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When Scott Got More...

continued from page 45

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have inherited/internalized that we are both proud of in ourselves and in each other.

If you believe you've had the opportunity to take the best of your parents and make that who you are, then you've truly honored your parents' legacy. Even if your parents were people who thrived on divisiveness and conflict, your approaching life differently—not behaving as your parents did—can be a positive way of addressing their legacy. You select what works best for you in *your* life. As an adult you have that choice.

EDIE: A woman I knew in her early 40s had cancer that no longer was responding to treatment. Her nine-year-old daughter was watching a television show in which the mother character had died. In a scene

occurring months after the death, the children were laughing and having fun with their father. After the show ended, the mother put her arm around her daughter and said, "You know, Amanda, kids can be happy again even after their parent dies, and that's what I want most for you." Some months later, when it was clear to all that her death was imminent, she managed to join the family at the dinner table. One of the children started to cry. "Yes, it is very sad to know we will not be together like this again," the mother acknowledged. "But for right now, let's all go up to my bedroom, because it will be more comfortable for me there. Let's eat dinner backwards, starting with dessert. And though this is not the way we wish things were, let's keep making special memories during the time we're all still together." While facing her own death, she had the presence of mind to say: *I don't want you to feel bound to me in guilt and endless sorrow; I want to free you to joy. And I want your last memories of me to be about life. Turn it upside down, and taste the sweetness first, even though bitterness might follow.* She couldn't have left her family a more precious legacy. □

My Fellow Arab Citizens

continued from page 53

help unlock the energies necessary to do the hard work of peacemaking.

Nancy Reich: We need continuous, step-by-step negotiations backed by moderate Arab rulers willing to take the heat from the rest of the Arab world for negotiating with Israel.

Evan Cohen: The key to peace is through encounters with the "other," when we can see the image of God in each other. My congregation, Kehilat Har-El, participates in a joint folklore program for the Nisue (Jewish) and the Ein Rafa-Nequba (Arab) elementary schools in which the children learn about their home cultures in separate classes and also experience joint activities, such as engaging with parents and grandparents who come to class as folk artists/tradition bearers and visiting a local mosque and synagogue. At the mosque, an imam teaches the Jewish children about Islam and the Muslim

children present their family heirlooms. At our synagogue, Rabbi Ada Zavidov teaches the Arab children about Judaism, the Jewish children present their family ritual heirlooms, and all of the children go up to the *bimah* to see the section in the Torah scroll where Isaac and Ishmael meet to bury their father and make peace. During their last visit to Har-El, it turned out this was the weekly Torah portion, so perhaps someone was smiling from above!



Tamara Schagas (a first-year student at HUC-JIR's Israeli rabbinical program; national coordinator of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism's Young Adult Forum): Israel and the

Palestinians will make peace only when both sides decide that the time for war has passed and they are ready to compromise.

Paula Edelstein: A peace settlement requires U.S. pressure handled with patience, wisdom, and understanding. If pressure is applied without regard

for the Middle East mentality, which looks upon concessions as signs of weakness, it could cause a right-wing backlash in Israel that would stop the government from taking the necessary steps toward peace.

Hanan Cidor: The only outside mediator Israelis would trust not to threaten their security is the U.S., which is also the nation with enough leverage to "push" Israel to make the concessions the deal would require. As the Palestinians have to be convinced that America is acting as an honest broker, I agree with President Obama's attempts to reach out to the Palestinians and the Arab world.

Michael Marmor: Some Israeli Jews dream of a Middle East in which the Crescent is dwarfed by the Star of David, and some Palestinians dream of the Jews going back to wherever they came from. Both are illusions. Only with consistent pressure from the U.S. and other powers will we be able to get on with the complicated, painful, and real business of building a better future. □