

In her several careers - as playwright, as writer for documentary films and as educator, Marilyn Felt has worked for an end to violence and for tolerance and understanding between people and between cultures. Her plays explore the misunderstandings and gropings for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, her work in education has included creation of the *Exploring Childhood* curriculum to provide both service learning experience and parenthood training to youth, and the global curriculum *Exploring Humanitarian Law* (EHL) to impart humanitarian values, through student role-playing and discussion-based on the ideas in the International Committee of the Red Cross's International Humanitarian Law

Her work has been uniformly innovative. In it Ms. Felt displays the ability to look into a complex domain and to extract basic principles that make it manageable. Her work in education has been based on a participatory classroom model in which students hypothesize, analyze and develop a body of knowledge under the guidance of the teacher. This provides a depth of understanding and of student ownership impossible to achieve through teacher lecturing. Her curricula have been pioneers in this mode of instruction. It is interesting to note that in some cases countries have adopted the EHL curriculum as much for its pedagogic method as for its content. An equally important and unique aspect of the EHL curriculum is its universality. Though based on specific case studies and other source materials the EHL curriculum is equally usable by all countries. Her plays are unique in modern drama in that they portray the two opposing sides as both deeply human, with both virtues and flaws, reaching out to each other in a hostile climate. Though their plots are grounded on political struggles, they are not political plays but rather explorations of humanitarian ideas.

MS. Felt is not only intensely creative but also has the energy and ability to transform ideas into action. Her work has had significant impact. She has won major awards for her documentary work. Her first play, *Acts of Faith* has been performed both in the United States and in Germany (in translation). Her second play *Asher's Command* received a number of grants and awards, the most prominent being from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays. The *Exploring Childhood* curriculum has been used in over 6000 schools in the United States. *Exploring Humanitarian Law* is presently in use or in the process of being adopted by 97 countries and has been translated into over 30 languages. It is most likely the first truly global curriculum.

What more could she do with the assistance of a Fellowship?

She could free herself from the day-to-day details of managing the EHL program while still leading it. Right now the administrative details of running such a large program leave little time for reflection or documentation of her activities. Or anything else.

She would have time to resume her writing of plays and to work on other modes of dramatic presentation such as radio plays and screenplays, projects that have been set aside in their early stages.

She would have time to reflect on and write about the lessons learned from developing the first global curriculum as a guide and stimulus to others.

She would have time to lay the groundwork for educational projects involving other world-wide needs.