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A GROUNDBREAKING COALITION FOR ALL NEW YORKERS – PREPARE NEW YORK



At Tanenbaum, we are proactive in combating religious intolerance. Sadly, we now predict an escalation of bias and hate acts against Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim, and spreading divisiveness that will affect many religious communities.

That's why we are one of the leaders of a first-of-its-kind coalition of New York-based interfaith organizations, *Prepare New York*. Each organization is contributing its own particular expertise. Tanenbaum is doing what we do best: creating

educational materials for 500+ CoffeeHour Conversations across the city and for many more across the nation. With concrete data designed to inform but not inflame, our materials will enable the people of our city to address such issues as hate speech, bullying, and violence directed against "the other."

Prepare New York shows how religious diversity can be a source of strength and opportunity. Tanenbaum is proud to be working with Auburn Seminary, the Interfaith Center of New York, Intersections International, Odyssey Networks and Quest. Visit www.prepareny.com to learn more, or follow @PrepareNY on Twitter.



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

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PEACEMAKERS IN ACTION: STRONGER TOGETHER

Every Tanenbaum *Peacemaker* is a powerful force for peace in his or her home country. But there is something that makes them even stronger – cooperation. Bringing the *Peacemakers* together, whether it's to learn from one another or to undertake joint peacebuilding efforts, increases their effectiveness, so we're dedicated to helping them do that. This past December, a Delegation of *Peacemakers* met in Nigeria to proactively work for a peaceful presidential election. And this August, the Fourth *Peacemakers in Action* Working Retreat will take place in New Jersey.

The Delegation is the first event of its kind sponsored by Tanenbaum and its great success makes us certain that it will not be the last. Three *Peacemakers*, representing each of the Abrahamic faiths, participated: Friar Ivo Markovic, a Franciscan Catholic from Bosnia, Yehezkel Landau, a Jewish Israeli-American, and Azhar Hussain, a Muslim who works in Pakistan.

They joined fellow *Peacemakers*, Nigerians Pastor James Wuye and Imam Muhammad Ashafa for one intense week in sites of anticipated violence: the cities of Abuja, Jos, and Kaduna. They shared two goals: to prevent violence in the run-up to contentious presidential elections; and to strengthen the peace movement that Pastor James and Imam Ashafa have been constructing for more than a decade.

And advance those goals they did. In a week of seminars, media appearances, and meetings with key government and religious leaders, the *Peacemakers* solidified new partnerships within Nigeria and across borders, reached new audiences with messages of peace, and shared new ideas on how to address some of Nigeria's greatest challenges. The immediate responses showing encouraging signs of a lasting impact, setting a strong precedent for future collaborations.

While smaller-scale Delegations provide an agile strategy for cross-border collaborations, we've found that there is no substitute for a full Working Retreat. This August, Tanenbaum will host the Fourth Working Retreat at Drew University in New Jersey, which brings together all our *Peacemakers* for a week of training, sharing and collaboration.

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“The Delegation is the first event of its kind sponsored by Tanenbaum.”



Left-Right: Students from the University of Jos attend a *Peacemaker* seminar; Yehezkel presents the University faculty with some of the materials he uses in his own classes on comparing Abrahamic texts; The *Peacemakers* with members of Jama'atu Nasril Islam.

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 Michelle Weber. Please send all queries to: mweber@tanenbaum.org.



THE LANGUAGE OF HATE

Tanenbaum is all about combating religious intolerance, religious ignorance and religious hate. We believe that fostering division and hate is unacceptable in any form. I'm sure that most of you would agree.

And yet, there are words we use every day, phrases that we repeat, mantras of our politics, media and daily life that fuel division. Too often, what we say has a negative inference – and too often, we don't realize it.

Let me be clear. I am not promoting political correctness. Rather, I am promoting respect, saying what we really mean, and recognizing the power of our words.

Consider the word Islamophobia. We use that term as though it is describing hatred being perpetrated on followers of Islam. But the word masks the truth of that reality. It really means irrational fear of a belief system – Islam. It thus references a belief system but is not about the very real people who are suffering because of hatred based on what they believe. We

should use the language that names the problem. What we are talking about is not Islamophobia. It is anti-Muslim hatred.

Another example is the word tolerance. Tanenbaum does not promote tolerance. To us, that means holding your nose, sticking it high in the air, and assuming an attitude of, "Okay, if I must, I will tolerate you!" Rather, we promote respect. Tolerance is not a solution to religious ignorance, bias and hate. Respect is.

When we use the words that say what we mean, when we use words that name the problem and the solution, we know what we must do. It's time to end all anti-religion hatred. It's time to build a society that honors our common humanity.

And this takes all of us. Thank you for standing with Tanenbaum,

Joyce Dubensky
Executive Vice President & CEO



Donor Profile: Firoz Ladak

"Why am I drawn to Tanenbaum? Passion and action. I see Tanenbaum as very much interfaith in action. We share the same approach: building innovative models." So says Firoz Ladak, Executive Director of the Edmond & Benjamin de Rothschild Foundations, the philanthropic arm of the well-known banking family.

Firoz Ladak comes to philanthropy from a career in investment banking. "Banking," he states, "was a means to engage in a career that focused on development and social impact. In the back of my mind, I knew that at some point, I would make the shift to development or philanthropy, using the professional tools I'd gained in the banking world to make a difference."

Make a difference he has, using his skills to help shape the agenda and future plans of the de Rothschild Foundations. Under his leadership, the Foundations have defined four action areas under the broad rubric of "education": arts and culture, health care, social entrepreneurship and cross-cultural dialogue.

Firoz explains that the Foundation's support for Tanenbaum's religious diversity in health care work with the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, "unites three areas – education, medical care and cross-cultural dialogue. Tanenbaum helps me to build synergies between those areas of focus."

He continues: "After having been exposed to Tanenbaum, I felt that this was a very practical program. It's about engaging the medical sphere at large to take multiple identities into account. It's about an ongoing program, which includes a pilot, and it addresses a significant and difficult question – what is the limit of a doctor's responsibilities?"

Firoz is also heavily involved with other important initiatives of the Foundation, including the Ariane de Rothschild Fellowship program. Designed to explore the relationship between social entrepreneurship and cross-cultural dialogue, the Fellowship brings together social entrepreneurs from the U.S., U.K. and France who define themselves as culturally Muslim or Jewish for two weeks of business training and cross-cultural dialogue. "There has been a significant improvement in the Fellows' professional abilities," reports Firoz. (Tanenbaum agrees. In 2010, Tanenbaum Assistant Program Director for our *Workplace* and *Health Care* programs, Rachel Maryles, was chosen as one of the Fellows, and she brought back new strategies that have enhanced our impact.)

“Why am I drawn to Tanenbaum? Passion and action.”

Tanenbaum is grateful for the support of the de Rothschild Foundations and looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship. "We share the same approach toward building innovative models," says Firoz. "I also want philanthropy to be practical, and I feel very confident that this project will bring about tangible results."

Peacemakers: Stronger Together
Continued from cover

At our three prior Working Retreats, we've seen that they are most value-added when the *Peacemakers* have time to learn directly from one another: their methods have been tested and proven in the real world, and their models are often replicable. At this year's Working Retreat, therefore, we'll be facilitating those encounters along with providing training in valuable skills and technologies. In all, thirteen working sessions are planned.

For our friends, there will also be an opportunity to meet and mingle with the *Peacemakers* at a special reception at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City on August 9th; for more information or to purchase tickets, contact Guirleine Belizaire at gbelizaire@tanenbaum.org or 212.967.7707 x112. Tanenbaum will also be updating the blog from the Working Retreat, so you can track its progress.

We could not be prouder to be associated with the brave women and men who are our *Peacemakers in Action*. We are privileged to work so closely with them and to provide them with additional resources to help them succeed.



Clockwise from Top: The *Peacemakers* addressed the Young Ambassadors, a group of interfaith youth promoting understanding and acceptance through sports; Meeting with the leadership of Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs; A government official receives the *Statement of Solidarity*; Yehezkel with the shofar.

PROGRAM NEWS



■ EDUCATION

In the past few months, the Education team was busy, presenting at the Beyond School Hours Conference in Atlanta, at the Greater New York YMCA Winter Conference and at the New York Public Library, in partnership with Facing History and Ourselves.

Our updated *World Olympics* curriculum is ready for summer programs, and our new K-4 curriculum, *Religions in My Neighborhood*, makes its debut in the next few months.

Registration for our Intensive Educator Course, *Cultivating Global Citizenship*, opened May 31.

■ WORKPLACE

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida turned to Tanenbaum when it chose to focus on religious diversity in its 2011 Training Series for every manager across the company.

CEO Joyce Dubensky delivered a keynote and moderated a panel at the Multicultural Forum on Workplace Diversity in Minneapolis, MN, while Director of Programs Mark Fowler conducted a concurrent session on religious diversity.

■ HEALTH CARE

This April, Tanenbaum launched our first online Continuing Medical Education course. Exclusively available to EmblemHealth practitioners through September 2011, Tanenbaum will then make it available to providers worldwide.

With support from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, Tanenbaum is delivering Grand Rounds at Newark Beth Israel Hospital and Jersey Shore University Medical Center.

Funded by the Edmond and Benjamin de Rothschild Foundations, the *Health Care* team just completed preparation for and will soon begin rolling out the first year of a three-year curricular enhancement program for residents at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

■ CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Tanenbaum's *Peacemaker in Action* Working Retreat comes to New York and New Jersey this August. The *Peacemakers* will convene at Drew University for a week of training, community-building and outreach. The Retreat will focus on the creation of a formal *Peacemakers* network for cross-border peace interventions.

Diplomats and members of the international community attended an opening ceremony at the United States Institute of Peace's new headquarters in DC, where *Peacemaker* Friar Ivo Markovic gave an update on interreligious reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and CEO Joyce Dubensky briefly spoke about the value of religious peacemaking in resolving armed conflicts.

■ SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Judith Banki participated in the 12th annual Institute for Seminarians and Rabbinical Students at the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut.