

Newsletter

The International Center
for Ethics, Justice,
and Public Life

Winter 1999

From the Director

It has been nearly a year since the launch of the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life. As we approach our first anniversary, I am proudest of the ways that the Center's activities have encouraged students and scholars, activists and professionals, to examine fundamental questions about the moral and ethical dimensions of their participation in local, national, and global events.

In rural Ecuador, undergraduate fellow Ben Singer-man worked on the development of the Amazon Worlds Museum, a prospective showcase for indigenous culture and arts. But he also found himself in the middle of powerful economic and social currents in the jungle region, as city-based non-governmental organizations, indigenous organizations, and international oil companies battled over rights and territory. Ben returned to campus asking fundamental questions about who "owns" a people's culture, and who should make the decisions about how and whether elements of culture should be "preserved."

In Sri Lanka, Brandeis International Fellows Jehan Perera and Kandasamy Sithamparanathan forged an

extraordinary bond that enabled a rare kind of dialogue between Sinhalese and Tamils in that war-torn island nation. Their dialogue, sharpened through conversation with Fellows from other conflict regions at our March and November institutes, raised dramatic questions about the relative effectiveness of violence and nonviolence in working towards peace and justice.

In State College, Pennsylvania, managers from the Bonney Forge Company met for two days with academic director Mary Davis and other faculty of the Brandeis Seminars in Humanities and the Professions. Their readings of powerful literary texts — Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and Ethan Canin's "Accountant," for example — opened up reflection and discussion on the challenges of creating a corporate culture of positive values.

These events and experiences — and the many other projects and programs described in this newsletter and in more detail on our web site — are only a beginning. We are now at work on the Center's first set of publications, on the ethical dimensions of the field of interethnic coexistence. We are laying the groundwork for creating a per-

manent program in interethnic coexistence at Brandeis, even as we are creating the contours for the next major "theme" that the Ethics Center will explore.

I am especially grateful to the community of people — students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Brandeis University — who have helped bring this Center into being, and whose energy and wisdom guide our work from day to day



Daniel-Ten-Is
Director

Upcoming Event - April 24, 1999

"Pluribus Unum - Embracing and Building Diversity in the Brandeis Community":

Part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Brandeis University

During "E Pluribus Unum" weekend, the Ethics Center Student Fellows will present a roundtable discussion of cross-cultural perspectives on ethical dilemmas encountered in coexistence work, based on their experiences in summer internships around the world.

News

Daniel Terris, director of the Center, presented on "Coexistence Courses on University Campuses: Promises and Challenges" at the Abraham Fund's conference on "The Role of University in Fostering Interethnic Coexistence" at John Jay College in November. . . . **Cynthia Cohen**, coexistence program coordinator, conducted an oral history workshop for gender activists in Cape Town, South Africa, and is consulting with the Connecticut Commission on the Arts on the uses of oral history and the arts in building relationships among urban, suburban and rural school communities. . . . **Marci McPhee**, administrator, has been working on the Religious Pluralism and Spirituality committee at Brandeis, seeking ways to cultivate a welcoming environment for those of all religious traditions (or none) at Brandeis. . . . **Paula Green**, program director for the Brandeis International Fellows Institute, facilitated two seminars in inter-ethnic dialogue for Muslim and Serb educators in Bosnia in November, taught a course in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation at Hampshire College in January and is preparing for work in Sri Lanka in February. . . . **Mary Davis**, academic director of the Brandeis Seminars, spoke to two large groups of National Women's Committee members in the Los Angeles area about juvenile justice. . . . **Arthur Green**, faculty associate and former academic director of the Center, is spending the 1998-99 year as a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. . . . **Jehan Perera**, Brandeis International Fellow from Sri Lanka, was part of a delegation that visited Bangladesh for a week in December, meeting with representatives of Parliament to learn about the on-going peace process in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. . . . **Jakob Finci**, Brandeis International Fellow from Bosnia, is working to keep the 600-year old Sarajevo Haggadah in its traditional home in Sarajevo, despite Serbian requests to exhibit it in Banja Luka, capital of their mini-state, every third year

Human Rights Symposium

Kicking off the Brandeis 50th anniversary celebration, Brandeis University highlighted its commitment to social justice by featuring an important event co-sponsored with the Eleanor Roosevelt Library at Val-Kill, New York. The symposium, entitled "Human Rights: The Unfinished Agenda" celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well. Keynote speaker Ambassador Morris Abram, chair of United Nations Watch in Switzerland



Human Rights Symposium: Jehuda Reinharz, Brandeis president, with panelists Morris Abram, Joseph Wronka, Dessima Williams, Jennifer Casolo, and Shen Tong

and former president of Brandeis, was joined by Shen Tong '89, student organizer at Tiananmen Square; Dessima Williams, assistant professor of sociology and former ambassador from Grenada; Joseph Wronka, PhD '92, author of *The Declaration of Human Rights*; and Jennifer Casolo '83, Catholic church development worker in Honduras. The event was moderated by Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Foundation.

"Exposition": A Showcase of Student Fellows and International Fellows' Work

Brandeis's Rapaporte Treasure Hall had an international flavor as Student Fellows and International Fellows presented their projects in an Exposition on November 5. Graphic designer Wen-ti Tsen worked with the Fellows to create a roomful of striking posters exhibiting the methods, learnings, and ethical dilemmas posed by their work. Those who

dropped in had the opportunity to discuss their work with the Fellows themselves. An evening symposium, convened by noted peacemaker Elise Boulding, explored the impact of particular issues such as gender, history, and religion. The exhibit panels can be accessed on the Ethics Center Web Site at "www.brandeis.edu/ethics". The exhibit was supported by the Rice Family Foundation.



During 1998, the Ethics Center sponsored a series of seminars on professional ethics in Israel under the auspices of our partner institution, the Jerusalem Foundation's

Mishkenot Sha'ananim. Seminars were offered for three professional groups: officers in the Israeli air force, physicians and other health professionals, and attorneys. Faculty included Asa Kasher of Tel Aviv University, Shimon Glick of Ben Gurion University, and Eli Salzberger of the University of Haifa. The seminars were conducted under the general direction of Itamar Rabinovich, former Israeli ambassador to the United States, who has returned to his

chair at Tel Aviv University.

In addition, ground has been broken for the construction of the Jerusalem Foundation's new conference and retreat center at Mishkenot Sha'ananim. Through our partnership with the Foundation, the Ethics Center is currently beginning work on designing programs for the new Mishkenot that will bring together scholars and professionals to tackle international issues of ethics and social justice.

Ethics Center Student Fellows, 1998

In the summer of 1998, eight Ethics Center Student Fellows worked in grassroots organizations around the world. Their work involved a wide spectrum of experiences, from participating in racial dialogue groups in Baltimore, to establishing a multicultural museum in the Amazon jungle, to documenting human rights violations on the West Bank. For more information, check our website "www.brandeis.edu/ethics".

Nageeb Ali '99	Karachi, Pakistan	Aga Khan Foundation Rural Support Programme
Liora Cobin '99	Baltimore, Maryland	Interfaith Action for Racial Justice
Ariele Cohen '99	Sofia, Bulgaria Belgrade, Yugoslavia	Institute for Liberal Studies Center for Anti-War Action
Manuel Costescu '99	Bagamoyo, Tanzania Lushoto, Tanzania	Bagamoyo College of Art GTZ (Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit)
Eldad Elnkave '99	Cuamba, Mozambique	Medical Care Development International Child Survival & Community Health Project
Forsan Hussein '00	Jerusalem, Israel	B'Tselem, The Israel Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
Brahmy Poologasingham '00	Pretoria, South Africa	NOVA Program NIPLAR (National Interest Public Law and Research)
Ben Singerman '99	Archidona, Ecuador	Fundacion Sinchi Sacha Museo de Arte Etnico Amazonico

1999 Student Fellows

Wendi Adelson '01,
from Coral Springs, Florida

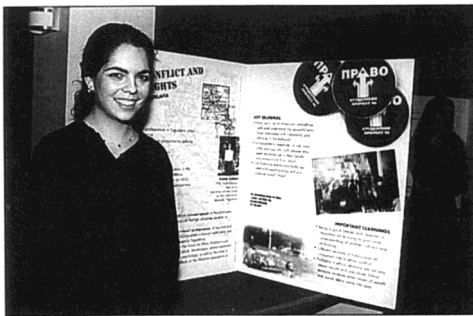
Tamara Beliak '00,
from Los Angeles, California

Lauren Elson '00,
from Thousand Oaks, California

Keren Ghitis '01,
from Herzlia, Israel

Karen Hovav '00,
from Upland, California

Devika Mahadevan '00,
from Bombay, India



*Ariele Cohen, Ethics Center Student Fellow,
with the poster from her internship work in the
former Yugoslavia*



*Cheryl de la Rey (far right),
Brandeis International Fellow from South Africa,
with members of ROCA, a community action
center in Chelsea, MA*

Brandeis International Fellows

Continuing their work together from their opening institute in March, Brandeis International Fellows met again in November to share the results of their projects carried out in their home countries and to discuss followup plans. Further publications will be forthcoming in 1999. Project titles are:

from the Balkans:

“Religion and Reconciliation in Bosnia”
Jakob Finci (Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina)

“Dallia Women’s Association”
Mirha Kratina (Zenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina)

“Conflict Resolution Training for Religious
People in Croatia” Lidija Obad (Osijek, Croatia)

“The Role of Empathy in Inter-Group Dialogue”
Dragan Popadic (Belgrade, Yugoslavia)

from the Middle East:

“Facilitation, Conflict and Power”
Far-hat Agbaria (Musmus Village)

“Flashback for the Future: An Experiment in Reconciling History”
Galia Golan (Jerusalem), Judith Green (Jerusalem), Amal Khreishe
(Jerusalem), Zoughbi Zoughbi (Bethlehem)

“Taming the Monster: Empowering a Multi-Ethnic Group of Abused
Jewish Israeli Single Mothers”
Hagit Lifshitz (Jerusalem)

from South Africa:

“Confronting Our Differences: Building Coalitions Among Women in
the Western Cape, South Africa”
Cheryl de la Rey (Cape Town) and Naomi Tutu (Cape Town)

“Energy Carriers: Conflict Generators or Peace Makers?”
Adrian van Niekerk (Pretoria)

“From Shifting Sands to Common Ground: A Video Dialogue Project
for Coexistence and Reconciliation”
Philip Visser (Roodepoort)

from Sri Lanka:

“The National Peace Council/Theatre Action Group Collaboration”
Jehan Perera (Colombo) and Kandasamy Sithamparanathan (Jaffna)

“

*Now I know
much better. . .
that all of us
have almost the
same dilemmas,
problems and
difficulties in
our fields.*

”

*-Mirha Kratina,
Bosnia*

Selected Highlights of 1998

- March 20 - 31 Brandeis International Fellows Institute: "Coexistence and the Quest for Justice"
- March 29 Conference: "Interethnic Coexistence: Educating for an Emerging Global Field" sponsored by Brandeis University and The Abraham Fund
- May 27-28 Brandeis Seminar in Humanities and the Professions at the Bonney Forge Corporation, State College, Pennsylvania
- June 25 Brandeis International Fellows hold press event at Canada Park near Jerusalem, on the site of three Arab villages destroyed after the Six Day War.
- July Student Fellow Brahmy Poologasingham interviews Archbishop Desmond Tutu as part of her internship with the Human Rights Commission in South Africa
- July 25 Student Fellow Eldad Elnkave presents his research on "communication strategies" with traditional healers at a conference in Cuamba, Mozambique
- October 14 Panel Discussion: "Nuclear Weapons & The War System: Why Abolition is Realistic"
- October 20 Brandeis Seminar in Humanities and the Professions at the National Association of State Judicial Educators conference in North Conway, New Hampshire
- October 22 Women from Northern Ireland and Cyprus speak at "Women and Peacebuilding" discussion series
- November 1 - 7 Brandeis International Fellows Institute
- November 5 Exposition and Symposium: "Interethnic Coexistence: Scenes from the Field"
- December 14 Announcement of 1999 Ethics Center Student Fellows

“

Here at Brandeis, we do not shy away from these profound difficulties. Instead, we welcome productive conversation that moves this University, and the international communities it serves, further along the road towards coexistence and justice.

”

- *President
Jehuda Reinharz*

Abraham Feinberg, Founder 1978-1998

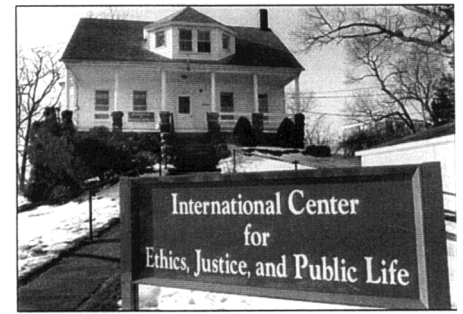
Abraham Feinberg, whose \$13 million gift to Brandeis University launched the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life, passed away in New York on December 5 at the age of 90. He was the second chair of the Board of Trustees of Brandeis University and a substantial force for building Brandeis in its early years. In the eulogy, President Reinharz spoke of the Ethics Center: "It was the fulfillment of a long-held and cherished dream. His [Feinberg's] last years were made happier by the thought that he can make contributions to the whole issue of coexistence and ethics around the world."

Science Fiction Texts for Judges in Brandeis Seminars

The Brandeis Seminars in Humanities and the Professions program is piloting a series of seminars in 1998 and 1999 using science fiction texts to explore key moral and legal issues facing today's judges. The purpose of these programs is to allow judges to reflect on the pressing challenges that science and technology pose for their profession as the 21st century approaches. Issues such as the potential for human cloning, the widespread availability of personal information through computer networks, advances in medicine, and the manipulation of the brain represent uncharted territory both for the law and for our private sense of ethics and morality. Texts include stories by writers such as Ursula Le Guin, Philip K. Dick, and Ray Bradbury.

Ethics Center New Location

From scattered offices in the old Ford Hall on the Brandeis campus, the Ethics Center has moved to its own building at Ridgewood 20. The cottage has undergone major renovations from its former existence as a private home, student dormitory housing, and faculty office building, to make it a comfortable and a pleasant location for the Ethics Center. In addition to four offices, we now have a conference room and a small meeting room. Drop in and say hello!



*The new home of the Ethics Center,
Ridgewood 20*

Curriculum Project

Ethics Center staff member Cynthia Cohen is developing case studies and curriculum units on the ethical dimensions of post-conflict reconciliation. Interviews conducted with the Brandeis International Fellows on campus and in their home communities will form the basis of these materials, which will be available later in 1999. The project is supported by a grant from the United States Institutes of Peace.

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