



Transforming the Present, Shaping the Future

Dear Friends,

At the end of another amazing year of programming, we pause to thank you all for your support and commitment to improving Jewish-Muslim and Israeli-Palestinian relations; relations often marred by distrust, hate, and violence. Your support helps us bring together the young people who will lead their communities on a new path. To ensure the continuation and success of our transformative programs, please make [a donation to Abraham's Vision](#).

While 2009 comes to a close, we are preparing a very exciting start to the new year! On Sunday evening, January 17, 2010, for the first time ever, Abraham's Vision will be co-sponsoring [UnityJam](#), a benefit concert at Spangenberg Theater in Palo Alto, CA, featuring world famous rock musician Salman Ahmad! This incredible evening will support conflict transformation programming and humanitarian relief in Pakistan. Also in January, through the [Center for Transformative Education](#) we will offer our second annual Facilitation Training course in San Francisco, January 11th to the 22nd.

Of course, our year-round programming, including the Unity Programs and the Unity Program II, are continuing on course, and our Vision Program fellows are back on campus after an incredible fall conference.

In this issue:

- UnityJam Benefit Concert - Buy Your Tickets Today!
- CTE Facilitation Course Offered for Second Year
- 2010-11 Vision Program and Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine Accepting Applications
- Unity Programs Bay Area

UnityJam Benefit Concert - Buy Your Tickets Today!

UnityJam

Sunday, January 17 at 7 PM

Spangenberg Theater, Palo Alto, CA

[UnityJam](#) is an incredible musical event featuring world famous music stars Salman Ahmad, Elizabeth Schwartz, Muhammad Saleem, and Yale Strom. For the first time ever Abraham's Vision will be teaming up with the [Salman & Samina Global Wellness Initiative](#) (SSGWI), an organization working to help Pakistan's 3 million impoverished IDPs (internally-displaced persons). All proceeds from this benefit concert will support Abraham's Vision and SSGWI.

[Learn more about UnityJam.](#)

[Purchase UnityJam tickets.](#)

CTE Facilitation Course Offered for Second Year!



The poster features the CTE logo (Center for Transformative Education) with a laurel wreath, the University of San Francisco logo, and the Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR) logo. The main title is "New Facilitation Training Course: Working with Groups in Conflict". Below this, it states: "Training students to work as facilitators of groups in conflict utilizing methods created and designed by a foremost expert in the field, Worick D. Salami, New Skatara School for Peace." A photograph shows a group of people in a classroom setting. The text continues: "CTE (center for transformative education) models are rooted in western and local-cultural methodologies of working with groups in conflict, creating a groundbreaking organic model of facilitation that can be used in any conflict setting. In January 2010, we are offering two facilitation training courses, in New York City and San Francisco, which prepares students to become practitioners in working with groups in conflict." It lists three components: "Experiential group process", "Theoretical knowledge", and "Practical training". The course is taught by Dr. Post, an Israeli educator from Colorado State University's Teacher College, and Ahmad Amara, a Palestinian clinical instructor and Global Advocacy Fellow with the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School. The course will be offered in partnership with Columbia University's Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR) from January 2nd to the 9th and at the University of San Francisco from Monday to Friday, January 11th to the 22nd. A call to action says "Accepting Applications Now: Space is Limited." and a website URL is provided: www.civfortransformativeeducation.org.

After the successful launch of our pilot facilitation training course in January 2009, the [Center for Transformative Education](#) (an affiliate of Abraham's Vision) is happy to announce the return of this course to the University of San

Francisco.

Offered at the University of San Francisco from January 11 to the 22 (M-F), our facilitation training course prepares students to become practitioners in working with groups in conflict. To learn more click [here](#).

2010-11 Vision Program and Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine Accepting Applications



The [Vision Program](#) is a ten month fellowship for Jewish American, Palestinian American, Israeli, and Palestinian university students. Fellows travel to the former Yugoslavia to explore the Israeli-Palestinian and the Balkan conflicts academically utilizing comparative conflict and social justice analysis and personally through individual and group processes. [Learn more](#) and [apply!](#)

[Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine](#) is a summer program that takes university students to the Middle East on a journey of comparative conflict analysis and conflict transformation. The program combines rigorous academics and practical hands-on training, allowing students to explore questions at the core of all conflicts. [Learn more](#) and [apply!](#)

Unity Programs Bay Area



The Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California in Oakland and Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco, both welcomed in our Unity Program students.

This month the Unity Programs have been full of exciting classes, field-trips, and conversations. Classes in the *East Bay* focused on similarities and differences between Jewish and Muslim religious practices. Jewish students taught the

Muslim students about various components of Jewish prayer and shared interesting aspects of the siddur (Jewish prayer book). In order to learn about Muslim prayer, the group spent a Sunday morning inside the prayer room at the [Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California](#) learning about how Muslims prayed and then compared certain aspects of Jewish and Muslim prayer.

Students in the *South Bay* began an exploration of communal conceptions of the other within both the Muslim and Jewish communities. The students discussed what their communal perceptions were of certain external identifiers and symbols with the following trigger question: if they were walking down the street and saw someone wearing either a kippah or hijab, what would they think? The discussion led to very insightful observations.

The *San Francisco* Unity Program group took two field trips this month - to [Congregation Sherith Israel](#), SF's oldest synagogue, where they met with two rabbis inside the sanctuary - and to the Bayview Islamic Center (BIC), where the group had the opportunity to see the community where the Muslim students live and pray. The visit to BIC was highlighted by one of the Muslim students doing the call to prayer at prayer time, which enabled the Jewish students to experience a certain aspect of Muslim prayer.

All the Unity Program groups have been engaging in serious discussions, most interestingly about the representation of Muslims in the media and Hollywood films and about what makes a Jew a Jew. Both of these discussions have challenged the students to think in new and interesting ways and has enabled a unique interaction between the groups and highlights their excitement to seek to understand certain things about the identities and practices of the other group.

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

Abraham's Vision is a conflict transformation organization that explores group and individual identities through experiential and political education. Examining social relations within and between the Jewish, Muslim, Israeli, and Palestinian communities, we empower participants to practice just alternatives to the status quo.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit conflict transformation organization, dedicated to creating a new generation of leaders empowered and committed to improving our world. Our distinct vision is based on the following principles:

- **Equal Partnerships:** We are committed to equal partnerships across ethnic, religious, and gender lines. This commitment is reflected in our organizational structure as well as our long-term programs, workshops, and presentations.

- **Experiential Learning:** We are committed to creative forms of education that both recognize the importance of content-based teaching and value individual and group participant experiences.
- **Encounters:** We approach inter-group encounters as a reflection of the political realities in which we live, utilizing them as a central element of our educational approach.
- **Political Education:** We focus on individual and collective relationships within current political realities, placing the relationship between individuals and groups at the center of the educational experience rather than analyzing political developments as something separate from students.