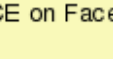


"My So-Called Enemy" in "Ha'aretz," at a Conflict Res. Symposium (GA), the Arlington Int'l FF (MA), U of Hartford, Colgate U - and more!



With Ottawa Peace Foundation Board Members Tam Matthews, Myrna Barwin, Awad Loubani, Roz Labow, Judith Stoler and Len Potechin



MSCE on Facebook

Dear Friends,

I hope you're enjoying a beautiful autumn! This academic year started with a heartwarming two-day visit to DePauw University, where one-tenth of the student body came to our screening! I also had the privilege of guest lecturing in a conflict studies class, having lunch with faculty and leading roundtable discussions with students.

I just returned from the Canadian premiere of "My So-Called Enemy," sponsored by the Ottawa Peace Foundation in honor of their "Peace Camp Ottawa" program for youth. The community screening was fantastic and very well attended. Based on the embrace the film received from an audience committed to fostering tolerance and interfaith understanding, there promise to be many more Canadian screenings in the future.

This edition of our newsletter includes an excellent [blog post in "Ha'aretz,"](#) written by Mira Sucharov, in attendance in Ottawa on Thursday night, our October and November screenings and information about how you can help support our outreach efforts and bring "My So-Called Enemy" to your community. We will have more main character updates in our next newsletter!

I'm delighted to be returning for the second year to the [Woodstock Film Festival](#) as a Juror for Short Documentary Films. If you're going to be at the festival this weekend, I'll look forward to seeing you there! I'm also honored to be the sixth recipient of the Miller Reel Jewish Woman Filmmaker Award. (A listing for the November 10th reception and screening follows.)

Upcoming Screenings

Please join us, and tell your friends, about our upcoming screenings!

The Plaza Theatre (Atlanta)

Presented by Georgia State's Conflict Resolution Symposium (below)

Monday, October 8th at 7:30pm.

1049 Ponce De Leon Avenue

This event is free and open to the public.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Georgia State University's 2nd Annual Conflict Resolution Symposium (Atlanta)

Friday, October 12th - Dinner/Screening at 6:00pm, Q&A at 7:30pm.

Student Center - 44 Courtland Street.

I will do a Q&A via Skype after the screening.

[Click here](#) to register for the conference or the dinner/screening. (\$35)

Sponsored by the GSU Office of the Ombudsperson

Arlington International Film Festival (MA)

Friday, October 19th at 8:45pm.

The Regent Theatre - 7 Medford Street

I will do a Q&A after the screening.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

2012 Miller Reel Jewish Woman Filmmaker Award and Screening (West Hartford)

At the University of Hartford

Saturday, November 10th - 7:00pm - 10:00pm.

Wilde Auditorium - 200 Bloomfield Avenue

Reception (7-8pm) Award Presentation/Screening/Q&A (8pm)

I will do a Q&A after the screening.

[Click here](#) for advance tickets.

Tickets will also be available at the door.

The Miller Reel Jewish Woman Filmmaker Award is made possible through the support of The Avy L. and Roberta L. Miller Foundation. This event is co-sponsored by the Charter Oak Cultural Center and the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, University of Hartford.

Colgate University (Hamilton, NY)

Monday, November 12th at 5pm

Persson Hall Auditorium

I will do a Q&A after the screening.

The screening is free and open to the public.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Sponsored by the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Muslim Student Association, Colgate Jewish Union.

Ha'aretz article by Mira Sucharov

What follows are two excerpts from Mira Sucharov's blog post, framing some of the core conceits of "My So-Called Enemy" in the context of current debates about peacemaking and a one or two-state solution in Israeli society. I encourage you to [read the entire article online](#) - or after my signature at the end of this newsletter.

THE FIFTH QUESTION

Intimacy or divorce? The paradox of peacemaking

Thoughts on the premier of 'My So-Called Enemy,' a documentary bringing viewers into the lives of six teenage girls from Israel and Palestine.

by Mira Sucharov

At the Canadian Premiere of Lisa Gossels' 2010 documentary "My So-Called Enemy," last night in Ottawa, I was struck by a fundamental paradox of Middle East peacemaking. On one hand, the warring parties are being pushed by policymakers and many peace activists to separate. Amos Oz has famously described Israelis and Palestinians as an unhappily married couple, stuck in the same apartment, desperately in need of a divorce. And Peace Now runs campaigns focusing on the moral, economic and security burden of the West Bank. Yet conflict resolution activists like those who run the various peace camps that dot the North American conflict resolution landscape, such as Seeds of Peace, Peace Camp Ottawa, and Building Bridges - the subject of Gossels' documentary, seem to rest on the opposite premise: that peace will come about through intimacy. Which is it?

... By bringing Israeli and Palestinian youth together for team building and the opportunity of intense friendship, particularly during adolescence, that vulnerable and tender period in a person's life, do these peace camps seek to promote a one-state solution, where everyone can live together, happily ever after?

Not necessarily.

I posed a similar question to Gossels after the film. Her response echoed what I have long believed: peace is at least a two-step process. The dynamic depicted in the film represents an important first stage. That is, in order to reach peace, there must be some opportunity to break down the symbolic walls standing between the Self and the Other. It's hard to contemplate new realities, aspects of which can be painful -- compromise often is -- without acknowledging the needs, desires, and narratives of one's "so-called" enemy.

It's not easy. It's not easy to be told that your family shouldn't be allowed to return to their ancestral home in Jaffa. And it's perhaps even harder to be told to go back to where your parents came from -- in the case of one Israeli girl in the film, Iran. But first let's talk. And really listen. And only once we've listened can we draw borders.

As for the one-state solution, it is very unlikely that Israelis will willingly forego the core identity of their state: that is, a Jewish and democratic one. Palestinians won't abide a never-ending occupation. If these girls -- and by extension, their leaders, are truly listening to one other, there's one likely solution that will emerge. The walls may remain, but they will hopefully be moved to accommodate two independent countries: no longer one existing under the heel of the other.

So, as Gossels and the six appealingly emotional, sensitive, intelligent and independent women she profiled on film well know, peacemaking is not much of a paradox after all.

How you can support our outreach efforts

Spread the word:

- Tell educators, clergy, friends and colleagues about "My So-Called Enemy" and recommend it for screenings and conferences. Suggest they "[like](#)" our film on Facebook and [join](#) our mailing list.

Share the love:

- Rate and/or write a review of "My So-Called Enemy" on [IMDB.com](#).
- Add "My So-Called Enemy" to your [Netflix](#) queue. If the demand is great enough, there is a better chance our movie will be available on Netflix in the future.

Bring "My So-Called Enemy" to your community

Do you have ideas about how our film can have the greatest impact in your community? Not just for dialogue around Middle East peace, but as a conflict resolution tool celebrating diversity, building bridges of understanding, and empowering girls/women/our youth to be agents for social change? If you do, please get in touch with me.

My greatest joy is teaching and being "in community" with "My So-Called Enemy." Please drop me a line if you are interested in hosting a screening and/or inviting me to present "My So-Called Enemy" at your academic or religious institution, peace/multi-faith organization or youth/after-school program. Because our model is coalition building, we encourage screenings to be co-hosted by diverse groups when possible.

As I continue to travel with "My So-Called Enemy," I am heartened and humbled by the lives our film is touching, the narratives it's transforming and the conversations it's allowing people to have. Thank you for your support. I'll look forward to staying in touch.

With gratitude and love,

Lisa

[THE FIFTH QUESTION](#) by Mira Sucharov

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At the Canadian Premiere of Lisa Gossels' 2010 documentary "My So-Called Enemy," last night in Ottawa, I was struck by a fundamental paradox of Middle East peacemaking. On one hand, the warring parties are being pushed by policymakers and many peace activists to separate. Amos Oz has famously described Israelis and Palestinians as an unhappily married couple, stuck in the same apartment, desperately in need of a divorce. And Peace Now runs campaigns focusing on the moral, economic and security burden of the West Bank. Yet conflict resolution activists like those who run the various peace camps that dot the North American conflict resolution landscape, such as Seeds of Peace, Peace Camp Ottawa, and Building Bridges - the subject of Gossels' documentary, seem to rest on the opposite premise: that peace will come about through intimacy. Which is it?

"My So-Called Enemy" brings viewers into the lives of six teenage girls from Israel and Palestine. They first meet in 2002 at a U.S.-based "peace camp" and team building. For eight years, Gossels follows the girls as they return to their homes and become women. The results are moving and fascinating, if not entirely unexpected. Friendships are forged, identities are solidified, family expectations are navigated, and the conflict -- depicted in all the bloodiness of the second Intifada and the 2008/09 Gaza War -- wears on.

Despite the inevitable burden that comes with being party to a protracted ethnic conflict, strong friendships are forged among the girls. One concluding scene shows two best friends -- one Israeli; the other Palestinian -- scrawling peace slogans on a looming, concrete section of the security wall around East Jerusalem. If and when the wall comes down, the implication seems to be, the friendship of these girls' will be unspoiled.

Middle East peacemakers, international and regional alike have long known that the best -- and indeed most popular -- solution remains the two-state solution. Yet creating a Palestinian state in most or all of the West Bank would hardly dissolve the walls separating Israelis from West Bank Palestinians; if anything, the border will be even more highly fortified.

Of course, another solution -- the one-state solution -- continues to rear its head. This week, Avi Shlaim, an Israeli-British professor of International Relations and one of Israel's so-called New Historians, has now come out in favor of such a solution.

"Today we have reached a point where it is barely conceivable, given the magnitude of the presence of the Israeli state on the West Bank. I have shifted therefore to supporting a one-state solution with equal rights for all the state's citizens. This is not what I would ideally like," Avi Shlaim [told Samira Shackie of the Middle East Monitor](#).

By bringing Israeli and Palestinian youth together for team building and the opportunity of intense friendship, particularly during adolescence, that vulnerable and tender period in a person's life, do these peace camps seek to promote a one-state solution, where everyone can live together, happily ever after?

Not necessarily.

I posed a similar question to Gossels after the film. Her response echoed what I have long believed: peace is at least a two-step process. The dynamic depicted in the film represents an important first stage. That is, in order to reach peace, there must be some opportunity to break down the symbolic walls standing between the Self and the Other. It's hard to contemplate new realities, aspects of which can be painful -- compromise often is -- without acknowledging the needs, desires, and narratives of one's "so-called" enemy.

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For the latest news on "My So-Called Enemy"

Join our mailing list: [www.mysocalledenemy.com](#)

"Like" our film on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mysocalledenemy](#)

Watch our trailer: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kKOL142XE](#)

"MY SO-CALLED ENEMY" a good egg production

director/producer **Lisa Gossels** producer **Eden Wurmfeld**

director of photography **Justin Schein** edited by **Lisa Gossels**

David Mehlman Toby Shimin music by **Nathan Larson**

2010 Hamptons International Film Festival

Winner, Jury Prize for Best Conflict & Resolution Film

2010 Starz Denver Film Festival

Winner, Special Jury Prize in Filmmaking

2010 Boston Jewish Film Festival

Winner, Audience Award, Best Feature Documentary Film

2011 Newport Beach Film Festival

Winner, Jury Award, Best Feature Documentary Film

Winner, MacGillivray Freeman Films Award for Excellence in Documentary Filmmaking (feature)

2011 CINE Golden Eagle

Winner, CINE Golden Eagle, Documentary Feature

