

2024 Impact Report



Dear Community,

As we reflect on the past year, we acknowledge the profound impact of October 7th, 2023, have had on communities globally, particularly on college campuses. The surge in antisemitism and the proliferation of false narratives have intensified tensions, making the need for open, honest, and healing dialogue more urgent than ever. In response to these challenges, *Our Stories Matter: We Will Dance Again Season 5* podcast emerged as a platform dedicated to fostering understanding, resilience, and unity.

This season of *Our Stories Matter*, featuring storytellers from varied perspectives—Jews, Arabs, and Christians—works to cultivate compassion and understanding, break down polarization, and drive civic engagement to spark meaningful dialogue across college communities. This season would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our listeners, supporters and the Academic Engagement Network. We are deeply grateful for the storytellers who have shared their heartbeats, the activists who shared their unapologetic and bold voices, and the students who continue to advocate for safe academic environments.

Beyond the podcast, Trauma Informed LA (TILA) stands as a vital resource hub for community healing. Through initiatives such as internships, healing-centered blogs, trauma-informed trainings, and access to trauma-informed therapists, healers, and resources, TILA provides essential support. Volunteer opportunities, TILA chats, and a speaker's bureau further extend trauma-informed education and engagement, ensuring that valuable resources for healing and understanding are accessible to all.

Looking ahead, we are dedicated to spotlighting voices that challenge bias, bridge divides, and inspire action. The transformative power of storytelling fosters connection, deepens empathy, and strengthens our communities. We invite you to join us on this journey—to listen, learn, and contribute to the crucial work of creating a future grounded in connection. As Esther Perel wisely said, "Connection begins with curiosity, and curiosity allows us to see the other in their full complexity."

In Health and Solidarity,
Susie Hess, MSW, LCSW-IL
Trauma Informed LA Co-Founder

Who we are



**A trauma-informed
Los Angeles**



To foster resilient communities that promote healing and well-being through collaboration, education, and community engagement.

Our Team

Ramona Merchan
Executive Director

Ivan Reyes
Financial Officer

Chisato Hotta
Program Director

Susan Hess
Co-Founder,
Podcast Host

Lidia Vargas
Policy Director

6 Advisors
10 Volunteers

Anahid Mosala
Operations Director

Sarit Z Rogers
Social Media Director

3 MSW Interns
2 Undergrad Interns

2024 Tila Chat Events

February 2 Black history

March 11 Radical Self Care for Helping Professions

April 8 Sexual assault awareness month

May 13 Black Maternal Mental Health Month

June 10 Fathers' Mental Health

September 9 Suicide Awareness

October 14 IPV

November 18 Heal the Vote

December 2 Dismantling Polarization

TILA By The Numbers

Trauma Informed LA is a 501 C3 nonprofit organization committed to fostering community healing through education, training, and community engagement. Through the lens of storytelling, TILA spotlights diverse voices and promotes understanding to bridge divides.

37

Partnerships and Collaborations

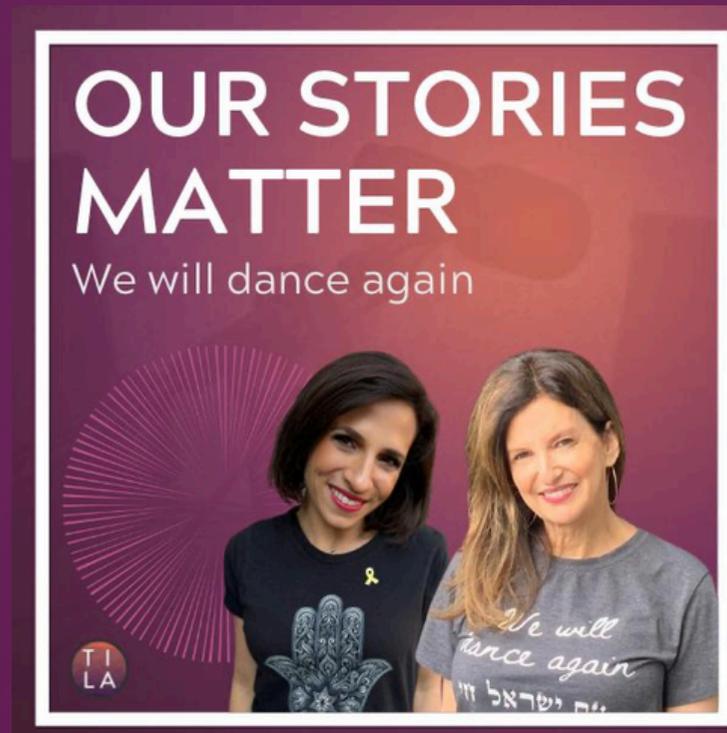
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TILA Table Chats Hosted

30,000+

Accounts reached through our Instagram

Our Stories Matter Season 6 Overview



Title: "We Will Dance Again"

16 Published Podcast Episodes

15 Bonus Poems

17 Storytellers

2,309 downloads

Welcoming 2025 with Courage and Community

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As we step into 2025, we are proud to launch season 6 of *Our Stories Matter: Courage on Campus* podcast. This season will spotlight students advocating for their safety on college campuses alongside former extremists who have been deradicalized working to dismantle hate. We extend our gratitude to the Academic Engagement Network for making this possible.

TILA will continue to serve as a trauma-informed resource hub, including trauma-informed trainers and therapists, a speakers bureau, and the *Our Stories Matter* podcast. Additionally, we will continue to offer opportunities for volunteers and interns, all aimed at fostering meaningful mentorship

Susie Hess
Co-Founder

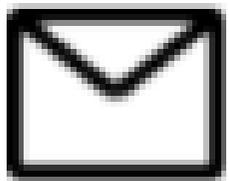


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