



Jewish Community  
Relations Council  
**MILWAUKEE**  
JEWISH FEDERATION

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Responses to Violence** *Group chooses reconciliation over revenge*

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin— Palestinian and Israeli parents who have lost children in the conflict will share with Milwaukee high school students their choice to break cycles of disputes and chart a path of peace on Friday, Sept. 23. Students from Milwaukee High School of the Arts and Messmer High School will join Rufus King High School students for both the lecture and an after school program with Arts @ Large's premier peacemaking program, Serve2Unite (S2U).

Bassam Aramin — a Palestinian whose daughter was killed by Israeli border police in 2007, and Robi Damelin — an Israeli whose son was killed by a Palestinian sniper in 2012 — will speak as representatives of the [Parents Circle Families Forum](#), a joint Palestinian-Israeli organization that is devoted to reconciliation. "Responses to Violence: How We Transcend Conflict and Choose Reconciliation" will be held from 1:45-2:45 p.m. in the Rufus King High School auditorium, 1801 W. Olive St.

"Robi and Bassam show us that we each have power to confront violence, conflict and the deeply-held narratives that separate us by taking clear action to create the world that we want, for ourselves and for our children," said Elana Kahn, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, who brought the representatives to town for community events and discussions with civic leaders.

Following the presentation in the auditorium, two student groups at Rufus King — Friends of Islam and Jew Crew — have special after school activities planned in collaboration with S2U. The partners will share what they enjoyed or experienced during the auditorium session and then break out into small groups, where students will be asked what forgiveness looks like to them, followed by using art supplies to relay their vision, and then share with the group.

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**About the Jewish Community Relations Council:** *Founded in 1938, the Jewish Community Relations Council, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, advocates for the rights and values of Jews individually and collectively, here and abroad. The Council implements a coordinated program of education, action, and advocacy for the Jewish community. For more than 100 years, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation has been dedicated to building a strong Jewish community. It distributed \$20 million last year to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations locally and around the world, and manages philanthropy through its \$165 million Jewish Community Foundation.*

**About Arts @ Large:** *Arts @ Large's premier peacemaking program, Serve2Unite (S2U), is designed to inspire students to become leaders by creating artistic service learning projects that build inclusive, compassionate, nonviolent school communities. The program consists of "Serve2Unite Student Leadership Chapters" that help young people address the pressing issues of violence in their communities through service learning, artistic projects, and guided dialogue.*