**Roots / Shorashim / Judur**

**Painful Hope**

**USA Speaking Tours**

Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank/Palestinian Territories/Judea and Samaria often live in geographical proximity – yet in separate universes. By and large they have no real human contact. They know next to nothing about the other and view each other with suspicion and fear.

In the Gush Etzion-Bethlehem-Hebron area, Roots is changing that reality.

**Roots is a unique collaboration of local Palestinians and Israelis building a grassroots model for coexistence.**

**Our mission** is to nurture understanding, non-violence and personal transformation.

**Our vision** is a new social and political reality founded upon dignity, trust, and mutual recognition and respect for both peoples’ particular historic belonging to the entire Land.

**We invite you to bring us to speak in your communities and congregations.**Shadi Abu Awwad, the Roots Palestinian youth director, and myself Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, one of the founders of Roots, will share our personal, interconnected stories and present the groundbreaking and challenging grassroots work of our initiative. We do not come with blueprinted peace plans in hand, but with the deep conviction that human understanding and trust are the prerequisites for lasting justice, freedom, and peace in the land we both call home.

*We invite mosques, synagogues, churches, Jewish and Muslim organizations, universities, organizations involved in peace work, and any other community organization to book a speaking engagement with Roots. Please see the accompanying material and be in contact right away.*

All the best,

Hanan Schlesinger

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