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For Immediate Release

Contact: Tanenbaum's Communications Manager, Dasha Tanner, at dtanner@tanenbaum.org
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Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding Introduces New Manager of Programs, Melinda Zalma

New York, NY, June 2, 2021: Rabbi Melinda Zalma has joined the Tanenbaum | Center for Interreligious Understanding team as the new Manager of Programs.

Melinda ushers in a new era of leadership and growth at Tanenbaum. As the highest-ranking Jewish Chaplain in the US Navy, she is steeped in the courageous work that is our hallmark of building respect for people of all religious beliefs, and none.

Most recently Program Director at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCR-NY), she brought together diverse people and organizations to build bridges and strengthen the community. Melinda was responsible for developing the Women in Faith Fellowship, a powerful program for women of different faiths and spiritual practices to discover commonalities and respect differences.

As Commander, Reserve Component, she currently serves with the Marine Corps Training and Educational Command, developing resources on spiritual fitness. Since 1991, she has also served in the office of the Navy Chief of Chaplains and in the Religious Affairs Office to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Navy has sent her to sea and around the world to serve Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen, and Coast Guards during the Jewish holidays.

Melinda was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary where she also received her Masters in Midrash; and she obtained her Bachelors degree in electrical engineering from Northwestern University.

In Melinda, we have found an inspiring leader who embodies our values of diversity, equity and inclusion, and a thoughtful mentor. We are thrilled to have Melinda on the Tanenbaum team!

For more information contact Tanenbaum's Communications Manager, Dasha Tanner, at dtanner@tanenbaum.org or (323) 828 - 0386.

Tanenbaum promotes justice and builds respect for religious difference by transforming individuals and institutions to reduce prejudice, hatred and violence. More information about Tanenbaum's offerings can be found here: <https://tanenbaum.org/>

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