**International Correspondent Lectures About the Duality of the Human Condition**

Journalist [Nathan Jeffay](https://www.facebook.com/nathanonisrael/) reports from the front lines of a region wrought with political and religious unrest, but the lessons Jeffay received on the dueling nature of conflict has rendered invaluable experience about the double-sided face of humanity.

Jeffay plans to share these lessons on Nov. 13 at [Coexistence in a Conflict Zone](https://calendar.whitman.edu/event/lecture_by_nathan_jeffay#.W-TJwpNKg2w), an event sponsored by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and Hillel Shalom. The event is free and open to the public.

“Sometimes I’m still surprised by the unlikely places and contexts that I find people of very different backgrounds and outlooks coming together in this turbulent region,” Jeffay said.

Jeffay has spent over 10 years reporting in the Middle East, during which he has covered the visits of Presidents Obama and Trump, as well as Prince William. Prior to his arrival in the region at the end of ‘07, Jeffay studied and worked as a journalist in Britain for several years.

Although the focus of his reporting was centered on the Middle East, Jeffay was still unprepared for what the experience of reporting in the region itself would be like.

“Arriving here and covering the day-to-day was a bit of a culture shock, but even more interesting than I could have ever imagined,” he said.

For Jeffay, witnessing the duality of humanity is an everyday occurrence. It is a stark reminder that while the propensity for violence is a common human trait, so is the ability to share basic ideals and come together for a higher cause.

“I remember going straight from a funeral of terror victims to a prenatal appointment with my wife, where Arabs and Jews sat in the waiting room comparing bumps,” Jeffay said.

As a husband and father, living in the Middle East has had a profound impact on Jeffay’s personal life. He and his wife expanded their family of three by fostering a child.

In the Middle East fostering means giving a home to a child whose parents are unable to care for them, he said. Jeffay credits his experience in the region for the inspiration to make such a leap.

“I’ve seen the enormous cruelty that can abound, but also the sense of humanity that unites many people on different sides,” Jeffay said. “I’ve gotten an insight into the fragility of human beings, but also a sense that this fragility needn’t always be a done deal.”