

# Eli J. Segal

CITIZEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## 2008 Annual Report

January 2009



Eli J. Segal with  
AmeriCorps Members  
at the White House

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### Message from Program Director and Founder Larry Bailis

Welcome to the 2008 Annual Report of the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program. In this and future reports, we share updates about activities and accomplishments and hope to inspire action and communication between Founders, Fellows and program staff in a “continuous improvement” approach to achieve our ambitious goals.

The inaugural Segal Memorial Lecture by President William Jefferson Clinton and the initial meeting of the Segal Citizen Leadership Network in December 2007 represented an auspicious kickoff. As you will see, the Program continued to move from a dream to a reality in 2008. Highlights over the past twelve months include:

- There are now 17 Segal Fellows in the Citizen Leadership Network, including the first class of six Brandeis Segal Fellows and new Segal Fellows selected in 2008 by CityYear (Bridge Builder Award) and AmeriCorps Alums (Eli J. Segal Entrepreneurship Award);
- Twenty-nine Segal Fellows, Founders and program staff participated in a full-day Network Session led by Founder and Segal Fellow Peter Murray (AmeriCorps Alum ‘02), where they focused on leadership development, the vision of Fellows and ways to turn their ideas into reality.
- More than 25 Founders contributed their time and expertise in various ways to strengthening the program.

As the new Director (part of a team featured on page 4), I am grateful for the opportunity to draw upon the lessons I have learned in more than two decades of research and activism related to service programs, and to help shape a network that will promote the personal and professional growth of its members and develop new generations of citizen leaders like Eli Segal.

*Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program Director, Larry Bailis*

### Founder Laura Gassner Otting: Coaching a Segal Fellow

When I was asked to be a Coach for a Segal Fellow, I was flattered, humbled, then struck with dread. I had no idea how to coach someone to be a citizen leader. Saying no to honoring the legacy of a man who significantly impacted my life, as well as many others, was not an option. Admitting I was clueless wasn’t going to get me out of anything either; after all, Eli loved new challenges!

But here was the problem: I never knew Eli as a leader...or so I thought. At the time he was making a lasting imprint on my life, I was just 21 years old and naive enough to define leadership in the narrowest of terms. I thought leadership was loud, brash, and public. I expected it was driven by a desire to seek change, but also by ego and personal gain.

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## Coaching a Segal Fellow (continued from Page 1)

Yet, it was through this coaching experience, in the telling of just a few of so many wonderful “Eli Stories” we all hold dear, that all of those quiet lessons Eli imparted became real. By reframing Eli’s lessons to guide my Segal Fellow, I once again felt his hand pushing me along as I honed my own leadership style. Indeed, through the last six years of my entrepreneurial adventure, the lessons I never knew to be lessons have all begun to blossom in ways I wish I could share with Eli.

The coaching experience gave me the feeling of going full circle. By helping my Segal Fellow find her way, I finally got to share with Eli what he so generously shared with me.

*Founder Laura Gassner Otting, Coached Segal Fellow Katharine Tull (Brandeis ‘08)*

## Reflections from Segal Fellow Jess Kent (Brandeis ‘08)



My experience as a Segal Fellow began this summer with my internship at the Center for Progressive Leadership. This provided a wonderful opportunity for me to think about and engage with ideas of “what initiatives are actually helpful to the people who need them most.” I asked a ton of questions, observed the tremendous group effort that is imperative to facilitating large and long-term change, and witnessed the many different avenues through which change can be instituted.

After returning to Brandeis for my senior year, I enrolled in a graduate school class entitled “Social Entrepreneurship” with a Harvard Business School professor to further explore the issues studied at my internship. The class complemented my summer experience by giving me a more comprehensive understanding of how important innovation and scalability are to our efforts as citizen leaders. It equipped me with the concepts that are necessary to do this kind of work and exercised my creativity to foresee potential roadblocks to good ideas and come up with solutions preemptively.

My Segal Fellow internship experience at the Center for Progressive Leadership helped me tip toe into the waters of policy, politics and potential; I am eager to dive in and put the lessons I’ve learned to good use to make my ideas become a reality. I have attended several Network meetings and look forward to more in the future. I thank everyone involved in the Segal Program for providing me with this opportunity.

*Segal Fellow Jess Kent (Brandeis ‘08)*

## Teach for America: Segal Fellow “Indispensible”

This summer, Segal Fellow Jordan Rothman (Brandeis ‘08) served as a Teach for America recruitment team intern. Jordan joined our conference production team, which was responsible for planning and executing our summer kick-off training conferences. It was no small task – 15 days of staff training in 2 cities (New Orleans and Baltimore) for more than 200 recruitment team members! In the weeks leading up to the conference, Jordan helped us book travel, edit final training documents, and pull together all of the supplies and materials that we needed to run the weeks smoothly. It was on site in New Orleans and

Baltimore, however, that Jordan proved to be indispensable.

His unflagging energy and positive attitude were infectious, even after dozens of trips to Kinko’s and long hours of sitting in on training sessions. In a matter of days, everyone on the team knew Jordan (it helps that he’s almost 7 feet tall...) and was excited to see him every day, and to try to recruit him for the Teach For America corps!

*Segal Fellow Internship Supervisor Kelly Harris Perrin, Teach for America*



Coach & Founder Charlie Rose with Jordan Rothman

## Founder Arnie Miller: Emerging Segal Network

As a lifelong friend of Eli’s (we knew each other for almost 40 years) I felt a special kind of excitement watching a group of young people – some of whom

knew and worked for him (though most did not) –

come together with friends of Eli at meetings of the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program. While we were all at different stages of our lives, we shared Eli’s commitment to social justice and his resolve to devote important parts of

his life to service.

Some of us had already decided on how we would devote ourselves to social justice, while others were trying to figure that out.

We listened and learned from each other and came away reinforced in our resolve to carry on.

I felt so excited by the commitment of the young people and so inspired to be present at the birth of something special that I’m hopeful will grow and continue to evolve into an impactful movement in our country and around the world.

*“We listened and learned from each other and came away reinforced in our resolve to carry on.”*

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## Segal Fellow James Ward (CityYear '06): Network Keeps Eli Segal's Vision Alive

"What is your vision for change and how do you plan to accomplish it?"

This past October, I joined fellow members of the Segal Citizen Leadership Network at Brandeis University to reflect upon this question.

The question seemed to come from Eli himself; exhorting each Network member to reflect more deeply and mobilize more effectively for change with Eli's unmistakable spirit filling the room, that's exactly what we did.

By the end of the day, everyone

at that gathering had shared their vision and received invaluable feedback. While individual visions were too rich and abundant to summarize in this space, the simple and enduring effect of the exercise was not.

On that bright October day, participants were afforded a reminder that Eli's life – of bigger-than-self service, creative enterprise, and unyielding idealism – is more instructive now than ever.

I never got a chance to meet Eli Segal. Yet I feel as though I have come to know Eli's vision for change. In places like Post-Katrina Louisiana, where I witnessed the

benefits of AmeriCorps' service. In the streets and schools of Boston, where hundreds of young people share their strength as City Year corps members. And at places like Brandeis University, where the Fellows and Founders in the Segal Network gather to reaffirm our common purpose, I have come to know Eli's vision for change.

Eli's vision lives on with a singular strength. It reminds us to prove that no problem—whether education, immigration, or energy—is insolvable. *And now that vision belongs to us*—the members of the Segal Network. It is a charge. It is a responsibility. It is unmistakable.

**Segal Fellow James Ward (CityYear '06)**



Segal Fellow John Enterline (CNCS '06), Founder Phyllis Segal and Segal Fellow James Ward (CityYear '06)

### News in Brief

#### Segal Fellow Chris Myers Asch (AmeriCorps Alum '07) in the *NY Times*

*The New York Times* (1/7/09) featured Chris Myers Asch and his plan to create a public service academy. The article spotlighted Chris' proposed United States Public Service Academy as a West Point for bureaucrats. The program would offer a free four-year education in exchange for five years of government service. *A Plan to Lift the Lowly Bureaucrat to a Status of Cherished Public Servant* (section A, page 14).



Segal Fellows and Founders marched in the Inauguration Day Parade, Wash., DC, Jan. 20, 2009.

*Clockwise from top left:* Founders Deb Jospin, Shirley Sagawa, and Mora Segal just before the brisk 1.7-mile march in Washington; Mora Segal with Segal Fellow Julie Proulx (CNCS '07); Segal Fellow Diana Epstein (AmeriCorps Alum '06) joined Segal and Proulx to march with the AmeriCorps Alums banner.



### Segal Fellows

**David Breihan** (AmeriCorps Alum '06) ▪ **Morgan Cyphers** (DeVos '07) ▪ **John Enterline** (CNCS '06) ▪ **Diana Epstein** (AmeriCorps Alum '06) ▪ **Jessica Kent** (Brandeis '08) ▪ **Margaret Levy** (Brandeis '08) ▪ **Peter Murray** (AmeriCorps Alum '02) ▪ **Chris Myers Asch** (AmeriCorps Alum '07) ▪ **Tamara Pace-Emerson** (CityYear '08) ▪ **Julie Proulx** (CNCS '07) ▪ **Vernell Robinson** (AmeriCorps Alum '06) ▪ **Victoria Roomet** (Brandeis '08) ▪ **Jordan Rothman** (Brandeis '08) ▪ **Jonah Seligman** (Brandeis '08) ▪ **Katharine Tull** (Brandeis '08) ▪ **Rhonda Ulmer** (AmeriCorps Alum '08) ▪ **James Ward** (CityYear '06)

### Meet the Newest Segal Fellow

Rhonda Ulmer became the newest Segal Fellow when she received the AmeriCorps Alum Eli J. Segal Entrepreneurship Award. It is her dream to start a nonprofit organization that provides parents with the skills to create a University for Parents with the mission to provide no-cost classes to parents in low performing schools in Maryland.

To read more about Rhonda's dream and other information in this Annual Report, go to [www.SegalProgram.org](http://www.SegalProgram.org).



## Eli J. Segal

CITIZEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The Heller School for Social Policy and Management  
Knowledge Advancing Social Justice

For information about contributing to the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program, please contact Debbie Katz: [dskatz@brandeis.edu](mailto:dskatz@brandeis.edu) or (781) 736-3899, or go to [www.SegalProgram.org](http://www.SegalProgram.org).

## Thank You to Founders

Thanks to all Founders for creating the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program, and to the following Founders who have also contributed time and expertise – coaching Fellows, developing intern sites, hosting events, meeting with Fellows, advising on Program development, and more:

Sandy Berger • AnnMaura Connolly • Lisa Dawe • Tom Dretler • Laura Gassner Otting • Tom Glynn • Nicky Goren • Melissa Green • Robby Jones • Arnie Kanter • Rosabeth Moss Kanter • Senator Edward Kennedy • Alan Khazei • Verna Kuo • Jim Lapenn • Richard & Ann Lapchick • Ellen Lasher Kaplan • Sue Lehmann • Jeff Lemberg • Judy Lichtman • Sarah McGinley-Smith • Arnie Miller • Eric Mogilnicki • Chris Murphy • Peter Murray • Susan Osnos • Darrell Park • Joshua Randle • Fran Rodgers • Charlie Rose • Jonathan Segal • Mora Segal • Phyllis Segal • John Shattuck • Maggie Williams

## Miller: Emerging Segal Network (cont'd from Page 2)

What Eli was able to do with national service was awesome – really impressive and inspiring. While we can't expect to repeat that, the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program is our way to encourage national service driven by the dedication, enthusiasm and connectedness that Eli's legacy proves is possible. It's up to us to carry on.

*Founder Arnie Miller*

## Segal Program Administration

In the fall 2008, program responsibility at Brandeis University shifted to a team at the Heller School's Center for Youth and Communities. Larry Bailis, Program Director, and Lanni Isenberg, Program Administrator, carry out daily operations of the Program, which is overseen by Susan P. Curnan, professor and director of the Center, with support from Heller School Dean Lisa M. Lynch, and Brandeis University Provost Marty Krauss.

Thanks to Tom Broussard, Assistant Dean of Admissions, for his leadership of the initial launch of Segal Program activities at the Heller School, and to recent Heller MBA graduate Candice Botes, who helped develop an internal management system.

## Looking to the Future

In March 2009, the second class of

Segal Fellows at Brandeis will be selected to serve as summer interns in organizations committed to working for the common good and that exemplify the characteristics of citizen leadership, public and community service, civic engagement, and social entrepreneurship. We will welcome new fellows from AmeriCorps Alum this spring and from CityYear in June. Others from Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and DeVos are expected as well.

We are also planning several informal network sessions, including a meeting of Boston area fellows. We look forward to announcing details about the second bi-annual Segal Memorial Lecture in the coming months.

Also in the interest of continuous support and our "learning community," in 2009 we will design an evaluation of the Segal Program as a management and learning tool to compare program accomplishments

with planned actions and recommend appropriate improvements.

Watch for more program updates about new fellows and other news online at [www.SegalProgram.org](http://www.SegalProgram.org), and via email this spring and fall.

## Participate & Share Your Ideas

Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program Founders are invited to share ideas to strengthen the program and ways you would like to participate. For example, coaching fellows, hosting network events, advising on program development, helping to develop internship sites, participating in network meetings or recruiting new founders.

If you would like more details about any aspect of the Segal Program, have any questions, or want to participate in program activities, please contact Program Director, Larry Bailis, at [SegalNetwork@brandeis.edu](mailto:SegalNetwork@brandeis.edu).