

Newsletter

The International Center

for Ethics, Justice,

and Public Life

Winter 2000-01

Winter Events Feature Goldstone, Carroll, Seeger

Judge Richard Goldstone, writer James Carroll, singer-activist Pete Seeger, and filmmaker Lawrence Pitkethly will headline a series of Center events on the Brandeis campus between December 2000 and March 2001.

On Tuesday, December 12, 2000, members of the Independent International Commission on Kosovo will come to campus for a roundtable discussion with scholars, journalists, diplomats, and activists on the 1999 war and its lessons for the future. The Commission was chaired by Judge Richard Goldstone, Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa

and former prosecutor of the United Nations War Crimes Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Its report, presented to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in October, examines key developments prior to, during, and after the Kosovo war, including systematic violations of human rights in the region. The December 12 roundtable will feature panels on intervention, the ideal of the multi-ethnic state, and lessons for the future. A limited number of seats are available for observers for this event.

Author James Carroll will be on campus on Monday, January 22,

2001 for a program called "Catholics, Jews and the Prism of Conscience." The symposium coincides with the publication of Carroll's new book, *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History*. The book traces the troubling 2000-year history of the relationship of the Roman Catholic Church to Judaism, with particular attention to the Holocaust. The symposium at Brandeis will, among other things, explore the challenges of writing an "inside critique" of abuses of power within one's own tradition. The event is free and open to the public.

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Winter Events at The Center

- Prevention and Intervention: The Lessons of Kosovo
Tuesday, December 12, 2000



- Catholics, Jews and the Prism of Conscience
Monday, January 22, 2001

- Pete Seeger and Jane Sapp
January 29, 2001



- Belfast My Love
Tuesday, March 6, 2001

Details available at www.brandeis.edu/ethics/events

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From the Director

In a season of ferment around the world, two regions have held a particular grip on our attention.

We have witnessed a dramatic transition in Serbia, as the regime of Slobodan Milosevic was toppled by an extraordinary popular uprising. Under the new leadership of Vojislav Kostunica, Yugoslavia appears to be back on the road towards democracy, justice, and inclusion in the life of Europe.

In the Middle East, we have watched with horror as Israelis and Palestinians, who appeared to be on the brink of a peace agreement over the summer, have once again squared off in violent confrontations. The delicate web of relationships built between Jews and Arabs through years of coexistence efforts is clearly in peril.

The events in both places caught us off guard. We were too optimistic, perhaps, about the progress of the Oslo process, and we underestimated reserves of mutual mistrust among both Palestinians and Israelis. In Serbia, perhaps we lacked the confidence in the resolve of the Serbian people.

One lesson of this autumn, with its alternating waves of tragedy and hope, is that we need to be prepared for the long haul.

The situation in the Middle East may get worse before it gets better, but there will always be opportunities for those who wish to pursue peace and justice to work towards those ends. Those efforts may be unglamorous and may seem futile in the face of violence, but they are indispensable.

Serbia may well be on the road to recovery, but no one should underestimate the challenges that it faces; now, of all times, should be the moment to support the grassroots peacebuilding, civil society and coexistence efforts that are so crucial to sustaining a flourishing culture.

Persistence, critical self-reflection, and support for those who do not lose hope should be our watchwords for the present and for the future.

Daniel Terris
Director

Ethics Center Welcomes New Staff Members

The Center would like to welcome April Powell-Willingham, Sara Zenlea, and Melissa Blanchard.

April Powell-Willingham is the new director of combined programs in ethics, inclusion, and social justice at the Heller School and The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life. April comes to this position after two years as special assistant to the dean of the Heller School. She earned her MA in urban planning (international development) and JD degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her background includes experience as a civil rights appellate attorney in California, as well as work on diversity, multiculturalism, and welfare law and policy in the United States. **Sara Zenlea** is the new administrative assistant for the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence. She holds a BA in sociology from Framingham State College, MA. In Sara's free time, she volunteers for the American Cancer Society and the Framingham public schools. **Melissa Blanchard**, a graduate of Brandeis University with a BA in philosophy, is a writer for the Ethics Center. Currently, she is working towards an MA in intercultural relations at Lesley University, Cambridge, MA. Melissa has experience as a high school teacher, community mentor, and research assistant in violence prevention, diversity, and gender equity.

New Chair in Ethics

The Chase Manhattan Foundation has donated \$5 million to Brandeis to promote the importance of ethical behavior and diversity. The funds will be used to establish the Chair Manhattan Chair in Ethics. The holder of the new chair in ethics will play a significant role in the work of the Center. A portion of the gift will also be used to develop scholarships for a diverse group of students, including first-generation Americans.

2000 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows News

During October the 2000 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows Internship Presentation Series featured student fellows who interned in South Africa, Grenada, and Northern Ireland. Fellows were sponsored by The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life and the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence. They shared their experiences as summer interns in grassroots coexistence organizations around the world with Brandeis students, faculty, and staff.

Nikki Evans '02 and **Zach Sherwin '02** worked in South Africa for Ikamva Labantu, a non-profit organization that supports democracy in post-apartheid South Africa by providing educational and economic resources to community members in the townships. **Tova Neugut '01** and **Professor Dessima Williams** worked together in Grenada, with an organization called GRENED, on a video documentary exploring possibilities for reconciliation among Grenadian citizens who supported and opposed the US intervention in 1983. **Sarah-Bess Dworin '01** and **Andrew Slack '02** worked in Northern Ireland with The Corrymeela Community, an organization in Ballycastle committed to reconciliation work through family and community. **Sophia Moon '02** also worked in Northern Ireland, with the Rural Community Network, a membership organization in Cookstown that serves as a voice for rural communities. ■



2000 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows (clockwise from upper left) Andrew Slack '02, Tova Neugut '01, Nikki Evans '02, and Sophia Moon '02

News

Marci McPhee, assistant director, gave two presentations in October on the Brandeis campus about a new approach to time. Her co-presenter, Dr. Joel Bennett from Texas Christian University, is the author of *Time & Intimacy: A New Science of Personal Relationships*. One presentation was geared to students, particularly with regards to time compression and stress management. The other was offered as a professional development workshop to faculty and staff, entitled "Time and the Transformation of Work." **Cynthia Cohen**, coexistence program director, served as a panelist at the US Institute of Peace on November 17th. The panel decided on proposals for funding for education and training programs. **Mary Davis**, academic

director of Brandeis Seminars in Humanities and the Professions, will be joining judges and judicial educators from all of California's 58 counties for a three-day conference entitled "Roots of Violence." The event will be held in California on January 25th-27th. **Devika Mahadevan**, a 1999 Brandeis Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow, is now serving in Zimbabwe as a Hart Fellow through Duke University. **Eldad Elnekave**, also a former Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow, completed his Hart Fellowship in Israel and is now enrolled as a student at Tufts Medical School. The Hart Fellows program offers recent university graduates yearlong placements with international humanitarian organizations committed to making a positive, lasting difference in people's lives. ■

Speak Truth to Power

Ethics Center Board Member **Kerry Kennedy Cuomo's** latest achievement, *Speak Truth to Power*, is a collection of 51 interviews and

photographs of human rights leaders and activists from around the globe. A play, based on the book, was performed in Washington, DC and was presented on PBS on October 8, 2000. A video of the play will be included as part of an educational package to be distributed to high schools and universities. For more information on this project or to get involved, visit www.speaktruthtopower.org.



Kerry Kennedy Cuomo

Center Publishes New Curriculum on Juvenile Justice

In October, the Center published “Juvenile Justice at the Crossroads: Literature-Based Seminars for Judges, Court Personnel and Community Leaders.” This document summarizes work done over the past eighteen months in the Massachusetts court system, and provides educators with a literature-based curriculum that can be adapted for various judicial education settings.

The effort has been led by Mary Davis, academic director of the Brandeis Seminars in Humanities and the Professions, in collaboration with Marilyn J. Wellington, director

of judicial education of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Davis collaborated with the judicial educator of the Judicial Institute of Massachusetts trial court to create the curriculum to be used during seven day-long seminars for judges, probation officers, court clinicians, various court personnel, educators, and community leaders. The curriculum is designed to stimulate conversation and reflection among judges, court personnel, and community leaders on such issues as adolescence and authority, rights and responsibilities of parents and children, and special



Mary Davis, academic director of the Brandeis Seminars in Humanities and the Professions

issues facing young female offenders.

Funding for the project and the curriculum was provided by the State Justice Institute. Copies are available at no charge by request.

“Juvenile Justice at the Crossroads”: An Excerpt

The juvenile justice curriculum is a practical, hands-on guide to using literary texts to stimulate meaningful conversation and reflection among practitioners to improve their ability to work together and to serve young people and the cause of justice better. This excerpt from the curriculum, written by Mary Davis, is from a section that walks a reader through the implementation of the seminars.

Beginning with the short introductory text, each session of the seminar presents a text followed informally by a series of questions. These questions may be both broad and specific but should not limit the participation to “yes-no” answers and should not be presented in staccato fashion. Broad questions will elicit a whole spectrum of initial responses, including feelings and attitudes, both individual and collective, which often need to be aired by

the group. Rather informal and open-ended questions also lead to an easy expansion of the dialogue. Specific questions relating to the text may help to clarify larger themes and issues, but they should never imply right or wrong answers. At its very best, the text becomes a springboard to examine further the sessions vital text – the work of life and to some extent the private life that each individual presents. Carefully selected texts, intentionally placed in conjunction with one another and connected by cross-reference through the day-long seminar, presented in the creative and open-ended pedagogy of the seminar format, can and will elicit sharing of meaningful life experiences. This process of coming to a greater understanding of other people – juvenile offenders, colleagues, even relative strangers – is a common aspect of learning

through reading, a vicarious experience.

While there is no need for a pattern of formal closure at the end of the day, it is not only helpful but sometimes cathartic for participants to formulate in their own words what the discussion has been about and what it has meant to them. Here the facilitators need to be present to guide and especially to record but not to dominate. Inevitably, we as readers, whether facilitators or participants, whether academically trained or legally trained, whether new or experienced in the field of juvenile justice, whether long-time or only occasional readers of literature, learn from both characters and situations in these chosen texts and then apply our insights, both individual and collective, to our own lives and work.

Agbaria and Cohen Explore the Impact of Power Relations on Group Dynamics

Although this is the first time Farhat Agbaria and Cynthia Cohen have written an article together, “Working with Groups in Conflict: The Impact of Power Relations on the Dynamics of the Group,” builds on other collaborations they have done in the past. Farhat Agbaria, a Palestinian Israeli with extensive experience facilitating encounters and dialogues, directs the Face-to-Face program at the Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva, Israel. He is one of 16 coexistence practitioners and scholars from the Middle East, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the former Yugoslavia to have participated in the Brandeis International Fellowship program. Cynthia Cohen, director of the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence, has facilitated coexistence efforts in places such as the Middle East, Biloxi, Mississippi, and Belize. Marci McPhee, assistant director of the Center, also collaborated in the writing process and authored the article’s introduction.

In their article, Agbaria and Cohen encourage coexistence practitioners to reach beyond the usual techniques and skills used in coexistence work and to look at the underlying power dynamics within the group. Although they recognize that taking this deeper look requires a certain measure of courage, they believe that those who engage in this work need to take that step. The Center would like to thank the Humans All Foundation, for their generous grant that made this article possible. Copies are available through the Center.

Why We Should Address the Dynamics of Power in Groups

When groups have grappled with inequities among their members, they can become effective agents for change – both in the individuals within the group and in the larger political conflict. With an awareness of power dynamics, each participant can work at a deeper level, understanding the conflict as



it works within him- or herself. People can bring themselves to the work as whole,

complex human beings – and this enables them to see the others in the group as whole, complex human beings as well. This reciprocal awareness makes it possible to work with greater respect, sensitivity and genuineness. It increases the possibility of real and lasting change.

On the other hand, without an understanding of how power dynamics are at work in the group, both members and facilitators can actually do damage in spite of their good intentions. They might perpetuate or prolong the conflict instead of helping to resolve it.



Cynthia Cohen (above left), director of the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence, and Farhat Agbaria, director of the Face-to-Face program at the Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva, Israel

Clearly, awareness of power dynamics helps group members understand those who come from “the other side.” But the consequences go far beyond understanding: lack of acknowledgment of power differences can restimulate old angers and feelings of powerlessness. These angers and resentments can easily undermine people’s ability to work together on joint projects...

Our commitment to address the dynamics of power in groups in conflict arises from our faith in human beings. We believe that once people truly realize in a deep way that they are damaging others, they will stop. Most people are not aware that they are doing hurtful things to people on the other side. Having good will is important, but it is not enough. Good will must be joined by awareness and skill; it is this combination that makes change possible.

Resources

The following resources are available for the 2000 – 2001 academic year on the Center’s web site at www.brandeis.edu/ethics.

Papers, Articles, and Reports

“Brandeis Students on Coexistence: A Booklet of Student Writing” edited by Devika Mahadevan ’00

“Can Brandeis Be This Place? Plan of Action for Building Community and Strengthening Coexistence at Brandeis University: 2000-2001”

“Doing Justice *and* Loving Mercy: Perspectives on Coexistence and Reconciliation from and African Peacebuilder” by Dr. Hizkias Assefa, edited by Devika Mahadevan ’00

“Peace and Aesthetic Experience” by Cynthia Cohen, first published in PSA News, Newsletter of Peace Studies Association, v.6 n.2, Summer 2000

Preliminary Reports on Coexistence Research supported by the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence, Fall 2000

“Report of the First Year Evaluation of the Brandeis Campus Demonstration Project on Intercommunal Coexistence” by Belle Brett, Ed.D.

“South Africa: A Life Experience in Hope, Peace and Reconciliation” by Brahmy Poologasingham, ’00, 1998 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow

Syllabi for Coexistence Courses supported by the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence

“This is the Dilemma I Face: Cross-cultural Perspectives on Ethical Dilemmas Of Practitioners Working for Coexistence and Reconciliation (A Preliminary View)” by Cynthia Cohen

“Working with Groups in Conflict: the Impact of Power Relations on the Dynamics of the Group” by Farhat Agbaria and Cynthia Cohen, with Marci McPhee

“Human Rights Culture: The Political and Spiritual Crisis”

Copies are available of “Human Rights Culture: The Political and Spiritual Crisis,” a lecture by Michael Ignatieff delivered at Brandeis University. Mr. Ignatieff argues that the very success of the human rights movement over the past half-century has given rise to three central problems that face the movement in the early years of the new century. The first is the unresolved tension between human rights principles and national interests. The second is the numerous points of conflict between competing human rights’ principles. The third is the questionable willingness of the more powerful nations to make sacrifices in order to ensure the strong entrenchment of human rights worldwide. Unaddressed, these tensions threaten the progress that has been made in the human rights field. Single copies for students and classroom sets are available free of charge while supplies last. To order, please contact Jennifer Rouse at the Center at 781-736-8577 or via email at jrouse@brandeis.edu.”

WINTER EVENTS—continued

Pete Seeger, renowned musician, will be coming to campus for a two-day residency along with Jane Sapp, dynamic singer-songwriter, educator, activist and community-builder, who serves as consulting artist to the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence. A concert, “Pete Seeger

and Jane Sapp: Building Community through Songs of Social Justice,” will be held in the evening on Monday, January 29, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. in the Spingold Theater.

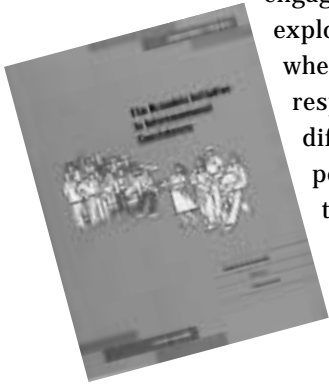
On Tuesday, March 6, 2001 Brandeis will host a symposium featuring the American premiere of “Belfast My Love”, a documentary that amplifies the voices of

‘ordinary’ citizens of Northern Ireland as they reveal the complexities of a society transforming itself from violence to coexistence and democratic decision-making. The symposium will include a keynote address by the creator of the documentary, Lawrence Pitkethly, and a panel of scholars and practitioners. ■■■

Brandeis Initiative in Coexistence Update

Annual Report Available

The Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence was launched through The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life at Brandeis University in September of 1999. The focus of the program is to engage the university's students, faculty, and staff in an exploration of the dilemmas and possibilities that emerge when we seek to understand, promote, and enact respectful personal and communal relationships across differences of religion, ethnicity, race, class, and political conflict. The Center is pleased to announce that the Initiative had a very successful first year, which is documented in the Brandeis Initiative In Intercommunal Coexistence Annual Report, now available through the Center.



Art and Reconciliation Conversation Group

On Wednesday afternoon, October 11, 2000, 20 members of the Brandeis faculty from various disciplines (including philosophy, sociology, fine arts, French, politics, and women's studies) assembled in the first of three conversations held throughout the month of October on art and reconciliation. The first session, led by Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela and Cynthia Cohen, focused on the educational challenges inherent in coexistence and reconciliation. The conversation series was scheduled both to 1) nourish a community of inquiry at Brandeis interested in the intersection of the arts and aesthetics with questions of coexistence and reconciliation, and 2) generate ideas for interdisciplinary programming to accompany a major exhibition of South African art and craft. The exhibition is tentatively planned for Spring 2002 at the Rose Art Museum.

Preliminary Reports on Coexistence Research

Eight members of the Brandeis faculty have issued preliminary reports on research relating to the theory and practice of intercommunal coexistence. Their projects bring the resources and methods of philosophy, history, biology/natural resources, economics/sustainable development, sociology, literature, and art history to bear on questions arising from coexistence practice. In-depth inquiries address coexistence issues in contemporary Grenada and South Africa, and in the early Ottoman Empire. In some cases, the research is conceptual in nature; in other cases it is designed to lead to new or revised courses, a video dialogue, and an exhibition of art and craft. The reports will be available on the web at www.brandeis.edu/ethics/coexistence and in a booklet that can be ordered from the Center. The faculty members involved in this research extend their appreciation to the Alan B. Slifka Foundation for its support.

Complete Listing of the Preliminary Reports on Coexistence Research

"Coexistence: Artifacts of Cultural Production in Contemporary South Africa"—Pamela Allara, Fine Arts

"Approaches to Violence in Western Philosophy: The Intellectual Setting of the Problem of Coexistence in the West"—Linda Hirshman, Philosophy

"Natural Resources and Coexistence: Inquiry into the Feasibility of a Future Course"—Attila Klein, Biology

"Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Ottoman Empire: Lessons for Contemporary Coexistence"—Avigdor Levy, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

"Human Rights, Coexistence and Sustainable Development Toward a Framework for Peace and Social Justice."—April Powell-Willingham and John Capitman, Institute for Sustainable Development, Heller School

"Teaching Human Rights in the New Millennium: Incorporating Coexistence Perspectives in Undergraduate Courses on Human Rights"—Andreas Teuber, Philosophy

"Fratricide, Intervention and Poverty in Grenada: Investigation to Heal a People and Strengthen the Coexistence Field"—Dessima Williams, Sociology

Brandeis International Fellows Return to Explore Gender and Coexistence



Galia Golan

In early October, Brandeis International Fellows **Galia Golan** (from Israel) and **Cheryl de la Rey** (from South Africa) returned to campus for a weeklong residency. Galia Golan is a spokesperson for Peace Now and a professor of political science at the Hebrew University. Cheryl de la Rey, executive director of Social Sciences and Humanities at the National Research Foundation, is a gender justice activist and an associate professor of psychology at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. They are in the process of drafting a proposal for a project that examines the intersection of coexistence and gender. Dr. Golan and Dr. de la Rey also presented the following discussions: "Global Feminism" and, along with five

Brandeis undergraduates, "The Middle East Peace Process Today: An Activist's Perspective." They also participated in a variety of campus activities including a conversation on art and reconciliation. For more information on the Brandeis International Fellows visit the Center's web site at www.brandeis.edu/ethics.



Cheryl de la Rey

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