

# Fund for the Future of our Children

The Children of Abraham  
Peace Essay Contest



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

...in collaboration with  
Georgetown University's  
Office of Campus Ministry



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

It's about leadership.  
It's about peace-making.





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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

Who is eligible? All 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest



Motivating participation:  
PRIZES  
&  
OPPORTUNITIES

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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest



## PRIZES:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize -- \$2,500
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize -- \$1,500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize -- \$1,000
- (4) 4<sup>th</sup> prizes -- \$500 each



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## OPPORTUNITIES:

*Youth Leadership Micro-Grants:*

\$1,000 full grant, and  
Up to \$1,000 matching grant,  
modeled on micro-loan program  
developed by Mohammad Yunus.



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## OPPORTUNITIES:

Micro-Grants awarded thus far:

To Melissa Mergner, to fund the production of a film documenting the impact of the separation of the two Koreas, and the possibility of re-unification.





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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## OPPORTUNITIES:

Micro-Grants awarded thus far:

To Priya Agarwal-Harding,  
for her work with PRAYAS, an  
organization in India serving  
victims of child trafficking.



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## OPPORTUNITIES:

Micro-Grants awarded thus far:

To Devika Jaipurkar,  
to fund work on an  
environmental advocacy  
project she developed,  
called “Earth Girl.”



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## OPPORTUNITIES:

Micro-Grants awarded thus far:

To Jonathan Kesten,  
to provide seed money  
for fund-raising efforts  
on behalf of “School Girls  
United,” which provides  
educational opportunities to  
girls in developing nations.



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## OPPORTUNITIES:

Micro-Grants awarded thus far:

And a second award to Melissa Mergner and to Priya Agarwal-Harding to fund a documentary on the problem of child-trafficking and the work of organizations like PRAYAS.





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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## OPPORTUNITIES “IN THE MAKING”:

### *Youth Leadership Think Tank:*

Beginning in Summer '09, FFC will sponsor a week-long seminar, during which students will have the opportunity to consider issues of peace and leadership, and brainstorm around the role of youth in solving our social and environmental problems.



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## The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

### OPPORTUNITIES “IN THE MAKING”:

#### *Virtual Peace Museum:*

Also in 2009, the FFC website Will offer access to a “virtual Peace museum.” The “exhibits” will be designed by students, and will illustrate the work of leaders from around the world, working at all social levels from grassroots to the international arena.



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:

2005-2006:

“How might understanding the roots of peace in each of the Abrahamic traditions—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—help to bring about religious understanding in your community?”



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:

2005-2006:

❖ Cite some examples that illustrate the history of conflict between the Abrahamic religions that has occurred despite the tradition of peace.





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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:

2005-2006:

❖ Identify any instances of religious misunderstanding that occur in your community (for instance, among friends or in school – or in your neighborhood, our nation, or the global community).



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:

2005-2006:

❖ Finally, from your own research and from the information you have gathered from the Children of Abraham Peace Essay Kick-Off, design a proposal for a project that you can personally implement in your own community to promote peace and religious understanding.



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:



2006-2007:

“How did Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad model leadership for peace through their lives and teachings?”

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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:



2006-2007:

❖ Choose a community or an area of conflict, and describe how the example of Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad would help you promote peaceful coexistence.



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:

2007-2008:

“How did each of the leaders of the Abrahamic faiths – Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad – seek to creatively transform the corruption and injustice in the societies in which they found themselves?”



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:

2007-2008:

❖ Using the insights from these leaders, suggest a specific project that would seek to transform some type of corruption and injustice which faces your community, nation, or world today.

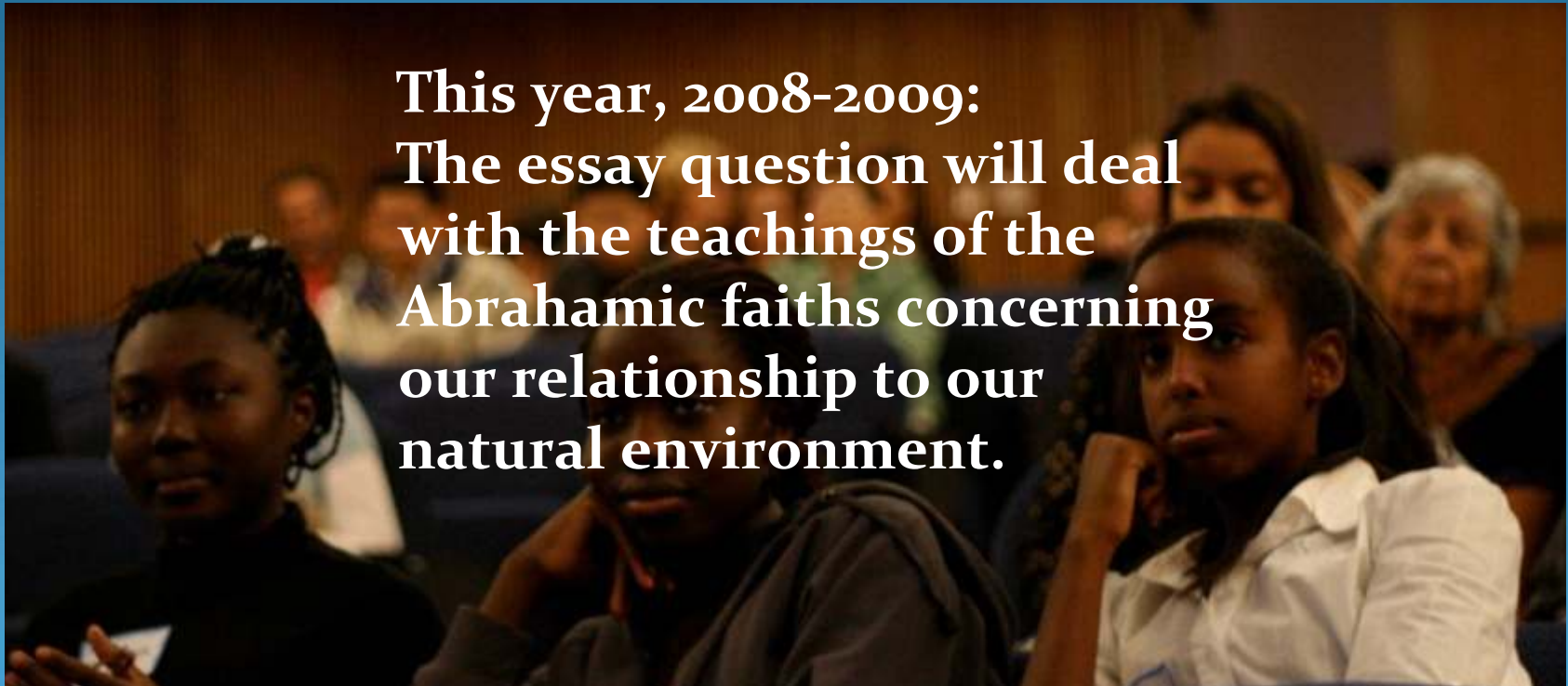


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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## THE ESSAY QUESTIONS:

**This year, 2008-2009:  
The essay question will deal  
with the teachings of the  
Abrahamic faiths concerning  
our relationship to our  
natural environment.**



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

GIVING ESSAYISTS DIRECTION:  
The Kick-Off event – PANEL DISCUSSIONS





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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

GIVING ESSAYISTS DIRECTION:  
The Kick-Off event -- PRESENTATIONS



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

GIVING ESSAYISTS DIRECTION:  
The Kick-Off event – INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: The Annual Award Ceremony

### Essayists' Presentations



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS:

### The Annual Award Ceremony



## Keynote Address



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

CELEBRATING SUCCESS:  
The Annual Award Ceremony



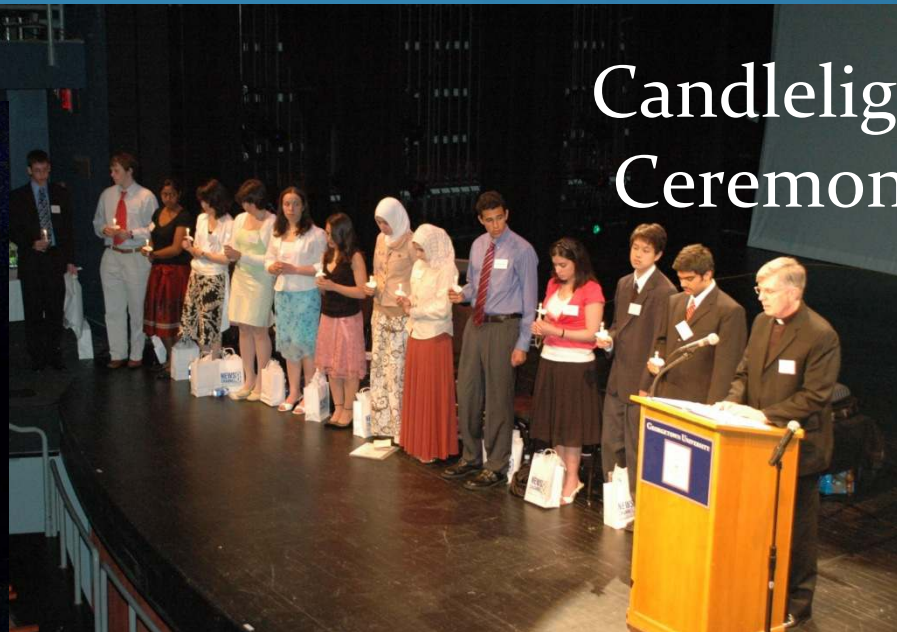
Presentation of Prizes



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: The Annual Award Ceremony



## Candlelight Ceremony



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: The Annual Award Ceremony

Reading from  
Scripture



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

CELEBRATING SUCCESS:  
The Annual Award Ceremony



Musical  
Offerings

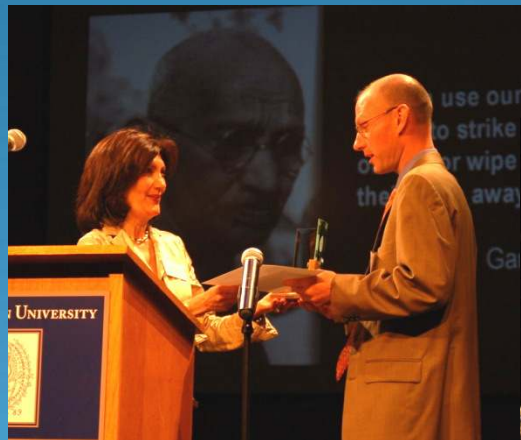


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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## ANNUAL TEACHER'S AWARD FOR PEACE ADVOCACY

\$2,000 cash award



Lansing Freeman  
Montgomery Blair  
Silver Spring, MD





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## ANNUAL TEACHER'S AWARD FOR PEACE ADVOCACY

\$2,000 cash award



June Murray-Crawford  
Hudson High School  
Hudson, MA



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# The Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

## GIVING ESSAYISTS DIRECTION:

This Year's Plan:

**SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM:**

teaching the Abrahamic view of our  
relationship to the natural world

The curriculum will be presented at a  
**TEACHERS' WORKSHOP** on October 2008