

Thomas G. Walsh
December 8, 2023



HJ International

GRADUATE SCHOOL for
PEACE AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP



[Chapel Service: Thanksgiving Reflections on the Era of the Barrytown Providence](#)

CHapel SERVICE WEDNESDAY
11.22.23 | 11AM ET

Thanksgiving Reflections on the Era of the Barrytown Providence

FEATURING SPECIAL REMARKS BY:

 DR. THOMAS WALSH HJI PRESIDENT	 DR. THOMAS WARD HJI PROVOST	 DR. MICHAEL MICKLER DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HISTORICAL STUDIES	 UTE DELANEY SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC ADMIN.
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HJI was pleased to hold a virtual chapel service entitled "Thanksgiving Reflections on the Era of the Barrytown Providence" featuring special remarks from Dr. Thomas Walsh, President, Dr. Thomas Ward, Provost, Dr. Michael Mickler, Distinguished Professor of Historical Studies, Ute Delaney, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Administration.

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[Perspectives on the Crisis in Gaza 11.21.2023](#)

HJ INTERNATIONAL & HIGHER PURPOSE FORUM PRESENT

PERSPECTIVES ON THE CRISIS IN GAZA

Tue, Nov 21
07:00 PM ET



HPF Chair
James Edgerly
Higher Purpose Forum (HPF)



Panelist
Dr. Drissa Kone
HJI Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution and the Ministry



Panelist
Dr. Andrew Wilson
HJI Professor of Scriptural Studies



Panelist
William Haines
Universal Peace Federation, UK



Commentator
Dr. Thomas Walsh
President of HJI



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HIGHER PURPOSE
forum
Exploring important questions together

On Tuesday, November 21, HJI was pleased to co-host a panel discussion with the Higher Purpose Forum (HPF) entitled, "Perspectives on the Crisis in Gaza." Distinguished panelists presented varied perspectives on serious challenges and potential solutions associated with the recent tragic events in southern Israel and the Gaza Strip.

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HJ International Graduate School
for Peace and Public Leadership
4W43 St. New York, NY 10036

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Chapel Service: Thanksgiving Reflections on the Era of the Barrytown Providence

HJI Communications 08 December 2023

HJI was pleased to hold a virtual chapel service entitled "Thanksgiving Reflections on the Era of the Barrytown Providence" featuring special remarks from Dr. Thomas Walsh, President, Dr. Thomas Ward, Provost, Dr. Michael Mickler, Distinguished Professor of Historical Studies, Ute Delaney, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Administration.

Steven Boyd, Dean of Enrollment Management & Student Life, began the service by inviting all in attendance to join in heartfelt reflections of gratitude and appreciation for the many years of successful activities on the Barrytown property. Mika Deshotel, Associate Dean of Student Life, offered a heartfelt prayer of thanks to Heavenly Parent and True Parents to begin the program.

Dr. Frank LaGrotteria, Vice President, read passages taken from the *Unification Theological Seminary Inaugural Convocation Speech* by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and an excerpt from *Mother of Peace: A memoir* by Hak Ja Han Moon, reminding us of True Parent's vision and investment in the institution. A video selection of images of HJI highlights past and present was shared. Following the reading, Rev. Demian Dunkley, Regional Chair and President of FFWPU USA, offered greetings and recalled the many meaningful experiences at the Barrytown property that our Unificationist community shares.

Dr. Walsh followed with his expression of gratitude to all who played a role in the history of the Barrytown providence. He fondly recounted his personal experiences with Father Moon on the Barrytown property, and expressed thanks for the opportunity he was given to study at HJI. Dr. Walsh underscored that the Barrytown providence "is a history that is etched in the heart and soul of heaven, and it is forever there in the eternal accomplishment and victory of our True Parents. We are so indebted to our True Parents for giving us this property to use so purposefully and powerfully for our movement and God's providence. [...] We feel a tremendous responsibility to build on this unshakeable, unbreakable, and victorious foundation and take it further."

Dr. Ward spoke movingly about the many precious memories he and many Unificationists enjoyed when Barrytown was a residential seminary. "All of us were prepared here for a public life. We received remarkable types of training in many specific areas." He recounted that students were able to expand their hearts and minds through physical and intellectual training, including Tong-Il Moo Do training, contact with nature on Father's trail, and memorable experiences fishing with True Parents on the Hudson River. He recalled the ecumenical and interfaith initiatives launched at Barrytown, recounted the many visits True Father made to Barrytown, and how Father revealed a very personable and vulnerable side of his character to them. Dr. Ward closed his remarks expressing enthusiasm for the current new chapter of HJI in which modern technology allows HJI to reach people worldwide.

Dr. Mickler, reflected on the rich history of the Barrytown property before the Unification movement purchased it in 1974, with towering figures associated with the property including Robert Livingston, Theodore Roosevelt, John D. Rockefeller and the Christian Brothers. Dr. Mickler noted that "the major theme of this property is going out to impact the world. [...] Now our institution is moving out with the vision of transforming the world, [with] a whole new identity and a great mission." However, importantly, Father's Trail will be preserved with the sale of the building, so "the legacy and presence will always be at Barrytown."

Dean Delaney shared her cherished experiences of God's love through nature while residing on campus in the early 1990's. She invited the audience "on a walk" through the Barrytown property. "Everyday you walk, you see nature is changing around you, [...] but it is also always the same. There's the same rock on the side, sometimes covered in grass, sometimes covered in ice, but it's the same rock. [...] It occurred to me that in nature with all these changes from the morning to the evening, from day to day, from months to months, from season to season, it's always changing and always the same, and that is the same with God. [...] We're still the same, with the same vision Father had when he started the seminary, [which is now] HJI."

At the conclusion of the formal program, testimonies were shared on behalf of those in attendance. Dr. Franco Famularo, Chair of the HJI Board of Trustees, explained that he was personally asked by Father Moon in 1991 to attend UTS at Barrytown. He expressed his deep gratitude for the many meaningful experiences he enjoyed at the property, where he made life-long friendships that remain until today. Mrs. Marie Ang, who with her late husband Dr. Edwin Ang, served the Seminary for 17 years beginning in 1975, spoke of intimate experiences with True Parents during their frequent visits to Barrytown, and of the many projects she initiated while living there.

The program concluded with Dr. Walsh's expression of hope for the vision and growth of HJI through the blessing and guidance of True Mother who is leading the institution to a new level of achievement and success.



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HJI Communications 06 December 2023

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HPF Chair, James Edgerly, hosted this important event attended by over 150 participants.

Panelists included Dr Drissa Kone, HJI Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution and the Ministry, Dr. Andrew Wilson, HJI Professor of Scriptural Studies, and William Haines, Unificationist Pastor in North London, United Kingdom. The Q&A session from the audience was moderated by David Stewart, and final comments were provided by HJI President, Dr. Thomas Walsh.

Following participant Alan Wilding's invocation, Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Life, Steven Boyd offered welcoming remarks on behalf of HJI, and gave a synopsis of the programs and activities advanced by the Graduate School. Mr. Edgerly then gave an overview of the work of HPF which, he explained, is "based on the ideas of Unificationism...[and] explores and disseminates a new, future-facing, God-Centered understanding in addressing challenging contemporary issues... and which seeks solutions that advance shared values, mutual prosperity and interdependence."

Dr. Drissa Kone began the panel presentations by sharing his insights on the current crisis from an Islamic perspective, interweaving both scriptural and political concerns. "The dispute between Israel and its Muslim neighbors is very complex, and dates back 4,000 years. The crisis goes back to Isaac and Ishmael, the two sons of Abraham. [...] Ishmael became the first Arab, and Isaac became the first Jew". Such historical context is critical to gain a meaningful appreciation of how "the Promised Land is viewed differently by Muslims and Jews..." Dr. Kone concluded by underlining the importance of addressing the root causes of the crisis, not simply the elements of the current outbreak, and that this undertaking requires sensitivity to both sides of the issue.

Pastor William Haines shared a detailed analysis of providential factors underlying the modern-day Israeli-Palestinian conflict as outlined in the Divine Principle. He pointed to God's efforts in history to raise up forces of goodness to subdue evil as part of the restoration of God's ideal, and gave examples of such conflict between sovereign entities on the state, regional, and global levels throughout history. After a detailed narrative, Pastor Haines offered concrete suggestions for all parties concerned, and affirmed that any successful resolution of the conflict requires the constructive participation of Israel, Palestine, as well as regional and global powers.

Dr. Andrew Wilson stated that in the current situation the "fundamental problem, [...] is a lack of love." To address this root cause, Dr. Wilson recalled the past efforts of the Unificationist community to change the narrative of conflict through the work of the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI), led by the Universal Peace Federation. He affirmed that while MEPI produced positive, hopeful results some years ago, the effort in the Middle East must continue if it is to have lasting impact. Moving forward, Dr. Wilson emphasized that the issues faced in Gaza and the West Bank should be included in this process. He affirmed the two-state solution and stated that it should be implemented when the time is ripe "based on the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values."

Following the Q&A session moderated by Mr. Stewart, Dr. Thomas Walsh expressed his appreciation for the varied viewpoints presented in the discussion, and noted that only the presence of universal love can bring unity out of marked division. He emphasized that HJI is committed to building strong, effective peace studies programs to address conflict in the Middle East and elsewhere, and that religious worldviews are a critical part of this process. "The great shift that is taking place globally in the spheres of religion, politics and economics is that religion is not just some marginal sphere but is integral to much of human identity. Therefore, as we try to address the issues holistically, we must develop our literacy and intelligence in the areas of political science, economics, social theory [and] religion."

[Watch the recording here.](#)

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