



Transforming the Present, Shaping the Future

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to improving Jewish, Muslim, Israeli, and Palestinian relations. In a world where millions face discrimination and inequity, education is a powerful tool for constructive change. Investing in Abraham's Vision allows our participants and their communities opportunities to create a more just and peaceful world, a world as it should—and will—be. We enable our students to shape new relations between and within their communities, creating tangible change that extends throughout the US and the world. As of June 2010, AV has graduated 275 students from its programs and continues to make significant strides forward in the realms of social justice and conflict transformation. Please support us by making a [donation](#) to Abraham's Vision. We depend on your continued support.

Salam, Shalom, In Peace,

Huda Abu Arqoub and Aaron Hahn Tapper

Here are this month's updates:

- Accepting Applications for the 2010-11 Unity Programs: Bay Area—First Come, First Served!
- 2010-11 Vision Program Fellows Return to University Campuses with New Perspectives
- NEW 2010-11 Unity Program Co-Educators
- BB:IP Staff Reflects on Success of CTE's First Summer Program
- 2009-10 Unity Program Graduation Video Final Cut!
- Upcoming Events

Accepting Applications for the 2010-11 Unity Programs: Bay Area—First Come, First Served!



San Francisco Unity Program students learn about and compare sacred texts.

Abraham's Vision is now accepting applications for its sixth consecutive Unity Program. This year we have a top-notch team of six educators and facilitators for our three UP partnerships in the San Francisco Bay Area: the Peninsula/South Bay, the East Bay, and San Francisco. Spanning the entire 2010-11 school year, this program aims to work with 72 Muslim and Jewish 15-18 year olds from across the three regions. Click [here](#) for the 2010-11 Unity Program application and more information on this extraordinary program. If you would like to help recruit students for this year's Unity Program please email Megan at megan@abrahamsvision.org.

[Apply to the 2010-11 Unity Program now!](#)

2010-11 Vision Program Fellows Return to University Campuses with New Perspectives



The 2010-11 Vision Program Fellows pose for a group photo during their summer Balkans trip.

As universities across the US start the new school year, the 2010-11 Vision Program Fellows are returning to their respective campuses with new perspectives taken from their experiences on their Vision Program summer trip in the Balkans. From UC Berkeley and the University of San Francisco to Williams College and NYU, VP Fellows are returning to campus with a deeper knowledge of conflict theory, direct "case study" experience, and skills which will help them pursue social justice work in their communities. Over the course of the school year, the VP Fellows will present their AV experiences to members of their academic and home communities. In addition, they will gather together for two four-day conferences, in November 2010 and March 2011, which allow them to continue the learning process they started during the summer. VP Fellows will continue to share their thoughts and reflections on the student weblog. Click [here](#) to read about their Vision Program experiences so far.

NEW 2010-11 Unity Program Co-Educators



From left to right: Rabi'a Mirhadian, Renee Ghert-Zand, Samia Shoman, and Wafaa Sabil.

AV is happy to announce four new additions to the Abraham's Vision team! Renee Ghert-Zand, Rabi'a Mirhadian, Wafaa Sabil, and Samia Shoman will be joining us as new UP Co-Educators. Renee, our South Bay Jewish Co-Educator, comes to AV from a long and prestigious career in Jewish education, having previously chaired the Jewish Studies Department at Kehillah high school in Palo Alto, among other positions. Rabi'a, our East Bay Muslim Co-Educator, a registered nurse with a great deal of teaching experience, also serves as a liaison between East Bay Muslim communities and local medical practitioners. Wafaa, our San Francisco Muslim Co-Educator, is an architect in San Francisco who mentors international students in design, architecture, and engineering at Stanford University. Samia, our South Bay Muslim Co-Educator, lectures in the Ethnic Studies Department at San Francisco State University and teaches Social Sciences at Hillsdale high school in San Mateo. These four Co-Educators will join our seasoned UP team, which includes Oren Kroll-Zeldin, our Jewish Co-Facilitator and Co-Educator for the East Bay and San Francisco and Rangineh Azimzadeh, our Muslim Co-Facilitator. We are looking forward to an excellent year with a first-rate staff.

BB:IP Staff Reflects on Success of CTE's First Summer Program



BB:IP participants and staff stop for a photo in Jerusalem.

This summer, our Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine (BB:IP) staff—Mai Abdo, Huda Abu Arqoub, and Oren Kroll-Zeldin—guided the program participants through challenging academic and logistical terrain, exploring the multiple realities and narratives of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Since the end of the summer study program, the staff has been reflecting on the success of this first CTE summer program. BB:IP Co-Coordinator Mai Abdo remembers how the participants “were so passionate, and empathized wholly with what they saw to the extent that they opened my eyes to many points I never knew and to others I took for granted.” In his evaluation of the program, Assistant Program Director Oren Kroll-Zeldin said, “This program has incredible potential to be one of the top summer abroad programs coming out of a US university due to its unique nature in exposing students to both Palestinian and Israeli narratives, culture, history, society, etc.” BB:IP Director Huda Abu Arqoub was also pleased with how the participants engaged with the material, and how the curriculum, guest speakers, and surroundings affected the overall program experience. The BB:IP staff congratulates and thanks the 2010 BB:IP participants for making the first ever CTE summer program a great success.

2009-10 Unity Program Graduation Video Final Cut!



The 2009-10 Unity Program graduates wave after receiving their diplomas.

Since our UP graduation, held at the University of San Francisco this past June, a team guided by long-time inter-communal organizers Libby and Len Traubman have been working tirelessly with a professional team of documentarians to produce a new UP video. Although the hard work is far from over, the video is starting to come together and should be available soon on the Abraham's Vision [website](#). AV staff and UP alumni are excited to see the final cut. Click [here](#) for a sneak peek at the UP graduation footage.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 29: Co-Executive Director Aaron J. Hahn Tapper will be officially representing Abraham's Vision at the "Ramadan Dinner and Open House" co-sponsored by the Islamic Society of San Francisco and the UMA Interfaith Alliance. Hahn Tapper will be among a select group of leaders offering words of hope focusing on the dire need for inter-communal understanding, tolerance, and peace. Registration for the event begins at 6:15PM and the Iftaar break fast meal will be served at 8PM. (ISSF is located on the second floor of 20 Jones St., in downtown San Francisco. For questions please contact Iftekhhar Hai at 650.872.2578 or umah.hai@hotmail.com.)



Monday, September 6: The 2010-11 UP staff will come together for a full day of training. As this year's staff is the most experienced group of educators AV has worked with on the Unity Program, in terms of degrees of higher learning, professional experiences, and personal commitment to social justice, we are incredibly excited to learn with and from one another during this intensive day. During the session, our Co-Educators will begin exploring the new and improved Sixth Edition of our UP Teacher's Curriculum, which now has 115 lessons on Jewish-Muslim inter- and intra-group education.