



Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie and Dr. Ingrid Mattson
Photo by Fred Greaves, 2007

Making the Effort

“In our increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, we can ill afford to segregate ourselves within our mosques and synagogues. Rather, we must educate ourselves and each other, thus taking a necessary first step toward global understanding and religious harmony.” Rabbi Eric Yoffie – Quote reprinted with the permission of the Union for Reform Judaism. www.urj.org.

Partnerships are the word of the day. Knowing that ignorance breeds distrust and disrespect, groups of different faiths and cultures must share who they are with the other, to relax tensions and open the door to peaceful coexistence and friendship. In a tangible step toward mutual understanding and respect, the Union for Reform Judaism and the Islamic Society of North America have partnered to develop a curriculum for interfaith dialogue, to be provided to mosques and synagogues interested in the program.

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, and Dr. Ingrid Mattson, President of the Islamic Society of North America, have addressed their members who, combined, number in the hundreds of thousands, urging participation at the local level in the educational program, which is entitled, “Children of Abraham: Jews and Muslims in Conversation.” It includes a video and manual containing five lessons. See <http://urj.org/muslimdialogue/> to view this curriculum.

“When we are killing each other in the name of God, sensible religious people have an obligation to do something about it.” Rabbi Eric Yoffie. *“If religion is about anything, it should be about the ability to extend empathy beyond our own family or tribe or religious community to humanity at large.”* Dr. Ingrid Mattson – Quote reprinted with the permission of the Union for Reform Judaism. www.urj.org.