot in 2006 in order to get footage of the attacks and chronicle the situation on the ground for the international media. He has often been the first one on the scene at locations that have been struck and has a large collection of footage of live attacks. He is passionate about Sderot and the Western Negev and is dedicated towards putting an end to the incredible injustices that have been perpetrated upon its residents. Bedein strives to deliver a message that provides a humanitarian perspective.

One of the key points that Bedein makes in his presentation is that, "97% of the rockets shot from Gaza are fired from *within* the civilian population." This is highly emphasized in the presentation because the media rarely presents the situation between Israel and Gaza in a balanced manner. Bedein describes his mission as, "providing tools for students that will help them counterbalance the PR war." He continued, "Too often are there reports focusing around casualties in Gaza that don't even mention the suffering in Israel." In the presentation, Bedein shows footage of rockets being fired from schools and mosques, which is quite useful for students to see who are unfamiliar with the types of situations that Israel faces when dealing with rocket fire from Gaza.

Bedein also addresses the psychological impact that the rocket attacks have on many of the citizens who are suffering from Post-traumatic stress disorder. "People cannot drive with seatbelts on because they have to live with the fear of making it to a bomb shelter in 15 seconds or less" said Bedein. In the presentation, he also points out that much of the weaponry supplied to Gaza comes directly from Iran, which he refers to as, "Israel's biggest threat." For that reason, Bedein's tour is named *Iran in Israel's Backyard*.

Last week, in Washington Square Park, near the NYU campus, another event that highlighted the humanitarian situation of residents in Sderot was put together by the group Artists 4 Israel. For a whole day, a replica of a bomb shelter was set up with demonstrations depicting what it is like to have only 15 seconds to run for your life. Additionally, there was live graffiti being done by well-known artists at the mock shelter.



According to Craig Dershowitz, President of Artists 4 Israel, the bomb shelter exhibit was organized for various reasons. Dershowitz said, "Washington Square Park is the home to many anti-Israel protests. Often times, these protests are full of hate and lies and we believe that there is an inextricable link between that sort of malicious information and the eventual firing of rockets." In addition to this, the group wanted NYU students to gain exposure to the situation throughout Sderot and the Western Negev.

As the day went on, anti-Israel protestors found their way to the exhibit, where they screamed slogans and held signs which they hoped would cause a disruption. Instead, the display continued and the anti-Israel protestors became increasingly hostile. Commenting on the protestors, Dershowitz explained, "We posed a simple question to them – 'should or should not children in Israel be bombed?' They could not answer and instead they did nursery school style chants that referenced things, such as Palestine being 'from the river to the sea'- a not so subtle reference to destroying all of Israel."

As the protestors continued to create a disturbance, members of the pro-Israel contingency began to address some of their statements. One of the most prevalent signs carried by the anti-Israel protestors said "Free Gaza." Dershowitz explained to the protestors that Israel is not responsible for the situation in Gaza. He pointed out that, "There hasn't been a single Israeli or Jew living in Gaza for more than five years. Since then, Gaza has been completely controlled by the terrorist group Hamas."



On another note, just this past weekend, Judge Richard Goldstone, who chaired the UN fact-finding mission regarding Operation Cast Lead, retracted much of his anti-Israel report. Although damage has already been done, the UN Human Rights Council should act now to rescind the report that practically stripped away Israel's rights to self defense. The Council should begin to focus on the grave violations of human rights occurring right now in places, such as Darfur, Iran, Libya, Syria, and many other countries between Bahrain and Morocco.

Unfortunately, it is likely that the Council will continue to dedicate a great portion of their time towards condemning Israel. As pro-Israel and Zionist activists, we must continue to educate and inform the public on the humanitarian situation facing over a million Israelis living between Sderot, Be'er Sheba, and Ashdod. Their stories must be heard, rather than silenced.

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March 25, 2011 3:45 PM

## Art will imitate terror in Washington Square Park

A group of nonprofits supporting Israel have created an exhibit in Washington Square Park in an attempt to give New Yorkers a taste of the terrorism fears that many Israelis live with on a daily basis.

By MIRIAM KREININ SOUCCAR

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Passersby in Washington Square Park on Monday may encounter a terrifying situation.

A group of nonprofits that support Israel have created an immersive multimedia exhibit called *The Bomb Shelter*, in an attempt to give New Yorkers a taste of the terrorism fears that many Israelis live with on a daily basis.

From 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., a siren will sound periodically and participating park goers will have 15 seconds to get from where they are in Washington Square to a bomb shelter that will be installed in the park. That is the same length of time that people facing rocket attacks in Israel have to reach safety before the rockets strike. Then, in an attempt to simulate what people experience living in Sderot, a town in Southern Israel that often comes under attack from rockets launched from Gaza, visitors will hear the sound of explosions all around them.



[+] Enlarge

*The Bomb Shelter* in Washington Square Park will be modeled after this one in Sderot, Israel.

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"(We) wanted New Yorkers to viscerally feel what Israelis went through this week during the bombing of a Jerusalem bus stop and repeated rocket strikes," said Craig Dershowitz, president of Artists 4 Israel, the nonprofit that created the installation.

The bomb shelter will be decorated with work by graffiti artists from New York, and will include pictures made by the children of Sderot. After New York, *The Bomb Shelter* exhibit will travel across the country to college campuses. Birthright Israel Alumni Community, a group of people who have gone on the free "Birthright" trips to Israel, is funding the project for an undisclosed amount.

"After so many years, it becomes easy for Americans to just read past the headlines," said Natalie Solomon, associate director of the Birthright Israel Alumni Community. "We hope this will help people better understand what it is like to live under terror and renew their passion to see it end."

The exhibit isn't the only art project currently addressing the Arab Israeli conflict. The new Julian Schnabel film, *Miral*, about the plight of the Palestinians, opens Friday. It is already creating an uproar from the Jewish community.

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## Writers Strike

On Thursday, January 24, a Lott Gallery opened a *Bombin' Magazine*-curated show of work by graf writers, art geeks, and street artists

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*Bombin'* also selected a handful of prolific street artists to contribute. Like, Gaia, whose thin-lined illustrations (shown above) are nearly ubiquitous in New York and Brooklyn. photo by Sam Horine

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## Metro Area Forecast

— TODAY —

## Morning



Sunny, hot and more humid.  
Winds: E 6-12 mph.

65°- 81°

## Afternoon



Several hours of sun, hot and more humid. Winds: S 10-20 mph.

86°- 93°

## Night



Mostly cloudy and breezy; a t-storm late. Winds: SE 10-20 mph.

77°- 85°

— SATURDAY —



A passing morning shower.

84°/ 84°

— SUNDAY —



Sunshine and pleasant.

80°/ 62°

— MONDAY —



Mostly sunny.

80°/ 64°

— TUESDAY —



Mostly sunny.

82°/ 66°

## Partying for a Good Cause



Alicia Colon

After the news that a plot to blow up John F. Kennedy International Airport was foiled, Mayor Bloomberg seemed to take an Alfred E. Neuman "What, me worry?" attitude.

Seeking to calm any hysteria about what was being called a disaster with more potential than the attacks of September 11, 2001, the mayor said: "There are lots of threats to you and the world. There's the threat of heart attack for genetic reasons. You can't sit there and worry about everything. Get a life!"

This phlegmatic reaction from Mr. Bloomberg is rather puzzling considering his aggressive battle against smoking and the smoker. The problem with using this play-it-down approach about a serious matter is that it repeats President Bush's biggest mistake, which he made almost immediately after the World Trade Center attacks.

On September 20, 2001, in an address to a joint session of Congress, Mr. Bush urged Americans: "I ask you to live your lives and hug your children. I know many citizens have fears tonight, and I ask you to be calm and resolute, even in the face of a continuing threat."

Quite a few Americans not only got on with their lives, they completely forgot that we had entered into a global war on terrorism. In all fairness to the president, in later speeches he urged us to get more involved in civil defense, but those speeches never received as much press. In the minds of many, the war on terror is strictly Mr.

Bush's personal battle.

But not every American has his head stuck in the sand, and whenever a terrorist plot is thwarted thanks to vigilant police and FBI cooperation, it confirms the need for greater public participation in this battle.

So while it's a relief to learn that not all young adults are vapid night crawlers, that doesn't mean they don't know how to party for a good cause. Next Thursday, June 14, at 7 p.m., there will be a fundraiser for Fuel for Truth at a hot new club, Arena, at 135 W. 41st St., off Sixth Avenue.

The young organizers of the group believe that the best defense against terrorism is an alert and aware public. Using cutting-edge entertainment to serve up the key facts at an event they call "Behind Enemy Lines," the promoters-turned-activists promise an evening of thought-provoking information about the growth of terrorist extremism in America.

One of the organizers, Lance Laytner, told me that the actor who plays A.J. on "The Sopranos," Robert Iler, has confirmed. In addition, a member of the Wu Tang Clan, Remy, is expected to perform two songs, including "Never Again," which is about the Holocaust. DJ Martial and others are also expected to join in the entertainment, which, at \$25, is a bargain. All the proceeds will go to Fuel for Truth.

Although I'll probably cover the event for the Sun's blog, "It Shines for All," I'll likely be the oldest person there. PFT is an organization whose mission is to gather and disseminate accurate information about Israel and the Middle East to young adults age 18 to 34.

Its mission statement explains

the problem: "We believe that an anti-Israel bias in the media has led a significant number of people to become misinformed about the situation in the Middle East. Along with this, many Americans are unaware of the basic facts concerning the region. Such facts include: Like the United States, Israel is a true democracy, and in the summer of 2000, Israel offered the Palestinian Arabs 97% of the land they are fighting for, making Israel the first and only country ever to offer the Palestinian Arabs a homeland. Even with information more accessible today than at any other time in our history, there is a lack of motivation to learn — especially among college students and young adults."

Fuel for Truth funds events on college campuses throughout the nation to spread the truth about the reality of terrorism and what's behind it. Those who founded Fuel for Truth are not religious Jews or political activists, but top New York club promoters, business executives, and entertainers whose lives were changed when they lost friends on September 11. They are now using their talents to promote the truth about Israel and expose the lies fueling terrorism.

One of the most vicious lies, which cropped up right after September 11 and was exacerbated by a poem by the then poet laureate of New Jersey, Amiri Baraka, was the calumny that 4,000 Israelis stayed home from work that day.

If Mr. Bloomberg thinks global terrorism is just another worry like a heart attack, he needs to show up at Arena next Thursday for a lesson in reality. Get a life — indeed!

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