‏11.06.2012

To: cti

San-Rafael

California

**A recommendation letter for Yara Mizrahi-Ben-Chaim,**

**About the coach who fertilized my leadership to reach new heights**

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I met Yara at a crossroads of my life when I was searching and checking if my destiny was in the Israeli politics and in a governmental career. The decade before I was already busy being a social activist who led many social movements, from the grass roots. Today I feel fortunate for meeting Yara at the right time in a way that changed my life.

Yara volunteered to be my coach and as my coach she showed me a deep trust all the way. We got to create a deep and powerful bond and connection. Yara reflected to me my process and she showed me that I was all along a leader. It was an inner revelation that encouraged me to do the next step forward.

I will never forget the coaching session when Yara showed to me, with objects and in a very tangible way, my deep contemplation that was running my life for so long. I felt like there is a caged bird in me, with a life and death desire to be free. Yara led me to feel, see and really touch my saboteurs (gremlins as she calls them), which castrated me.

Up till that moment I wasn’t able to say what I was longing to say for so long. I realized I needed Yara’s leading hand to ask the right questions and to guide me to be me, as authentic as possible. And then it came out:”I want to be a Knesset member, yes I am sure this is what I want!”.

From that moment on my journey into the heart of the Israeli politics had started. I began to see myself equal to the more experiencesed, well known leaders. It was very tough but it was so real and so powerful and for that I will always cherish Yara in my heart. I will cherish the space of deep gratitude for helping me release my caged bird , the one who take me to my leadership roll.

Thanks to Yara’s leadership I became a true leader. I was recently chosen by the US Embassy to take part in a delegation of 5 young Palestinians leaders and five young Israeli leaders to get to learn about the election process in the USA.

Yara has a rare combination of qualities that makes her a leader to leaders. I felt that during our sessions she also functioned as my midwife. Yara herself has rare qualities that are astonishing to me. She is a leader, a manager, much focused, wise and has an ability to see the real picture. She can hold your hand but be very straight forward with her fierce look that holds truth, understanding and compassion. She also has a soft, whole glance, like a mother helping you to grow and become the person you were meant to be. Through her eyes you can see the real you, with faith and unconditional love. Only the ones who experienced that kind of connection with Yara and dared to look back will know what I mean.

Thank you,

**Lili Ben-Ami**

The candidate for the Israeli congress (The Knesset), representing the Labor party.

The CEO and founder of the Gender Equality Lobby in the Knesset

One of the main leaders of the social revolution in the summer of 2011

P.s. - please feel free to email me or call me, this letter represents the tip of what I feel and know about Yara.

My email:lilisela@gmail.com