From up here,” Forsan Hussein ’00 is saying on a sparkling June afternoon, “the city is always at peace.” Forsan has brought President Fred Lawrence and me to this spot, six stories above the high point of downtown Jerusalem, at the top of the landmark tower of the Jerusalem International YMCA. Forsan is not just any tour guide: he is the Jerusalem Y’s chief executive officer.

The Jerusalem Y embodies the noblest efforts to bridge the historic divides in this ancient city, and no individual embodies this quest better than Forsan himself. He arrived at Brandeis in 1996, one of the first two undergraduate Slifka Coexistence Scholars, a young man from Sha’ab, an Arab village in the Galilee. Shy and halting in his English at first, Forsan quickly blossomed at Brandeis, building strong relationships with two Jewish Israeli classmates, Yoav Borowitz ’00 and Michael Bavly ’00, and becoming a campus leader on Middle East dialogue and coexistence more broadly.

In 1998, Forsan was part of the Center’s first contingent of Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows (now Sorensen Fellows), and worked with the Israeli organization B’Tselem on human rights issues in the West Bank.
**The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life**

**Mission:** To develop effective responses to conflict and injustice by offering innovative approaches to coexistence, strengthening the work of international courts, and encouraging ethical practice in civic and professional life.

**Staff**
- **Daniel Terris**, Director
- **Cynthia Cohen**, Director, Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts
- **Marci McPhee**, Associate Director
- **Barbara Strauss ’82**, Senior Department Coordinator
- **Naoe Suzuki**, Senior Program Coordinator, Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts
- **Leigh Swigart**, Director of Programs in International Justice and Society
- **David J. Weinstein**, Communications Specialist and Newsletter Editor

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- **Shiranee Tilakawardane**
- **Norbert Weissberg**

**Founding Chair**
**Theodore C. Sorensen (1928-2010)**

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**IN THE NEWS**

**Staff Highlights**
Associate Director Marci McPhee was the speaker at the Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies commencement ceremony at Brandeis. She spoke about six peacebuilders who have visited Brandeis, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Dalai Lama, and Sister Helen Prejean. McPhee also spoke at the Brandeis Earth Week celebrations, about the dangers of rising ocean levels for the low-lying Marshall Islands in the Pacific. ■ Senior Department Coordinator Barbara Strauss completed her 200-hour yoga teacher certification. ■ Naoe Suzuki, Senior Program Coordinator for the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, exhibited her multimedia installation Mi Tigre, My Lover at the Open Source Gallery in New York in June and July. A play inspired by her drawings was performed during the opening weekend. She also received a residency fellowship from the Blue Mountain Center. ■ Director Daniel Terris, Vice President of Global Affairs, contributed an essay to the symposium celebrating Brandeis President Fredrick M. Lawrence’s inauguration. Read or download “Putting Business to Work”: brandeis.edu/inauguration/inaugsymposia ■ Congratulations to 2011 Brandeis graduates and invaluable Ethics Center student workers Stephen Fiedler, Alice Frenkel, Tiwonge Mhango, Eli Terris and Talia Warmflash. Eli and Talia spent three years with us!

**Journeys to War and Peace: A Congressional Memoir**

*Journeys to War and Peace: A Congressional Memoir*, by late Center Board member Stephen J. Solarz ’62, who passed away in 2010, has just been published by Brandeis University Press. Solarz was a nine-term Congressman from Brooklyn, and was a key player in international affairs during three administrations. Writes Mort Abramowitz, former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey and Thailand, and former Center Board member: “Steve Solarz’s book is both a touching personal memoir and a quiet demonstration of how a dedicated, determined and intensely knowledgeable congressman could exert real influence on American foreign policy over two decades.” To order: upne.com/1-58465-997-1.html

**Brandeis Students Work to Reform Massachusetts Law**

Read or download *Advocacy for Policy Change: Brandeis students work to reform Massachusetts law* on the Ethics Center’s website. The anthology features the work of students in the spring 2011 “Advocacy for Policy Change” course (LGLS 161b). Issues addressed include: health care for young adults, human trafficking, humane treatment of disabled persons, in-state tuition, mandatory foreclosure mediation, paid sick leave, and TB services. *Advocacy for Policy Change* is supported by generous multi-year commitments from Center Board member Norbert Weissberg and former Board member Judith Schneider.

**Sorensen Fellows Grapple with Reality “in the Field”**
The 2011 Sorensen Fellows spent eight weeks “in the field” this summer, grappling with conflict resolution, death, disability, education, migration, and poverty. Their internships:

In an update from Costa Rica, Desenberg wrote: “No matter how angry it makes me, the best we can do is work with the torn, bloody fabric of reality. And while I can’t magically transform it into the beautiful tapestry that I cling to, I can try to patch it up and leave it at least a little better by the time I am done here.”
Is Violence the Problem the Bible is Addressing?

James Carroll, a member of the Center’s International Advisory Board and a Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at Suffolk University, was joined by Asma Afsaruddin of Indiana University, Susannah Heschel of Dartmouth College, Martin Marty of the University of Chicago and Brandeis professors Bernadette Brooten, Kanan Makiya, Chandler Rosenberger and S. Ilan Troen for “Religion and the Quest to Contain Violence,” a symposium at Brandeis in March on the nature of religious violence through history, celebrating the publication of Carroll’s Jerusalem, Jerusalem: How the Ancient City Ignited Our Modern World. The following is adapted from an exchange between Makiya, the Sylvia K. Hassenfeld Professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, and Carroll.


Kanan Makiya: James Carroll writes that violence is the problem the Bible is addressing. Is it? Isn’t God, the very idea of him and the imperative of faith in him – and only in him, to the exclusion of anyone else – what the Bible is supposed to be all about? It certainly is what the Koran is all about. There is nothing that smacks of tolerance or human rights here.

Rightly, Jim has pinned the whole thesis of his book on the story of what Abraham did or was prepared to do on Mount Moriah. This is a foundational story for all three monotheisms. It makes perfect sense to take this as a starting point for an examination of the connection between religion and violence.

But I don’t see the meaning that Jim ascribes to the story. His point is that the story’s most fundamental meaning is the abolition of child sacrifice. Again, is it? The politics of victimhood, of seeing the world from the victim’s point of view, is what Jim sees in the story of Abraham and his first-born. But is this history? Or is it our late-20th century sensibility at work?

Surely the imperative of having an absolute and unquestioning faith in Him – capital “H” – even when He is or wants to be violent – is the whole point of the story of Abraham’s sacrifice.

James Carroll: I do assert quite explicitly that violence is the problem the Bible is addressing.

Kanan Makiya challenges me: Isn’t the Bible about God? Isn’t the Bible about religious observance, the various aspects of religious meaning and so on? I would say yes, but the language about God is all rooted in ways human beings are desperately looking to make sense of violence, to mitigate it and to roll it back.

Hence, the creation story: this is not a creation story that has the earth and the planets being the consequence of a cosmic warfare. This is a creation from nothing that is immediately declared to be good.

People who love that story of the garden are answering the question “Why do we live in a battlefield? Why do we live in the cockpit of violence? What is this?” And the answer is “It wasn’t meant to be like this.” That is a response to violence: What is the earth? It is not a battlefield.

People who love that story of the garden are answering the question “Why do we live in a battlefield? Why do we live in the cockpit of violence? What is this?”

– James Carroll

And am I reading the Bible through the lens of the soldier’s son obsessed with violence? Yes, I am. But that is what people reading the Bible have been doing from the beginning: reading past experience through the lens of present experience.

So, let me end again by thanking you Kanan for your really thoughtful, provocative response to my work that I really have no interest in proving wrong, despite what I just said.
The Acting Together on the World Stage documentary brings memories of the Apartheid years when theatre was a powerful and influential form of protest and non-violent opposition to an unjust and oppressive regime. I recommend it to all involved or having an interest in transitional justice.

– Richard Goldstone, Justice of the Constitutional Court, South Africa (retired)

54-minute documentary Acting Together on the World Stage: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict, and a companion “toolkit” DVD as a resource for practitioners – artists and peacebuilders working in zones of violent conflict – and those who wish to enter this field. The toolkit includes guidelines for planning and documenting initiatives and for minimizing risks of doing harm, discussion questions, a glossary, an outline for the documentary, recommendations and action steps, and more.

Artist/peacebuilders working in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Sudan have requested copies of the documentary to share with their colleagues.

“Many cultures are emerging out of conflict, genocide and war,” says Pauline Ross, Artistic Director of the Derry Playhouse in Northern Ireland, which hosts performances and conferences focused on peace and human rights. “Thanks to the courageous creativity of theater artists across the world like those featured in Acting Together, we have new tools to help us excavate our truths and our troubled pasts, to speak to them and to dare envision a future where our broken world will be healed.”

More info: actingtogether.org

Acting Together Documentary Premiere


Peacebuilding and the Arts Think Tank for Education Leaders

College and university educators who lead programs in the arts and social transformation convened at Brandeis in April to explore options for a consortium of university-based programs. At a public roundtable, they shared their visions for the emerging field. For blog posts by the participants and more information: brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts or contact Naoe Suzuki at nsuzuki@brandeis.edu, 781-736-5001.

Iranian Theater Artist, Poet and Educator Visits Brandeis

Poet, author, translator and theater and filmmaker Mahmood Karimi-Hakak, originally from Iran, was hosted at Brandeis by the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts for a one-day residency in February. He led a seminar on censorship in Iran, based on his attempts to stage A Midsummer Night’s Dream (after five years of seeking government permission, the production was shut down by censors during the fourth performance); led a Persian/English poetry reading; and screened a documentary he began while on a Fulbright grant in Israel, about the wall/fence that Israel has constructed and its impact on creativity and collaboration among Israeli and Palestinian theater artists.

Note: Karimi-Hakak is the narrator of the Acting Together on the World Stage documentary. (See page 1.)
The Center’s Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ) is the only regular meeting of international judges in the world. Since 2002, judges from around the world have come together every 18 months to exchange ideas about the practical challenges and the philosophical aspects of their work.

A report is published based on each Institute. Key sections are now available as PDFs. Find them online with brief descriptions of their content, and the complete reports of all Institutes: brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice/biij

Some highlights:

**Towards an international rule of law (theme of BIIJ 2010)**
- “What is the International Rule of Law?” (BIIJ 2010)
- “Fairness in International Judicial Institutions” (BIIJ 2010)
- “The Impact of International Justice” (BIIJ 2010)

**Judicial ethics in the international sphere**
- “Challenges to Judicial Independence” (BIIJ 2010)
- “Integrity and Independence – the Shaping of the Judicial Persona” (BIIJ 2007)

**The impact of diversity – cultural, linguistic, gender, etc. – on the work of international judges**
- “What Does Diversity Imply for an International Rule of Law?” (BIIJ 2010)
- “Language and International Courts” (BIIJ 2009)
- “The Impact of Legal and Cultural Diversity on International Justice” (BIIJ 2006)

**Challenges to the development of international justice and its institutions**
- “The Influence of Precedent in Institutional Courts” (BIIJ 2007)
- “The Role of Complementarity and Cooperation in the Global Legal System” (BIIJ 2006)

Participants of the sixth Brandeis Institute for International Judges, in Port of Spain, Trinidad (2009).

Making a Career in International Justice and Human Rights

Since graduating from Brandeis, Brahmy Poologasingham ’00, James Bair ’03 and Nicole Karlebach ’04 have followed very different paths and done widely varied work en route to becoming international lawyers. But all say Brandeis was pivotal in their career trajectory. They spoke about their experiences as part of “Career Paths in International Justice and Human Rights,” a spring 2011 discussion series hosted by the Center. The other speakers were Karen Naimer, a human rights lawyer with international criminal justice experience, and Brandeis professor Maria Green of the Heller School (now at Northeastern University), who has worked for the United Nations on social and economic rights. In 2011-12 we will continue to provide opportunities for Brandeis pre-law students to meet and interact with legal professionals working in the international sphere.

For more info about any of these initiatives, videos and photos of events, and to contact the Programs in International Justice and Society: brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice

New for Spring 2012: Study Abroad in The Hague

Brandeis is offering a full-semester study abroad option at The Hague in spring 2012, expanding the Brandeis in The Hague summer program. Undergraduates will take courses in international law in cooperation with the University of Leiden, visit international courts and tribunals, and interact with judges, prosecutors, and other legal professionals. Both Brandeis programs in The Hague build on the Center’s work with international courts and tribunals, and its contacts in the field.

See: go.brandeis.edu/hague
Six undergraduates were selected last spring through a competitive process for the first Ethics Center Leadership Council (ECLC), a pilot program.

Kate Alexander ’12, Beneva Davies ’13, Rachel Gillette ’11, Anna Khandros ’11, Tenzing Sherpa ’12, and Yuan Yao ’11 worked together to build engaged communities made up of Brandeisians interested in any of the three focus areas of the Ethics Center: peacebuilding and the arts, international justice and human rights, and issues of ethics and public life generally. They organized events, fostered discussion at events and online, and built coalitions.

Council members wrote special features for The Hoot and The Justice, calling attention to Ethics Center opportunities for students and to various ethical dimensions of current events.

In their blog, “Exploring Ethics” (blogs.brandeis.edu/eclc) the ECLC members expressed their opinions and raised provocative questions in posts like “The Moral Imagination,” “The Battle After War,” “Tunisia and Egypt: The Parallels of Human Rights and Democracy” and “Religion as a Basis for Aid: Balancing the Useful with the Controversial.” Kate Alexander’s post “Female judges, lawyers and rights – oh my! Chipping away at the glass ceiling in international politics” even drew the attention of the “IntLawGrrls” blog, which focuses on developments in international law that relate particularly to women.

Following the success of this pilot, the ECLC will continue in fall 2011. Application details and deadlines here: brandeis.edu/ethics/atbrandeis/ECLC.

AN ECLC EVENT: Consequences of Blogging

One of the highlights of the Ethics Center Leadership Council’s work was “Consequences of Blogging,” a panel discussion organized and moderated by ECLC member Rachel Gillette ’11, about timely issues regarding blogging and internet activity. Students Jamie Fleishman ’11, Mark Grinberg ’11, ECLC member Anna Khandros ’11 and Sahar Massachi ’11 shared their personal experiences (for better and for worse) with blogging, followed by a diverse panel of faculty and staff respondents: Rick Alterman from Internet Studies, Jackie Kopyt from the Hiatt Career Center, and Johann Larusson and David Wedaman from Library and Technology Services.

Fleishman, who blogged from Beijing while studying abroad, spoke primarily of helping to establish and oversee student bloggers on the Brandeis admissions website (brandeis.edu/admissions/blog), as a “tool for the admissions office to get the student perspective straight to prospective students.”

Grinberg spoke of his blog, flashdriveterrorism.com, being hacked and taken over by “a group of Turkish cyberterrorists.” Afterwards “I just Googled them up,” Grinberg said, “translated their Turkish page into English, and started reading about all the reactions they had to my blog posts.”

Massachi spoke of InnermostParts.org, the blog he began for a Brandeis audience, and of lessons learned in the early years of that experience about the responsibility of blogging about fellow Brandeisians in a small community.

Consequences, noted Khandros, “can be both positive and negative.” Heading to Beirut for a semester abroad she “didn’t know what to expect” and thought “a blog would be a great way to ... share what I was learning.” Yet as she blogged, she wondered what she should say and how she should say it; how would the people she knew in Lebanon interpret what she was writing? Khandros “spent hours censoring Facebook photos...so nobody in Israel could see what I was doing in Lebanon and vice versa – which was sad because there I was, going to Lebanon hoping to do just that: share ... with the other side, through me, what was happening.”

FEBRUARY
Three Brandeis alumni spoke about “Career Paths in International Justice and Human Rights” in the first of three conversations in this series. (See page 5.) Students from the 2010 Brandeis in The Hague Program discussed the film War Don Don, about the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Iranian theater artist, poet and educator Mahmood Karimi-Hakak met with students, collaborated with faculty and read from his work during a one-day residency. (See page 4.)

MARCH
Asma Afsaruddin, James Carroll, Susannah Heschel and Martin Marty were joined by Kanan Makiya and several other Brandeis professors for “Religion and the Quest to Contain Violence,” a symposium celebrating the publication of Carroll’s Jerusalem, Jerusalem: How the Ancient City Ignited Our Modern World. (See page 3.)

Student music group Musika Rox performed “Rhythms of the Middle East.”

Judson Phillips, founder and CEO of the Tea Party Nation, spoke about liberty and conservatism from the perspective of Tea Party Nation, spoke about liberty and conservatism from the perspective of Tea Party Nation. (sponsored by brandeis Tea an active national figure in the Tea Party Movement. (see page 3.)

APRIL
The Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts hosted a multi-day “intensive” for artists, community development professionals, and peacebuilding practitioners.

Students, faculty and staff discussed “The Consequences of Blogging.” (See page 6.)

Bhuchung K. Tsering, Vice President for Special Programs at the International Campaign for Tibet, spoke about “Human Rights in Tibet and the Tibetan-Chinese Relationship.” (Organized by the Ethics Center Leadership Council.)

The new play “In the Name Of” written and directed by Slifka Coexistence Scholar Renana Gal ’12, based on her experience as a 19-year-old conscientious objector in Israel, was performed as part of the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts.

Ernesto Livon-Grosman discussed his documentary Cartoneros, about Argentine “garbage pickers.” (Sponsored by the Latin American and Latino Studies Program.)

Ghanaian ophthalmologist and Unite For Sight Medical Advisory Board member Dr. James Afful Clarke spoke about eliminating preventable blindness in Ghana.

Students from “Advocacy for Policy Change” (see page 2) presented their work at “Present and Defend.”

MAY
Leora Tec discussed the film Defiance on Holocaust Remembrance Day, following a screening of the film, which is based upon her mother’s book of the same title. (Sponsored by the Center for German and European Studies.)

Interested in Ethics Center Cosponsorship?
The Center provides financial and/or publicity support for selected student, department and faculty-sponsored events and activities throughout the year. Proposals are reviewed monthly by a committee of faculty, staff, and students. For the application, complete guidelines, and upcoming deadlines, see: brandeis.edu/ethics/events/cosponsorship
UPCOMING EVENTS

Village by Village, Barrio por Barrio: Integrated Development in Nicaragua
• September 21, 2011, 5 pm
Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library
Keynote address of Dr. Rosa Elena Bello, Founder and Director of Community Medical Services, San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. Starting on a small scale, Dr. Bello has developed comprehensive social programs resulting in enormous changes in health, education, and welfare, especially for children and women.

Dr. Bello will be at Brandeis September 19-22 as the Center’s fifth Distinguished Visiting Practitioner, hosted by Kelley Ready of the Heller School and Margaret Morganroth Gullette of the Women’s Studies Research Center. All events will be in Spanish with English translation.

For more events during the weeklong residency: brandeis.edu/ethics/events/Bello.html

Just Performance: Enacting Justice in the Wake of Violence
• December 1 and 2, 2011
Brandeis campus, various venues
This two-day symposium will explore the performative dimensions of justice-seeking in the aftermath of violence, with a focus on Cambodia, Peru and the United States. What do public ritual, theater, truth commissions and criminal trials each offer as justice-seeking strategies? How does performance satisfy the human need to understand violence and reconstruct dignity in its wake?

Keynote by Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres, President of Peru’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2001-2003) and President Emeritus of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru. Hosted by the Center in collaboration with Northeastern University School of Law. For updates and more info: brandeis.edu/ethics/events/JustPerformance.html

NEW CENTER RESOURCES

In the monthly online “Ethical Inquiry” series, we call attention to a wide range of issues with implications that may be personal, political, or even global. We highlight a broad array of opinion from journalism, academia, and advocacy organizations. Our intent is to illuminate and explore the complexity of some of the most vexing ethical questions of our time.

Recent topics include:
■ Is affirmative action in college admissions ethical?
■ Is it ethical for parents to opt out of immunizing their children?
■ Is the release of U.S. diplomatic cables by WikiLeaks ethical?
■ Is “ethnic modification” surgery ethical?

You can write one too... if you are a Brandeis University student (undergrad or grad) or alum. Contact David Weinstein at djw@brandeis.edu.

To be notified of new “Ethical Inquiries” follow us on Facebook or Twitter: facebook.com/EthicsBrandeis twitter.com/EthicsBrandeis

Page 1: New Peacebuilding and the Arts Anthology, Documentary and DVD "Toolkit"