הנסו להתן חشبه של המרץ תחילה המרג "מאפיינים של המרג השלישית יישראלי".

 PROF. LISTER SALISMAN

ושמעה קול חידוש התשומת הלאומית. היא חכמת
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המשכיות שלישית, 1998

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ניטהיה ומשה שטלא ממקור

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International Conferences on the Third Sector
March 25-26, 1999
Contact: Independent Sector, 1828 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. USA: phone: (202) 223-8100, fax 202-457-0699

פורים, דברהMesh

AmeriCorps was created in 1993 to help solve the country's social problems and improve the quality of life for all Americans. AmeriCorps members, known as "National Service Members," serve on behalf of AmeriCorps, the national service program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps members serve in a variety of capacities, including teaching, public service, and community development. They are supported by a national support system, including the Corporation for National and Community Service, which provides funding, technical assistance, and leadership.

AmeriCorps members are committed to making a difference in their communities and in the lives of others. They serve with passion and dedication, and they are valued for their hard work and commitment to making a difference. AmeriCorps members are an important part of the fabric of our nation, and they are an inspiration to all of us.

AmeriCorps members are trained and supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps. The Corporation provides funding, technical assistance, and leadership to AmeriCorps. The Corporation also provides AmeriCorps members with a range of benefits, including health insurance, child care, and college tuition assistance.

AmeriCorps members are chosen through a competitive selection process, and they receive a living allowance, education award, and health benefits.

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Visitors at ICTR: Prof. Debra Mesch

In April 1999, ICTR will begin a new phase in its development when it will be hosting its first visiting scholar, Debra Mesch. Associate Professor from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, will be spending a semester at ICTR in order to conduct research on Israel's Perach program.

Prof. Mesch earned her Ph.D. in organizational behavior and human resource management from the Graduate School of Business at Indiana University. Since 1992, she's taught at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). Her research interests have included personnel and management issues. Lately, she became interested in issues of managing volunteers.

With one of her colleagues Prof. James Perry, Prof. Mesch had the opportunity to engage in researching AmeriCorps - a federal program in the US designed to provide prospective college students with an opportunity to volunteer in a wide array of public/community service settings and receive in the process a small stipend and tuition assistance. This study of AmeriCorps volunteers aroused an interest in the field of "stipended" volunteers.

In light of her general interest in Israel, it was almost expected that she would be attracted to the Perach program. Perach differs from AmeriCorps. What impressed Prof. Mesch about this program was the extremely high proportion of students who take part (relative to AmeriCorps) and the name recognition associated with it. She then decided to take advantage of an upcoming sabbatical to examine Perach in what will be an attempt to study its organizational and managerial attributes and compare them to AmeriCorps.

"We welcome Prof. Debra Mesch at ICTR," says Prof. Gitron, Director of ICTR. "Her extended visit and the study she will be engaged in is important for us on two counts. First, we are starting a program to enable international Third-Sector researchers to spend time with us and share their knowledge and insights. At the same time, we will be benefiting from the studies these researchers will conduct here, especially when these are comparative in nature, as is Prof. Mesch's."
In reviewing plans for the next academic year, all indications are that it will be a very exciting one! The success of ICTR during its first year in building a viable infrastructure and initiating several projects has us poised this year to "deliver the goods" on some of these projects.

We are currently working on three original publications treating different aspects of the Third Sector in Israel, with fascinating data on issues never before studied. In order to disseminate these findings and to bring them to the attention of as many researchers and practitioners as possible, ICTR will organize half-day or full-day symposia with leading figures in the relevant fields, where the findings in these studies will be presented, discussed, and evaluated. In organizing these symposia, efforts are made to involve Third Sector umbrella-organizations, relevant professional associations and government agencies to participate in or co-sponsor these events with ICTR.

Our Second Annual Conference promises to be another highlight this year. We are particularly pleased that two of the leading figures in international Third Sector research, Prof. Lester Salamon and Prof. Antoin Wagner, will participate therein. Prof. Salamon is arriving in order to join us for the release of the preliminary findings of the Israeli study in conjunction with the International Mapping of the Nonprofit Sector. He will not only comment on these findings, but will share with conference participants some of the most recent findings from the comparative study he directs ("The Hopkins Project").

Prof. Wagner, President of the International Society of Third Sector Research (ISTR), will review the current state of Third Sector research globally.

Based on our lessons from last year's conference, we have decided to convene the 2-day conference at a hotel on the Dead Sea. This should ensure a more "stable" participation and allow conference participants more time for informal interaction. We will see to it that the cost of participation is affordable and intend to subsidize student participation in order to maximize their attendance.

Another exciting project ICTR will initiate this year is Building the Israeli Third Sector Data Base. Details on that project are presented on p.B. While data on the private and public sectors is readily available, this is not yet true of the Third Sector. The importance of such a database for Israeli Third Sector research and policy making is virtually self-evident. The data we seek and the file we want to create will afford researchers a comprehensive view of Israel's Third Sector (or components thereof) from a whole variety of angles. From partial material already obtained, we now realize how lengthy and tedious a project this will be, as the material presently contained in the files requires a complete overhaul. But these problems were anticipated and are not insurmountable. However, in the process of constructing such a file, we realize that we'll have to overcome a previous hurdle, namely that of obtaining the files in the first place. Some files, particularly those administered by the Income Tax authorities, are legally closed to public scrutiny. In other cases, where no legal constraints exist, our experience has demonstrated that some agencies possessing such data (though certainly not all) were reluctant to cooperate with us and our attempts to receive these data are currently stalled. This is not a private matter between ICTR and certain public agencies, but rather one of principle. The issue at hand is nothing less than the openness and transparency of the Third Sector, for a policy of secrecy may suggest that those involved therein have something to hide.

The importance of openness and availability of data on Third Sector organizations to researchers and to the general public alike cannot be understated; it is linked directly to the issues of accountability of and public confidence in the Third Sector, which in turn is linked to the kinds of roles this Sector can and should play in society. The Freedom of Information Act recently passed by the Knesset requires all public agencies (with obvious exceptions) to open their files to the public upon request. From the perspective of Israel's bureaucracy, this is a revolutionary law which, when implemented, should dramatically impact the state of information on Third Sector organizations - especially among those agencies which are presently less than eager to share their data. It should also hasten the process by which data on the financial aspects of Third Sector organizations held by the Income Tax Authorities (currently shielded by law from public scrutiny) will become public domain. But openness does not only apply to information held by government and public agencies. It applies no less to individual Third Sector organizations, some of which are equally reluctant to disclose information on their activities and finances. A project by the Israeli Voluntary and Nonprofit Sector to create a Code of Ethics for Third Sector organizations, including provisions for transparency and openness, should be highly recommended. It is hard to imagine how we, as researchers, will be able to seriously apply our trade without such openness.

Let me end this column with a farewell. Smadar Knaa-Morone is leaving ICTR. While her title was the Center's "administrative assistant", I always considered her my partner. She spared no effort to guarantee that whatever ICTR produced was and looked nothing less than first class. I refer not only to the conference she organized single-handedly last March or the newsletter and publications she put out, but also to the courtesy with which she received telephone inquiries and the speed with which matters were expedited. During last year's conference dinner, we all raised our glasses and congratulated her on her upcoming wedding. I'm sure you all join me in raising a (virtual) glass in wishing Smadar and her husband lots of success in Tel Aviv.

Smadar is followed by Efraim Nativ-Ronen who comes to ICTR with an impressive academic background and experience. Efraim will be actively involved in some of ICTR's research projects.
ISTR’s third international conference, Geneva, July 1998

The International Society for Third-sector Research (ISTR), founded less than ten years ago, has already become the preeminent scholarly association in its field, boasting some 500 members from over 70 countries and from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.

The Society, currently led by Prof. Antonin Wagner from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, performs an important role in promoting research on the Third Sector internationally. Among the vehicles employed by ISTR in the pursuit of its mission are publication of the World Journal of Nonprofit and Public Sector Management, organization of international conferences, initiation and support of regional research networks, promotion of collaborative research, and more. The extensive activities of ISTR were evident in its third biennial international conference, which was held this past summer at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. The central theme of the conference was the role of the third sector in conflict resolution and promoting peace and was highlighted by the presentation of findings from the International Study of Peace and conflict resolution Organizations (ISPO). In addition, some two hundred papers were presented in dozens of sessions.

The Israeli presence at the conference was impressive, numbering twelve participants, half of whom presented their work. In addition to the research links that were emphasized at the conference, much organized and informal social activity took place outside the lecture halls, most notably a dinner cruise on Lake Geneva and a cocktail party and reception at the Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum. Also, various regional research networks were founded, and many collaborative research efforts were initiated.

The conference, characterized by a high academic standard of presenters, a pleasant atmosphere, and extremely efficient management was deemed a success by its many participants (some 400 ISTR members and guests). The general membership assembly, before formally adjourning the conference, determined that Dublin, Ireland would be the site for the fourth international conference in July, 2000.

A new project: the Israeli Third Sector database

In recent decades, the Third Sector has attracted both popular and academic interest in Israel, due to the growth in its scope and its importance to the Israeli economy and society. Consequently, the need for a comprehensive and reliable database on this significant Israeli social and economic phenomenon has evolved. The state of the data on Israel's Third Sector is far from satisfactory. Much of the data on Israeli nonprofits lacks order and continuity and those that are collected are often scattered among a variety of agencies that use differing criteria for their information. This state of affairs results in the inability to integrate different data on a single organization or group of organizations. Unfortunately, some of these databases are plagued by inaccuracies and disarray and there are no plans to improve the situation. Furthermore, a large part of the existing data is unavailable to the public. Hence, the insufficient data, its methodological shortcomings and its problematic accessibility have all likely frustrated those researchers attempting quantitative analyses on the Third Sector.

The Israeli Center for Third-sector Research regards the establishment of a comprehensive database of the Third Sector as one of its primary tasks. Indeed, part of its mission is to provide the public and policy makers in Israel with the data necessary to understand the activity of Third Sector organizations in Israel, and to formulate public policies accordingly. We therefore intend to establish a database on Israeli Third Sector organizations that will consolidate, organize, and later disseminate existing data to those interested parties from various public agencies.

The proposed database will gather all available structural, legal and fiscal data on Third Sector organizations in Israel - past and present. These data will be reorganized and computerized so as to comply with the strictest academic standards of quality and reliability and become amenable to research and inform policy making. The data, when ready, will be utilized by The Israeli Center for Third-sector Research staff in the preparation of reports and publications and will be made available to other researchers as well.

Presently, the project is in its very initial stages; access to a few public databases has been secured, and negotiations with others are currently underway. Much effort was expended in the cleaning, reorganization and development of an infrastructure that would facilitate the merging of data from different sources. Despite the difficulties encountered, we plan to present some of the preliminary findings from the database within the next few months.

ICTR Managing Structure

ICTR Steering Committee:
Prof. W. Ackerman (chair),
Prof. R. Carmi, Prof. A. Reuvel,
Prof. J. Weinblatt

ICTR Director:
Prof. Benjamin Gelron

Methodological Advisor:
Prof. Shmuel Shyne

Assistant to the Director:
Efrat Natv-Ronen
Second ICTR’s Annual Conference to Focus on the “Characteristics of the Israeli Third Sector”

As the new academic year is now under way, ICTR’s plans for its Second Annual Conference are already gearing up. Building on last year’s successful meeting, the Conference will again provide a stage for Israeli Third Sector researchers, in all disciplines, to present their work, completed and in-progress.

Conference – the venue where findings from both the Israeli study and the international comparative study will be presented.

The findings of the Israeli study will be presented by the teams that conducted the research on the various components within the project, namely: H. Bar-Mor - Legal aspects, I. Silber & Z. Rosenhak - Historical aspects; E. Hadar, S. Peleg, N. Brenner & H. Katz - Economic aspects; Y. Katan & M. Talasz - Policy aspects; B. Cedron, S. Skye & A. Lazar - Patterns of Giving and Volunteering; S. Skye & E. Zichinsky - Impact of the Sector on Society.

Each of these components is of course a story in and of itself, put together we should begin to see the comprehensive and multifaceted picture of the Israeli Third Sector.

The Israeli data will be put in the context of the broader international picture by the initiator and director of the International Nonprofit Sector Project (currently conducted in 35 countries), Prof. Lester Salamon of Johns Hopkins University who will present initial findings from this pioneering study.

This year, as the work on the Mapping the Israeli Nonprofit Sector within the Hopkins Project is in its final stages and data on many of the project’s components will be available, the organizers have decided to use the ICTR Annual Conference as a “Release Conference.”

Another distinguished guest planning to attend our Conference is Prof. Antonin Wagner, from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, who is currently President of the International Society of Third Sector Research (ISTR).

ICTR Announces award for innovative third sector research

ICTR’s Steering Committee has decided to grant a special award to a Third Sector Scholar, Israeli or international, who, in his/her studies, has introduced innovative conceptual frameworks or methodologies, and thus contributed significantly to the understanding of and thinking on the Third Sector or aspects thereof.

The award, which will be granted for the first time at the ICTR Second Annual Conference in March 1999, should help in promoting the visibility and appreciation for this new field of research.

In this Issue:

- Second ICTR’s Annual Conference
- ICTR Announces Award
- A New Project: the Israeli Third Sector Database
- ICTR’s Third International Conference
- Director’s Column
- Forthcoming Publications of the Israeli Center
- A Guest to ICTR: Prof. Debra Mesch
- ICTR offers Scholarships for Doctoral and Masters Students