

September 24, 2019

Dear Friend,

I'm writing to share exciting news from the Bard Center for the Study of Hate (BCSH).

First, we have received a [\\$165,000 grant from GS Humane Corp.](#) It is transformative, and will allow BCSH to support Bard faculty as they design and teach new hate-focused courses, including multidisciplinary ones; create an "economic cost of hate" index, directed by Bard Assistant Professor of Economics Michael Martell; create a "level of annual hate" index, conceived and directed by Robert Matthew Tynes, Associate Director for Research Bard Prison Initiative; underwrite a consultation on how those opposing hate can use social media more effectively; and underwrite a multiday retreat both for academics who study hate and key NGO staff members working to oppose hate.

I'll keep you posted as these initiatives take shape.

Second, faculty members are meeting every three weeks to read about hatred from multiple disciplines, as part of a year-long self-education program designed to infuse new ways to teach about hatred in classes that already discuss it ([there are 40 classes this semester](#)), and to imagine new courses. If anyone is interested in seeing the texts the faculty is reading, email me (kstern@bard.edu), and I'll gladly share the material with you.

Third, we established the [Beth Rickey Award](#), to inspire students and others in the Bard community about the importance of combating hate. Named for the Republican official who was most responsible for derailing neo-Nazi David Duke's political ambitions, it is given to a member of the Bard community who has taken sustained and effective action against hate. The award was the subject of [national news](#).

Fourth, we've started a speakers series about hate. If you're near Bard College, you're welcome to join us. The first speaker, this Thursday September 26 at 5pm, is Dr. Richard Friedman, who will talk about "The Neuroscience and Psychology of Hatred and Tribalism in America—and What to Do About It." The full lineup is [here](#). One of the speakers – Maggie Paxson, who will be at Bard in the spring – also talked about her new book [THE PLATEAU](#) at a BCSH reception in Brooklyn last week, kindly hosted by Bard Trustee Barbara Grossman '73, and organized with the help of Eric Warren Goldman '98 and his colleague Erin Ziegler. We hope to have other programs in NYC in the months ahead too.

Finally, let me thank you for your interest in BCSH's mission, and for those of you who are celebrating the Jewish New Year, let me wish you a happy, healthy, and less hateful one.

With best regards,

Ken

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