



Transforming the Present, Shaping the Future

In this
issue...
[BB:IP](#)
and [VP](#)
set to
launch!

May 2011 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

With protests continuing throughout the Middle East, our minds swing back and forth between the resounding power of ordinary people to change history and the need for conflict transformation. Now, more than ever, we need a strong generation of leaders who understand the role identity politics plays in creating a new vision for the world. Abraham's Vision continues to work with today's youth—tomorrow's leaders—in creating sustainable solutions for current societal problems. In a continued effort to promote positive transformation we ask for your help and support in this crucial time. Please make a tax-deductible [donation](#) to Abraham's Vision so we can continue our innovative work.

Salam, Shalom, In Peace,
Huda Abu Arqoub and Aaron Hahn Tapper

[Here are this month's activities and updates:](#)

- Sixth Unity Program Closes with Graduation Ceremony Led by Imam Suhaib Webb
- Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine Prepares for Second Consecutive Summer Program
- 2011-12 Vision Program Gearing Up for the Sixth Consecutive Year
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Sixth Unity Program Closes with Graduation Ceremony Led by Imam Suhaib Webb



2010-11 UP students discuss their diverse American identities during group process.

On Sunday June 5 at 12PM Abraham's Vision will graduate 35 students from the 2010-11 Bay Area [Unity Programs](#) during a ceremony held on the campus of the University of San Francisco. Following remarks delivered by keynote graduation speaker, [Imam Suhaib Webb](#), Muslim and Jewish Unity Program students will share their reflections on their experiences with this groundbreaking educational ten-month conflict transformation program, which has now graduated 210 students. Click [here](#) for more information about the Unity Program and for the 2011-12 UP application!

Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine Prepares for Second Consecutive Summer Program



Bethlehem's Saint Catherine Church, one of the many places BBIP students will visit over the summer.

Now in its second year, AV's Center for Transformative Education staff and students are preparing for [Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine](#) (BB:IP), a groundbreaking program where students are challenged to see the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from different angles. By engaging narratives often absent or underrepresented in mainstream discourse, participants explore the dominant narratives of both the Palestinian and Jewish Israeli communities. Run through the

University of San Francisco, and based in Jerusalem, students travel to Haifa, Bethlehem, Tel Aviv, Hebron, and beyond to meet with scholars and activists from across the political spectrum. The trip promises to be an exceptional opportunity for the students to move "beyond bridges" and seek long-term, sustainable solutions to inter-communal conflict.

2011-12 Vision Program Gearing Up for Sixth Consecutive Summer



The city of Sarajevo, one of the many fascinating places awaiting Vision Program Fellows.

Now in its sixth consecutive year, the [Vision Program](#) is gearing up for another powerful summer experience. With a stellar staff and strong, diverse group of Palestinian and Jewish fellows, the trip will include visits to Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo, and Mostar. Using a framework of comparative conflict analysis and transformation, students will travel together to meet local scholars, leaders, and activists. Upon returning to their university campuses, Vision Program fellows will continue their work with AV through post-summer conferences and presentations. We are confident this year's Vision Program will be another great success.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 1, 7PM: Co-Executive Director Aaron Hahn Tapper and AV Board Member Reza Aslan will be joined by Dr. Aysha Hidayatullah (USF) and Rabbi Sidney Mintz (Temple Emanu-El) for a panel discussion at the [Commonwealth Club](#) (Lafayette, CA). Springboarding off Hahn Tapper and Aslan's new book, [Muslims and Jews in America: Commonalities, Contentions, and Complexities](#), the panel will examine the myriad innovative ways that Jews and Muslims interact with one another in the United States. Click [here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.



Sunday, June 5, 12PM: AV will graduate 35 students from the [2010-11 Bay Area Unity](#)

[Programs](#) during a ceremony held at the University of San Francisco's [Fromm Hall](#). Following remarks from keynote graduation speaker [Imam Suhaib Webb](#), Muslim and Jewish UP students will share their reflections on their experiences with this groundbreaking educational ten-month conflict transformation program.

In the News



Media Coverage of the new AV book published by Palgrave Macmillan, *Muslims and Jews in America: Commonalities, Contentions, and Complexities*:

- J. Weekly's recent article, ["New Book with Local Ties Examines Muslims, Jews—and Their Common Ground."](#)
- Tablet Magazine briefly touched on this new book in ["On the Bookshelf: Levantine lives, stone synagogues, faithful feminists, minority Muslims, and Jewish jokes."](#)
- Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer's piece from the Multifaith World site. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Proceeds from the book go to Abraham's Vision. Click [here](#) to order a copy.

[Unity Program Educator/Facilitator and BBIP Senior Educator Oren Kroll-Zeldin](#) speaks about his community service work [here](#).

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