

Yvette Nahmia-Messinas

They All Sound Like Love Songs

Women Healing Israeli-Palestinian Relations



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I am grateful to all of you who supported, assisted and contributed your input towards the making of this book: Frida and Mario Camhi, Eran Landau, David Nachmias, Caroline Gilad, Vivian Silver, Julia Chaitin, Naela Melad, Fatma, Aviva Shemesh, Errika Valensi, Yoav Itamar, Shoshana Itamar, Antoinette Knesevitch, Ilana Shahaf, Tahseen Yaqeen, Moshe Menashehof, Elias Messinas, Itamar Ben-Shalom, Daniella Lebensart, Googy Itzhaki, Efrat Moor and Inbal Zukenather. Special thanks to the Canadian government for funding the "Joint Venture for Peace" and to Einat Ben-Shalom for her beautiful work in designing and illustrating the book with sensitivity, creativity and care.

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Design and illustrations: Einat Ben-Shalom

Printed in Tel Aviv, Israel

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ISBN 978 – 965 – 91284 – 1 – 9 Danacode 128 – 11

They All Sound Like Love Songs: Women Healing Israeli-Palestinian Relations, was written the night I returned from a two-day-long Palestinian-Israeli women's gathering in Beer Sheva in May 2009. The women's gathering was jointly organized by the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development and Shorouq Society for Women. I was one among 40 women participants. Having experienced this gathering, I deeply feel that empowered women can heal the Palestinian-Israeli relationship. I see Palestinian and Israeli women creating thriving societies of mutual growth, living in harmony side by side. Societies based on honoring each other and on cooperating, working together to achieve the common good.

The gathering helped me realize that we women are the healers, and that it is up to us to do the healing work towards peace in our region. I decided to start from home and focus on the communities that surround mine. I conceived of the *Midwives of Peace Project* that aims to empower Arab and Jewish women in the Negev by teaching them Reiki, a very friendly and easy-to-use healing tool. Through reiki's healing touch, Arab and Jewish women will meet each other, heal each other and create a positive healing bond. A process of healing will be activated on the personal as well as the communal level, thus rendering the women true Midwives of Peace.

They All Sound Like Love Songs is in itself a part of a creative healing process. I hope and wish this collection of poems, as well as the *Midwives of Peace Project*, trigger many more creative women's processes of healing and peace in the region.

Yvette Nahmia-Messinas
Kibbutz Kramim, Israel,
June 2009

An Urge

The girls were in bed
the kitchen in place
I put on my nightdress
and headed to bed.

But then remembered you Clarissa
and the *Women Who Run With the Wolves*.

There was an urge to write,
an urge to express,
to put the experience into words.
I headed back to the office
to honor my craft
into the night
excited.