

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Topic: Middle Eastern politics [book signing following discussion]

October 2011

Ford Hall Forum Media Contact: Mary Curtin, 617-241-9664, 617-470-5867 (cell),

[marycurtin@comcast.net](mailto:marycurtin@comcast.net) <[marycurtin@comcast.net](mailto:marycurtin@comcast.net)>

Ford Hall Forum contact information: Jennifer Bonardi, 617-557-2007, [director@fordhallforum.org](mailto:director@fordhallforum.org)  
<<mailto:director@fordhallforum.org>>

**Ford Hall Forum  
at Suffolk University**  
presents

***The Life of a Leader***

with  
**Gilad Sharon**  
(son of Ariel Sharon)  
moderator **Wendy Ballinger**

October 27, 6:30-8 pm

C. Walsh Theater

(Boston, MA 02114) **Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University** presents ***The Life of a Leader*** with **Gilad Sharon**; discussion moderated by **Wendy Ballinger**. Thursday, October 27, 6:30-8 pm. Admission is free and open to all; book signing to follow discussion. C. Walsh Theater at Suffolk University, 55 Temple Street, Boston, MA. Wheelchair accessible and conveniently located near the Park St. MBTA Station. For more information, call the Ford Hall Forum at 617-557-2007 or visit [www.fordhallforum.org](http://www.fordhallforum.org) <<http://www.fordhallforum.org>> .

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's youngest son, **Gilad Sharon**, combed through his father's vast archives to offer an intimate look at this controversial figure in Middle Eastern politics. From 2001 until his stroke in 2006, Ariel Sharon walked a fine line between waging war on Israel's enemies and accommodating its allies, all while grappling with suicide bombings, the Iraq War, and Iran's nuclear program.

Gilad Sharon gives moderator **Wendy Ballinger**, Treasurer of the Ford Hall Forum board, a rare glimpse into his father's private discussions with major heads of state, as well as an illuminating analysis of this global leader's unique views. He *will be signing copies of his **Sharon: The Life of a Leader** at the end of the presentation.*

### Further background information:

**Gilad Sharon** is the youngest of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's three sons and was a confidant to his father. Sharon holds a master's degree in economics and writes a frequent column for a major Israeli newspaper. A major in the Israel Defense Force reserves, he currently manages his family's farm in Israel.

**Wendy Ballinger** is a principal of Ballinger Consulting, a non-profit development and organizational consulting firm. Her experience includes a decade of service as Executive Director of the Ford Hall Forum, as well as staff positions in both the Massachusetts State Senate and the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is co-author of How the Press Affects Federal Policymaking: Six Case Studies with Martin Linsky, Jonathan Moore and David Whitman. Ms. Ballinger received her B.A. and M.A. from Tufts University.

### Coming up next at Ford Hall Forum:

#### ***Evangelicals in the Electorate***

with Dr. John C. Green, Dr. Karl Giberson, and Dr. Randall Stephens; moderator Eric Convey  
November 10, 6:30-8 pm  
C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University

Although some dismiss Evangelical Christians as zealots with uncommon social politics and little regard for science, this powerful voting bloc is a force to be reckoned with in our democracy, and likely misunderstood. **Dr. John C. Green**, Senior Research Advisor at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, presents empirical data on what evangelicals actually believe based on surveys of clergy and parishioners. Authors of The Anointed, **Dr. Karl Giberson** and **Dr. Randall Stephens**, provide an analysis of intellectual authority within this group and examine themes ranging from Creationism to messaging. Ford Hall Forum Board member and former religion reporter for the Boston Herald **Eric Convey** converses with these sociological researchers to predict how Evangelical Christians' true values will translate into civic action.

#### ***Stay Tuned for Flash Forums***

Flash Forums are programs that Ford Hall Forum will produce right when the news hits. Arranged roughly a week in advance, Flash Forums will bring in an expert speaker, either in person or via Skype, to deliberate on a hot-off-the-press issue. Ford Hall Forum plans to inaugurate its Flash Forums as a breakfast program held at Suffolk University Law School.

### About Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University:

**Ford Hall Forum** is the nation's oldest free public lecture series. The Forum promotes freedom of speech and fosters an informed and effective citizenry through public presentation of lectures, debates, and discussions. Its events illuminate the key issues facing our society, by bringing to its podium knowledgeable and thought-provoking speakers from a broad range of perspectives. These individuals speak in person, for free, and in settings that encourage frank and open debate.

The Forum began in 1908 as a series of Sunday evening public meetings held at the Ford Hall, which once stood on Beacon Hill in Boston. While the original building no longer exists, the public conversations have continued throughout the Boston area with the generous support of foundations, corporations, academic institutions, and individuals. In its 103rd year of programming, the Forum continues to build upon its partnership with Suffolk University. Suffolk is now housing the Forum's administrative offices just a block away from where the original Ford Hall once stood.

Ford Hall Forum programs are made possible through the generous contributions from individual members as well as corporations and foundations, including ACLU Massachusetts, AIG, The Barr Foundation, The Boston Beer Company, Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, Edwards Angell Palmer and Dodge, The Fred and Marty Corneel Fund, Fidelity Investment, Helen Rees Literary Agency, Houghton Chemical Corporation, Iron Mountain, Jackson & Company, Levine Katz Nannis + Solomon PC, The Lowell Institute, Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Nelli Mae Education Foundation, Penny Pimentel, The Pfizer Foundation, Plymouth Rock Assurance Corporation, Prince Lobel Tye LLP, Ropes & Gray, Suffolk University, WBUR 90.9 FM, and Wilmerhale.

For more information on Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University, visit [www.fordhallforum.org](http://www.fordhallforum.org). Information about Suffolk University's partnership with the Ford Hall Forum can be obtained by contacting Mariellen Norris, (617) 573-8450, [mnorris@suffolk.edu](mailto:mnorris@suffolk.edu) <[mnorris@suffolk.edu](mailto:mnorris@suffolk.edu)> .

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