



From the Leader's Desk: A Conversation

Please lean into this page and listen with me; I want to remember here the morally grounded, wide-ranging conversation Donna Roberts, Rita Wilson, Erica Hawkins and I experienced the evening of March 24 in listening to the thoughts of Cornell West and Toni Morrison, sitting on two small chairs on the very large stage at the NY Society for Ethical Culture (NYSEC).

By co-sponsoring the Nation Institute Forum Series, NYSEC had filled its glorious auditorium with nearly 700 people, a majority people of color, with young people well represented. On the stage, Toni Morrison, a Nobel Prize winner for Literature, and Cornel West, a world renowned activist philosopher, talked, laughed, sighed

and answered each other's questions. Back and forth they went – talking about everything we care about in the light of post 9/11 sensibilities and sorrows.

There we were, at the feet of these two public intellectuals focusing their artistic, academic and ethical energies on what they felt mattered most in the present relation of the people, and our society, to our nation's national character, history and future. We received an ethical primer from two world class intellectuals. I felt they had a glimpse of basic elements we need to make effective social movement today. I felt their unembarrassed love for life, for language, for intellectual and moral and political courage and for the American nation as it is and as it can be. I heard their

language and images having nothing to do with self-defense, disdain or hate. They didn't need to tear any person or group down to make their points, because their prophetic role was to clarify, to remind us of the important things, and to inspire us to go out and listen to our own ideals and passions.

For me, in the African American social movements from neighborhood to nation, when I have been anywhere close to the central leadership conversation, ethics always precedes politics, and love starts and ends it all. Morrison and West mused that the strength and depth of the concept of love in African American social movement and strategy was related to their long historical need to battle institutionalized hatred. In my not so humble opinion, that combination, love exalted, ethics guiding, and the art and politics horses galloping along with their own energies alive - now that's a movement, and a life perspective we could put down our tired cynicism and angry resentment to serve.

Lisel Burns

April Platforms

April 4: *American Democracy 2004: Our Nations' Values Will Be Our Legacy Also*

At the heart of ethical living is the decision to live with responsibility. But taking responsibility for our location in the world's most powerful nation is a stretch for a lot of us. Are there core values in this nation worth fighting for or sharing with others, and what version of citizenship and self-governance or democracy do we espouse and wish to pass on to coming generations? With BSEC Leader Lisel Burns

April 11: *Spring Colloquy*

A meditative Ethical Culture ceremony with sharing, music and reflections. This week we will reflect on the theme: "Beauty"

April 18: *Buddhism: A Transformative Practice Which Advances Peace and Human Rights*

Dr. Kurt Johnson will introduce guests, including Evan Zazula, New York coordinator for Lama Surya Das of the Dalai Lama's tradition, and Francisco Lugovina and Grover Gauntt, NY leaders of the Zen Peacemaker Order (known for its yearly vigil at Auschwitz), who will speak about Buddhist practices and their relation to peace. Kurt will lead a brief silent practice (5-7 minutes) from Surya Das's tradition, in which participants, sitting quietly, visualize someone in their lives who they felt truly wished them "deep fulfillment, happiness, and joy" and experience this as a first step in making internal well-wishing innate within one's presence.

April 25: *Intergenerational Spring Festival*

The Children's Sunday Assembly will host a dramatization of the "River of Ethical Living," looking at Rites of Passage of some of the members of our Ethical Culture Family. We hope that people of all ages will come together and build new or stronger relationships with people of different generations, share in the community of Ethical Culture and have an opportunity to see our immediate family members or friends in a new or different light.

May 2: *Just Matrimony and Same Sex Marriage*

Polls report an increasing percentage of Americans are registering their acceptance of the basic fairness involved in ceasing discrimination at the city clerk's office regarding a marriage license and its privileges. What are the ethical issues we really face when we tell the truth to ourselves and others on these matters? Join the BSEC community in sorting out the multiple issues for responsible people. With BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

Platforms are held Sundays at 11pm at the BSEC Meetinghouse, followed by a buffet or potluck lunch.

After the platform on Buddhist practices and lunch on April 18, InterSpiritual Dialogue, a AEU-associated fellowship (with members from many traditions and working with the AEU at the UN) will hold its bimonthly "Quiet Get-Together" in the library. Participants will share silence, presence, and quiet dialogue about members' spiritual paths and practices. All are welcome to observe or take part.

Courage

Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

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Ethically Speaking is published 6-10 times a year by BSEC. This month's issue was produced by Martha Hoffman, Maureen Egginton, Lisel Burns, Constance Pigozzi, Bob Strock, Rita Wilson, Roger Kaufman, Ruth Pikitch, and Tracey Jindyeh.

Ethically Speaking is written by a number of BSEC members. Views expressed in this publication are always open to friendly discussion. Our newsletter staff, like the membership at large, may vary in their thinking on many issues, yet we are all committed to putting deed before creed, and to strive constantly toward living out, each in our own particular way, the Ethical Ideal of eliciting the best from ourselves and others.

April 4, 12:30-1:20, there will be an orientation of the pioneer group for PeopleShare project at BSEC. The group will try out exchanges of resources and skills on an hour for hour basis for three months and then report to the BSEC community concerning what kind of resource exchange project we might expand to a larger community this fall. For more information, contact Claudia Copparoni at 783-2298.

Items for this page can be forwarded to Martha Hoffman at *mhof@mindspring.com* or to the BSEC Office to my attention. Space considerations may limit our ability to include all items.

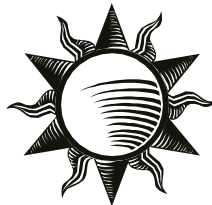
Reminiscences of Marshall Dubin

I started coming to BSEC in the mid-1980's and Marshall Dubin was one of the first people who greeted me with warmth and sincerity each time he saw me. Through the years, he was the one who extended welcoming words at the door to everyone who entered and you always felt that you were the only one who mattered in the whole world.

He was always seeking knowledge and he inspired us all when he received his doctorate when in his seventies. His poetry and his wit were unique. I always looked forward to the monthly newsletter to see what gem he had contributed.

I was so saddened when he had to leave us and move to Maryland. I will never forget what he said to me when we went to say goodbye at his home. His last words to me were: "It's about time they made you President." He was very fond of me and I in turn had a very special place in my heart for him. His spirit and his wisdom will be with us forever. Rest in peace my friend.

*Constance Pigozzi
President, Board of Trustees, BSEC*



Marshall was a dedicated union man and a civil rights activist all of his life. Until his last days, despite his advanced age and failing health, he generously contributed his time and energy to all of the good causes that we supported. If we had more friends like Marshall the world would be a much better place. So, goodbye compañero, we will sorely miss you.

*Charley Horwitz,
Chair, EAC, BSEC*

Garden of Peace and Remembrance

On May 16th, BSEC will officially open its new Garden of Peace and Remembrance. Beginning with a mailing to the membership on April 5th, we will offer members and friends the opportunity to create a lasting memorial to loved ones, along with the chance to honor those who work and sacrifice for the cause of peace. Watch your mailbox for this important letter and brochure outlining the variety of ways you can memorialize loved ones and help our Garden to flourish and thrive in the years to come. Your early response will make the May 16th opening that much more meaningful to all.

- Celeste Leibowitz

Membership News

Happy Birthday in April to: Linda Stallard (8), Herb Dalin (15), Joel Cohen (17), Emily Newman (18), Charlie Horwitz (19), John Duffy (20), Roger Kaufman (20), Antoinette Valiente Wagnerman (20)

Anne Klaeyen is recovering from hip replacement surgery a few weeks ago. Martha Hoffman ran into her on 7th Ave and she looked great and energetic as ever. She said the cane she was using was for the side that wasn't worked on - an operation on that hip is scheduled for early summer.

Many thanks to Susan Teschu, who is donating \$500 in honor of her parents toward accessibility at BSEC.

Our next 50/50 cash prize raffle has begun and we will have a drawing at the BSEC fundraiser and film night on April 28. The last raffle winner took home a prize of \$130. We will reach out to a larger group this time and hope for cash prize of much more both to BSEC and the lucky winner!



Artists and photographers who are members or friends of BSEC are invited to donate artwork to hang in the basement upon completion of the renovations. Interested contributors can bring several items so that pieces can be chosen that best fit the space and color scheme. The architect and designer will make the final selection and items that are not chosen will be returned.

- Ruth Pikitch



Ideals in Service

Recently, I asked members to participate in an informal poll concerning qualities we want in candidates from local societies for AEU Board and Committee Service. I connected with about 30% (20) of the Society, which seems like a good record from just one attempt. Here is a summary of the results:

Respondants acknowledged that there are often problems in choosing effective board members, including finding people who have good skills as well as good intentions in putting their ethics into action and those who have not already stretched their time thin in serving their local Societies. A successful Board or Committee also depends on clear communication and support going both ways between the AEU and local Societies.

That said, a good national Board Member would show a balance between local and national involvement, be inclusive and affirmative, understand meeting processes, care for the well-being of the whole AEU not just their own Society, and have skills that match the tasks of the particular Committee. Ideal personal qualities include creative thinking, warmth, ability to do homework, willingness to learn and tolerate conflict, experiential intelligence, dedication to the Mission of Ethical Culture and willingness to mentor.

Regarding who from BSEC might serve on the Committees, there was a feeling that it would be more effective to elicit the interest of the whole Society, not only the Board. It would be important to have a description of each committee. Presently, there are 3 local BSEC members on committees. This could probably be doubled.

Additional feedback and clarifications are welcome. I will bring your responses to our Board Development Committee and let you know what happens. - Martha Gallahue

Metrocards (What to Choose)

Once a month, I renew my 30 day unlimited metro card using my ATM bank card. I recently had an opportunity visit these machines with a 40-year old and an 80-year old who never had used these machines. PATIENCE is required on our part. Some 80-year olds have just made the switch to touch-tone dialing on the phone. Other 80-year olds have every gadget imaginable, so I am not generalizing here.

The metro-card machines require 5 second decisions and if you are late they may ask you to start over. A 40-year old may have been driving everyday so that is their excuse. 80 year-olds may have both slow reactions, limited vision and short term memory loss. Please explain the machines in advance and be ready to coach the person as they go through the routine. Many 80-year-olds do not regularly use their ATM cards. Tactfully suggest Access-A-Ride for next time if possible.

Our Gadget-ridden society requires us to know how to burn CDs, down-load MP3s, use IM, and someday touch-voting machines. All I am asking is that anytime the younger generation has to help their parents or the elderly - show that little bit of extra patience.

-Roger Kaufman

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2004
MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In support of reproductive freedom. To register for the march and/or sign up for transportation, visit www.ppnyc.org

National Service Conference

The National Service Conference of the AEU invites you to join in the celebration of its 75th anniversary with a luncheon, from 1:00pm-4:00pm, at the New York Society for Ethical Culture on Saturday, May 29. Guest speakers will be Jeffrey Huffines, Co-Chair of The Faith/Ethics Based Caucus for the International Criminal Court, and Diane Williams, Founder of the UN CONGO Committee on Spirituality, Values, Ethics and Global Concerns. We will pay special tribute to Rose L Walker. Contact Martha Gallahue at 718-369-7565 for more information.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY UPDATE

On Thursday, March 18, Marriage Equality New York supported rabbis and ministers who solemnized marriages without licenses on the steps of City Hall. The action was in support of the right of same-sex couples to civil marriage and of the clergy in New Paltz who have been criminally charged for performing same-sex marriages. Founded in 1998, Marriage Equality New York is a statewide, grassroots organization committed to ending discrimination in civil marriage through education, media awareness, political lobbying and coalition building.

Lisel Burns has signed the pledge that she has, does, and will continue to marry same sex couples under the welcoming aegis of the American Ethical Union which certifies our clergy and adjunct leaders for ceremonies. A new brochure for "Just Matrimony" will be out soon from the Riverdale Society, which will feature our own Donna and Lenora.

Million Mom March

Our community partner, Million Mom March Brooklyn, will be returning to Washington on Mother's Day 2004 to Halt the Assault. The ban on assault weapons is up for review and pressure to overturn the ban is being considered in Congress. Since the original March in 2000, firearms in America have killed 120,000 people, of which 13,000 are children and teens. Please contact Maureen Egginton at Infinity2000@prodigy.net if you are interested in going to Washington with victims and survivors of gun violence to support the demand for sensible gun laws, Sunday May 9. \$25 round trip, or think of donating \$25 to pay for a survivor to attend.

Ethics for Children

CSA is getting ready to start its new season which will focus on "Ethical Action."

Our musical for young audiences, "How The First Letter Was Written" was a success. Thank you to Arie Kreith and the cast for doing such a great job and thank you to Linda Stallard, Rita Wilson and Jim Alford for their help and patience with the process.

We have had a few new families come to CSA. We look forward to everyone meeting them at the Spring Festival.

This year's Spring Festival will be a dramatization of the "River of Ethical Living." We will look at Rites of Passage of some of the members of our Ethical Culture Family. We hope at the Intergenerational Festivals that people of all ages will come together and build new or stronger relationships with people of different generations, share in the community of Ethical Culture and have an opportunity to see our immediate family members or friends in a new or different light. This is a time to experience our larger Ethical Culture family. Please join us.

The Fifth Avenue Committee, in which Lisel Burns is active, is working on a campaign to provide an incentive for local landlords in gentrifying communities to keep rents affordable by offering them a real estate tax credit for doing so. A bill to that effect has bipartisan support in the City Council. The owner of local deli Polios at Fifth Ave and 7th Street, who is considered a good landlord, is a test case for this bill. Please Patronize his store for delicious Italian delicacies and tell him why we sent you!

SOUTH AFRICAN FILMS & SUPPER

Wednesday April 28, 7 PM - 10:30 PM

Independent filmmaker, media activist, writer and longtime friend of the South African liberation movement, Danny Schechter, will introduce the films; www.mediachannel.org
7:00pm: "Hero For All: Nelson Mandela's Farewell" This film follows Madiba's North American tour which shows how he united so many and discusses what heroism is. Seeing Mandela meeting the people gives a sense of why people love him and what he represents. Directed and produced by Danny Schechter; Executive Producer, South Africa's Anant Singh (56 min) 1999.

8:00pm: Refreshments and South African style food. 50/50 raffle cash prize drawing

8:45pm: "Christmas with Granny" The journey of a young boy sent to holiday with his bible bashing granny conjures up scenes from a segregated South Africa and juxtaposes them with aspirations for the future. Directed by Dumisani Phakathi, English and Zulu with subtitles. (26 min) 2000.

9:15pm: "Facing Death, Facing Life" is a haunting portrait of Duma Kumalo who spent 3 years on death row and was given a stay of execution 15 hours before he was to be hanged for a crime he did not commit. Directed by Ingrid Gavshon, in English, (52 min) 2000.

BSEC FUNDRAISER DONATION (\$25-\$50)

Ethical Action Committee

At the quarterly Ethical Action Committee meeting on Saturday, March 13th, the following was decided :

On the fourth Sunday of each month there will be a Discussion of Current Events sponsored by the BSEC Ethical Action Committee. At 12:45 pm, bring lunch upstairs to the library for a lively discussion and opportunity for action.

The next Quarterly Ethical Action Committee meeting will be held on the first Saturday of June, 2004 (the 5th) at 1:30 PM, prior to the monthly meeting of the Reflections Group. (3-6pm) Both meetings will be held at Lisels house, 21 Park Place (between 5th and 6th Avenues) either in the garden or in the 2nd floor parlor, depending on the weather. The Reflections Group will have a Social Action theme in harmony with "piggybacking" with the Ethical Action Committee meeting.



ADVERTISING IN THE BSEC NEWSLETTER

Members and friends may advertise or give personal greetings in Ethically Speaking. Please contact Maureen Egginton, brooklynethicalsociety@yahoo.com or 718/638-4767 for more information.

From International Women's Day (March 8) to International Fair Trade Day (May 8), Peri Dar, a fair trade craft vendor, is donating 10% of its sales to support CARE Canada's project providing education for teenage girls and young women in Afghanistan (www.care.ca). To see their catalogue of textiles and other crafts and to purchase, go to www.peridar.com

Life & Ethics Series 2004

Personal Resources for a Values

Revolution

Wednesday, April 14, 7:30pm

This workshop draws on *When Good People Make Tough Choices* by Rushworth Kidder, founder of the Institute for Global Ethics (IGE). The book is available for \$14 on registration or at www.globoethics.org. This opening workshop is free with early registration

Winning Words: Reframing and Improving our Political Conversations

Wednesday, April 21, 7:30pm

This workshop draws on George Lakoff's book, *Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think*.

Non-Violent Solutions for the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Saturdays, 10am-Noon

APRIL 24, MAY 1, MAY 8

Workshop I—Israel and Palestine: A Concise History of the Conflict
Workshop II—Ethical Dilemmas for the USA in the Israeli and Palestinian Crisis
Workshop III—Can Non-Violence Bring Peace to Israel?

Please see the Life and Ethics brochure or contact the office for details and registration materials. Discounts are available for payment made at least 7 days in advance of an individual event. Discounted series tickets available before April 7.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture
53 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

April Good Coffeehouse

April 2 *String Theory*

In approaching the cello, Barry Kornhauser draws on a parallel musical incarnation as a bass player and guitarist, thinking rhythm section first, plucking and strumming basslines and chords, laying down a funky skeletal harmonic foundation. Performing original jazz-informed compositions, improvisations and songs with special guest percussion and others to be announced.

April 16 *Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop*

Rose Bartu is an Austrian jazz violinist, singer and composer. Her music is influenced by her experience with African, AfroCuban and numerous jazz musicians she worked with in NYC, as well as by her classical background.

Bassist *J. Granelli*'s quartet grooves with infectiously buoyant interplay. Mr. Lucky delivers a set of grooving and introspective playing that goes from pin-drop quiet to bone-crushing intensity in the blink of an eye. The music "flows from noir-ish exotica to blistering soul-jazz," writes *Down Beat*.

April 23 *Beautiful harmonies and hot pickin'*

Whose harmonies could be closer than those of a long-time married couple? This evening we present two of Brooklyn's finest examples of how good those harmonies can get: *Kate & Lou* have been offering Good Coffeehouse audiences their traditional music— acoustic music with a mixture of bluegrass, blues and jazzy vocals combined with instrumental virtuosity – for many years. They are a Good Coffeehouse favorite! And this evening marks the first performance of another husband-and-wife duo who's destined to become another Good Coffeehouse favorite: *Frank & Nancy Moccaldi* perform folk music, old-timey, original and Irish fiddle tunes, banjo tunes, and songs that you've heard but that no one is performing nowadays. They will be joined by guitarist and singer *Kevin Mahoney*, "Harmonica Bob" *Rosensweet* and bass player *Jules Siegel*.

April 30 *Blues and Ragtime*

Guitarist *Nick Katzman* recorded a series of highly regarded albums in the 1980s for Kicking Mule records, an influential guitar record label. Critics praised him for his virtuoso picking skills and his ability to craft songs that sounded as if they'd been written in the 1920s. A native New Yorker, Katzman now lives in Germany. He's making a rare U.S. appearance.

May 7 *James Reams & The Barnstormers*




The International Bluegrass Music Association nominated James Reams & The Barnstormers as an Emerging Artist of the Year in 2003, and the album the band recorded with banjo-virtuoso Walter Hensley was nominated as a Recorded Event of the Year. Doug Tuchman (*Pickin'* magazine) wrote: "I believe this is the best traditionally oriented bluegrass band in the area. They combine wonderful harmonies and instrumental back-up in a very sensitive but energy-charged show." Catch them before they head off on a summer tour of bluegrass festivals from Maine to North Carolina and back to James' home in Kentucky!

Performances start at 8 PM – \$10 at door, \$6 for kids, unless otherwise noted



April 2004 at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 10am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: American Democracy 2004 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch 12:30pm: PeopleShare Pilot Program Meeting</p>	<p>5 7pm:Storytellers workshop </p>	<p>6 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus</p>	<p>7 7pm:T' ai Chi</p>	<p>8 7:00pm: Platform Committee Meeting</p>	<p>9 <i>Good Coffeehouse closed</i></p>	<p>10 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi</p>
<p>11 11am: Platform: Colloquy on the Theme of Beauty 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch</p>	<p>12 </p>	<p>13 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus</p>	<p>14 7pm:T' ai Chi 7:30: Personal Resources for a Values Revolution</p>	<p>15 7pm: Personnel Committee Meeting</p>	<p>16 8pm: Good Coffeehouse \$10 donation</p>	<p>17 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi</p>
<p>18 10am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 11am: Platform: Buddhism: A Transformative Practice 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus</p>	<p>21 7pm:T' ai Chi 7:30: Reframing and Improving Our Political Conversations</p>	<p>22 7pm: Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>23 8pm: Good Coffeehouse \$10 donation</p>	<p>24 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi 10am: Israel & Palestine: A History of the Conflict</p>
<p>25 10am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: Spring Festival With the CSA 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch 12:45 pm: Ethical Action Discussion of Current Events</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus</p>	<p>28 7pm:T' ai Chi 7-10:30: South African Films and Food</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 8pm: Good Coffeehouse \$10 donation</p>	<p></p>

See reverse for Good Coffeehouse details

Notes from Israel. January, 2004. Hebron, the Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) and displaced Arab farmers

Our guide in Hebron is Arthur G. Gish, an Ohio farmer and Church of the Brethren lay peace activist with a white beard, who has waged peace with the CPT here for five years. Gish says that Hebron (population: 120,000), 20 miles south of Jerusalem, has a rich history and is one of the oldest cities in the world. When David was king, his castle was in Hebron. A Yeshiva school here is named Cordoba in honor of Spanish Jews who fled from the Inquisition in 1492 and were welcomed by their Muslim neighbors. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Leah are buried here. And Hebron, in both Hebrew and Arabic, means "friend."

But friendly it is not. Many battles have been fought here over the centuries and the latest is still going on. With the arrival of 400 ultra-Orthodox settlers since the 1980s, it is one of the most tense and violent places in the West Bank. The IDF has stationed 1,500 soldiers in Hebron to protect settlers. The place is a public relations disaster for Israel.

One of the most notorious settlers is Miriam Levenson, 72, an American. For months she would scream at Gish that he was a sinner, and when he finally asked her how he could repent, she replied "Drop Dead." A Jewish law student from Hebron killed Rabin in 1995 and was sentenced to life imprisonment (Israel has no death penalty). Baruch Goldstein, an American settler, killed 29 Muslims and injured 200 in 1994 in a Hebron mosque, where he was beaten to death. The settlers regard Goldstein as a martyr. Gish says that the settlers built a big Yeshiva here and the adult men study the Torah and few work.

The settlers' party is part of the Likud government and plays a disproportionately strong role in the Knesset. While we were in Israel over 100,000 settlers demonstrated against Ariel Sharon after he announced plans to close down settlements in Gaza. A suicide bomber killed some settlers here recently and Hamas sometimes shoots at settlers. Gish estimates that 80% of the settlers in the Occupied Territories are there for economic reasons and only 20% for ideological or religious reasons. But the settlers in Hebron are regarded as the most fanatic religious ones in Israel. Their hate is palpable. They say they hate the Israeli government more than anyone because they don't support them.

Gish takes us down Daboya Street, a busy narrow downtown street where Israeli settlers live ten feet away from Palestinian apartments. It is the site where 67 Jews were killed by Muslims in 1929. Some Jews were saved by their Muslim neighbors and their shops are now owned by Muslims who, since 1929, have paid rent to the Jewish victims' heirs.

All of the Palestinian homes on Daboya street have screens to protect them from the garbage that settlers throw at them. As we walk down the street, Mr. A, a Palestinian shoe store owner, chats us up and then invites us to his apartment across from his shop. We accept his invitation and he tells his story over glasses of hot tea.

We told Mr. A that we were American Jews who are opposed to the Occupation and he did not seem surprised. He told us how Jews and Muslims lived here peacefully side by side for years until 1992 when American ultra-Orthodox Jews came to Hebron [Gish says that most are Brooklynites]. He said that during the 1929 massacre of Jews in Hebron his parents and their neighbors saved many Jews by hiding them in their homes.

Although IDF soldiers protect the settlers, they cannot arrest them; under Israeli law, only the police and border police can do that. Mr. A said that when settlers' children attack an IDF soldier nothing is done but when Palestinian kids throw stones at the IDF, they are shot. The IDF arrested a respected non-violent Palestinian leader and deported him. Yet when a settler murdered a Palestinian, he was sentenced to one minute in prison and fined one cent. The law is not enforced equally.

Three months ago a curfew was lifted and Palestinians were allowed to leave their homes a few hours each day. Kids were allowed to go to school during the curfew but on a few occasions, when the settlers were

harassing them, the IDF tear shot gas canisters to force everyone to flee. CPTers ignore the curfew and walk around freely in Hebron.

The CPT came here in 1985: some were deported, some were arrested and charged with destroying military property. Gish was imprisoned and kept in solitary confinement but was well treated. Gish says that "CPT is on the side of the people where guns are pointed. After the bombing of a Jerusalem bus (No. 18) by Hamas, we told Hamas publicly that we were going on that bus." CPTers stood in front of Israeli tanks and bulldozers that were demolishing Palestinians houses and they were arrested. They stood in front of a Palestinian woman with a knife who wanted to attack an IDF soldier. If she had not stopped, she probably would have been killed. Gish says that CPT is a faith-based group and acts out of a spiritual center. It respects everyone, no matter how hateful they may be, because they are creatures of God. CPT relates to many of the Israeli and Palestinian peace groups we have met and Gish urges us to visit the Peace Oasis, a village nearby where about 2,000 Israeli Jews, Muslims and Christians intentionally live together.

Gish takes us to meet Ata Jabber, a farmer who lives outside Hebron. We stay overnight at his house and share a wonderful dinner and breakfast with his family. In December 2002, the IDF demolished four rooms and a kitchen in their house. The IDF said they lacked permission to build the rooms and, in addition, the house was too close to the settlements. Gish says that the Kafkaesque Israel bureaucracy denies housing permits to Palestinians but routinely gives them to Israelis.

Jabber says that his family has 2000 members in Hebron, Jerusalem, Ramallah and Jordan. His immediate family includes two grandparents and three girls, two to twelve years old. Despite the near freezing temperature, the younger ones play on the porch with bare feet. Their mother serves us tea and draws water from a well on her half-demolished front porch. Their small, unlit kitchen is a hollowed out cave which is attached to the house. The women sit on their haunches preparing the evening meal. We are chilled to the bone as the house has no central heating.

Jabber said that a few years ago settlers came to his house with guns, broke his windows, told them to leave and screamed that this is their land. Although Jabber showed them deeds to the land dating back to the Ottoman Empire, they would not listen. During the attack his youngest daughter's eye was injured by flying glass. She had to have several operations in Jerusalem.

After the settlers took his land he called the police and hired lawyers but nothing could be done. Although he received no help from the UN's relief agency, UNWRA, Hamas or the Palestinian Authority, friends, family and the CPT helped him rebuild his house. He still has some grape vines and olive trees and grows cauliflower and other crops but most of his land was confiscated by the IDF to build by-pass roads for the settlers. He has not received a penny in compensation.

He said that even with the troubles he has had he is not bitter and does not hate either the IDF or the settlers because he is a Muslim and, despite everything, God has been generous to him.

After we returned to Hebron we walked to the city to buy souvenirs. We were stopped by IDF soldiers and told that Jews cannot enter through a gate leading to the Muslim quarter. They said that only Muslims and Christians could go through that gate and since we are Jewish, we must go through a gate in the Jewish part of town several blocks away. They said that this was a closed military zone and told us to obey their orders. We protested and told them that we went through the gate yesterday and had no problem. But they walk briskly to the gate and lock it. Now, for a time, even Muslims or Christians won't be able to pass through. Later that day we say goodbye to Arthur Gish and take leave of the friendly city of Hebron.

-Charles Horwitz