Bridging the Gap: Dialogue in a Divided Israel

**Project Goals**
- Organize resources, books, movies, and articles according to their usefulness in Gesher programming
- Research material for programs on the history of the religious/secular divide, and the depth of cultural polarization and social division

**Key Dilemmas**
- How can success of the Gesher program to reduce tension and discrimination between religious and secular groups be measured on a social level?
- Will Israel heal from the religious/secular divisions exacerbated by the Rabin assassination?

**Personal Goals**
- Understand the role of foreigners in this conflict and dialogue process
- Develop new programs and formats for Gesher dialogue groups, utilizing videos, articles, and other resources

**Activities**
- Participated in sessions, seminars, lectures, classes, and film screenings
- Prepared materials for use by facilitators in future Gesher programs

Daniel at the Western Wall, which has been a symbol of both unity and of violent tensions.
Important Learnings

- I learned a great deal about the effectiveness of film, art, humor, and meals in dialogue work.
- The stereotypes people hold about the effectiveness of dialogue work impacts the success of that work.
- The desire to come together can be an unbelievably strong catalyst in coexistence work.

Top: Old City of Jerusalem, the scene of historical tension between different ideologies and between peace and violence.

Above and right: Gesher attracts different faces of Israel, bringing together the secular, religious, and military to discuss their identities and stereotypes.