

### Successful Interfaith Dialogue and Relationships Between Muslim and Jewish Americans:

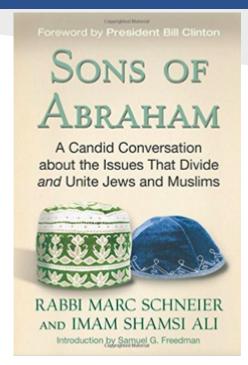
From the Playground to the White House

NEH Summer Institute Presentation by Sarah Nickell

# Going to the Source: "Love Thy Neighbor or Love Thy Stranger?"

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself... But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself." - Leviticus 19:18, 34

- In Chapter 11, co- author Rabbi Marc Schneier argues that the above passage's "Love thy stranger" message is 'more powerful and more urgently needed.'
- He also states that interfaith dialogue "helps shatter the untrue stereotype too many Muslims have that, because of the Middle East conflict, the Jews will always be their enemy and will conspire to retard their progress."



## Examples of Successful High School and Middle School Student Relationships

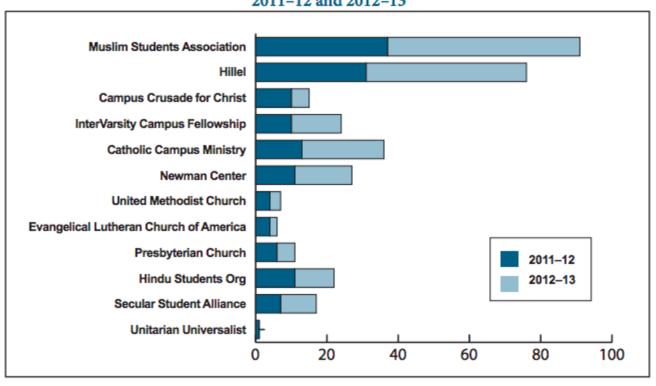
- Students from Jewish Sinai Akiba Academy and Islamic New Horizon in California participated in interfaith dialogue. This included an *interfaith* scavenger hunt, drama games about stereotypes, and observing prayers.
- Abrahamic Faiths Peacemaking Initiative sponsored an interfaith panel at Flintridge High School in California.
  - "Are the other two panelists going to hell?"
  - " What is the future for Israel and Palestine?"
  - "Will the violence that religion causes ever stop?"

Brave New Voices 2013 (Thanks Brandon!)

#### Jewish and Muslim Relations on Campus and Interfaith Outreach

- Kosher- Halal Comedy Show at University of Memphis
  - The Muslim Student Association (MSA) at Xavier University sponsored and interfaith comedy show, bringing Mo Amer to campus. (Laugh in Peace)
- The President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge
- Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC)
  - Eboo Patel is founder and president of IFYC
- Patel wrote five books on Interfaith work and has spoken at TEDx Women, Nobel Peace Prize Forum, and the Clinton Global Initiative
  - IFYC establishes on campus student leaders on interfaith dialogue
  - Interfaith Leaders Institute (#ILI)
    - Atlanta January 22-24, 2016
  - Numerous blogs and podcasts on website, ifyc.org
  - #bettertogether

#### Student Organizations That Participated in the President's Campus Challenge: 2011-12 and 2012-13



#### Jewish and Muslim Relations in the Community

- <u>Sisterhood of Salaam-Shalom: Enriching Women's Souls, Shattering</u>
  <u>Stereotypes</u>
- Sinai and Sunna: Covering, Uncovering, and Recovering by Andrea Hodos
- Business Outreach Center Network
- Buzzfeed
- Sharing the Well: A Resource Guide for Jewish-Muslim Engagement
  - Project created by The Jewish Theological Seminary, Hartford Seminary, and the ISNA
  - Gives Guidelines for Interreligious Dialogue
  - Divided into three sections: Caring for others, Family and Heritage, and Religious Life
  - Provides 56 additional resources on Muslim/Jewish Dialogue

#### Newground: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change

- Began in 2007
- An outgrowth of the partnership between The Progressive Jewish Alliance (PJA) and The Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
- Offers a Professional Fellowship Program, where 20 fellows meet twice a month for 9 months to discuss Muslim and Jewish relations.
- They also offer MicroGrants which provide financial assistance with community outreach projects.
- Community outreach includes...
  - #2faiths1prayer
  - #72virgins
  - Participated in Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

#### Jewish Muslim Relations in Politics

- Teaneck, New Jersey
  - NY Times Article, "Brotherhood and Politics, Consorting!" (2010)
  - Mohammed Hameeduddin and Adam Gussen
- The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU) Founded in 1990
  - @MarcSchneier; @FFEUnyc
  - "Weekend of Twinning"
  - Washington D.C International Outreach

2009: European Muslim and Jewish Leaders

2012: Latin American Muslim and Jewish Leaders

2013: South African, Australian and New Zealand Muslim and

Jewish Leaders

- #SpreadHummusNotHate (DC area campaign)