“Knowledge is our seer, a guide, and a beautiful guide at that. But bringing knowledge and experience together is the true wine of life.”

-- Ari Hahn

The Ari Hahn Peace Endowment was established within Brandeis University’s Peace, Conflict and Coexistence Studies (PAX) Program to honor the memory of a beloved son, brother and the truest of friends, whose lust for life and living with authenticity was limitless.

Throughout his youth, Ari was a quiet overachiever interested as much in piano as he was in sports. As a student at Brandeis, he took great interest in sociology, continental philosophy and socially significant work. Ari was particularly intrigued by the relationship between theory and practice and that between history and the individual. He spent years exploring psychodynamic theory and its application to conflict resolution and real scenarios, ranging from personal relationships to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was during
this time that he entered the PAX program, where his dedication to conflict resolution, from that between nations to that within ourselves, fully bloomed.

A prolific and carefree spirit, Ari undertook two road trips across America to explore the heart of the country, writing essays, travel journals, poetry and a play titled “The Five Alive” along the way. His interests in racial identity, oppression, cultures, and the fundamental struggles of all people took him to Zimbabwe, where he spent a semester exploring the culture and political realities of that country. Upon return, he was chosen as a student speaker at his Sociology graduation. In his speech, lionizing the efficacy of bringing praxis to international relations, he delivered a message of scholarship, passion and peace.

By the time he graduated from Brandeis University in 1994, Ari was an electrifying individual with a commanding knowledge of everything from the social theories of Immanuel Kant and Jean-Paul Sartre to the passions of George Clinton and Miles Davis. He soon moved to Berkeley to work for various advocacy groups, going door to door with environmental and socially conscious petitions while studying bass guitar in his free time. Before his passing at the young age of 26, Ari deferred an acceptance with scholarship honors to the New School for Social Research Master of Arts program in Sociology to travel through Europe, study its cultures, and continue exploring.

Known by professors and friends alike as much for his kind disposition as for his intensely unique passion, Ari galvanized those who knew him to reject their inhibitions, and to live according to the person they really were, not the person others wanted them to be.
Regular Teaching of Three Courses Fundamental to the Program

As funding grows, the Ari Hahn Peace Endowment will allow the Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies Program (PAX) at Brandeis to meet several crucial needs:

*International Nonviolent Initiatives.* This course introduces students to the fundamentals of nonviolence theory and practice. A small grant allowed PAX to teach this course for three years. It was taught by one of the major experts in the field. The original grant for the course ran out, and PAX has been unable to teach it since.

*Inner Peace and Outer Peace.* This course builds from a cutting edge issue in the field of peace studies: the relationship of the inner state of the peacemaker to the outer conflict s/he is helping to resolve. At one extreme, if would-be peacemakers bring inner turmoil and hatred to the conflict setting, they may exacerbate or even undermine peacemaking efforts. Peacemakers aware of their own inner issues of conflict and anger as well as empathy and compassion can better control the inner complexity they bring to the peace table in such a way as to maximize their effectiveness in helping broker peaceful resolutions to conflicts.

*Religions and Peace.* Religious texts and practices range from those that support and promote compassion, openness, and peace to those that promote and support violence, demonization, and war. PAX considers it unwise simply to praise religion for its peaceful inclinations or to condemn it for its war propensities. As religion plays a central role in the consciousness and behavior of so many people around the world, it behooves peace scholars and peacemakers to engage in critical analyses of the complex and often contradictory tendencies in and uses of religions.
These courses would be added to the PAX list of “core electives” in the program, those that allow for critical analyses of institutions and conditions that perpetuate war and also offer visions of alternatives to the current thrusts of those institutions and conditions. The Endowment will also make possible the funding of occasional speakers, films, and conferences.

The Ari Hahn Peace Awards

Art works and essays on peace. Works of art related to peace include those that reveal the costs of violence, the commitment to non-violent struggle, and artistic expressions of any aspect of conflict and peace culture. These submissions might take the form of poetry (a substantial poem or group of poems), a play or scene or short story related to peace; slides of visual art; cassettes or CDs of music; or other forms of documentation appropriate to the work. This category covers already completed works of art. Essays of 20-30 pages are included in this category of submission.

Travel grants for participation in a peace project or conference in this country or elsewhere. This designation is for people with a demonstrated record of serious peace activism.

Seed money for peace-related projects. For applicants who design and organize a project such as a community mediation service at Brandeis or in a nearby community, or a peace education project in local public or religious schools, or a dialogue group on or off campus. It is also available for peace promoting projects elsewhere.
PAX is usually faced with more outstanding applications than it can fund. Through the Ari Hahn Peace Awards, the program will be able to select more applicants, and offer larger grants consonant with the projects offered.

Here are examples of some of the proposals granted this year for peace awards:

• Creation of a Turkish/Armenian dialogue group at Brandeis, to bring together students from those communities when they are in the U.S. and give them a chance to discuss the sensitive issues of Turkish/Armenian relations in a safe, academic environment.

• Conducting leadership building workshops, open to all community members at Brandeis. It is designed to equip participants with skills for resolving conflict and setting up conflict resolution institutions in their various countries, if they are international students.

• Creation of a primer for college students hoping to do good abroad in internships, study programs, or on their own.

• Investigating creative methods and approaches of students active in a national organization working to alleviate and raise awareness about the crisis in Darfur.

• Investigation of corporate practices that might be amenable to change in developing regions of the world where child soldiers and ex-child soldiers create huge problems in their societies.

• Volunteer work with the Center for World Solidarity in Orissa, India, which works to further the cause of sustainable development and for the rights and empowerment of women and minorities in India. The volunteer was there to teach English and sexual health practices to rural women in Orissa state and learn about and contribute to sustainable development projects there.
Ari Hahn Peace Awards would allow PAX to fund more, and more fully, the excellent work proposed by students who apply for the awards.

**The Ari Hahn Designation**

It is Brandeis’s intention that the Ari Hahn name becomes synonymous with the activities of the Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies Program, as well as the ongoing study of peace, non-violence and conflict resolution the PAX program holds dear.

**How to Donate to the Ari Hahn Peace Endowment:**

1. Please make checks payable to: Brandeis University.

2. Write "Ari Hahn Peace Endowment" in the memo line of the check.

3. Mail the check to:

   Michael Swartz  
   Associate Vice President  
   Brandeis University  
   415 South Street  
   Waltham, MA 02454-9110

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Dance the dance of silence past  
Reembark upon a pilgrimage to regain  
Wide eyes of the dreamer, never deaf of age  
Passion’s crusade may forever take center stage

--Ari Hahn, “The In-Oneself and the For-Oneself”

6
Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies

Objectives

Since the end of World War II, Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies (PAX) has emerged as an interdisciplinary area of inquiry drawing on social science, the humanities, the creative arts, and science in efforts to understand reasons for war and possible ways of resolving conflicts without resorting to violence. In the last few years, for many people the primary focus of inquiry is shifting from the Cold War and the nuclear threat to conflict resolution in small and large contexts. Along with the larger goal of ending war altogether, the Brandeis program reflects this tendency.

This is a time to examine the many meanings of “security,” to investigate the nature of power and political participation and to develop ideas and ways of addressing conflicts that honor the integrity of all parties involved. This is a time, in other words, to learn alternatives to violence and a time to learn the ways of disarmament and ending of war.

Brandeis University

www.brandeis.edu/programs/peace/

The many-colored mandala is a sacred three dimensional sand painting ordinarily made by Tibetan monks. The current Dalai Lama is the first to give permission for nuns to create a mandala. The one constructed at Brandeis in 1998 (shown on cover), in preparation for the visit of the Dalai Lama in May of that year, was formed by nuns based in Nepal. Called avalokiteshvara, it symbolizes compassion as a central focus of the spiritual experience.
“Listening is the beginning of peace.”

-- Elise Boulding