

The Peace, Justice, and Human Rights (PJHR) Program at John Carroll University



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From the Director's Desk (Dr. Philip Metres)

Welcome and welcome back! Two years ago, when I began as director of the Peace, Justice, and Human Rights program, I shared Robin Kelley's words in our first newsletter: **"Love. Study. Struggle."** I love the order of this invitation. It remains the spirit of the PJHR program--with so many JCU students and faculty passionate about making change, transforming conflict, oppression, and injustice.

People like **Kendra Cundiff** and **Maddie Mooney** (pictured above), who after participating in the **peacebuilding program in Ireland**, went for a special training at the United States Institute of Peace, this summer. In Maddie's words, "The first day, our professor said that a conflict is essentially a burning match--there's a trigger point (or points) that ignites the match on fire, and so our job as peacebuilders is to figure out what fuels it, aka, what are the root causes of the conflict. By identifying what is keeping this conflict aflame, we can then figure out and analyze different ways to properly extinguish the conflict."

Our work begins out of hope, a sense of love and passion for the good in this often-troubled world. We study because we need to understand the roots of injustice and conflict. Finally, we struggle. What Robin Kelley means by struggle is to engage in action to make change. But this struggle sometimes is also about transforming our own hearts. As we begin a new year, fired up to make change, I wish for all of us to create a refuge for ourselves, to create a space for daily reflection. To kindle mercy as well as resistance. To come home to ourselves as much as rout out that which needs change.

As I write in the introduction to my new book, *The Sound of Listening: Poetry as Refuge and Resistance*: **"we need refuge**, a place to be fully immersed in self-forgetful joy, if we want to resist injustice and oppression for the balance of our lives. Joy can be, in Rebecca Solnit's words, 'a fine initial act of insurrection.' We believe our age to be one of crisis, perhaps one of the worst ages. In this, it resembles every other age. We're afflicted with the illness of presentism, inflamed by digital media. Yes, it's true that there are real crises: global climate change, war and terrorism, racial oppression, predatory capitalism, sexual violence. But crisis thinking may be itself a sort of concussed thinking, causing us to fling ourselves at the latest distraction and lose our reason and empathy. Our empire and its echo chambers have made us terrified of terror, forgetful of our own histories of violence." **So find a space in your days for action and contemplation! Let's make joyful change!**

This fall, we have a great lineup of talks, events, and workshops to supplement our studies and our work: a kickoff poetry reading to raise awareness about the plight of refugees and immigrants, two events to raise awareness about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a day-long conference on the integral ecology and Catholic social teaching.

Also for those interested: **come to the Ireland Peacebuilding info session in AD 233 at 5pm on September 5th!**

Arrupe Scholars: know that your Arrupe courses all count toward the PJHR minor and major! Let me know if you'd like to join us.

Shepherd Intern Program and Poverty Studies: PJHR has developed a specialization in Poverty and Social Justice. More information will be out soon!

PJHR Fridays at the caf! Anyone who wants to meet and talk issues, I regularly make an appearance at around noon.

Love. Study. Struggle. Provide light in a dark world, show courage in the face of fear, think critically and imagine passionately, act with wisdom and hope.

Drop me an email (pmetres@jcu.edu) or come by my office at O'Malley 219. Let's make this campus, and our world, a place of hope. Love. Study. Struggle.



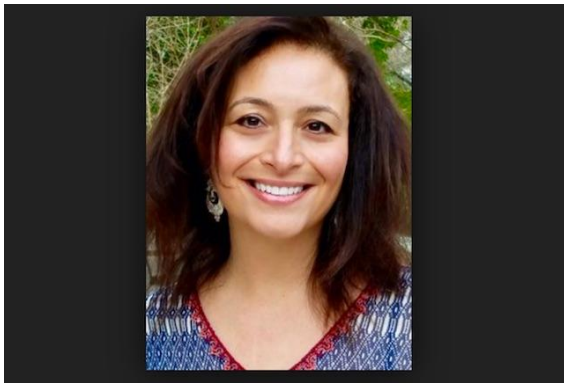
The Events: Mark Your Calendars!

8/30 8pm Rodman A: "Welcome Home! Poetry Reading To Raise Awareness for Refugees and Immigrants"

Join faculty poets George Bilgere and Philip Metres and students Autumn Franz, Christ Gnassingbe, Sylvia Iorio, Sophia Maltese, Wesley Olin, Zeljana Opacak, and Zach Thomas for a reading of poems to to awareness about the plight of immigrants and refugees and the work of Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services. Donations welcome. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by PJHR and the English Department.

9/24 8pm Rodman A. "A reading by Zach Savich and Hilary Plum"

For those interested in the intersection between literature and politics from two contemporary authors--Zach Savich and Hilary Plum are the authors of numerous award-winning books of poetry and prose, including *Daybook* and *Strawberry Fields*, a novel about war and other disasters. Learn about how writers approach the problems of our world today!



9/29 9am-4pm Caring for Our Common Home: Laudato Si and Integral Ecology Conference at John Carroll University (Dolan Science Center)

This conference is inspired by Pope Francis's "Laudato Si," which calls upon us to "care for our common home." If you're passionate about the environment or just want to learn more about integral ecology and environmental justice, please come! All are welcome. Free for students, and includes lunch. [Sign up here.](#)

10/16 Palestinian American poet Deema Shehabi, to talk and read her poetry at 8pm in Rodman A

Deema K. Shehabi is the author of *Thirteen Departures from the Moon* and co-editor with Beau Beausoleil of *Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here*. She's also co-author with Marilyn Hacker of *Diaspo/Renga*. Free and open to the public.

10/24 Israeli author Yossi Klein-Halevi, to talk about his book, "Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor" at 7:30 pm in Donohue Auditorium.


Klein-Halevi wrote this book in order to try to explain his narrative to Palestinians, while at the same time acknowledging their narrative, in the hopes that the future will be more peaceful than the present. In his words, this is "an invitation to a conversation in which both sides disagree on the most basic premises with the hope that we may undertake a journey of listening to each other."

Sponsored by the Hopkins fund of the JCU English Department and co-sponsored by PJHR, Cleveland Hillel, Jewish Federation, among others. Free and open to the public.

11/8 5pm in Rodman A. "Live and Direct: Poverty, Affordable Housing, and Homelessness in Cleveland"

Despite the 'renaissance' in Cleveland, people still struggle to live a dignified life. 46% of the people in Cleveland live in poverty and 23,000 people experience

A Conversation with
YOSSI KLEIN HALEVI



Author of *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*

New York Times Bestseller
Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor
Yossi Klein Halevi

“An invitation to a conversation in which both sides disagree on the most basic premises with the hope that we may undertake a journey of listening to each other.”

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 24
7:30 P.M.**

Dolan Auditorium
at John Carroll University
1 John Carroll Boulevard
University Heights, OH 44118

Open to the public. Free admission and parking.
Light refreshments served
Books available for purchase and signing

To learn more, contact yossi@jcu.edu
or call 216-397-4221

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homelessness. Join Chris Knestrick for a panel discussion that will center the perspectives of people with lived experienced of homelessness and community leaders advocating for change.

12/5 8pm in Rodman A. A Poetry Reading by Teri Cross Davis and Dave Lucas

Join Teri Cross Davis and Dave Lucas for a reading of their work! Teri Ellen Cross Davis is the author of *Haint* (Gival Press, 2016), winner of the 2017 Ohioana Book Award for Poetry. She is a Cave Canem fellow and works as the poetry coordinator for the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.



Dave Lucas is the author of *Weather* (2011), also a winner of the Ohioana Book Award, and is currently serving as the Ohio Poet Laureate! Dave is a graduate of John Carroll University ('02), and will talk a bit about the role of poetry in our society today.



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