

Presorted First-Class Mail U.S. Postage PAID Albany, NY Permit #370

TANENBAUM

Center for Interreligious Understanding

254 West 31st Street

7th Floor New York, NY 10001

Phone: 212.967.7707
Fax: 212.967.9001
Email: info@tanenbaum.org

Visit our website, www.tanenbaum.org, to join our email list and receive

monthly news and event updates!

DONATE NOW/SUPPORT OUR WORKBring Our Education Program to Classrooms in Need

In 2010, we experienced unprecedented demand for our Education programs.

Help us create inclusive classrooms for children of all races, religions and cultures. Children don't begin life filled with fear, hate or negative stereotypes. Help us to reach them – before they learn to hate. Sponsor a classroom today. Your small contribution today can have a major impact on the next generation.

Every gift makes a difference. Look where your money goes:

- \$35 can teach 40 students how to resolve conflicts with their peers.
- \$50 can provide 50 students with lessons on respect, multiculturalism and religious diversity.
- \$100 can protect 200 after-school students from bullying with our *World Olympics* curriculum.
- \$250 can provide one inner-city school with a consultation on a religious crisis in their school.



Donate online today at www.tanenbaum.org/donate or complete our donation form below.

Contact Rebeca Izquierdo, Manager of Development at 212.967.7707x117 or rizquierdo@tanenbaum.org with any questions or for further information.



Please accept my generous gift in the amount of:			
□ \$1,000. □ \$500. □ \$250. □ \$100. □ \$50 □ \$35. □ Other \$			
Please return this form with your check to: Tanenbaum, 254 W. 31st St., 7th Fl., New York, NY 10			
To make a donation online, please visit: tanebaum.org/donate.			

I am proud to support Tanenbaum and create lasting change in our communities.

lame		
ddress		
ity	State	Zip
el	Email	



TANENBAUM CENTER FOR INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING . ISSUE 16 . FALL 2010

PARK51: HATE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES



Park51, the proposed cultural center in Lower Manhattan, not only stimulated a heated national debate. It became tinder, sparking fierce emotion, misinformation and even hatred. Today, much of that emotion is aimed at Islam and Muslims.

But hate knows no boundaries – because the target is always "the other." And the hatred is based on dehumanizing those

who are different. Today, Islam and Muslims are in the headlines. Yesterday, it was Jews and Catholics. Tomorrow, the targets can be atheists, Hindus, Sikhs, Baha'is...

At risk are the tenor of our national debate and the safety of our nation's children."

When the flames of hate rise, we must fight back. We can do this by committing ourselves to practicing respect and listening to all sides. We can do this by proactively confronting misinformation with facts, and dismantling messages of fear before they escalate to group demonization.

So, what do we need to consider about Park51? The facts: It is not a mosque at Ground Zero. It is a cultural center with

a mosque and a space that may house sites for other groups to worship, located two blocks from the Ground Zero site.

"Muslim" and "American" victims of 9/11 are not mutually exclusive categories. Many Muslims died on that horrible day and in its aftermath.

Islam did not attack America. A small group of people claiming its mantle did.

At risk are the tenor of our national debate, and the safety of our nation's children. Bullying affects one in three students, and too often the cause is fear of the "other." That's why Tanenbaum created a curriculum for teachers to use and adapt about Park51 and conflicts in general. The lessons help students learn how to analyze a multifaceted conflict, think critically about competing interests and conduct respectful conversations.

The Park51 controversy has morphed into a national policy debate – one that is influencing national elections. This isn't surprising. Historically, in the U.S., periods of economic turmoil have fed xenophobia and discomfort with minority religions.

What's happening today is no exception. That makes it even more important to step up, to confront issues with facts, and to avoid the stereotypes that breed hate.

Though this controversy reveals how entrenched Islamophobia remains in our country, it's also ripe with potential for us to examine and counter the rising voices of hatred.

Pyce Subensky
Executive Vice President & CEO

CELEBRATING A SHARED VISION AT ANNUAL GALA

This year's Annual Award Ceremony and Memorial Lecture brought together leaders from diverse religions and backgrounds, and from different careers and callings – but with one vision: that we must move beyond hatred and treat each other with respect.

We had the privilege of honoring Maz Zouhairi, President and CEO Americas of Lalique, Daum and Haviland, Archbishop

Continued on page 2





TANENBAUM / Center for Interreligious Understanding is the leader in providing urgently needed, practical programs to prevent the verbal and physical conflict perpetrated in the name of religion. We are a non-sectarian organization that helps address tensions by changing behaviors in religiously diverse workplaces, schools, health care settings and in areas of armed conflict. Edited by Caity Goodman. Please send all queries to: cgoodman@tanenbaum.org.

Continued from cover

Celestino Migliore, the Apostolic Nuncio to Poland and former Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the U.N., and Gwen Ifill, Managing Editor of *Washington Week* and Senior Correspondent for the *PBS Newshour*.

As Mr. Zouhairi accepted this year's Corporate Bridge-Builder Award, he spoke of growing up in war-torn Lebanon and the struggle to rebuild after years of interreligious conflict. And he noted progress: "While Lebanon continues to be vulnerable to its internal politics and the conflicts surrounding it elsewhere in the Middle East, the majority of people from our 17 religious sects are living side by side with mutual respect and understanding of each other's differences."

Ms. Ifill, our Media Bridge-Builder, spoke about her father's legacy of interfaith respect, while Archbishop Migliore delivered a Memorial Lecture calling for people to move "beyond tolerance to fraternity." Footage of all three is available at www.tanenbaum.org/events.

The crowd's enthusiasm and generosity literally filled the room during the Balloon Pledge Drive, when attendees donated \$20,000 to support Tanenbaum programs, receiving balloons in return for their pledges until we had no more balloons to give! To date, we've raised nearly \$400,000 from the Gala.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make the evening a success with special thanks to the Honorary Co-Chairs Henry Humphreys and Patrick Grace.



Front page, clockwise: Maz Zouhairi; Gwen Ifill, Les Crystal, Tanenbaum President Georgette Bennett; Balloon Pledge Drive. This page, clockwise: Howard Milstein, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Ambassador Robert Shafer; Chair of the Tanenbaum Board Robert Heller; Voula Lagoudis, Diane Rizzolo, Connie Domingo.

Donor Profile: R. Adam Smith



"Tanenbaum is not limited to any one type of person or country or year or decade. That is a pretty powerful thing in today's world...given that the rate of change in our lives is so fast. Tanenbaum is a steady boat in stormy waters."

Adam Smith's dedication to Tanenbaum's mission began with his father Richard Smith

and late board member Adam Solomon. "I saw how deep their commitment was and, through them, I learned how unique the organization is. It was obvious that they believed in Marc Tanenbaum's legacy and the passion that Georgette Bennett and Joyce Dubensky bring to the mission...That passion is one of the things I look for in deciding to support a cause."

As Adam's knowledge about Tanenbaum's work has grown, so too has his enthusiasm and involvement. This year, Adam decided to take on a leadership role, serving as the Chair of *A Piece for Peace*, an upcoming musical performance and fundraiser at Carnegie Hall, which he and Tanenbaum envision becoming the first of a series of music-based events that will spread the word about the organization's work.

"I see a connection between music, which is a universal, unifying force, and the global mission of Tanenbaum. I think events around music can attract a broader constituency, including new and younger professionals," he explains.

In addition to his work with Tanenbaum, Adam remains involved with his alma mater, Columbia Business School, as a way of honoring everything the school gave him. He supports initiatives in student mentoring and systematically incorporating family and private business-related studies into a stand-alone curriculum and center.



"Tanenbaum is a steady boat in stormy waters."

When he's not working long hours or dedicating his time to the philanthropic causes he is passionate about, Adam manages to squeeze in time to work on his tennis game and practice yoga – and, always, to make time for his wife Aimee and his children. After all, there are always backyard forts they have to build together!

Adam represents Tanenbaum's newest generation of supporters, and we're honored by his and Aimee's commitment to our vision.



PEACEMAKERS

IN ACTION

Profiles of Religion in

Conflict Resolution

What's New in 2011:

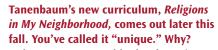
A Q&A with Director of Programs Mark Fowler

Tanenbaum's Director of Programs, Mark Fowler, juggles four core program areas. And even though his hands are full, he has a lot of plans for 2011.

Our Conflict Resolution team is working on case studies for a follow-up to 2007's successful Peacemakers in Action: Profiles of Religion in Conflict Resolution. Why are you doing a second volume?

The *Religion and Conflict Resolution* program involves a number of projects but a core part of its raison d'être is to bring the stories of real *Peacemakers in Action* to a wider audience, and to show how they use religion as a tool for conflict resolution. Whether it's two school principals in the Galilee bringing Israeli and Arab students together or a

peace activist working with guerillas in Colombia, each *Peacemaker* gives us an enlightening narrative that demands study and sharing with the world. We have new *Peacemakers* – and it's our job to tell their stories.



Religions in My Neighborhood stands out among multicultural curricula because it gives educators in K-4 classrooms and after-school programs a road map, preparing them to address religious difference with their students from a secular, non-sectarian point of view.

And as far as we know, there are no other workbooks like it. It doesn't promote any religion. Instead, it prepares students to examine religion as one of the many ways people identify themselves within their own neighborhoods. For young children, this provides a critical foundation and lays the groundwork for a worldview that respects all differences – including religion.

Tanenbaum is currently working on a program for medical residents at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Westchester on religio-cultural competency. Can you tell us more?

Tanenbaum is partners with this amazing pediatric hospital. Our project started last year with a complete environmental assessment and identified how the hospital was addressing the religious needs of patients and their families. In 2011, we will review their residency curriculum to add religio-cultural competence beginning with that fall's class. We'll also assess the current class to establish a baseline of data for evaluating our success in the long-term. This lays the groundwork for a four-year program that will ultimately affect how residents are trained.

The Workplace and Health Care programs are offering more webinars. Why are you pursuing that training format?

When the recession began, many HR and diversity departments saw a reduction in their budgets and weren't able to bring in experts to address critical issues like religion. To ensure that our training continues to be widely available, we began offering webinars, maintaining the spontaneous, collaborative nature of our trainings with features like immediate online polling and live Q&A.

This summer, we conducted multi-session webinars for State Street Corporation, and this fall, we will be presenting sessions for health care practitioners entitled "Health Care Innovations: Religio-Cultural Competence in Patient Care" and for corporations on the "December Dilemma," as well as a series of podcasts in collaboration with the Association of Legal Administrators.

In these difficult economic times, Tanenbaum's programs continue to be *the* sought after resource. We're busy, and we're making sure that our practical resources reach as many people who need them as possible.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ On the Road with Tanenbaum

Religion and Diversity Education trained public school teachers at the New York Public Library on teaching about religion in the classroom, as part of the Library's exhibition of sacred texts from the three Abrahamic faiths.

Religion and Conflict Resolution presented at Boston University School of Theology's "Teaching Religion, Conflict Transformation, and Peacebuilding: A Consultation of Educators in Theology and Religion" and will speak on a panel at the American Academy of Religion's 2010 Annual Meeting in October.



■ Conflict Resolution Resource Available Online Religion and Conflict Resolution's pioneering report on

conflict
resolution training in American
seminaries and divinity schools,
Religious Peacemaking in Higher
Education: A Survey of 12
Institutions, is now available
on Tanenbaum's website.

■ Addressing Religious & LGBT Interests in the Workplace Religious Diversity in the Workplace hosted a featured panel at Out & Equal's 2010 Workplace Summit with Program Advisory Council member Ana Duarte McCarthy. Director of

■ Intensive Educator Course Breaks Records

Global Diversity at Citi.

Religion and Diversity Education quadrupled the number of public school educators in the summer session of its intensive educator course, Cultivating Global Citizenship. The course returned in October.

■ Exploring the Religious Roots of Prejudice

Director of *Special Programs* Judy Banki continues traveling the world, speaking on Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations at the International Council of Christians and Jews in Istanbul, Turkey, the annual Seminarians Conference at Sacred Heart University and the "Shared Roots, Divergent Paths" series at Iona College.

TANENBAUM | 2 | FALL 2010