



Weekly Newsletter

Jan 31- Feb 8, 2013

Ball State University  
Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

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## Want to be Featured in the Olive Branch?

If you are interested in being interviewed for an upcoming issue of the Olive Branch, or if you would like to write a short article, please contact e-mail us at [peace-center@bsu.edu](mailto:peace-center@bsu.edu). We would absolutely love to share your message with our readers!

## Local Spotlight: Gerstein & Waite Awarded USIP Grant

The Center for Peace and Conflict studies is happy to announce that Larry Gerstein and Gerry Waite have received a \$2000 grant from the U.S. Institute of Peace to offset some of the expenses linked with hosting the Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference in April. USIP launched the grant in late 2012 as a Peacebuilding Support Initiative for U.S. institutions and public libraries. USIP was seeking to assist universities or libraries with holding events or activities that “advance the understanding and promotion of peace building and conflict resolution.” These funds will be used to help fund the Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference being held this coming April.



UNITED STATES  
INSTITUTE OF PEACE

USIP was started after Congress passed the United States Institute of Peace Act into law in 1984. According to USIP’s website, this organization is an “independent, nonpartisan institution established and funded by Congress to increase the nation’s capacity to manage international conflict without violence.” The organization is located in Washington, D.C. A few goals of USIP include: prevention and resolution of violence, promotion of post-conflict stability, increase peacebuilding efforts worldwide, build knowledge for peace, and to train the public about the challenges of conflict management.



We here at the Peace Center are excited for the opportunity to be sponsored by such a well-respected organization. The Cohen Peace Conference will be an even greater success thanks to this award.

*-Ennea Fairchild*

*\*Information about USIP was obtained at their website: [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org) & <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/USIP-Support/About-the-Sponsor>*

# NEWSFLASH!

## INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE NONPROFIT SECTOR?

Come to the BSU Peace Center's Brown Bag Lunch Event on Tuesday, February 5th!!!



**Bryan Orander**, President of **Charitable Advisors**, will be speaking about working in the **nonprofit field** and how **YOU** can make an impact!

**Who:** Bryan Orander, President of Charitable Advisors

**What:** Brown Bag Lunch Series

**Where:** BSU Center for Peace & Conflict Studies (310 N. McKinley)

**When:** Tuesday, February 5th 12:30 p.m.

# Newsflash

*FORGIVENESS: The Power to Change the World*

*Saturday February 2, 11 AM—3 PM*

Inter-Church Center: 1100 W 42nd Street Indianapolis, IN 47208

Jan 31 – Feb 8, 2013

A workshop on forgiveness in international perspective featuring **Ms Eva Moses Kor, Romanian Holocaust Survivor**, and **Kizito Kalima, Rwandan Genocide Survivor**. Sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, the Amahoro Project for Forgiveness and Reconciliation, the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, and the IU-PUI Office of International Affairs



**WORKSHOP FACILITATORS INCLUDE:** George Wolfe - Ball State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies; Khadija Khadja - IU School of Social Work; Ian McIntosh - IUPUI Director Of International Partnerships; Kathleen Grove - IUPUI Office for Women, Tim Nation – Peace Learning Center, Pat Biddinger, and K.P. Singh - Sikh Community leader.

**\*\*\*THIS WORKSHOP IS FREE OF CHARGE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED. LIMITED SPACE.: RSVP REQUIRED\*\*\***

To register, contact:

Kizito Kalima [zkalima@yahoo.fr](mailto:zkalima@yahoo.fr) 317-363-8065

Or

Ian McIntosh [imcintos@iupui.edu](mailto:imcintos@iupui.edu) 317-796-6523

## Blog of the Week:

### ***“Just War”***

*Wesley Patrick*

“Justice isn’t just, it just is.” This lyric, I think, speaks volumes to what we read this week for class and will be the basis on which I make a response to the readings.

A portion of the Barash readings was about different approaches to and defining “Just war.” While reading this portion, I had one thought that ran through my mind then entire time and that was “wow, this is a load of crap.” Granted, the author speaks about how none of the approaches outlined are adequate, however his outspoken support for “just war” and his use of the word “terrorism”, as the word is known in its connotative form to most Western readers, is somewhat of an issue for me. While the idea of just war is one that is defined as a realistic option by the author due to “terrorism”, it is important to ask “what is a just war?” This led me to the “Just War Doctrine – Criteria” reading to find the answer to this. While the criteria for “just war” may be well intentioned in nature, particularly the portion about how combatants must act, the idea that one can define a “just war” is beyond me. The premise of just war is that one can somehow justify violence and killing on a large scale or that one can justify a State warring against another State. In some cases “just war” has been used to validate a State’s actions against an ideal which often includes the slaughtering of innocents. Again, this is beyond me. The foundations of “just war” come from the idea that a State can act as a moral authority or can exact moral superiority. Thus, States vie for using the moral superiority argument. This can be seen in former President Bush’s rhetoric of fighting against “the axis of evil” when speaking against “terrorism” and States that “harbor terrorists.” In essence, when using the moral superiority argument, anything can be justified. Examples of States or groups of people using the moral superiority argument are littered throughout history, from Christians using god as a means to justify the crusades, Hitler using his convoluted study of German history to justify extermination of Jews, to, as mentioned before, George W. Bush justifying the “war on terrorism” because “terrorists” are evil. The just war doctrine is much like religion, it can be used for good or it can be used to justify atrocities made in the name of freedom or security. I believe it is important to realize when the moral superiority argument is being used and to realize that when it is used to justify violence it is necessary to notice the subjectivity of the argument. In other words, moral superiority is not objective in nature and is merely a perspective.

## Blog of the Week (cont...)

This brings me to the second part of the Barash readings and the Addicted to War readings concerning the “war on terror” and suicide “terrorism.” Before reading these pieces I already had an idea of the tremendous violation of civil liberties that the Patriot Act had invoked on the United States citizenry, however, reading the more specific examples of the United States and the other profiteers of the “war on terror” just bothered me all the more. As mentioned before, I had a problem with the use of the word “terrorism” in the generic Western sense of the word. The objective definition of terrorism, according to the United States Congressional Code is “[An] act of terrorism, means any activity that (A) involves a violent act or an act dangerous to human life that is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State; and (B) appears to be intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping.” By this definition, the United States itself is a terrorist State, along with any other State for that matter, because the State is by its very nature coercive and reinforces this through violence. So to use the definition of terrorism as acts of terror against States or the United States, such as the acts of September 11, is quite misleading and does not cover the whole of what terrorism is. In some ways this brings me back to the idea of moral superiority and the human’s ability to rationalize and justify violence. For Osama bin Laden, the attacks on September 11 were completely justified. The United States has done much to subvert Middle Eastern society and slaughter innocents in the form of a military presence or through economic sanctions that cut aid and much needed supplies to the developing countries within the Middle East. In a way, terrorism is in the eye of the beholder. What one sees as a just cause, “suicide terrorism” for example, may be perceived in a completely different way by another. Hence, “Justice isn’t just, it just is.”

Finally, after exploring the website about the A-bomb and reading *Packing Inferno*, I was saddened by all of the destruction, both on a wide scale and on an individual scale, which war causes. Seeing the photographs and reading the story was pretty depressing. I think there was a point in *Addicted to War* that talked about how people rarely get to

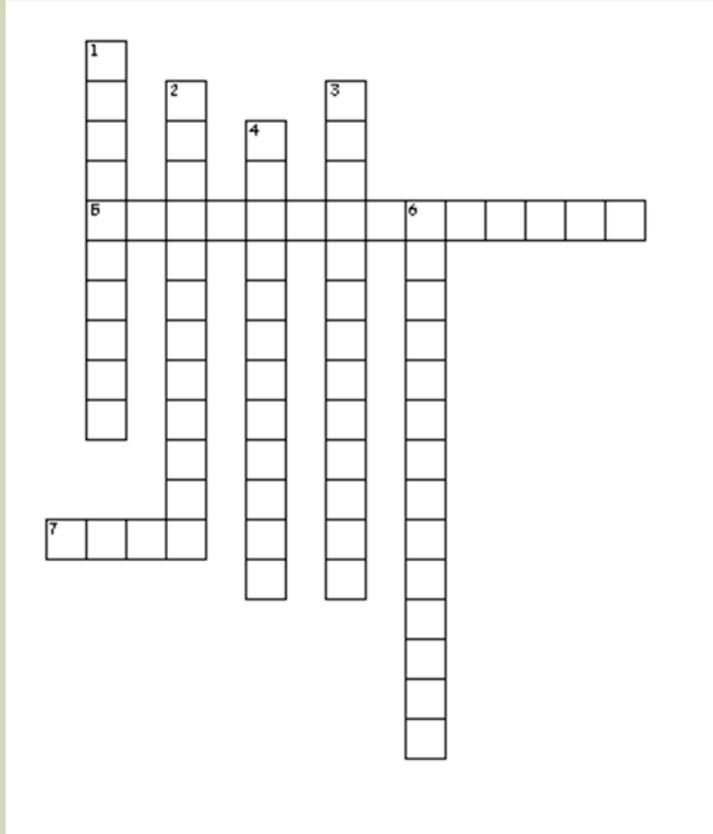


glimpse the aftermath of war and I could not agree more. I think the media has desensitized much of the public. American media in particular, due to constraints and due to the profit-driven motives, rarely shows the bloody and grotesque images of what actually happens in a war zone. Instead it would rather focus on the fickle stories that make “good news” in a generally shallow culture. I think if more people were to see the images and real life stories of people who have been in war or could see the aftermath themselves, war wouldn’t be such a viable policy. Maybe all of this post is my naïve idealism clouding my vision of

more “realistic” options, like just war, to some of the world’s problems, but maybe not. Maybe, through all of the subjectivity, we as a species can finally find that war is wrong and is obsolete, but then again maybe we will never find this to be true. Again, “Justice isn’t just, it just is.”

# Activity

## The Olive Branch Crossword!



**Across**

- 5. BSU Peace Center's weekly newsletter
- 7. bird that often symbolizes peace

**Down**

- 1. one of the services that the BSU Peace Center offers
- 2. one of the many group counseling sessions offered in Lucina Hall
- 3. Romanian Holocaust Survivor featured in the upcoming workshop on forgiveness in international perspective on February 2nd
- 4. one of the many suggested topics for proposals for the Benjamin V Cohen Peace Conference
- 6. Muncie native whom the upcoming Peace Conference at Ball state is named after

**Answers- Across:** 5. The Olive Branch 7. Dove **Down:** 1. Meditation 2. Kaleidoscope 3. Ms Eva Moses Kor 4. Volunteerism 6. Benjamin V Cohen

# On-Campus Events

## **Spring 2013 (time varies), Lucina Hall**

### Counseling Center Group Therapy

The Counseling Center offers a large variety of therapy sessions that are completely free to Ball State students. Just a few of these groups include:

Understanding Self & Others- a discussion and discovery of understanding and acceptance of themselves and others

Journey to Wholeness- a supportive group for survivors of sexual trauma

Safe Haven- supportive group for GLBTQ students to discuss topics including family concerns, support, relationships, depression, personal growth and more

Kaleidoscope- a supportive group for ethnic/racial minorities to discuss topics including discrimination, identity of self, family concerns, body image, and more

You can find more information about these and more groups here: <https://apps.bsu.edu/CommunicationsCenter/Story.aspx?MessageGuid=a83cc747-5339-43e1-8e42-a9726d5e097f>

Call 285-1736 to sign up for one of these free groups

## **THURSDAY JANUARY 31**

Social Justice League meets at 5 pm in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, 310 N. McKinley Ave. For more info, [sjl@bsu.edu](mailto:sjl@bsu.edu).

Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 12-4 pm, Ball State University Alumni Center : Natural Resources and Environmental Management Internship & Career Fair

The NREM Internship and Career Fair is open to all students from natural resources and environmental management and related fields. Find helpful information about internship opportunities, part-time and full-time employment, and career advice at this event.

Click here to find a roster of all fair exhibitors: <http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/Alumni/Groups/AlumniSocieties/NREM/NREMEventsPage.aspx>

## **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2**

Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 pm: Winter Greenhouse Tour in Christy Woods: "Take a break from the cold weather and visit the tropics on campus with this guided walk through the Ball State greenhouses. The Orchid Greenhouse contains the largest collegiate orchid collection in the United States. The Teaching Greenhouse contains different kinds of tropical plants from around the world, including cacti, carnivorous plants, ferns, bananas and many others."

To reserve a spot on a tour, contact Cheryl LeBlanc at 765-285-8839.

Click here for more information: <http://cms.bsu.edu/Academics/CentersandInstitutes/FSEEC.aspx>

# On-Campus Events

## **MONDAY FEBRUARY 4**

OXFAM meeting at 6 PM in the basement of Bracken library. For more info, email [ajhartman@bsu.edu](mailto:ajhartman@bsu.edu).

Building Tomorrow meeting at 6:30 PM in the Schwartz Digital Complex room in Bracken Library. For more information, email [ksrowe@bsu.edu](mailto:ksrowe@bsu.edu)

Call to Action meeting at 7:30 PM in the Student Center Room #306. For more info, email [lefortier@bsu.edu](mailto:lefortier@bsu.edu).

## **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5**

BROWN BAG at the Peace Center!!!

Feminists for Action meeting. For more info, email [feministsforaction@gmail.com](mailto:feministsforaction@gmail.com)

International Justice Mission meets at 6 pm in the Whiting Business building Room #213. For more info, email [cekozak@bsu.edu](mailto:cekozak@bsu.edu).

Free the Slaves meets at 8 pm in Bracken Library Room #201. For more info, email [freetheslavesbsu@gmail.com](mailto:freetheslavesbsu@gmail.com).

## **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6**

Alive Campaign meets at 9 pm in the Student Center Pineshelf.

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 26<sup>th</sup> Student Center Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor:**

Annual Ball State University Student Symposium Registration

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

This is a chance for students, faculty, and the Muncie community to discuss research efforts and view the connection between special projects and education. The most outstanding posters, creative or multimedia displays, and other exhibits will be awarded cash prizes at the end of the day. Every Ball State student who has participated in organized work inside or outside the classroom and was advised by a Ball State faculty member is eligible to register for the symposium. Click here to register or view the symposium's guidelines: <http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/spo/spotlights/studentsymposium>

## Off-Campus Events

### **Friday, February 1st**

The Race and Cultural Relations Leadership Network will hold its monthly meeting over breakfast at 8 am at the Urban League, 777 Indiana Ave., sponsored by the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee. For more info, phone 327-3625.

Women in Black will gather at 11:30 am at Monument Circle. WIB stand together to call for the end of the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and to mourn both Israeli and Palestinian lives lost. For more info, email Judy King at [timothy\\_a\\_king@hotmail.com](mailto:timothy_a_king@hotmail.com)

The weekly vigil protesting warfare will take place, 4:30-5:30 pm, in front of the Federal Building, Michigan and Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or have one provided. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 403-2835 or email Ron Haldeman at [ronjane@igc.org](mailto:ronjane@igc.org)

### **Saturday, February 2nd**

The 2nd Annual "Voices Uniting to End Hunger" Conference will take place, 8:30-1:30 with an International Hunger panel from 1:30-2:30 pm (see schedule below), at Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N Meridian (Cost: \$20; Ages 25 & younger, \$10, conference materials, continental breakfast & lunch included) sponsored by Christian Theological Seminary, Bread for the World, Gleaners, Indy Hunger Network, Second Helpings, Second Presbyterian, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. To register, phone Roger Howard at 594-9355. For more info, email Habibe Ali at [habibe@isna.net](mailto:habibe@isna.net)

Community, Faith and Labor Coalition will meet at 10 am at the Unleavened Bread Cafe, E. 30 and Central. For more info, email Nancy Holle at [nancyholle@communityfaithlabor.org](mailto:nancyholle@communityfaithlabor.org) or phone John Gibson at 525-1856 or Jay Carrigan at 283-2273.

[Nashville] There will be a Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not The Answer!" at 6 pm at Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Brown County branch). For more info, contact Tom Hougham at 878-4210 or [annntom@hotmail.com](mailto:annntom@hotmail.com)

### **Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

[Bloomington] Peace Action Coalition Monthly Meeting will meet, 7-8:45 pm, in Room 1-A of the Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave. For more info, contact Timothy Baer at (812) 988-1917 or [BPACpeace@hotmail.com](mailto:BPACpeace@hotmail.com)



## Grants and Fellowships

### **International Pfeffer Peace Prize-deadline March 2, 2013**

Each year, the Fellowship of Reconciliation awards three peace prizes to individuals or organizations whose commitment to peace, justice, and reconciliation is recognized as extraordinary. The International Pfeffer Peace Prize was established in 1989 by Leo and Freda Pfeffer to particularly honor those around the world working for peace and justice.

### **Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science-deadline June 1, 2013**

The Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science is given every two years. The award honors outstanding contributions to the scientific knowledge of peace and conflict. The winner is selected on the basis of the importance and scientific significance of the dissertation with respect to the field of peace science and its contribution to the understanding of international behavior more generally.

### **Morton Deutsch Conflict Resolution Award-deadline June 15, 2013**

The award recognizes achievement in integrating theory and practice in conflict resolution.

## Conferences

### ***Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Promoting nonviolence at home and beyond***

Muncie, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013

[www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference](http://www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference)

Deadline for pre-registration: March 22, 2013

### ***Notre Dame Student Peace Conference 2013***

Notre Dame, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013

Registration materials will be available soon.

### ***Rotary Club of Londonderry Global Peace Forum***

Derry-Londonderry, Ireland, May 4-26, 2013

The aim of the Derry~Londonderry Forum is to contribute to Reconciliation, Learning and Full Self Expression for those involved in peacemaking and peacebuilding throughout the world.

## Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

310 North McKinley Avenue  
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Phone: (765)285-1622

Email: [peacecenter@bsu.edu](mailto:peacecenter@bsu.edu)



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**"LIKE" us on Facebook!  
Ball State University Peace Center**

**The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary knowledge unit devoted to conducting research on various forms of structural and direct violence and conflict, and also dedicated to implementing projects that employ nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict.**

**Our programs include:**

- **Mediation training and services**
- **Meditation classes**
- **The Brown Bag lunch speaker series**
- **The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship**
- **The Social Justice League on-campus organization**

*If you would like YOUR events to be included in the newsletter, please contact:*

**Ennea Fairchild ([efairchild@bsu.edu](mailto:efairchild@bsu.edu)) or**

**Erin Silcox ([esilcox@bsu.edu](mailto:esilcox@bsu.edu))**

**Disclaimer: the events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies**

**Learn more about the Cohen Peace Conference at [www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference](http://www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference)**