

# THE JEWISH ADVOCATE®

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## Peace pottery at Brandeis

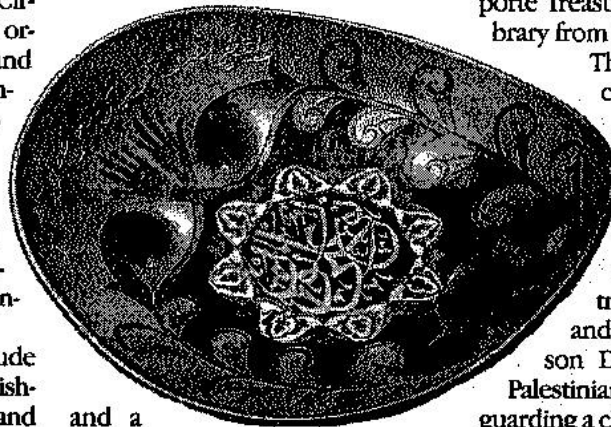
WALTHAM — Brandeis University will be the first stop on a nationwide peace tour featuring Israeli and Palestinian artwork. The exhibition, "Offering Reconciliation," will showcase 135 ceramic bowls used by the artists to express their interpretation of the intrinsic values of reconciliation: coexistence, pain, loss, fracture and fusion.

"Offering Reconciliation" was commissioned by the Parents Circle-Families Forum, a grassroots organization of bereaved Israelis and Palestinians that promotes reconciliation. Along with the Parents Circle, the U.S. exhibitions will be co-presented by the Association of Israel's Decorative Arts (AIDA), a nonprofit dedicated to exposing contemporary decorative artists from Israel to an international audience.

The artists represented include Israeli sculptor Menashe Kadishman, Israeli abstract sculptor and environmental artist Dani Karavan, Israeli-born photographer/videographer Michal Rovner, Palestinian artist Jalal Kamel and Aliza Olmert, wife of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Palestinian artist Osama Zatar sculpted a barbed wire olive tree that grows out of a painted rural landscape. The legs of his bowl are adorned with symbols of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

The artists' bowls will eventually be auctioned to benefit the ongoing educational activities of the Parents Circle-Families Forum, which has an Israeli office in Ramat Ef'al



and a Palestinian office in A-Ram. Last year, the group organized more than 1,000 dialogue meetings with Israeli and Palestinian high school children and youth movement members, as

well as students and groups from abroad. The Forum also hosts reconciliation meetings for Israeli and Palestinian adults and study days with people who shape public opinion, including high-ranking army officers and influential people in the financial world.

The exhibit is currently on display for the Brandeis community and the general public in the Rapaport Treasure Hall of Goldfarb Library from through April 1.

The Parents Circle is also coordinating talks with Parents Circle members Ali Abu Awwad, whose brother was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint at the entrance to their village, and Robi Damelin, whose son David was killed by a Palestinian sniper while he was guarding a checkpoint near a settlement during his army reserve service. Both will speak at Brandeis about their experiences.

For more information, visit [www.brandeis.edu/events/reconciliation](http://www.brandeis.edu/events/reconciliation).

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