



Fund for the Future of our Children

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**For updates on our continued efforts,
please visit our Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest
website at [www.futureof children.net/essaycontest/](http://www.futureofchildren.net/essaycontest/)**

**Fund for the Future of our Children
and
Georgetown University's Office of Campus Ministry**

Present the

2006-2007

Children of Abraham

PEACE ESSAY CONTEST



COEXISTENCE

Artwork by Piotr Mlodozieniec, Warsaw, Poland
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**Sunday, November 12, 2006
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**McShain Lounge
Georgetown University
Washington, DC**

2006-2007

Children of Abraham

PEACE ESSAY CONTEST

Welcome. . .

On behalf of the Fund for the Future of our Children (FFC) and the co-sponsors of this program, I would like to thank you for joining us and to welcome you to the Kick-Off event of this year's *Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest*. Your presence here today is a testament to your curiosity and activist spirit, as well as a hope for a more tolerant tomorrow.

This forum for peace and understanding is the product of much hard work by many distinguished scholars, teachers, clergy, interfaith youth leaders, and volunteers. Thanks first to the continued support of the many distinguished members of our advisory committee, and the patrons of this event, Mrs. Josephine F. Ammerman and Mr. Andrew Ammerman.

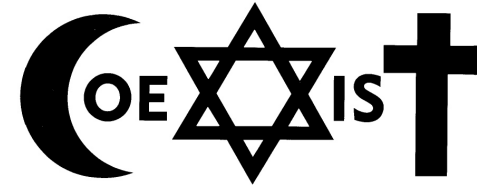
Thanks also to all of our panelists, speakers, workshop leaders, judges and on-line mentors—many of whom traveled a great distance to be here with us today—for their thoughtful presentations and participation.

In addition, we would like to extend our gratitude to you, the participants of the second annual *Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest*, who are tomorrow's leaders and peacemakers.

Shalom, Peace, and Salam.

Avideh Shashaani, Ph.D.

President, Fund for the Future of our Children



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Father Timothy S. Godfrey, S.J.

Director, Office of Campus Ministry, Georgetown University

Lansing Freeman

Teacher, Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD

Michael J. Goggin, Assistant Director,

Inter-Faith Conference of Metropolitan Washington

Imam Yahya Hendi

Muslim Chaplain, Georgetown University

Sulayman S. Nyang, Ph.D.

Professor of African Studies, Howard University

The Rev. Elizabeth Orens

Senior Chaplain, National Cathedral School

Zeina Seikaly, Outreach Coordinator, Center for

Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University

Rabbi Harold S. White

Senior Jewish Chaplain, Georgetown University

About the Advisory Committee

Father Timothy S. Godfrey, S.J. (Find his bio under “presenters.”)

Lansing Freeman is a teacher at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. With the highest enrollment in Montgomery County (over 3,000 students), MBHS serves a diverse population, and houses both the Montgomery County Public Schools’ Communication Arts Program, and the Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program. Mr. Freeman teaches Middle East Studies; National, State, and Local Government; US History; and Peace Studies to students in grades 9 through 12 enrolled in the Communication Arts Program. He received his BS in finance from the University of Delaware, and an MEd from Johns Hopkins University. He has previously worked in sports marketing and management.

Michael J. Goggin earned his MA in theology from Washington Theological Union (2005), and his BSFS degree from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University (1992). Mr. Goggin currently serves as the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington as Assistant Director; he also serves as secretary of the North American Interfaith Network, an umbrella group of 65 interfaith organizations in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, serving previously as Young Adult Chairperson for the network.

Imam Yahya Hendi (Find his bio under “presenters.”)

Sulayman S. Nyang, Ph.D. (Find his bio under “on-line mentors.”)

The Reverend Elizabeth Orens is now the Senior Chaplain at the National Cathedral School for Girls. She teaches courses in World Religions, Literature and the Bible, and the New Testament. She presently serves on the Woodstock Theology Center’s Inter-Religious Dialogue on Education and has been president and chairman of the board of the Interfaith Conference in Washington, DC. The Reverend Orens is a priest in the Episcopal Church, and celebrates and teaches at services at the National Cathedral and, on occasion, at her own Church, All Souls Episcopal Church, in Washington, DC. Her primary interests are in youth, peace, interfaith dialogue, and Anglican studies. She received her undergraduate degree from the Julliard School of Music, an MA from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia College, a Master of Divinity degree from Episcopal Divinity School, and an ABD from Drew University. She was the associate rector at Grace Church, Amherst, for five years.

Zeina Seikaly has worked as Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University since 1994. She coordinates programs for pre-college educators on all aspects of Arab affairs and serves as a consultant for curriculum materials and speakers in the classroom. She regularly plans or presents lectures about the Arab world, the larger Middle East, and Islam for teachers and community groups. Previously, Ms. Seikaly worked in the publishing field as editor of academic articles and monographs on the Arab world and Islam. She has written articles, books, and film reviews for scholarly publications, worked as a lecturer in the Sociology Department at George Mason University, and taught Arabic to children and adults. Ms. Seikaly is currently president of the Middle East Outreach Council. Her academic background includes an MA in Sociology from George Mason University, and a BA in psychology from Vassar College, as well as a Publication Specialist Program Certificate from George Washington University.

Rabbi Harold S. White (Find his bio under “presenters.”)

A New Leadership Model Inspired by Moses, Jesus, and Mohammad Agenda

- 1:00 Registration
- 1:30 Welcome
Father Timothy S. Godfrey, S.J., Georgetown University
Avideh Shashaani, Fund for the Future of Our Children
- 1:40 Reflections by 2005-2006 winning essayists
Eliza Adelson, Holton-Arms School, Bethesda, MD
Dana Alsaadi, Islamic Saudi Academy, Alexandria, VA
Zachary Eaton, Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD
Avi Edelman, Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD
Uneeb Qureshi, Thomas S. Wootton High School, Rockville, MD
Heba Tellawi, Islamic Saudi Academy, Alexandria, VA
Mindy Zhang, J.W. Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax, VA
- 2:00 “Prophets as Peacemakers” – a panel discussion
Moderator: *Reverend Elizabeth Orens, National Cathedral School*
Father Timothy S. Godfrey, S.J., Georgetown University
Imam Yahya Hendi, Georgetown University
Rabbi Harold S. White, Georgetown University
- 2:40 “Achieving Peace Against Impossible Odds: The Leadership Legacy of Moses, Jesus, and Mohammad Through the Eyes of Gandhi”
Kenneth McNeil, Susman Godfrey LLP
- 3:00 BREAK
- 3:30 “12th Century Spain as a Model of Peaceful Coexistence”
Alexander Kronemer, Writer and Film Producer
- 3:50 Small group discussions
“How to Deal With Prejudice and Discrimination”
Nancy Petschek-Kohn, CSW-R
“Misunderstandings and Stereotypes”
Lobna Ismail, Connecting Cultures
“How I Am Influenced How I See You”
June Murray-Crawford, Hudson High School, Hudson, Massachusetts
- 4:20 Questions and answers
- 4:30 Closing

About the Panelists and Presenters

Father Timothy S. Godfrey, S.J. joined Georgetown University's Campus Ministry staff in July 2004 as Director of Campus Ministry. Fr. Godfrey most recently served as pastor of St. Patrick Church in Oakland, California, where he also mentored Jesuit and lay graduate theological students in pastoral ministry. He has also worked in East St. Louis, Illinois, as a public health nurse, and has served as associate pastor of St. Francis Xavier (College) Church in St. Louis, Missouri, and of St. Ignatius Church in Portland, Oregon. Fr. Godfrey holds Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, a Master of Social Work degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Arts degrees from St. Louis University.

Imam Yahya Hendi is the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University, the Imam of the Islamic Society of Frederick, and the Muslim Chaplain at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. He has written numerous publications on many topics, including women and gender relations in Islam, the coming of the Messiah, and religion and Islam in the United States. Imam Hendi has presented many interfaith and general lectures in the USA, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East over the past eight years. He was one of the Muslim leaders who first met with the President of the United States in the aftermath of the September 11th tragedy. In May 2002, he was chosen by Hartford Seminary to receive its annual "James Gettemy Significant Ministry Award" for his dedication to his Ministry and for his work to promote peace-building between people of different religions. Imam Hendi holds a Master's degree in Comparative Religions from Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in comparative religion.

Lobna Ismail, the founder and president of Connecting Cultures, Inc., is a training specialist in the areas of cross-cultural communication, international cultural competency, Islamic awareness and religious diversity. She is frequently used as an expert by national media and major international news programs and recently received press in Associated Press, The Washington Post, BBC World News and PBS' Religion and Ethics News. Selected as a Peace Fellow for Seeds of Peace and a Malone Fellow in Middle East and Islamic Studies by the National Council for U.S. and Arab Relations, Luby participated in a study visit to Saudi Arabia. She holds a Master's degree in Intercultural Relations from Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts and a BA in International Service from The American University in Washington, DC.

Alexander Kronemer is a Washington, DC, writer and film producer, as well as a lecturer and trainer on religious diversity, Islamic awareness, and cross-cultural communication for Connecting Cultures, Inc. In 2000, Mr. Kronemer served a one-year appointment at the Bureau of Human Rights in the US State Department, focusing on US policy and Islam, and traveling with the Assistant Secretary for Human Rights to the Middle East. Mr. Kronemer is the creator and co-producer of the PBS documentary "Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet," and the co-founder of Unity Productions Foundation, a non-profit foundation and production company seeking to work for peace through the media. He has a Master's degree in Theological Studies from Harvard University, where his research concentrated on the philosophy of religion and comparative religion.

June Murray-Crawford has been a social studies teacher for the past 16 years. A graduate of Villanova University (BA) and Simmons College (MA), June has taught in a variety of locations from Boston, Massachusetts, to Cali, Colombia. For the last ten years she has taught World Cultures at Hudson High School in Hudson, MA, and has led student trips to the Peruvian Amazon, where her students delivered school and medical supplies to rural villages. Ms. Murray has also been involved with Cultural Survival, a non-profit whose objective is to promote the voices of the indigenous communities of the world. She has traveled to China and the countries of Benin and Ghana, and this year will be going to Russia, bringing each new destination into her classroom for her students to experience. Last year she was elected vice-president of her teacher's union.

Kenneth McNeil is a 20-year partner in the law firm of Susman Godfrey LLP. He is currently on the board of directors of the Lawyer's Committee on Civil Rights -- founded by President John F. Kennedy to promote civil rights enforcement. He has been president of the 12,000-member national alumni association of the University of Wisconsin Law School. He has served on the 12-member board of the Civil Justice Institute of the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association. He has been chair of the Antitrust and Business Litigation Committee of the State Bar of Texas. Prior to being a trial lawyer, he was an assistant professor of

making movies, advertisements, and news segments for his school's video production program. He would like to pursue film as a career, possibly at NYU or Columbia. Avi has participated in Operation Understanding DC, a year-long program that brings 16 black and 16 Jewish teenagers together to explore common bonds and create inter-racial and inter-religious dialogue. He is also an Orioles fan.

Uneeb Qureshi was born in Islamabad, Pakistan. He attends Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville, MD and is actively engaged in sports and the community. Uneeb has entered many essay contests and enjoys writing about philosophical/ethical topics. His academic interests include history and philosophy, and he plans a career in medicine, psychiatry or neurology. Hobbies include indoor/outdoor track, tennis, literature, debate, and guitar.

Heba Tellawi attends the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Virginia. She is originally Palestinian but has lived in the United States all her life. This past summer she volunteered at INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital. She serves as the co-president of the Community Service Committee, and treasurer of her class in the Student Government Association. She is a staff-writer for The Falcon Flyer, the newsletter at her school. Heba also participates in Model United Nations and plays on the Varsity Basketball team. She has participated in Presidential Classroom and the Mt. Vernon Basketball League, and hopes to attend Princeton University and double-major in journalism and international law.

Mindy Zhang is an IB diploma candidate, and is currently taking IB World Religions in school. In addition, she is the Virginia Student Area Coordinator of Amnesty International, and the Vice-President of Model United Nations. She also has campaigned for an end to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur through Amnesty. Mindy is interested in social and humanitarian issues, especially those involving conflict resolution and peace-building. She hopes to major in International Studies and Economics and pursue a career in global economic development.

About the 2005-2006 Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest

Last year's essayists addressed this question: "How might understanding the roots of peace in each of the Abrahamic traditions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—help to bring about religious understanding in your community?" At a workshop event very much like today's, 30 students had the opportunity to hear scholars and clergy (several of whom have returned today) describe how peace infuses the scriptural writings within those traditions.

Writing the essay required deep thought about religions, about the meaning of scripture, and about events in the world and how these relate to personal lives. Seven young writers submitted prize-winning essays, and all were commended by essay judges all for their thoughtfulness and writing ability. On March 26th, at a gala event held in the Riggs Library at Georgetown University, guest speaker Cokie Roberts awarded their prizes.

In her keynote address, Ms. Roberts spoke of the urgent need to "de-strangerize" the Other, whether that otherness issues from differences in religious belief, race, physical ability, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that divides people into "kinds." The students have all risen to that challenge, each having described as part of their essay a community project that would foster understanding among members of different faiths.

Over this coming year, these young scholars will promote interfaith understanding in two ways. First, they have all generously volunteered their time to act as Ambassadors of Peace, visiting area schools to talk to fellow students about how learning about peace in the Abrahamic faiths has changed their thinking and their lives. Second, they have pledged to work toward implementing the community projects they envisioned. As a first step in this initiative, the group has decided to pursue the "Gardens of Peace" proposal made by Eliza Adelson. With guidance from FFC, she and her cohort will begin speaking to youth in various congregations, and helping them form inter-faith teams who will plant garden plots, the beauty of which will remind visitors of the peace and harmony that issues from tolerance.

June Murray-Crawford (Find her bio under “presenters.”)

Sulayman S. Nyang, Ph.D., is a professor at Howard University, where his principle areas of research include Islam, African systems of government, and African political thought. He has published many articles and books, and has sat on the editorial boards of several scholarly journals, including the American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (USA), and Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations (Birmingham, UK). In the 1980's he served as chairman of the Africa and International Committee of the Montgomery Chapter of the NAACP. Mr. Nyang served for nine years as the chairman of the African Studies Department at Howard University. From 1993 to 1999 he served as the lead developer of the African Voices at the Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution. He was the Co-Principal Investigator for Muslims in the American Public Square, a project funded by the Pew Charitable Trust and based at Georgetown University's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding.

Muhammad Shafi, Ph.D. is chairman and CEO of the board of trustees of Dar al Islam, incorporated in New Mexico in 1979. He is co-founder and ex-president of the Association of Pakistani Scientists and Engineers of North America. In the mid-60's he served on the Executive Committee of the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jammāt Association of Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Shafi co-founded and served on the board of directors and as president of a number of other religious, educational, or service organizations, including the Islamic Center of New Mexico, the Muslim Students Association of Greater Washington, and the Pakistani Students Association of Greater Washington. Dr. Shafi's educational background includes an MS from Peshawar University, an MS from Georgetown University, an MA in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University. He also received training in Qur'ani Tafsir (commentary), and Islamic Fiqah (jurisprudence). Professionally, Dr. Shafi is a management consultant in corporate strategies and international marketing. He has served in several senior management capacities in areas related to defense, managed health care, and insurance.

William (Issa) Shandor is the Director of the American School of Agadir, Morocco. He graduated from Pepperdine University in 1994 with a BA in political science and earned an MS in administration from St. Thomas University in 1990. Mr. Shandor taught social studies for 14 years at the Ransom-Everglades School in Coconut Grove, Florida. He is interested in expanding communication, promoting understanding, and developing program that foster goodwill between the people of Morocco and the people of the United States.

About the 2005-2006 Essayists

Eliza Adelson attends the Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland. She volunteers for the Latino Student Fund, tutoring a Spanish child in both Math and English. She spent one summer building houses and schools in a small village in Costa Rica, and plans on doing further volunteer work in Latin America this summer. Eliza is the news editor for *The Scribbler*, the school newspaper at Holton. As a Peer Counselor she advises and guides freshman to help them respect individual differences while promoting school wide community spirit. After school she volunteers at the Concord Hill School teaching Spanish to kindergarten and third grade. Eliza plans to study international relations in college, and she hopes to attend Georgetown University.

Dana Alsaadi was born in Cairo, Egypt, and now attends the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, VA. She enjoys reading, writing, tutoring, studying French, and playing various sports, some of which are soccer, tennis, and gymnastics. Dana is very involved in school activities. She is her class representative in the Student Government Association, a member of the Community Service Committee, and an avid participant of Model United Nations. Dana has participated in the National Student Leadership Conference's medical and diplomacy abroad programs. She intends to study medicine at Georgetown University.

Zachary Eaton is a senior at Montgomery Blair High School in Maryland. He divides his time between rigorous academics and participating in community theatre. He directs and acts for The Pine Players, a wholly student initiated and run theatrical organization based in Takoma Park, MD, which raises money for *Bread for the City*. He hopes to one day study European History and English Literature at Amherst College.

Avi Edelman attends Montgomery Blair High School in the Communications Arts Program. He is interested in politics and is the co-president of his school's Young Democrats club. His interests also include film, and

sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for several years, specializing in the study of legal regulation and large-scale corporate behavior. He has published scholarly articles, including articles on the dynamics of bureaucratic power in modern society. He has been a major long-time contributor to the Servant Leadership School, an innovative training center in Washington, D.C. that brings a deep ecumenical religious perspective to training people to deal with issues of the poor and global injustice. Contemporary application of historical religious faith has been a major area of interest for him.

Nancy Petschek-Kohn, CSW-R, was trained at Columbia University's School of Social Work. She holds a MA in Public Administration from American University. In addition to being the Director of the Juvenile Anti-Bias Education Program, co-sponsored by the Westchester Holocaust Education Center and the Anti-Defamation League, she is a facilitator for American Jewish Committee's Hands Across the Campus and the ADL's A World of Difference. Ms. Petschek-Kohn has a private practice and runs workshops and training sessions for both corporate and non-profit organizations. She also leads Critical Incident Stress Debriefings for a range of organizations.

Rabbi Harold S. White is the Senior Jewish Chaplain at Georgetown University. He teaches in the Theology Department of Georgetown and has been very active in creating a milieu of Jewish-Christian theological dialogue in the greater Washington metropolitan area. He also currently serves as scholar-in-residence at Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, VA, and at Mercersburg Academy in Mercersburg, PA. He completed his undergraduate degree at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, and received Rabbinical Ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City. Rabbi White has served as a US Navy Chaplain at Paris Island, SC, and with the 7th fleet in the Pacific. He also served as the associate Rabbi of Temple Sinai in Washington, DC, from 1980-1985. He has served as a congregational Rabbi at the Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation in Dublin, Ireland, and at Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, MI. He was the B'Nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Director at the American University for nine years, prior to being appointed Jewish Chaplain at Georgetown University.

About the Essay Judges

Karima Diane Alavi currently directes the Dar al Islam Teachers' Institutes on “Understanding and Teaching about Islam.” An American convert to Islam, she studied in Iran in 1976 as Bicentennial Scholar. In 1978-79 she taught English at the University of Isfahan, Iran. Upon her return to the US, Ms. Alavi taught at Quaker institutions such as Wilmington College of Ohio and the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC. She has over 25 years of experience in teaching history and Islamic studies, and has co-authored the curriculum unit “The Emergence of Renaissance: Cultural Interactions Between Europeans and Muslims.” Ms. Alavi is a frequent conference speaker, and she returned to Iran in 2003 and 2004 to accompany educators' tours for which she served as primary lecturer.

Andrew R. Ammerman is the CEO of Ammerman Investment Partnerships, and has been affiliated with both Georgetown University and Fund for the Future of Our Children for a number of years. Mr. Ammerman was graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in Asian-American Inter-Disciplinary Studies, and a minor in theology. Post-graduation he became a teacher of technical and procedural English for a government agency located in Thailand. Mr. Ammerman has maintained a life-long relationship with Georgetown University. He currently serves on the Board of Regents, and since 1975 has provided partial scholarships for over 200 Georgetown students. Since FFC's inception in 1993, Mr. Ammerman has been a member of FFC's Advisory Board, as well as a strong supporter of FFC's activities. He is also currently a member of the Washington Hebrew Congregation and is on the Board of the Foundation for Jewish Studies.

Imam Yahya Hendi (Find his bio under “presenters.”)

The Reverend Raymond B. Kemp is currently a Resident Senior Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University, as well as an adjunct faculty member at both Georgetown and Washington Theological Union. He is also Coordinator of Preaching the Just Word, a national program sponsored by the Woodstock Theological Center to assist priests and other ministers to be more effective in preaching biblical and social justice. The Reverend Kemp was named an honorary peacemaker by the Program on Justice and

Peace at Georgetown University for his work with students on the Living Wage Campaign. His publications include *Journey in Faith*, and articles in *Worship*, *The Catechumenate*, *Church*, *Liturgy 90*, and *National Catholic Reporter*. He received his STL at St. Mary's Seminary and University (1967).

Alexander Kronemer (Find his bio under “presenters.”)

Rabbi Bruce Lustig is senior rabbi at Washington Hebrew Congregation. Along with the daily responsibilities of leading a 3,000 member congregation, he has shown community involvement in the Jewish Council for the Aging, the Executive Board of Israel Bonds of the Greater Washington Area, the UAHC Rabbinic Network on Youth Suicide, the Mayors Faith Advisory Board, the National Liaison for National Day of Prayer, and the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, District of Columbia Division. He is a proactive leader of Washington's interfaith community and organized the nation's first Abrahamic Summit, bringing together Christians, Jews, and Muslims for dialogue. Rabbi Lustig received a BA (with honors) from the University of Tennessee. He holds an MA in Hebrew Letters and was ordained at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion.

Josetta (“Jo”) Owen began her life of service after graduating from college, when she became a teacher for the children of migrant workers in California. Miss Owen has volunteered for many organizations, including Mother Teresa's AIDS Hospice, “Gift of Peace,” and the “Overground Railroad,” which documents the journey of Central American refugees. She has served on several boards that deal with international and social issues, such as the “Refugee Voices” Board, and the “Nyumbani Orphanage” Board for children suffering from AIDS in Kenya, Africa. She co-founded a homeless shelter in Washington, DC, and visited “lifers” at Lorton Prison a Department of Corrections maximum-security prison located in Virginia. She says that it has been her life-long activity with her church, and a strong love and commitment to God that has prompted her enthusiasm to volunteer. Ms. Owen studied for a theological certificate at Georgetown University. In 2002 her alma mater, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, awarded her with their first Humanitarian Award.

About the On-line Mentors

Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz is currently a faculty member in Georgetown University's Theology Department, and has been the Hymen Goldman Professorial Lecturer in Jewish Studies at Georgetown since 1967. He teaches courses on Judaism, Jewish traditions, and Jewish ethics, and is an expert in those areas. He became Rabbi Emeritus in 1996, after serving as the spiritual leader of the Tifereth Israel Congregation for over 36 years. In addition to other responsibilities, Rabbi Abramowitz is a trustee of the Interfaith Metropolitan Theological Education, serves as the co-chair of the Inter-religious Committee on Race Relations, and is a director of the Jewish Social Service Agency. Rabbi Abramowitz graduated Phi Beta Kappa in economics from Johns Hopkins University and received his Rabbinical Ordination and Doctorate of Divinity at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Nouredine Ale-Ali, Ph.D. is an award-winning author, an Islamic scholar, and a Persian and Arabic Literature scholar. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Algiers and currently teaches at the DLI Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California. He was Assistant Professor of Persian Language and Islamic Civilizations at the Universities of Algiers, Oran, and Constantine in Algiers (1968-1972). He was the Cultural Attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia (1973-1976), and Cairo, Egypt (1976-1979). He is author of numerous publications, including *Islam in the West*, *Fahaad'l Al-Anaam min Rasa'il Huja Al-Islam Al-Ghazzali* (translation of Al-Ghazzali's letters on philosophy and moral values from Persian into Arabic, with a French summary), *Course de Langue et Literature Persanes* (language textbook, annotated in French and Arabic), *The Rustami Dynasty* (Persian Elements in the History of the Arab Magrib), *Al-Silat al-Theqafiyya Bayn Al-Arab wa Iran* (The Cultural Tie Between Iranian and Arab Peoples), *Al-Imam Ja'far al-Saadeq Kama arafaho Ulmaa Alqarb* (Imam al-Saadeq in the View of the Western Oriental Scholar).

John Deken has been teaching high school for three years in Columbia, a university town in the middle of Missouri. His favorite course is a World Life and Literature class, which combines his expertise in world history with that of his partner in language arts to provide an integrated cultural experience for his students.

He also teaches US history at both the survey and honors levels. Mr. Deken's academic background is in liberal arts, and he received bachelor's degrees in both history and education. He has been interested for a long time in writing as well as in promoting intercultural understanding, partly because of the extensive traveling he did with his military family as a child. As a senior in high school he entered a writing contest sponsored by the National Holocaust Museum and the May family. Winning that and traveling to see Holocaust survivors in Washington, DC has been an unforgettable experience for him.

David Gage, Ph.D. is a leader in the field of business mediation and the founder of BMC Associates. Dr. Gage has over 15 years experience as a mediator and 20 years experience as a clinical psychologist. He has assisted partners from many different industries in resolving all types of disputes. He has spoken to bar associations and business and professional organizations locally and nationally, and has been interviewed on radio and TV. He written for the *Washington Business Journal*, *Executive Excellence*, and *Family Business*, and was featured in the *New York Times*, *Fortune*, *Nation's Business*, and the *Washington Post*. Dr. Gage is an adjunct professor in the American University's business school. His book on effective partnerships, [The Partnership Center: How to Start Out Right with Your New Business Partnership \(Or Fix the One You're In\)](#), was published in July of 2004.

Michael Goldman, a Georgetown University Law Center graduate and a lawyer in a previous career, has been the Jewish Chaplain for the Georgetown University's Law and Medical Centers since August 2002. He has been a student of Judaism for most of his adult life and has taught numerous courses on Judaica, including courses at Georgetown. Mr. Goldman is enthusiastic about his career change to Jewish chaplain and enjoys sharing his enthusiasm with students, staff, and faculty.

Nancy Petschek-Kohn, CSW-R (Find her bio under “presenters.”)

Molly Linehan is a high school campus minister at Notre Dame – Cathedral Latin, outside of Cleveland, Ohio. In campus ministry she is involved in prayer, retreats, community service, and solidarity work. Before NCDL she spent a year studying International Relations with an emphasis on Development at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, as a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar. She has helped found education projects near Kolkata, India, and in Peshawar, Pakistan. Miss Linehan has worked extensively with Catholic humanitarian aid and development in Wayne County, West Virginia, (three years), as well as in Chalatenango, El Salvador, (two years). She holds a BA in Theology from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Fr. William McFadden, S.J., is currently a faculty member in the Theology Department of Georgetown University. Born and raised in the greater Philadelphia area, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1946. For three years he taught classics at the University of Scranton. College St. Albert de Louvain provided his theological training, and he was awarded a Ph.D. in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome. He joined Georgetown's Theology Department in 1963 and served as its chair for many years. His coursework ranges from religious teaching on human sexuality to the sorts of faith embodied in literature and 19th century theological reactions to the Enlightenment.

Zachary McIntyre teaches secondary social studies and AP psychology at Guymon High School in Guymon, Oklahoma, where he was chosen as the 2005 teacher of the year. He graduated magna cum laude from Oklahoma Panhandle State University and received an honorable discharge after serving in the US Marine Corps. His pleasure in teaching is an extension of his personal love of learning. Mr. McIntyre and his wife Jodi are the parents of two children, Hallie (deceased) and Taos.

Sabree Muhammad has been teaching high school in Bronx, New York, for two years. She is about to embark on her third year in the education field. Ms. Muhammad specializes in global/world history and geography (Regents oriented curriculum). Presently she teaches on the 10th grade level and is very involved with after school activities. Ms. Muhammad and two other colleagues applied for and won the CiviConnections grant. With this grant the teachers researched a public policy in conjunction with their students, and coordinated a service-learning program (hurricane relief). Sabree received her baccalaureate and graduated with honors from Utica College, Syracuse University. Presently she is working on her masters in social studies education.