

“I STRIVE FOR BALANCE EVERYDAY,” SAYS LELA GOREN, A ’99 GRADUATE OF FRANKLIN PIERCE LAW CENTER. “BALANCE BETWEEN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR, A BALANCE BETWEEN THE CREATION OF WEALTH AND THE REDISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES, A BALANCE BETWEEN POLICY AND ACTION,” EXPLAINS GOREN. WHILE WORKING TO ACHIEVE THIS CONSTANT BALANCE, GOREN, INTELLIGENT, COMPASSIONATE AND ENGAGING, BRINGS BOTH INSPIRATION AND HOPE TO OTHERS.



Lela Goren '99

BRIDGING CULTURES AND CONTINENTS

A consultant to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Goren spends much of her time actively involved in not-for-profit activities. She coaches basketball to underprivileged youth from the Bronx, Harlem and Queens through a program called the Urban Dove. This year, she also arranged for several of these New York Urban Dove athletes to visit the South Dakota Pine Ridge Reservation during the summer to learn and experience Native American culture and customs first-hand. Last spring, she traveled to India and Nepal to learn about sex trafficking. While there, she witnessed the appalling conditions in the brothels in Bombay, and upon her return she founded a not-for-profit organization that is currently working to end the sex trafficking of women and children.

Her travels and her activism are reflected in the many worldly treasures that adorn her New York loft apartment. An antique wooden window carving from Nepal dominates one wall, an old silk painting of Buddha hangs on another. An Indian tabla drum given to her by the young women of Bombay sits atop a table next to a prayer wheel from Nepal. A soft piece of buffalo hair rests on a bedside table along side a beaded bracelet given to her for good luck by the children of the South Dakota Pine Ridge Reservation. All of these she says “conjure such incredible memories.”

From her Soho apartment and through her Internet site, The Soho Salon, Goren works to help others, with the assistance of her housemate Chad Gracia, a friend from undergraduate school. Together, they founded the Salon, dedicated to arts, sciences, humanities, politics and social activism. Goren focuses on hosting events that bring people together, connecting those who need help with those who can help. She has hosted events for such organizations as Equality Now, the Oyate Teca Sioux Lakota Project and Urban Dove. She has welcomed dignitaries, including the ambassadors from Tanzania, Canada, Chile and Japan, as well as Judge Mayer Gabay, president of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, P.L. Singh, Nepal’s Minister of Population and Environment, and Director-General Kamil Idris of the World Intellectual Property Organization. She hosts lecture series, most recently with astrophysicist Ari Buchhalter, musician Tony Jarvis and social psychologist Sheldon Solomon.

When Goren isn’t volunteering, her work as a consultant to WIPO, a United Nations agency that promotes intellectual property worldwide, puts her legal skills in the forefront. She works directly for Director-General Kamil

Idris and Special Counselor Ambassador Khamis Suedi. “These men are true leaders and wonderful mentors,” says Goren. “I have a great deal of respect for them, and am grateful for all they have taught me. They embody the real spirit of the United Nations, embracing a vision of pluralism and modernity that spans across the geographical, political, religious and cultural differences that divide us.”

Goren was born in 1970 in Petha-Tikva, Israel, “The City of Hope.” Her parents and two older brothers, Erez and Alon, were also born in Israel. “I feel deeply connected to Israel and proud to be a dual national,” explains Goren who is also an American citizen. “When I turned 18 years-old, I went to the courthouse and applied for my citizenship. It was one of the most important days of my life.”

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