

# BULLETIN

## TANENBAUM

TANENBAUM CENTER FOR INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING • FALL 2011

## PEACEMAKERS CREATE FORMAL NETWORK FOR CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION

This August, two of Tanenbaum's heroines – *Peacemakers in Action* from Afghanistan – met for the first time. Both live with great risk to ensure education is available for women and girls. They come from different Islamic traditions but one country. And they discovered a deep caring that now nurtures both.

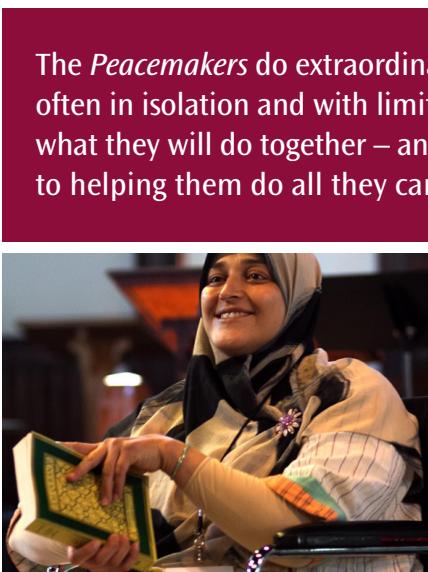
These women met at Drew University, when Tanenbaum convened our fourth *Peacemakers' Working Retreat*. It was a week of learning, sharing, camaraderie and growth. Working sessions included an exploration of women's roles in peace-building, a look at how sacred stories can be tools for peace work and practical training in technology and social media.

But the most important part of the Working Retreat was the focus on what the *Peacemakers* could do together between Retreats. After multiple sessions on how to structure an ongoing effort, the *Peacemakers* formally created a network that Tanenbaum will facilitate so that they can work together across borders.

The *Peacemakers in Action Network* will contribute toward conflict transformation and reconciliation to build a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. Specifically, the *Network* is committed to:

1. Continual personal growth and mutual support as religiously motivated *Peacemakers*.
2. Sharing wisdom, experiences and practices with one another to strengthen each other's work.
3. Sharing beyond the *Network* to influence a wider community of peacebuilders, including both state and non-state actors.
4. Expressing solidarity with one another and speaking out with a collective voice, responding to contemporary issues that affect peace and human security.

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*Clockwise, from far left:*  
Tanenbaum CEO Joyce Dubensky  
with Najeeba Sirhan; Friar Ivo  
Markovic and José "Chencho"  
Alas share a moment; Jamila  
Afghani prepares to read  
from the Qur'an; Tanenbaum  
staff train Peacemakers in  
technology and social media.

The *Peacemakers* do extraordinary work on their own, often in isolation and with limited resources. Just think of what they will do together – and Tanenbaum is committed to helping them do all they can!



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Imagine...a more peaceful world that respects difference.  
We are committed to making that vision a reality.

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to join our email list and receive  
monthly news and event updates!



Prepare New York (PNY) is a groundbreaking coalition of interfaith organizations working together to encourage peaceful conversations and activities

around the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Along with Tanenbaum, founding organizations include Auburn Seminary, The Interfaith Center of New York, Intersections International, Odyssey Networks and Quest. These organizations came together with the common goal of fostering constructive conversations by shifting the atmosphere around 9/11 from one of fear to one of shared understandings.

Each PNY partner has contributed uniquely to frame the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 as a time for protecting the religious freedom of all (including nonbelievers). For Tanenbaum's primary contribution, we drew on our years of experience and created practical resources, including guidelines for conversation, questions-to-explore and Fact Sheets that can be used in CoffeeHour Conversations. CoffeeHour Conversations, an initiative of PNY, explore our shared humanity in all areas of our dynamic society, including workplaces, homes, houses

of worship, classrooms (among educators and with students) and community centers.

If you are interested in holding a CoffeeHour Conversation, the conversation guides, questions and Fact Sheets are located at [www.tanenbaum.org/prepareny](http://www.tanenbaum.org/prepareny). Information on finding or registering a CoffeeHour Conversation and other 9/11 related projects can be found at [www.prepareny.com](http://www.prepareny.com).

We invite you to join us in building peace and combating prejudice on the tenth anniversary of 9/11 and beyond, and to keep our conversation guidelines in mind as religion-related rhetoric builds in the weeks and months before the presidential election. We also invite you to share how these materials and conversations impact your own exploration about unfamiliar cultures in the time around the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and also whenever tensions threaten religious pluralism and respect for all.

IN COALITION WITH:



**Peacemakers Create Formal Network for Cross-Border Collaboration**  
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To facilitate their coordination, the *Peacemakers* selected five Network leaders: **Jamila Afghani** from Afghanistan, **Chencho Alas** from El Salvador, **Reverend Dr. William Lowrey** who works in Sudan, **Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge** from South Africa and **Friar Ivo Markovic** from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The *Peacemakers* started their ongoing collaborations with three Working Groups in Education, Interreligious Understanding, and Gender & Human Rights. They've already identified activities for the year ahead, such as pooling their educational resources, translating materials for local populations, and looking at mainstreaming women into the community of peacebuilders. As their first official act, the *Peacemakers Network* issued a joint statement on the Arab Spring.

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Imam Ashafa and Yehzekel Landau confer during a working session.