

**SHSS Wow Factors:**

- MACS program is the only one of its kind in South Florida.
- DCAR offers the only online Ph.D. program in the nation.
- DFT offers program in Family Systems Health Care.
- SHSS offers two specialization tracks in the Criminal Justice Institute.

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**SHSS Receives Several STUEY Nominations**

This year several individuals from SHSS were nominated for the prestigious Student Life Achievement Award (STUEY) on April 20, 2004. They are as follows.

*Children's Home Society*, was nominated and won NSU Corporate Partner of the Year. Children's

Home Society's (CHS) local division operates eleven programs that offer a unique continuum of care to the children and families in our community. The mission of CHS is to serve the Broward County community and to provide effective solutions and build and support health families for Florida's children. CHS has been partnering with SHSS in developing creative, cutting edge programs to meet the needs of children, families and the community where foster children have not been able to achieve permanent

placements. The most recent effort in this regard has been through the development and implementation of the "Jump Start to Permanency Program". This program will provide training, support and community-wide engagement

to problems that have persisted for years.

*Dr. Judith McKay*, SHSS DCAR Chair, a final nominee for NSU Administrator of the Year. Judith has shown remarkable coverage to administration, staff, and students. She is responsible, a leader, student-focused, committed to our cause, demonstrates integrity, and is totally involved. Judith has collaborated within the NSU community, e.g. CJI, Farquhar, HPD, Law School, etc. and with a community outreach, e.g. BSO, CSPR.

*Dr. Debra Nixon (DFT)*, Department of Family Therapy alumnus, was nominated for NSU Co-Curricular Advisor of the Year. Debra is a student-centered professor and has been serving as a faculty Dr. *Dr. Debra Nixon (DFT)* advisor for the SHSS Student Association since last year. She is a good listener sensitive to students' concerns and suggestions, and a

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**Orange Ya Glad CNAP is Here?**

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences recently received a grant from the state Attorney General's office to develop the Community Nutrition Awareness Project (CNAP), which will focus on nutritional awareness in the community. CNAP will offer a combination of practical, educational, and community development programs designed to contribute to

in order to meet the needs of these often multi-problem families, and generate solutions

A celebration of NSU's best in leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement and responsibility.



help individuals improve their nutritional self-reliance. Project initiatives will include both web-based and direct educational methods, focus groups and the development of a community garden. To learn more about CNAP, send email to [cnap@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:cnap@nsu.nova.edu), call

(954) 262-3020, or visit the website at <http://shss.nova.edu/CNAP>.

## Faculty and Staff News

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. Debra Nixon, Assistant Professor of Family Therapy/Advisor for SHSS Student Association**, conduct diversity training workshops for the Bay Point Schools. The alternative boarding school has over 90% African American boys in attendance, but the majority of the faculty is White. The founder, a white female, Dr. Mary Cole, has a unique approach to education that is open to creative and provocative ways to enhance the growth her students. Edith Huntley, a NSU, MFT doctoral candidate and Mental Health Director at Bay Point Schools saw the need for further expansion in the schools' approach to diversity and invited Dr. Nixon, her professor to bring her provocative, yet inviting teaching style to Bay Point in a full day of diversity training. The entire staff, faculty and students were exposed to Dr. Nixon's profound, yet, very basic approach to diversity issues.

**Marie Olson Lounsbury, Assistant Professor of Conflict and International Studies** gave two presentations at PSA. She also presented at presented at the International Studies Association conference in Canada.

**Dr. Julia Chaitin, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies:**

- Invited by UMSL, to give a talk about Palestinian-Israeli peace initiatives.
- Article entitled "Seeing and being seen: reflections of a Jewish Israeli woman" was published in the East Jerusalem YMCA magazine that comes out in English and is sent around the world.
- Article entitled "Palestinian and Israeli Cooperation in Environmental Work During the 'Peace Era'" was published in International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society.
- Attended a qualitative research conference in Israel.
- Organized a student roundtable on research design and methods.

**Dr. Hamdesa Tusso, Assistant Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution**, continued with his peace efforts in Africa and attended meetings in Washington, D.C.

**Dr. Marcia Sweedler, Assistant Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution**, continued with her work as editor of the ACR publication, [The Fourth R](#).

The following professors applied for the 5<sup>th</sup> President's Faculty Research and Development Grant:

- **Dr. Tommie Boyd, Director of the M.S. Program and Administrator of the Family Systems Health Care/Assistant Professor of Family Therapy**, in collaboration with the College of Allied Health & Nursing: "Development and Evaluation of a multi-Disciplinary Community-Based Program for People with Parkinson's Disease and Their Caregivers."
- **Dr. Chris Burnett, Director of the Doctoral Programs in Family Therapy/Assistant Professor of Family Therapy**, in collaboration with CPS: "The Family Assessment Project."
- **Drs. Pat Cole, Associate Professor of Family Therapy and Family Business, and Shelley Green, Associate Professor of Family Therapy**, in collaboration with SBE: "Toward Student Engagement: An Exploration of Graduate Student Stressors and Resources."
- **Dr. Alexia Georgakopoulos, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Communication:** "An Examination of Students' Perception of Online Instructional Effectiveness"
- **Dr. Debora Nixon, Assistant Professor of Family Therapy/Advisor for SHSS Student Association**, in collaboration with FGS: "Relaxation and M.I.N.D.: An Integrative Approach to Help African American High School Students Overcome FCAT Barriers."
- **Dr. Anne Heron Rambo, Associate Professor of Family Therapy**, in collaboration with the University School: "SUBERB at the University School."

**Dr. Judith McKay, Chair of the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Community Studies:**

- Appointment as Chair for the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR). In this new capacity, McKay will oversee full-time and part-time faculty recruitment, development, and support; facilitate curriculum revision and delivery improvement; promote academic excellence and innovation; and lead the DCAR strategic planning processes. Judith will also oversee student



**Dr. Judith McKay**

recruitment and retention with the faculty and staff teams, including the enhancement of community outreach and alumni relations.

- Proposal was accepted by ACR and she will present at their annual conference this year in Sacramento, CA.
- Gave training presentations to law enforcement officers on Conflict and Crisis Management.
- McKay also recently did a panel for CJI at the Kendall student service center.

**Dr. Anne Heron Rambo, Associate Professor of Family Therapy:**

- Conducted three workshops for teachers on March 26th, at 9, 10, and 11. Several DFT graduate students participated as co-presenters.
- On Sunday, March 28th, Rambo hosted a booth with puzzles and coloring activities for A Day for Children. Two DFT graduate students attended for part of the time.
- Rambo was also recently interviewed by the Sun Sentinel on NSU's children's programs.
- Rambo was also involved in the Raising Health Children Conference. Rambo presented on "Stress Reduction for Busy Teachers", and Systemic Approaches to the Problems of Bullying.

**Dr. Susanne Marshall, Program Director, Master of Arts in Cross-disciplinary Studies**, will present at the Inter-America Higher Education Consortium in July.

**Dr. Douglas Flemons, Director of Brief Therapy Institute/Professor of Family Therapy**, and **Dr. Shelley Green, Associate Professor of Family Therapy**, presented a pre-conference institute at USF in Tampa on brief approaches to sex therapy in April. In May, they presented a workshop--"Minding the Body and Embodying the Mind"--at the "Therapeutic Conversations 5" conference in Toronto, Canada.

**Dr. Nixon** attended a two-day networking conference sponsored by National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) called Enhancing Critical Capacity in Mental Health. It was April 12-13, 2004 in Washington, DC. On the 2nd day Debra attended meetings at the NIMH location in Rockville Maryland.

**Drs Douglas Flemons, Director of Brief Therapy Institute/Professor of Family**

Continued from p. 1



**Dr. Debra Nixon**

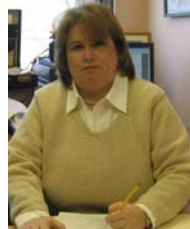
warm supporter for student initiatives and activities. Dr. Nixon is also a fine role model for our students and alumni in that she embodies the scholarship of engagement and outreach.

**Dr. Kathleen Harmon (DCAR)**, an SHSS alumnus was a final nominee for NSU Alumnus of the Year. Kathleen Harmon received her PhD in Conflict Analysis & Resolution in 2002. She was DCAR's first distance student to complete the doctoral program. Her dissertation was a national study

of the of those who involved with Review (DRB).

**Cynthia Rebolz**  
Master's

the of Family Therapy. Was a final nominee for NSU Student of the Year. Cindi is a model mid-career adult learner who entered the Family Therapy program at NSU in 2002 after completing her BA Degree in Psychology from the University of South Alabama, where she



**Dr. Kathleen Harmon**

perceptions have been the Dispute Boards

**"Cindi"**

(DFT) is a Student in Department

was also recognized, as "Psychology Student of the Year" in 2001. Cindi is also an intake counselor for the Brief Therapy Institute at SHSS.



**Cynthia Rebolz**

## Students and Alumni News

**Margaret Armand (DCAR)** was recently recognized in an article published in the Broward Metro Section of the Sun-Sentinel. The article written by Alva James-Johnson, entitled, VODOU PRIEST WANTS HAITI RELIGION RECOGNIZED, published on Thursday, April 22, 2004. Armand also presented at a conference, Vodou in the World on April 18, 2004. Armand was also featured in the Spring 2004 Cultural Quarterly and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Broward County Library for her contribution to the Haitian Community of Broward County.

**Ginny Krumwiede (DCAR)** doctoral candidate will present a paper at the Fourth Annual International Diversity Conference in Los Angeles, CA, on July 7th. She will be writing for the journal and speaking on changing perceptions of diversity in small for profit colleges.

**Bini Litwin (DCAR)** doctoral candidate presented a paper at the SUN Conference in El Paso Texas titled: Fostering Collaborative Behaviors in the Academic and Clinical Setting on March 5, 2004.

Recently, three DCAR distance doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations:

- **Thomas Maytok:** Oppression at Sea: The Price of Invisibility
- **Barbara Strahl:** Implementing the FORUM Program
- **K. Michelle Scott:** Shadows of the Soul: Human Spirit in Response

to the Violence and Trauma Associated with Terrorist Phenomena

**Michelle Cromwell (DCAR)** doctoral candidate was selected as a finalist for the Kettering Foundation fellowship. Each year the Kettering Foundation invites one or two doctoral candidates who have completed their coursework to join its Dayton, Ohio headquarters for a one-year fellowship. The intent of the program is to provide scholars an opportunity to contribute to the Foundation's research, and to provide them time and resources to complete their dissertations.

**Sandra Boland (DCAR)** was hired as fulltime tenure-tracked Assistant Professor in the Human Services Department at the College of Health and Social Welfare at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. Along with teaching class Boland will be the practicum coordinator and will also be key in the development of the Conflict Resolution concentration in the Master program that is in development. The University is planning to make the Human Service Department a center of excellence for Conflict Resolution in the state of Alaska.

DCAR doctoral student, **Christine Livingston M.S.**, and DCAR alumna, **Anita Vestal Ph.D.**, will present a poster presentation about their research on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution in preschool migrant children at the 7th National Head Start Research Conference in Washington DC June 30, 2004. DCAR alumna, Kathleen Harmon PhD has also assisted in the study.

## Faculty and Staff News Con't from p. 2

**Therapy, Lee Shilts, Professor of Family Therapy, Shelley Green, Associate Professor of Family Therapy, and Roxanne Bamond-Hanson** attended the USF Family Therapy Symposium in Tampa on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Neil Katz (DCAR)** was named distinguished visiting professor of Professor in Organizational Conflict. Katz also presented "The Power of Interest-based Negotiations in School Contract Negotiations" at the Cattaraugus-Allegany Superintendent Association in Buffalo, N.Y. and "Interest-based Negotiations: Strategy and Skills" to the New York State Education Department in Albany, N.Y. in March 2004.

In March **Deweese Eunick** was hired as SHSS Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. Eunick previously works at NSU's Community Mental Health Center stationed at the Center of Psychological Studies, where she has been a data clerk in a temporary capacity since September 2003. Before that, Eunick was a flight attendant with U.S. Airways for three years.

**AnnaLynn Schooley (DFT Adjunct Professor)** has been hired as core faculty for Capella University in the Counselor Education program of the School of Human Services. The online program is CACREP accredited. Schooley will be co-presenting two workshops at the FAMFT

2004 annual conference in Naples, FL. The workshop topics are HIV/AIDS and the Approved Supervisor Renewal course. **Dr. Fran Fassman** has accepted the position of Associate Principal Investigator on the Community Nutrition Awareness Project (CNAP), which has been funded for the coming twelve months by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Florida. Fassman will participate in the development, implementation, assessment and reporting of this project during the coming year. She brings with her a wealth of clinical, community, research and administrative experience as well as her own extraordinary energy and creativity.

## From the Dean's Desk

### Greetings!

As we are getting settled in the tower building, I would like to encourage you to stop by and visit our faculty and staff in the new offices, when you are on campus. We have set up the directories on each floor, and let me know if you would like to receive a copy of the directory via the list-serves (we have retained the same phone numbers). I started to offer my office hours for you last week in the front reading area of the East Campus Library (Wednesday between 4:00– 6:30 p.m.). For our distance students, I am available via the toll free 1-800-541-6682 Ext. 3016 or 3048 (email: [yangh@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:yangh@nsu.nova.edu)).

I am also available for individual

appointments during each Trimester or Residential Institute. My office is on the first floor (Room #102). To foster multiple channels of communication, I have created a new online platform through an asynchronous message board located at [http://www.nova.edu/WWWBOARD/SHSS/shss\\_dean](http://www.nova.edu/WWWBOARD/SHSS/shss_dean)

Its security has been set up so that all SHSS students, faculty and staff with a valid NSU NSU Unix Account can access this forum. Racquel Gibson will assist my office moderating the ongoing dialog. If you cannot access it, please contact Racquel at Ext. 3048 and email [gracquel@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:gracquel@nsu.nova.edu). I am including the following headers for your con-

venience on the message board. Feel free to suggest adding more of modifying these as we are committed to your academic advancement:

- 1). Curricula and delivery formats
- 2). Experiential learning processes (e.g, practicums, internships, community outreach...)
- 3). Theses of dissertations
- 4). Advising, mentoring, and supervision
- 5). Peer support initiatives
- 6). Student organization and inclusive learning community building
- 7). Class scheduling and space
- 8). Information sharing and communications
- 9). Others

**Have a productive summer!**

## SHSS ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Several SHSS faculty, students, alumni, and corporate sponsors were nominated NSU Student Life Achievement Awards. One such nominee, Children's Home Society (<http://www.chsfl.org/>), was awarded NSU Corporate Partner of the Year ! They were selected out of 8179 community and corporate partners with NSU.

Finalists from SHSS include **Dr. Debra Nixon**, Co-Curriculum Advisor of the Year, **Dr. Judith McKay** Administrator of the Year, **Dr. Kathleen Harmon** NSU Alumnus of the Year, and **Cynthia Rebolz** NSU Student of the Year.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, SHSS held the first Advisory Board Meeting. The Board consists of **Carmen Ayala, Joan Kovac, Jeremy Ring, and Florence Ross**. **Dr. Pat Cole Associate Professor of Family Therapy and Family Business** was the faculty representative to the board with **Daniela Sciarotta, Development Director**.

**Dr. Tommie Boyd, Director of the M.S. Program and Administrator of the Family Systems Health Care/Assistant Professor of Family Therapy**, visited the NSU Student Service Centers in Jacksonville and Orlando to prepare cluster-

based recruitment for the Family Therapy program.

April 29, SHSS hosted an Alumni Reception which 30-40 alumni, faculty, and staff attended. **Dr. Douglas Flemons, Director of Brief Therapy Institute/ Professor of Family Therapy**, and **Dr. Shelley Green, Associate Professor of Family Therapy**, presented their book "Quickies: Brief Approaches to Sex Therapy" at a recent SHSS Alumni Reception.

Gillian Martin Sorensen, Senior Adviser at the United Nations Foundations spoke at SHSS on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Monte Bobel, Professor and Training Director in the counseling psychology Psy.D. program at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, TX, presented on the topic: "From School Problems to Brief Therapy Solutions" on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

March 15, Sava Peic, an expert in the field of librarianship in Great Britain and curator at the British Library spoke on "What actually happened in the Balkan War?"

NSU's Student Counseling's on-call crisis availability is up and running.

Community Resolution Services (CRS), which is directed by **Dr. Judith McKay, Chair of the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Community Studies**, has been engaged by the Children's Home Society to do family mediations. These cases in which children have been in foster care for an extensive amount of time and decisions must be made regarding their ability to return to their natural parents or proceed to parental termination status. CRS has also expanded the Peace Place project. Peace Place presentations are taking place not only in the main library in downtown Ft. Lauderdale, but also in the library on main campus.

The Department of Family Therapy's comprehensive exams were held on April 19th and qualifying exams were held on April 19th and 20th.

This summer DCAR is launching two new electives:

1) **Dr. Neil Katz**, Distinguished Visiting Professor, will teach an organizational conflict elective-

"Organizational Conflict Diagnostic and Intervention Tools or Consultants and Leaders."

2) **Dr. Judith McKay** will be co-teaching an elective with **Greg Vecchi**, "Critical Incidents: Response, Management, and Resolution."

The web page, "Giving to SHSS", went online in March.

The SHSS Student Association continues to meet regularly for planning and implementation of programs to meet the needs of the students. They are now planning the upcoming election. In an effort to help the students create a more equitable way to represent students they are revising their current presidential election procedure.

**Carmen Ayala** was appointed to the SHSS Advisory Board. Carmen was SHSS's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary keynote speaker. She is a native of Chicago and a magna cum laude graduate of Northeastern Illinois University. Fast track magazine named her one of South Florida's 50 most

successful women, (Spring, 2002). In addition to this honor, Carmen was also selected by March of Dimes as the recipient of the 2003 Women of Distinction award. She established the first Communication department for the Florida investment division of the MacArthur Foundation, one of the ten leading philanthropic institutions in the country. Recently she started her own business, MTM (mind to market) as a full service communications firm serving mainstream and non-traditional markets in Florida. MTM's business philosophy is grounded in the belief that developing social capital is as important as contributing financial capital.

## 2004-2005 Student Association Board

PRESIDENT: **Rosalyn McGowan**

VICE PRESIDENT: **Leslie Griffin**

SECRETARY: **Brandie Suttles**

TRESURER: **Isis Ruff**

DFT STUDENT REP: **Sparkle Calendar**

ONLINE STUDENT REP: **Ginny Krumweide**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REP: **Reenee Rattray**

DCAR STUDENT REP: **Sandy Loubriel**

MACS STUDENT REP: **Robert Dunn**

*We thank the 2003-2004 Board for their services and efforts!*



Ram Thapaliya, NSU President, Ray Ferrero, Jr. and Dr. Honggang Yang, Dean of SHSS

## Maoist Insurgency in Nepal Conflict Between Government and Maoist

By: Ram Thapaliya, Ph.D. student,  
SHSS, DCAR

Conflicts become intractable if they are rooted in some permanent basic structure of both the conflicting parties. The best prospect for resolution thus lies in addressing the underlying needs of the society that support the demands of the conflicting parties. Conflict in society arises from the unmet needs and rights of people, deprivation and marginalization.

The root causes of the conflict in Nepal are poverty and inequality. Illiteracy and ill health are the major issues that escalate these conflicts. Nepal's conflicts are based on ideology. There is a Maoist insurgency and leadership crisis in Nepal that is interfering with development of democratic practices and functioning of democratic institutions. The crisis is having a negative impact on the economy, security and humanitarian issues.

Peace is obviously the most urgent need of Nepal today, as development, democracy and human rights cannot flourish in the absence of peace. One can hear and feel the yearning for peace among Nepalese everywhere. Reconciliation between the government and the political parties are the absolutely vital. The parliamentary political parties to adopt a code of conduct for their future behavior that gives people some assurance that they would rectify some of their past mistakes, and will govern with greater integrity and accountability in the future. Maoists to renounce their acts of violence and intimidation as a prelude to resumption of peace talks are very important factor. The signing and implementation in a monitorable manner of specific commitments on protection of people's human rights by government security forces and the Maoist militia are other key points. Initiation of peace talks, perhaps under the auspices of the United Nations might needed. These political initiatives, along with the simultaneous pursuit of

planning for reconstruction and development and immediate humanitarian action would pave the way for Nepal to pursue a better future for the nation.



**There is no long-term history of a democratic culture in Nepal where by general citizens participate in decision-making and governance.**



Local Militias



**Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. The country has very few natural resources that can be developed.**



1986

Heavy fighting in and around Beirut camps.  
Israeli air raids on camps in south Lebanon.  
Refugee population surpasses 2 million.

1987

*Intifadah* begins in December



## Seeing and Being Seen: Reflections of a Jewish Israeli Woman

*I would like to share some personal and professional experiences that I have had over the years in connection to the Palestinian Israeli conflict and to my work in peace-building efforts. I hope that by exploring these experiences and understandings, I will be able to shed some light on the kinds of issues and difficult dilemmas facing many Jewish Israelis living in Israel today.*

**By Dr. Julia Chaitin**, assistant Professor of Conflict Analysis and Peace Studies, Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nova Southeastern University.  
e-mail: [chaitin@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:chaitin@nsu.nova.edu)



### I am Jewish

I grew up in Detroit in a Jewish family that defined itself as “secular.” As long as I can remember myself, I always knew that I was Jewish, and that this was a “good thing.” Up until the age of 17, in addition to attending public school, I received a Jewish education at Jewish folk schools – namely Sholem Aleichem and Workmen’s Circle schools.

At these schools, we were taught Yiddish, Hebrew, Jewish history and culture, holidays, and songs – *none* of which was religious in nature. Zionism – the ideology that the Jews needed a homeland and that this state was to be a “light unto nations” – was also an important part of that education and of the values that I was taught. I can still remember when we began learning Hebrew for the first time when I was in the fourth grade and when I learned my first Israeli folk dances. I also remember the pictures of young good-looking *Sabras* – Israeli born individuals – and *chalutzim* (pioneers) that were pictured in our books about modern-day Israel. In those books there were no pictures of Palestinians or Arabs. For the authors of those books, and for readers like me, they were invisible. They were, simply put, not there.

### I immigrated to Israel

In the tenth grade, I joined Habonim – a Labor Zionist youth movement – and went

on a yearlong kibbutz program upon completion of high school in 1970. It was during that year that I made my decision to immigrate to Israel and to settle on a kibbutz. I immigrated in 1972 because I believed that due to centuries of ersecution of the Jews, which culminated in the tragedy of the Holocaust, the Jews needed a Jewish state, and that I, as a Jew, should make my home there and live in a community that reflected the values of democracy, egalitarianism, and socialism that I held dear.

In 1973, I married David, a former Philadelphian who had also been in Habonim, and moved to Kibbutz Urim, where I have lived ever since (today I think of myself as having 2 homes – one here and one in Israel). My children were born and brought up in on the kibbutz. My two oldest children completed their military service a few years ago and my youngest son, who is 18 will be inducted in the end of March. When I think about him going into the army, I become quite frightened. At times, I wish my healthy and bright son were a little less healthy and bright so that the IDF would not consider putting him in positions that will place him in direct confrontation with the Palestinian population and in real moral and physical dangers.

### Child of the 60’s

I was very much a child of the 60’s. I was

involved in issues of social justice, such as the boycott of lettuce and grapes from California growers, who exploited migrant workers, support of the Civil Rights’ movement, and protests against the Vietnam War. I also supported Jewish causes, such as working for the freeing of Soviet Jews. My perception of the Israeli-Arab conflict (I don’t remember anyone in the Jewish community speaking of Palestinians then and I certainly didn’t) was simple and clear. I was a staunch supporter of peace-loving Israel who was defending itself against its Arab neighbors, who I understood as having only one goal – the total destruction of Israel. I was completely unaware of the 1948 Palestinian refugee problem, having been taught that Israel had been a bare desert, empty of people, when the *chalutzim* began settling it. When I thought about the few Arabs who *had* lived in pre-state Israel, I always thought of them as being nomadic (so they had no *real* ties to the land), picturing them as being anti-Jewish, untrustworthy, and often murderous. So they too could be easily dismissed. The Palestinians remained invisible to me and imperceptible in that I was incapable of distinguishing them from one another, or from other Arabs.

I suppose that my ignorance and my inability to perceive the Palestinian and Arab others, and my tendency to see things in black and white terms can be, in part,

1990-91

Crisis in the Gulf. Over 300,000 Palestinians leave Kuwait, mainly for Jordan. Madrid conference in October initiates the Middle East peace process.

1992

Refugee population reaches 2.7 million



excused by my young age. After all, this kind of perception is typical of adolescence and young adulthood. And, I was espousing only what I had been taught by my elders - people who I assumed knew what they were talking about.

In 1967 in Detroit, we followed the Six Day War closely, which was perceived by Jews around the world and by people in Israel to be a war of survival. I remember the euphoria that came with the quick conclusion and results of that war. However, for the first time, I began thinking about the Arab-Israeli conflict in a slightly different way, due to Israel's annexation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Sinai and the Golan Heights. These were not accomplishments that were invisible. In Habonim we discussed the moral implications connected to settlement of the conquered territories. I remember saying then that I would never settle in the occupied territories because those lands were not ours and because one day they would surely be given back as soon as the Arabs were willing to finally make peace with Israel. However, I must be honest here: that was the extent of my recognition/perception of any Palestinian problem. I still perceived the conflict as being due to the intransigence of the Palestinians/Arabs and I still tended to perceive the Palestinians, who were now slowly beginning to become somewhat perceptible as a separate entity from the rest of Arabs, as potential terrorists who did not recognize the existence of Israel and who still wanted to throw the Jews into the sea.

### Right and wrong

Life was easier then. My moral sense of who was right and who was wrong was clear. My sense of self, identity, and other was clear. My understanding of what was needed to solve the problem was clearer (that is - the Arabs had to stop trying to kill us and enter into peace negotiations. Then, everything would settle itself quickly, and life would become normal.)

Today, I see things very differently, though most Jewish Israelis - including

most colleagues, close friends, and family members - tell me that I actually had it "right" back then, and that I am very "mixed up" now and that I have "bought into Palestinian propaganda."

### Exposed to the true story

These comments come in spite of the fact that, over the years, we Jewish Israelis have been exposed to a fuller account of Israeli history than we were in the past and we now know that there *were* Palestinians in pre-state Israel. We also know that the *Haganah* - the precursor of the IDF - played a central role in the creation of the 1948 Palestinian refugee problem. Our traditional and one-dimensional perception of the *Haganah* as a purely moral army that solely worked in self-defense against millions of warmongering Arab enemies has holes in it. The Palestinian history is no longer imperceptible, or invisible to us, since we differentiate their history from the history of the other "Arabs" in that we can now admit that they had specific ties to the land that was to become the state of Israel and that their claim to Palestine/Israel has foundations. In many instances, their families went back generations and their homes were in its towns, villages and cities. Perhaps it is this realization that scares us so.

However, for many Israelis, the overall perceptions and stereotypes of the Palestinian people appear not to have changed, and these perceptions make it very difficult for Jewish-Israelis to look differently at these people who inhabit the land with us. While the objective basis for these stereotypes - and all stereotypes do have some basis in reality - are the terror attacks, and mainly the suicide bombers, that have thrown terror into the heart of many Israelis - I believe that it is more than this. I see this inability/unwillingness to perceive the Palestinians in a different light as being based on a number of factors, some which I will very briefly examine here.

### Jews are the victims

Mainstream Israeli history firmly situates the Jewish people as "victims" of centuries

of persecution, from the days of slavery in Egypt through the Holocaust (Kidron, forthcoming). This Jewish history has continued into Israeli history in that Jewish Israelis have always tended to perceive themselves as victims of Arab and Palestinian warmongers. This feeling of victimhood (Bar-On, 1999), which, of course, as I have noted, is not entirely unfounded, is juxtaposed with our feeling of military strength and superiority, and our pride in everything that we have accomplished in over 55 years of statehood. However, no matter what we accomplish, and how many wars we win, and how much land we conquer, we continue to harbor deep-rooted feelings of vulnerability and weakness. We perceive ourselves as being outwardly strong, yet somehow inwardly weak. And we do not know how to reconcile these two understandings into one coherent Jewish-Israeli identity. Connected to what I term our *confounded sense of identity* is what Prof. Herbert Kelman (1999) from Harvard calls "negative identity interdependence." That is, we Jewish Israelis seem able to only define our own identity in relation to an "enemy" the Palestinians who we see as wanting to destroy us. We are almost incapable of defining who we are, without defining this negatively stereotyped enemy which is perceived as frightening and blood thirsty.

### A conform Jewish identity?

Another reason that I believe we Jewish Israelis have difficulty in changing our focus from military behavior to conciliation and dialogue with our Palestinian neighbors is due to the idealized collective self-image that we continually reinforce, both in ourselves and among Jews around the world. We love to talk about the original Jewish pioneers as a completely peace loving, moral people, whose Zionist ideology was based on a return to and a working of the land, by adopting a socialist, egalitarian, and democratic way of life. This is a truly wonderful image. Who would not want to adopt it as theirs? However, this image is problematic for more than a few reasons.



1994

Cairo Agreement, outlining redeployment of Israeli forces and transfer of authority, signed in May. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat arrives in Gaza on 1 July and establishes Palestinian Authority.

1995

Number of Palestine refugees reaches 3.2 million.



To begin with, this image leaves no room for individuals and groups who do not fit nicely into this categorization. It tends to exclude the *Mizrachim*, who make up the majority of the Jewish-Israeli population and it definitely excludes the Palestinians. The Palestinians are almost always seen as “the other” – as foreign and frightening that did/does not share the characteristics and ideals so highly held by those first Israelis, and those who came after.

Another problem with this image is that it does not fit other parts of our history. For example, it is difficult to continue viewing oneself as a victim when contemplating the 36 year long occupation of the territories and our often dishonorable and shameful behavior toward the Palestinians, both those living in the territories and those who are citizens of Israel, which has reached frightening proportions since the *Al Aqsa Intifada* and the violence within Israel began in late September 2000. There is no way to come to terms with this part of our history without acknowledging the aggressor in us. This introspection is not a process that most people choose to do, or at least not one that most people care to dwell on, since dwelling on this aggressive side of ours, and the ramifications that it is having on us as a people and as a society, is very painful. In order to stave off these uncomfortable thoughts, many people revert to the black and white perceptions, where they feel a sense of psychological security, when their physical security is threatened. That is we say: We are occupiers not out of choice, we are forced to treat the Palestinians as we do. We are being led by events, rather than leading them, etc. etc.

### Israelis for peace

I would like to bring two examples here from the peace work in which I have been involved in order to demonstrate how easy it is for us Jewish Israelis to forget to relate to the Palestinians as people, and not as ‘foreign objects’: For years I was a member of *Women in Black* and participated in demonstrations organized

by *Peace Now*. I always hung up notices of demonstrations and activities being held by these groups on our kibbutz bulletin board and I organized women to stand at a nearby junction on Friday afternoons to protest the occupation and our presence in Lebanon. During those years of standing at the Gilat junction, and of recruiting women from my kibbutz and nearby settlements, it never once occurred to me to invite Palestinian women to stand together with us. When we demonstrated at *Kikar Malchei Yisrael* (which later became *Kikar Rabin*, after Rabin was assassinated in November 1995), I remember seeing very few Palestinians. These were “Jewish” events, and few of us gave more than a passing thought that something or “someones” might be missing.

I got my first real taste of what it was like to be involved in a joint Palestinian – Israeli demonstration and conference that took place in 1989 in Jerusalem. I was slowly beginning to realize that perhaps the biggest obstacle to overcome was not how to make peace between members of the peace camp, but how to establish and enter into dialogue and routine contact with the Palestinians. When the Jewish and Palestinian women marched together from the western part of Jerusalem to the Old City, singing songs of resistance and calling out slogans of peace, we were tear-gassed by the police. This was *not* part of my experiences from those demonstrations in Tel Aviv or at the Gilat junction. I realized just how frightening the combination of Jews and Palestinians marching together was for many Israelis and how I had avoided such confrontations, at least on the unconscious level.

Ten years later, in 1999, during the Oslo “peace era,” together with a Palestinian woman from Bethlehem and a Palestinian woman who is a citizen of Israel, I was a group facilitator and planner for a seminar held at Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, that was called “Women in Crisis Management.” The participants were

Black and White women from South Africa, Protestants and Catholics from Northern Ireland, Serbs and Croats from Croatia and women from Israel and the Palestinian Authority. For three days, the women shared their life experiences with the group, with the women from South Africa, Northern Ireland and Croatia also telling us about the ways that they have helped themselves and others in their society work through their war experiences.

### Threatening life stories

During the three days, we, the facilitators, encouraged the women to share their life experiences with us, so that through these narratives, we would be able to better understand the conflicts and hardships experienced by the women, and their societies, to, perhaps, become more empathetic to the pain of the other, and to learn from one another how to deal with the pain. As a facilitator, I did not have the opportunity to tell my story. I had the difficult task of trying to make sure that as many women as possible got the chance to tell their story and the even more difficult task of trying to encourage the participants to *listen* to the others, without being judgmental.

As I sat there listening to the Palestinian women, I had a sinking feeling in my stomach. These women told horrific stories of what they and loved ones had suffered during the years of Israeli occupation. I felt the hate in their verbal and body language and their inability to listen to when the Israeli women told of their experiences. I found it increasingly difficult to contain their stories, and to contain my desire to tell the “Israeli side.” It was also difficult for me to work as a co-facilitator with my Palestinian colleague from Bethlehem; I felt that she was often disrespectful to the Jewish-Israeli women, when they were sharing their experiences – such as by whispering making side comments to the Palestinian women.

During the last morning of the conference,

2000

Al Aqsa Intifadah begins

2002

Number of Palestine refugees reaches more than 4 million.



I “lost my cool” for about two minutes when my Palestinian colleague began explaining about the Law of Return – that is, that grants automatic citizenship to Jews who immigrate to Israel. Who was she to talk about who was a Jew and who was not? What right did she have to define who had the right to live in Israel? After I calmed down – with the help of my Palestinian-Israeli colleague - I realized that my anger was mixed with shame: hadn’t I been relating to the Palestinians in the same way all of these years? Hadn’t I been defining them in ways that suited my peoples’ interests, not even attempting to see them for who they were? While this realization was painful, it was an invaluable lesson. Since 1999, I have been involved in a number of joint Israeli-Palestinian projects, research, and dialogue groups. These meetings always make me confront who I am, how I perceive the Palestinian other and to think about moral and ideological issues that once appeared so clear to me. These meetings always bring with them a mixed sense of importance, pride in working toward peace, and confusion concerning my belief system and sense of identity.

#### IDF in the Israeli society

Israelis and Jews around the world have tended to uphold the notion that the IDF is the most moral army on earth. I have no way to judge whether this is true or not. However, this belief keeps many Israelis from facing and accepting any information to the contrary. Stories of humiliation and killing surface every day. They are documented by watchdog groups, such as *B’tselem* (<http://www.btselem.org>). Accounts by soldiers are reported in newspapers and the mass media. However, as a rule, these stories are quickly hushed. They are taboo. Soldiers who try to speak of atrocities and immoral behavior are delegitimized, and they are often treated as if they are not really there. They too, are invisible to the majority of Israelis and Jews. And when they do become visible, their *speaking out* is seen as being the immoral action rather than the behaviors of

the soldiers that they are describing.

#### Invisible relationship

I believe that we Jewish Israelis have a kind of split when it comes to thinking about our relationships with the Palestinian/Arab “others.” On the one hand, we see them as being the root of our problems, but on the other, we make them invisible hoping, at least on some level, that they would just disappear. Talk of “transfer” which up until the last year was never part of mainstream Israeli discourse has become legitimate. Knesset members and government ministers speak openly of transferring the Palestinian population. “*Arabs out!*” is written on city walls and overpasses. Signs written in Arabic are defaced and erased. And nobody says a word.

This, of course, is not to say that many Palestinians do not have the same wishes concerning us. Many Palestinians harbor the fantasy that the Jewish-Israelis and Israel will miraculously disappear. Many Palestinians often fail in differentiating between us, between settlers and those who oppose them, between people in the peace camp and those who call for a Greater Israel, between the religious and the secular, not seeing us for who we really are. However, due to the long years of occupation, I think it is fair to say that we Jewish-Israelis are a lot less invisible to the Palestinians, than they are to us.

The professional and personal experiences that I have described above have not always been easy for me. They have taken their toll. The number of people with whom I can have an open and honest discussion about the dilemmas which I believe all Jewish Israelis are facing, whether or not they wish to confront them, have dwindled over the years. My sense of self, of identity, and belief system has been shaken at its core. The Zionism that I was taught at Sholem Aleichem does not mesh with the Zionism being played out in everyday Israeli life. With this, I go on. Perhaps partly out of inertia, perhaps out

of the deep understanding that the society that I chose to join all those years ago *should and can* be different – one that reflects the values that we were so fervently taught during those more innocent years.

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*Dr. Chaitin allowed SHSS Dialogs to reprint this presentation, which she wrote beginning 2003.*

# New Faces at SHSS!



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Join us in Welcoming our new colleagues, we are delighted to have them join the SHSS family. Each person brings to the school a new perspective and energy that we embrace. Their presence here will be an asset in many ways and we look forward to working closely with each new member in the future.



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## SHSS Farewells

With sadden hearts we say farewell and best wishes to members of the SHSS family.

**Michelle Alexia's last day as Assistant to Academic Affairs**

was on July 2nd. Michelle's professionalism and positive attitude will be missed by all. Michelle has joined corporate America as a representative for the recruitment firm, Spherion. She will be missed.



**Technology Assistant, Radeen Guyah's last day at SHSS** was July 1st. Radeen has accepted a position with the OIT department here at NSU where he

will be working in the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. Radeen quickly became a valuable addition to the SHSS family. He will be missed.



**Dr. Cynthia Irvin, Assistant Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution,**

left SHSS in February. Cynthia brought her expertise in Political Science to the classroom as well as a great energy for the field of Conflict Resolution. We wish Cynthia the very best.

**Communication Services Coordinator, Natasha Rider,** left the SHSS family on July 2nd to relocate to South Carolina with her husband Jaron. Natasha took on many challenging roles, shining in each one. Her talented and creative addition to the SHSS Marketing team will be missed.

