



Program. The 2011 and 2012 experiences favored a better insight on the sort of internal conflict and the strong feelings we are dealing with; not everyone is at the same stage of processing those feelings and our CIF Exchange Programs may not be totally prepared nor appropriately equipped to manage the situations that can arise in the most effective and productive way.

In the CIF Italia 2012 Exchange Program, which proved to be essential for further development, the Israeli and Palestinian participants had already gone through different processes, allowing them to better discover and appreciate each other as people. We think that the Program merely, but significantly, strengthened their relationship; and this is what we feel and hope they have mostly taken back home to continue to build on. Consequently, we believe that CIF cannot carry on successfully by itself a truly effective Peace Project Program, but needs to connect with someone who is working in managing the internal/psychological conflict, in our case, of Israeli and Palestinian individuals.

The “someone” surfaced within the 2012 Italian Program: The Parents Circle – Families Forum: Two Sided Story; thus, thanks again to the notorious generosity of CIF people we were able to invite the two co-managers from the above Forum to present their Project at the 2013 CIF Conference in Turkey, Nir and Mazen (see them in the photo) who truly showed all those of us present their realistic, dramatic and hopeful answer to work for stability and peace in the area.

Another pertinent contribution at the Conference was made by The Peace Education and Research Center at Boğaziçi University presenting a preventive approach for Peace work, illustrating their Youth Project between Turkish, Greek and Cypriot youngsters in the attempt to break down prejudice and promote sharing, friendship and understanding among young people.

CIF Turkey also sponsored the participation of an Armenian social worker with whom I had a brief but meaningful exchange and from whom I was able to perceive a positive experience.

... What could have been more in line with the theme of

the Conference: Encounters in a Global World Threats and Opportunities for Social Workers and Human Service Professionals?



**Nir and Mazen of The Parents Circle – Families Forum:
Two Sided Story with Mimmo Merola (CIF Italy)**

We could say that the encounter has truly happened; the future of the CIF Peace Project has come out of isolation. The next step is up to us, here and now, if we believe in the experience and want to be part of the next phase. CIF Italia will continue to do its part; planning to recruit participants for the 2014 Professional Exchange Program (PEP) through the organizations mentioned above...we hope that other CIFs will want to follow! A Peace Project Fund has been initiated and I hope it can be nurtured and used for further development. As the Exchange Programs are our main activity, I would endorse the possibility to support and encourage Branches with PEPs to adhere to the Project.

Let the discussion continue... in the awareness that we can only offer a very small contribution to the cause of World Peace, but as Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

Others are merely the part of ourselves that we still don't know, peace is the condition and love the tool that can help us discover the beauty we are missing, possibly contributing to “Heal the World” a bit. Domenico Antonio (Mimmo) Merola, CIF Peace Project 2009/12/13...