

October 24, 2014

News of Harold Ramis' untimely death reverberated around Hollywood, the comedy world and countless circles of his adoring fans, leaving many reeling from such an immeasurable loss. Although Hollywood was to suffer other iconic comedy losses this year, I and those of us at Genesis at the Crossroads, felt Harold's passing more acutely.

For more than eight years, Harold proudly served on the Genesis board of our Chicago-based non-profit organization dedicated to global peace-building through the arts and education. When I learned of Harold's passing, I was left with a void... and realized, the only way to help with the irreparable hole, was to find a way to preserve his memory and share his legacy in comedy and film and bring it to those working to help resolve and transform conflict. In a time of precious few bridges between cultures, like music and breaking bread, laughter, as a universal language, helps us embrace our collective humanity while simultaneously releasing pain and suffering.

We invite you be a part of Genesis' work to preserve Harold's extraordinary legacy through your charitable gifts. Your personal involvement is also most welcome.

Our Harold Ramis Memorial Fund will engage and inspire young people in their formative years to tap into their creative self-expression and find humor for intractable issues that plague our time. The Fund will be used to create:

1. A film curriculum at our future Genesis Academy for Global Leadership to focus on comedy and conflict resolution (The Genesis Academy will be located in Southern California.)
2. A film series for our Academy students and the general public
3. Artist-in-residency programs for filmmakers and comedians interested in the field of comedy and conflict resolution
4. E-learning opportunities to share this work with the world
5. Capacity-building scholarship support to seed new film and comedy works in conflict resolution and peace-building
 - Showcase humor in the midst of struggle and human triumph
 - Bring light and laughter to some dark places
 - Encourage cross-cultural collaboration in film and comedy

We kindly request you consider a minimum **tax-deductible** gift at the \$5-10,000 level. For all donations of \$10,000 or more, Genesis at the Crossroads will prominently display your name and photograph on the Harold Ramis Memorial Page of our Genesis website. Should you wish to be an anonymous donor at any level, we will, of course, respect that fully (Kindly send your contribution to the above address).

In gratitude,



Wendy Sternberg, MD
Founder and Executive Director
Genesis at the Crossroads



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Harold Ramis (z"l)

(11/21/44- 2/24/14)

Trusted Advisor, Advocate, Sounding Board, Mentor,
Film Editor, Humorist, Donor and Friend

You are missed by many and will be remembered by many more...

Harold's Many Hats:

- Genesis at the Crossroads' Board Member from 2003-2011 (worsening of his untimely illness)
- Narrator of our future documentary film
- Introduced me/Genesis to Stacy Keach, who after almost a decade, continues to serve on the Genesis Board
- Catalytic Muse and Emcee, *From the Middle East to the Midwest* in 2004, Genesis' first outdoor summer festival
- Edited our children's peace quilt documentary (our second arts-based humanitarian program)
- Generous supporter of our work



An Excerpt from the Notes from the Founder of our 2004 Festival—*From the Middle East to the Midwest*

On a cold day in January 2004, Genesis Co-President, Rob Khoury and I were delighted to share breakfast at the Lucky Platter with Hollywood Producer, Harold Ramis. We had toyed with the idea of taking the Genesis Project outdoors in past years for our 5th year anniversary celebration. All of a sudden, Harold lifted his nose in the air, and eager with enthusiasm, cried, "Try this one on!..." as he mocked the smell of lamb grilling and couscous steaming with a visual of a camel on State Street, music emanating from the tents of Block 37. ...And so was born (another Genesis...) *From the Middle East to the Midwest*.



To this day, I still save that fated cell phone call from Maggie Daley who had gotten wind of Genesis at the Crossroads' prior endeavors and was thrilled to align our agenda with that of the City of Chicago. In April (yes, of this year,) we got the final approval for the festival and after a powerful meeting with an entire team from the Mayor's Office of Special Events, our Board of Directors went into high gear.

"If metaphorically speaking, just like here, we could all gather under one tent..."

Harold Ramis, Emcee
Genesis' From the Middle East to the Midwest