

For Immediate Release

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TANENBAUM CELEBRATES CHAMPIONS OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY AT FIRST-EVER INTERACTIVE GALA: PEACE MADE POSSIBLE

New York, NY, October 8, 2024: The Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding hosts its annual Gala: Peace Made Possible on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the IAC Building in New York City.

Guests will be joined by the evening's Mistress of Ceremony, WABC TV-NY's Journalist, Kemberly Richardson, and the evening's call to action host, Christie's Auctioneer, Helena Guindo. This year's Gala honors individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions towards fostering interfaith dialogue and respect for religious and nonreligious beliefs and practices.

- **Corporate Bridge Builder Award** to Accenture for their outstanding efforts in creating inclusive and equitable environments within the workplace.
- **Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding** to Audrey Kitagawa for her remarkable work in uniting diverse communities and advancing mutual respect.
- **Adam Solomon Award for Excellence** to Dr. Aasim Padela for his exemplary leadership in improving health care equity by accommodating patients' religious values and beliefs.
- **Les Crystal Media Bridge Builder Award** to Rainn Wilson for his continuous work in raising awareness of the Bahá'í faith and demonstrating how faith and spirituality can foster deeper connection amongst us all.

Actor, Comedian, and Author Rainn Wilson shares, "I have come to embrace the religion of my youth and feel it contains relevant wisdom surrounding the issues we face as a species sharing a planet. We can pull from spiritual teachings to create deeper connections with one another, and that isn't something we should shy away from. The media is a powerful tool to convey that message."

The Gala, presented by Accenture, includes interactive exhibits from Tanenbaum's four programs.

"This year's Gala is more than a celebration; it is a call to action. We're reinventing our Gala to demonstrate what it looks and feels like to practice respect in our daily lives," said Rev. Mark Fowler, Tanenbaum CEO. "In these challenging times, Tanenbaum's mission is to find innovative ways to foster mutual understanding across differences. Through interactive exhibits and immersive storytelling, we are not just celebrating those who are making a tangible difference; we are inviting everyone to participate in creating a more inclusive world."

Tanenbaum is grateful to Accenture, AllianceBernstein, Bridgewater Advisors, Citi, Cushman & Wakefield, Epstein, Becker & Green, FINRA, Foa & Son, An Alera Group, Goldman Sachs, TJ Haynes-Morgan and Michael Morgan, HWH Mediation LLC, Suzanne and Douglas Henck, Amy and Robert Heller, David Heller, Merck & Co., MetLife, Schulte, Roth & Zabel LLP, White & Case LLP, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and, Dr. Georgette F. Bennett and Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky CBE. for their generous sponsorship.

Contact [Nicole Margaretten](mailto:NMargaretten@tanenbaum.org), Assistant Director of Communications, for additional details.

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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