

NOT ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER: RELIGIOUS HARMONY AND POLITICAL CIVILITY

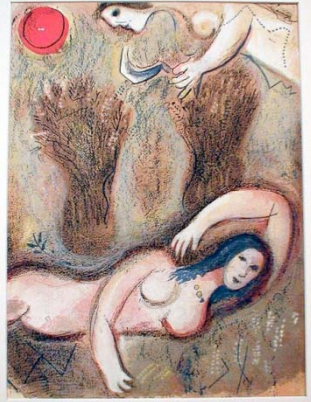
APRIL 2012 at CARROLL COLLEGE in HELENA, MONTANA

PROGRAM:

- (all) April **Talmud Art Show**
(opening night April 3, Tuesday)
Carroll College Art Gallery, St. Charles Hall
- April 3, 7:30PM (Tues) **Running Races with God: How (and Why)
Our Presidential Candidates Talk About Religion on the Campaign Trail**
Professor David Weiss, Media Studies, Montana State University
Siena Ross Room, Carroll Student Center
- April 6 (Fri) **Good Friday**
- April 8 Sun) **Easter**
- April 10, 6:30PM (Tues) **Traditional Passover Seder**
Carroll College Student Center
- April 12, 7:30 (Thurs) **Keynote Address: America, Islam, and the Holocaust**
Professor Michael Sells, Divinity School, University of Chicago
Siena Ross Room, Carroll Student Center
- April 17, 7:30 (Tues) **Caravanserai: A Place Where Cultures Meet**
Pakistani music and performance troupe: Arif Lohar, Abid Sain, Tari Ji Sain, and Sanam Marvi
- April 19, 7:30 (Thurs) **Holocaust Remembrance Evening**
Remembrance ceremony and poster display
Carroll Student Center, Main floor, Lounge
- April 20-21(Fri & Sat) **We the People: Conversations on the
Montana and U.S. Constitutions**
- April 30 noon (Mon) **Dedication of the Carroll College Peace and
Civility Wall**

PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPANTS:

Talmud: The Art of Marc Chagall and Ben-Zion



Marc Chagall: Boaz Wakes to See Ruth

This exhibit brings together the biblical work of two of the most important Jewish artists of the 20th century. These images are commentaries on the text of Scripture in the best of the Talmudic tradition. Not only does this tradition of wrestling with the word continue as we meditate on the individual subjects of these works, but the Talmudic dialogue also occurs as we view the works of Marc Chagall and Ben-Zion side-by-side. It is hoped that, together, viewers and artists will set in motion a joyous interchange of instruction and learning through this exhibition of etchings and lithographs. (<http://civa.org>)

This presentation is sponsored by Christians in the Visual Arts and Prof. Ralph Esposito of the Carroll College art department.

Running Races with God: How (and Why) Our Presidential Candidates Talk About Religion on the Campaign Trail

David Weiss, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Media Studies, Montana State University-Billings



Topic: Since the mid-1970s, the religious affiliations and the private (yet publicly declared) beliefs of our politicians and office holders have been matters of public debate—and, as a result, of political strategizing. Weiss analyzes this new wave of personal politico-religious communication, evaluating its use through a variety of socio-political lenses. Weiss explores how the current conflation of religion and politics in the American electoral sphere can be seen in some ways as reflective of certain long-valued traditions while at the same time raising new and often challenging issues for Americans at all points on the political and religious spectrums. (www.humanitiesmontana.org)

Biography: Assistant Professor of Media Studies and Director, Graduate Program (Masters of Science in Public Relations), and Director, Undergraduate Mass Communication Program. Prof. Weiss' publications include *What Democrats Talk about When They Talk About God*, and *The Rhetoric of American Exceptionalism: Critical essays*. He is the Winner of the Winston & Helen Cox Fellowship in Arts & Sciences .

This presentation is sponsored by Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau.

Traditional Passover Seder

Barry Ferst, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Philosophy Department, Carroll College



Topic: Carroll College will host a Passover meal for students. The story of the first Pesach will be told and the *seder* plate and other symbols will be explained.

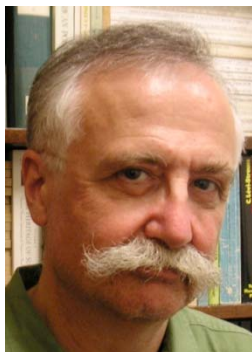
Biography: Barry Ferst is a professor of philosophy at Carroll College and chair of the philosophy department. He has traveled throughout the landscape of Roman and Greek empires, and has published *Montana: High Rise and Handsome* and *Sunday School Sins*. He has directed numerous humanities events in this thirty years of teaching.

This presentation is sponsored by the Carroll College departments of Philosophy and Theology. The *seder* dinner is provided by SODEXO.

Keynote Address: America, Islam, and the Holocaust

Michael Sells, Ph.D.

John Henry Barrows Professor of Islamic History and Literature in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago



Topic: “America, Islam, and the Holocaust” takes up the role that arguments of the Holocaust, Holocaust denial, and Holocaust exploitation are taking in theories of a clash of civilizations between what is called Islam on the one side and “Judeo-Christian” civilization on the other.

Biography: Michael Sells studies and teaches in the areas of qur'anic studies; Sufism; Arabic and Islamic love poetry; mystical literature (Greek, Islamic, Christian, and Jewish); and religion and violence. The new and expanded edition of his book *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations* appeared in 2007. He has published three volumes on Arabic poetry: *Desert Tracings: Six Classic Arabian Odes*, which focuses upon the pre-Islamic period; *Stations of Desire*, which focuses upon the love poetry of Ibn al-'Arabi; and *The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature, Al-Andalus*, which he coedited and to which he contributed. His books on mysticism include *Early Islamic Mysticism*, translations and commentaries on influential mystical passages from the Qur'an, hadith, Arabic poetry, and early Sufi writings; and *Mystical Languages of Unsayings*, an examination of apophatic language, with special attention to Plotinus, John the Scot, Ibn al-'Arabi, Meister Eckhart, and Marguerite Porete. His work on religion and violence includes: *The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia*; and *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy*, which he co-edited and to which he contributed. Prof. Sells was raised in Anaconda, Montana. (<http://divinity.uchicago.edu>)

This presentation is sponsored by the Philosophy Now Speakers Series and the Associated Students of Carroll College.

Caravanserai: A Place Where Cultures Meet

An evening's cultural exchange with Pakistani music and performance. Guest artists include Arif Lohar, Abid Sain, Tari Ji Sain, and Sanam Marvi.

This presentation is sponsored by the Myrna Loy Center for the Performing Arts and Arts Midwest, Regional Arts Organization.

Holocaust Remembrance Evening

Gillian Glaes, Ph.D. and Christopher Fuller, Ph.D.



Topic: The promise to never forget the murder of six million Jews and the calling to mind of other atrocities is the focus of this presentation. A *Shoah* display of forty posters and a candle lighting remembrance prayer will be the evening's focus. A student panel speaking to inter-cultural civility will be featured.

Biography: Gillian Glaes earned her Ph.D. in modern European and French history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2007. Specializing in the area of twentieth-century migration, she has published several articles on the topic and is currently revising a manuscript on post-colonial African immigration to France. She is currently co-teaching an interdisciplinary course on the history and theology on the Holocaust. She regularly offers classes on French, German, African, Latin American, and European history.

This presentation is sponsored by the Carroll College Honors Scholars Program, the Hunthausen Center, and the International Students Center. The poster display is on loan from the Montana Association of Jewish Communities (MAJCO).

We the People: Conversations on the Montana and U.S. Constitutions

Kenneth Egan, Ph.D. Program Director



Topic: This two-day program will survey such topics as the Bill of Rights, native peoples and the state constitution, and local governments and state sovereignty. To name just a few, participants include Steven Bullock, the Montana Attorney General; Betsy Griffing, Denise Juneau, and Pat Williams.

Biography: Kenneth Egan received his doctorate in American literature from the University of Wisconsin. He has taught at Middlebury College, Rocky Mountain College, and Drury University. He is the director of Humanities Montana, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the

Humanities.

This presentation is sponsored by Humanities Montana.

Dedication of the Carroll College Peace and Civility Wall

PROGRAM FOCUS:

Violence-laden language, refusal to moderate ideological and dogmatic positions, and heavy-handed brutality are the foundation, framework, and fashion of authoritarian regimes whether political, religious, or social. The uncovering of correspondences in differing points of view through exposure to unfamiliar traditions, teamed with rational argument and courteous discourse may be the only antidote. Focusing on the practices of religious and political civility, "Not One without the Other: Religious Harmony and Political Civility" explores and provides tangible examples of and suggestions for that antidote.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE:

"You lie!" shouts a congressman, interrupting the president during a speech. While the representative later apologizes for the incident, the media lambasts his behavior, which overshadows the president's message. From "The Death of Civility," The Real Truth, March 10, 2010.

As Americans find themselves in an era of expanding religious pluralism, many face the prospect of maintaining religious tolerance toward practices inimical to their deepest held beliefs. Though religious bodies employ phrases like "interfaith dialogue", "shared spirituality", and "religious unity", there are fears that this is a passing by-product of the horrors of WWII, the *Shoah*, and the Armenian and Yugoslavian genocide, and as memory fades so too will attempts at religious harmony. And then there has been a growth in intra-faith disharmony. The last decades have heard the squabbling over who is a real Christian, is a reformed Jew really a Jew, or is a Shi'ite as true a Muslim as a Sunni.

As with the religious divide, American political parties, the off spring of the great Enlightenment experiment in a constitutional democracy, have become intolerant of each other, finding neither the will nor the way to accommodate differing points of view regarding the nation's political practices and programs. The language of political debate has turned from its traditional ferocity to caustic hatred, with a violence-laden imagery not seen since the Civil War. And interestingly, a portion of this vitriol has shifted to intra-political disharmony. Who is a real Democrat? –the social democrat, libertarian, or tax and spend Democrat? Is a Republican a Rockefeller Republican, States Rights Republican, or a Tea Partier?

One wonders if this is an outgrowth of the current lengthy recession, the old struggle between a states-rights ideology and federalism, or simply racial, ethnic, and religious hatreds in a different guise. Could it be all due to a secular age that has lost its footing in traditional Western values?

The discovery of correspondences in differing points of view through exposure to unfamiliar traditions, teamed with rational argument and courteous discourse, maybe the only path to the antidote. Focusing on the practices of religious and political civility, "Not One without the Other: Religious Harmony and Political Civility" explores and provides tangible examples of that antidote.

TIME AND PLACE:

The month of April 2012. Carroll College, 1601 N. Benton Avenue, Helena, Montana 59625.

RELATED COLLEGE COURSES:

History and Theology of the Holocaust: Professors Gillian Glaes and Christopher Fuller

Idea of Divinity in Antiquity: Professors Brian Matz and Ronald Stottlemeyer

Islam: Philosophy and Culture: Professor Barry Ferst

Sociology of Religion: Professor J. Runda

Theology course: Theologies of Liberation Professor John Ries

Philosophy of God and Religion: Professor Barry Ferst

SPONSORS:

Philosophy Forum Speakers Series, Philosophy Now Speakers Series, Montana Association of Jewish Communities, Hunthausen Center of Carroll College, Honors Scholars Program of Carroll College, Humanities Montana, Associated Students of Carroll College, SODEXO Food Service

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Al-maslaha al-'amma, a technical term in Islamic jurisprudence, "the general welfare of society"

Mipne darkhe shalom, Hebrew "in the interests of peace"

Pacem in Terris, Latin "Peace on Earth"