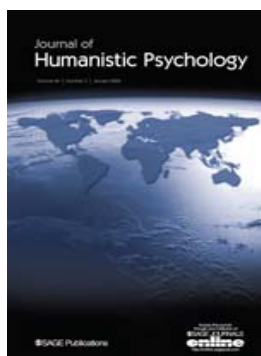


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## Imagine: Expression in the Service of Humanity

**Guest Editors:** Ilene Serlin, *Union Street Health Associates, San Francisco, CA* and Vivien Marcow Speiser, *Lesley University, Cambridge, MA*

### Special Issue of the Journal of Humanistic Psychology

Dovetailing with the **Journal of Humanistic Psychology's** ongoing focus on the arts, humanistic bridge-building, and international peace studies, this special issue features 13 insightful articles based on presentations from the *Imagine: Expression in the Service of Humanity* conference held in Tel Aviv, Israel on April 3-6, 2006. The conference included over 270 presenters and 350 attendees, including over 60 Palestinian participants.

The issue focuses on a surprisingly underappreciated element in the tool chest of offerings designed to mediate conflicts—the expressive arts. This *humanistically* based modality is of critical importance today, as neither militarist, nor technocratic-based approaches appear particularly effective with warring groups.

Art can make a difference. As we imagine and creatively express our visions of peace, hope, collaboration, forgiveness, reconciliation and compassion, we take small steps towards making these virtues a global reality. The articles in this issue explore how this has been done, both in the context of Israeli/Palestinian/Bedouin conflicts and in a larger global sense.

Among the highlights of this issue are:

- A discussion of the personal relationship between two authors and how it is continually evolving in the face of the difficulties between their peoples.  
(*Barzilay-Schechter and Al-Ajarma*)
- A review of work with Machsom Watch, a group of women who stand watch at the checkpoints between Israel and the Palestinian territories. (*Halperin*)
- Analyses of work through the arts with Bedouin children (*Al-Krenawi and Slater*) and Bedouin women. (*Huss*)
- A presentation of an approach to working with creative conflict transformation in culturally diverse groups. (*Marcow-Speiser and Speiser*)
- An assessment of healing the wounds of history through drama. (*Volkas and Kouttab*)
- A discussion of the importance of arts-based research in presenting narrative approaches. (*Estrella and Forinash*)
- An evaluation of the power of symbolization in healing from trauma and atrocity in refugee populations in Africa. (*Stepakoff*)

The articles in this special issue attest to the creative power and potential for healing that the arts facilitates. This issue should be in the library of everyone interested in arts therapy, humanistic psychology, experiential psychology, trauma, conflict resolution and narrative approaches.

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