

Abrahamic Reunion

BULLETIN 1 ■ JANUARY 2006

Interspiritual Peace Group Forms



Photo by Claudia Henzler

The Abrahamic Reunion is a team of spiritual peacemakers dedicated to uplifting human consciousness and building peace in the Holy Land by opening our hearts to the love and wisdom of all spiritual traditions.

faith who have dedicated their lives to working for peace in a wide variety of ways; and spiritual leaders of high standing from each of the four religions.

The first time they came together was at the Parliament of Worlds Religions in Barcelona in July 2004. Their appearance was a radical departure from the customary interfaith dialogue. Instead of discussing the differences and similarities among their four religions, the representatives did spiritual practices together. The focus was on their shared spiritual devotion to the one God. The group itself overcame traditional concerns that women would be praying with men, that they had different names for God, or that their prayers took different forms. They simply demonstrated the power of praying together. Many
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Vision

1. To Share the belief in one God by understanding one another's religious customs, spiritual practices, prayers and values
2. To turn all religions into a force for peace
3. To infuse our efforts with prayer, meditation and spiritual practice
4. To relate to all as though they are our own family
5. To respond to the needs in the Holy Land by establishing ongoing projects that embody our ideals
6. To promote love, peace, communication, cooperation and dialogue among the people of the Holy Land, including men, women, Muslims, Jews, Christians, and Druze, as well as other spiritual traditions. We agree to:
 - Be a living example of our values and beliefs;
 - Seek out and support other spiritual peacemakers and organizations that share our values and goals;
 - Provide training for those interested in spiritual peacemaking;
 - Create and implement interfaith programs, celebrations, youth activities and other educational initiatives;
7. To develop a world wide membership and support system;
8. To convey our message to world leaders.



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who witnessed this event felt dramatically changed by it, stating that they never imagined such a thing was possible.

This experience at the Parliament revealed the potential for a shift in global consciousness. By the time the group met for the second time in Istanbul, they were ready to bring this potential into action. They knew that by refusing to be divided by their traditional distinctions and differences, they were embodying a new consciousness of the oneness of humanity, a consciousness that is sorely needed in all parts of the world. Since their Founding Retreat in September, the Abrahamic Reunion hosted a very successful Iftar (breaking of the Ramadan fast) in Nazareth, with over 120 members of all four faiths in attendance and a second organizational meeting and public walk in Tel Aviv in November.

The individuals in the Abrahamic Reunion are deeply immersed in the practices of their own spiritual traditions and yet find the path to peace in their absolute devotion to the divine unity of all beings, which is the ideal of all religions. By agreeing to bypass the traditional divisions that have kept them separate, they have accepted the personal challenge to open themselves to change. Their work is not just about religious tolerance, it is about meeting human hearts. They know this work will change them; they know it must change them. And they are willing to go into that unknown for the sake of building a new paradigm for peace. **For further information contact Ferishta Andrea Blanch (941) 312-9795, akblanch@aol.com.**

Global Network Forms

A global network of supporters has already formed including representatives from Europe, the United States, Canada, Turkey and India. The network also includes representatives from Unity Church, the Association for Global New Thought, Rising Tide International, and The Sufi Order International. This group has created a communication network and has begun other supportive activities including prayer circles, fundraising and global networking. **For further information contact Jelila Judith Allen (206) 329-5576, domesticwarrior@qwest.net.**

Founding Members of the Abrahamic Reunion

Sheikh Hussein Abu Rukun. Elder and recognized spokesperson for the Mowahhidoon (Druze) faith and worldwide ambassador for peace.

Ibrahim Abu El-Hawa. Born on the Mount of Olives; active leader for 30 years in Arab-Jewish reconciliation.

Imam Khalil Albaz. Imam and spokesperson for the Bedouin town of Tel Sheva; frequent commentator on Bedouin and Islamic affairs.

Andrea Blanch. Founding director of national centers on conflict management and women and violence; practitioner and teacher of an interspiritual path to peace.

Rabbi Menachem Froman. Known as the "Peace Rabbi" from the West Bank settlement of Tekoa; active in interreligious and political negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

Rabbi Yosef Hadane. Chief Rabbi of the Ethiopian Jews in Israel and leader in building interfaith and interreligious alliances.

Reverend Abouna Abu Hatoum. Minister for 25 years in the Greek Melkite Church of Israel and leader of national and international interfaith activities.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz il-Bukhari. Sheikh of the Naqshbandi Order and director of the Uzbeki cultural center and Naqshbandi Sufi Center in Jerusalem.

Elias Jabbour. Arab Christian from the village of ShefarAm, founder of the House of Hope; respected practitioner of "sulha," a traditional Palestinian peacemaking process.

Anna Less. First non-Asian PhD in Traditional Chinese Medicine from Zhejiang Medical College, co-founder of Hope Project in India; spiritual guide and teacher.

Shahabuddin David Less. Worldwide director of The Universal Worship, spiritual teacher for over 30 years; leading presence in supporting peace through religious tolerance.

Ibtisam Mahmud. Religious Muslim woman from the city of Faradis, Israel; active for 20 years in Arab-Jewish co-existence.

Deacon Jiries Mansur. Deacon in the Greek Catholic Church and Board member of the Interfaith Encounter Association in Israel.

Eliyahu McLean. Observant Jew living in Jerusalem, ordained by Reb Zalman Schacter-Shalomi as "Rodef Shalom" or "Peace Pursuer."

Elana Rozenman. Co-founder of the Women's Interfaith Encounter, a program of the Interfaith Encounter Association in Israel.

Calendar of Events

- Sept 1-5, 2005 Founding Retreat, Istanbul
- Oct 26, 2005 Iftar Dinner in Nazareth
- Nov 15, 2005 Meeting in Tel Aviv
- Jan, 2006 All Faith Celebration in Ramle
- Feb, 2006 Meeting in Tekoa
- Apr, 2006 Model Seder (place TBA)
- May, 2006 Meeting in Tel Sheva