Garden Of Peace in the Middle East©
Action Research, Stage I: ARTiculating Human Dignity with Palestinian Children

Abstract for the 2011 Workshop on Humiliation and Violent Conflict, Columbia University, New York, December 8-9, 2011

I. Garden Of Peace© is a combined science, art and communication ecology to the study and development of Human Dignity in areas of social change and conflict transformation.

Goals of Garden Of Peace
- To advance Human Dignity and Dialogic Consciousness in the cause of peace in the Middle East.
- To bring people together across religious, cultural, ethnic, and political divides on the common ground of Human Dignity and fulfillment of the best in every human being.
- To break down barriers of fear of change, ignorance, and hate towards "the other".
- To recognize innovation and support those who are courageous and committed enough to work to overcome the religious, cultural, ethnic and political issues which divide the region.
- To inspire others in the Middle East and around the world in developing innovative leadership based on principles of mutual responsibility, creativity and dignity for the greater benefit of human advancement.
- To motivate innovative collaboration toward peace and social development in the Middle East.
- To become a role model for conflict transformation in action.

ARTiculation Modality© in Garden Of Peace
- ARTiculation is a human developmental knowledge behavior that is structurally connected to neuroplasticity, and evolutionary connected to social and cultural epigenetics.
- ARTiculation is a scientifically proven modality for the processing of change, trauma, survival, and new leadership skills building.
- ARTiculation is an integrative approach to knowledge combining science, art, and communication.
- ARTiculation is an ecological approach to transformational learning experiences.
- ARTiculation is rooted in the principles of dialogic ontology, realism, relations and relationships.

II. Report on research, design and groundwork in Palestine, Summer 2011, in collaboration with Mohammed Eid Mousa Abuayash.
- Identifying and defining needs, approach, form, structure.
- “Don't say 'peace'”... Politics or Education... Obstacles and strategic decisions.
- What's at stake for the Palestinian children... Risks and benefits in ARTiculating Human Dignity.
- Challenges ahead... Search for support and collaboration.