

Oasis of Dreams

Teaching and Learning Peace in a Jewish-Palestinian Village in Israel
Grace Feuerverger

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“At a time of tragic unrest in Israel and ongoing conflict, this qualitative study of a school in which Jewish and Palestinian children learn together holds particular significance. Feuerverger never underestimates the complexities of the Israeli situation, nor does she deny her own painful memories, her experiences in the diaspora, her struggle to belong. This is a beautiful, insightful book, offering us no final answers but enhancing our capacity to see.”

-Maxine Greene, Teachers College, Columbia University

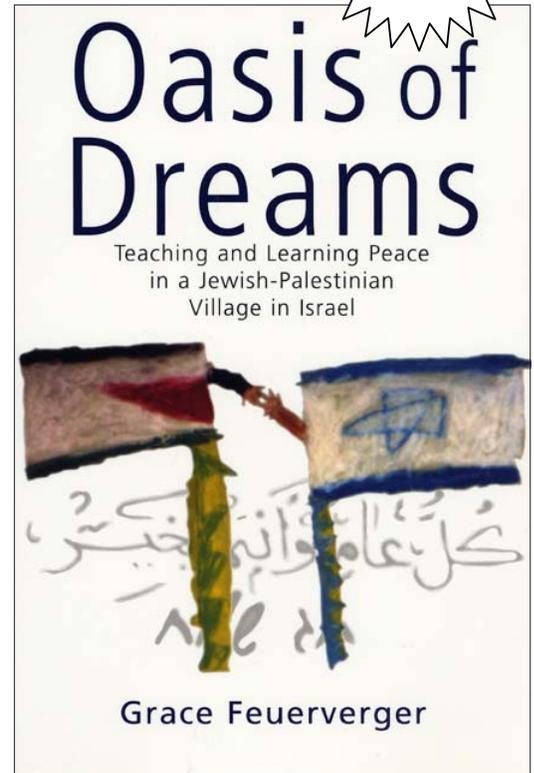
This award-winning book is based on a nine-year study that Professor Grace Feuerverger carried out as ethnographer in an extraordinary village and it is about hope in the midst of deadly conflict. This book is a reflexive ethnography focusing on the two bilingual, bicultural educational institutions in this place of peaceful coexistence — an elementary school where Jewish and Arab children study together, and the “School for Peace” which is a conflict resolution outreach program for Israeli and Palestinian adolescents and their teachers.

From her own perspective as a child of Holocaust survivors, Feuerverger explores the woundings and sense of victimhood that both peoples — Jews and Palestinians — feel in their very different ways. She shares narrative portraits of some remarkable educators who are working together in an everyday journey toward reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. Feuerverger offers deep insights into the extraordinary landscape of this cooperative village with its cultural encounters, educational innovations, moral dilemmas, negotiations and reconciliations, which form the basis for creating the vibrant spirit of this community against all odds.

A passionate yet reasoned ethnography of an extraordinary village and its unique bilingual, bicultural educational institutions, this book draws the reader into the complex journey of Jews and Palestinians who are trying to break down barriers of fear and mistrust that have saturated their daily existence. In this spiritually uplifting book, Feuerverger shares narrative portraits of some remarkable individuals and invites us to become fellow dreamers of peace. This book was written from the heart and it certainly offers hope in a time of darkness.

Whoever reads “Oasis of Dreams” will never look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the same way again.

Grace Feuerverger is Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto.



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