

Ultimate Peace in the Middle East April 1-5, 2009

"We must use sport for the purpose of promoting all the ideas we think will lead to peace & stability."
Nelson Mandela

⊙ **What is Ultimate Peace?** Ultimate Peace is a new organization conceived to build bridges of friendship and understanding for youth from different social and cultural backgrounds around the world. With a focus on fun and education, not politics, we use the exhilarating and character-building sport of Ultimate Frisbee as our primary tool to develop understanding, trust, and friendship, one game at a time. www.ultimatepeace.org

⊙ **Why Ultimate, not Soccer or Basketball?** Ultimate Frisbee is the ideal team sport for uniting people on the playing field in a divided region. This non-contact field sport is played with 7 people on each team, and combines fast-paced action with the need for exceptional team coordination. All that is required is a plastic flying disc. Most importantly, unlike any other sport, it prioritizes personal responsibility, mutual respect between opponents, and fair play over winning. <http://www.ultimatepeace.org/why-ultimate>



"Ultimate is really life, the way it should be, squeezed into a game."
 Sonja (14) Ultimate player

⊙ **Our First Event: Ultimate Peace in the Middle East** - In April 2009, disadvantaged youth from Palestinian and Jewish communities in the West Bank and within Israel will come together to learn, play and bond around the sport of Ultimate (as it is commonly called), one of the fastest growing sports in the world.

⊙ **Our Partner: Peres Center for Peace** – The Peres Center for Peace, an organization that specializes in bringing together Israeli and Palestinian youth and adults, will facilitate pre-event orientation for local teachers and coaches with Ultimate Peace staff. The Peres Center will also arrange for all transportation, security, and oversight for 150 youth participating from all over the region: Sderot, Bear Tuvia, Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Malachi, Jericho, Tul Karem, Bait Sador, and Ain Rafa. <http://peres-center.org/SectionProject.asp?cc=01160212>

⊙ **Who Are the Coaches?** – This select volunteer team of dynamic players/coaches will come from around the USA. They are taking time off from work/school, raising funds for their own flights, and will be staying with local families for the events. Team U.P. will be led by Dr. David Barkan, a facilitator and consultant to social change efforts around the USA, and a longtime standout competitor and coach in the sport of Ultimate.

⊙ **What Happens at the Event?** - Ultimate Peace coaches will convene instructional workshops and fun interactive games for 12 existing cross-cultural youth sports teams and their coaches. The event at Park Hayarkon in Tel Aviv will conclude with a multi-team tournament and community celebration. Youth will be equipped with uniforms and gear to foster continued play at home.

⊙ **What Happens After the Event?** Coaches will travel back to each of the communities to promote continuity and growth. The goal is to build the capacity for ongoing sustainable Ultimate programs in this region.

⊙ **Why Now?** With violence rampant and tensions high in the Middle East, positive activities are critical. Now is the time to plant seeds of peace, hope, and leadership. These children deserve the chance to play, just play.

⊙ **Immediate Needs:** Sponsorship, seed money, in-kind donations. <http://www.ultimatepeace.org/donate/>

⊙ **Media Exposure:** Strong interest from CNN International, Israeli Television, and others
 See the SF Bay Area J article: http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3118/3242084143_c69e9d0942_b.jpg

⊙ **Contacts:** USA - David Barkan – (415) 482-8852; Israel – Dori Yaniv - 972-52-3399606

⊙ **Watch:** Peres Center for Peace sports video, then imagine the youth playing Ultimate and chasing a floating flying disc. That is Ultimate Peace. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEGyHhZavYU>

⊙ **Join:** Support us and get updates thought our online community <http://www.facebook.com/ultimatepeace>

"Sport has an unparalleled ability to overcome barriers of language, politics and religion, especially a sport like Ultimate Frisbee, which emphasizes fair play, team cooperation and mutual respect. We are thrilled to be part of this important initiative (Ultimate Peace)". **Gal Peleg, Director of Sports - Peres Center for Peace**