



Story & Listening as Entry to Interfaith Relationships & Community Building

Santa Clara, California, USA

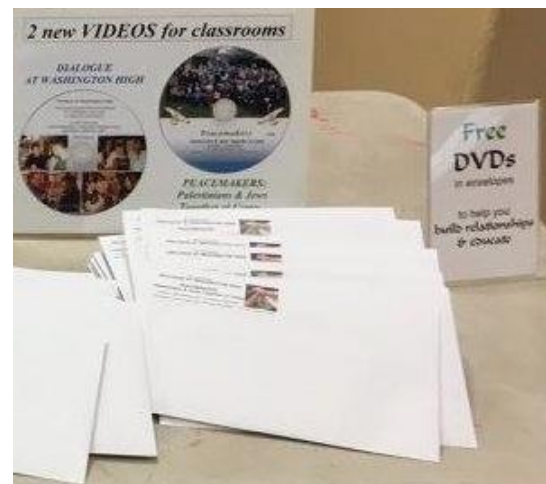
A Granada Islamic School Interfaith Dialogue Experiential Workshop

Wednesday, 18 May 2016 — 2:00-5:00 pm



A face-to-face, cross-cultural, gender-inclusive, inter-religious circle of **68 participants**:
60 students — **27** 7th graders, **23** 8th graders, **10** 9th graders,
3 adults from the school-mosque community, and
5 adults from the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue

~ See Workshop Details and Facilitator Guidelines at the end of this document ~



**Exhibits & gift educational DVDs
and how-to printed guidelines**



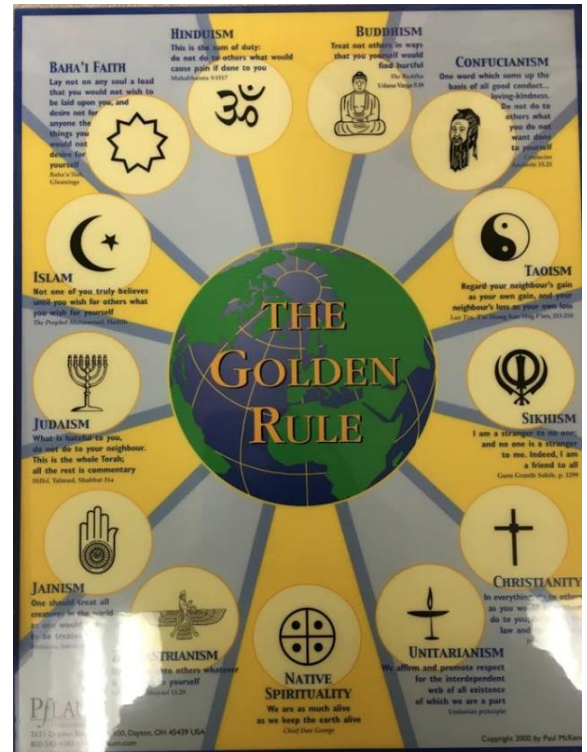


REVELATION

The Story of Muhammad
Peace and blessings be upon him

Mervin Martin, Edin

Foreword by Dr. Sherman Jackson

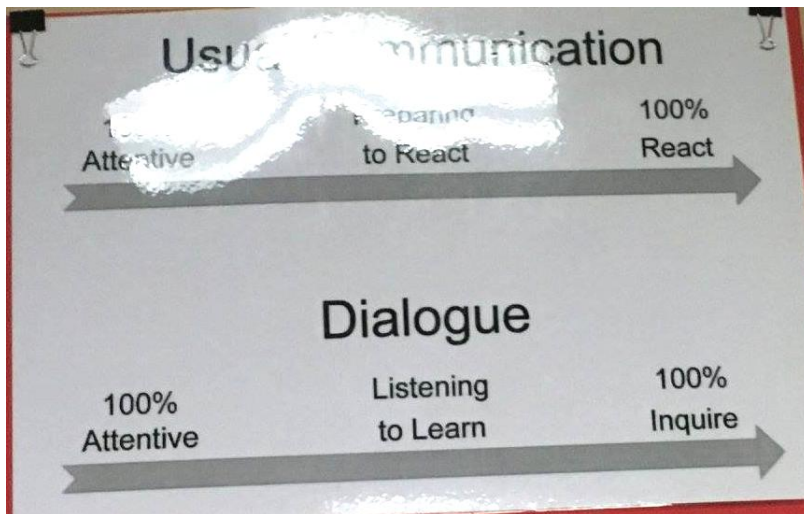
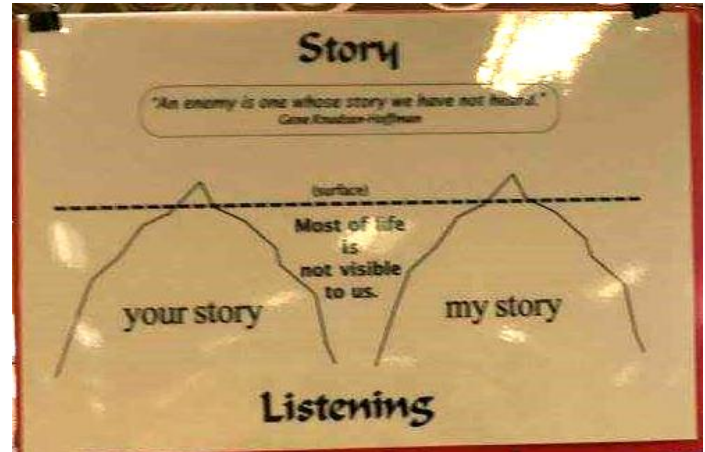


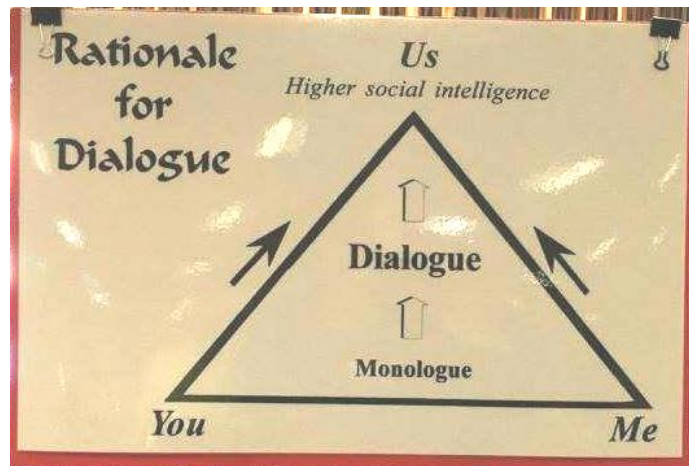
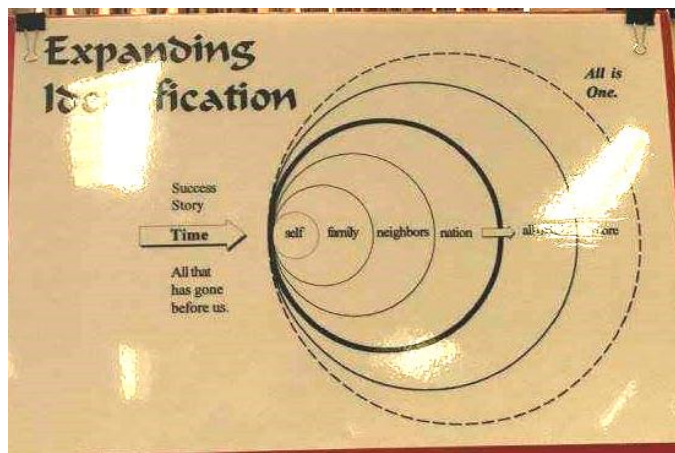
Creating A Safe Place

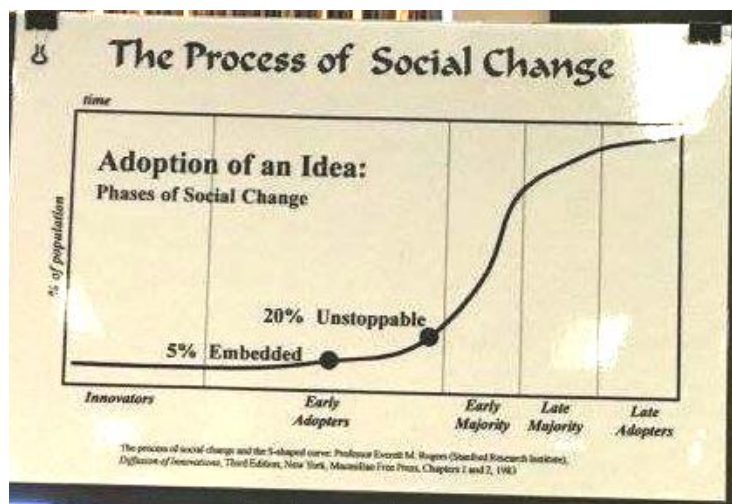
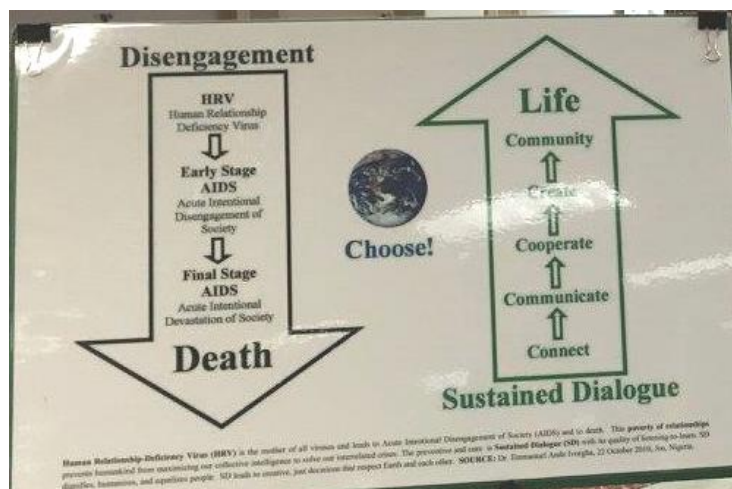




SHARING PERSONAL LIFE NARRATIVES: Listening-to-Learn and Speaking in Dyads









Assimilation

Spring 2016 in California, Anwar Abdelsalam, Communications Director at Granada Islamic School, reached out seeking local Jewish-Palestinian Living Room facilitators to offer experiential communication skills to Muslim students. The students and faculty wanted to prepare themselves to engage diverse peers in their larger community.

Abdelsalam wrote seeking for his students "literacy and understanding of diverse beliefs, and understandings of the world we live in and the beautiful variety provided in humanity's rich history of faith." The two-hour experience in the mosque for the circle of 68 participants was personal and profound.

A covered Palestinian teen said after her Dialogue experience: *"Before today I always carried my story inside of me privately and never told anyone. Today after expressing myself and my family story and being listened to, I feel hopeful for the first time in my life."*

Participating students with roots in the Middle East, Indian subcontinent, Asia, Africa and North America repeatedly reported: *"Although I've studied side by side with my partner for years, the day's Dialogue was the first time we really knew one another."*

These photos are also in Facebook at the Granada Islamic School site

https://www.facebook.com/Granada.Islamic.School/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10153454723021541

This document is on the Web at

<http://traubman.igc.org/islamicschooldialogue.pdf>



WHAT:

Story & Listening as Entry to
Interfaith Relationships & Community Building:
A Granada Islamic School Interfaith Dialogue Experiential Workshop

WHEN:

Wednesday, 18 May 2016 — 2:00-5:00 pm

WHERE:

Khadijah Banquet Hall
Granada Islamic School
3003 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA

WHY:

Today many people stay in small circles, apart and afraid, sometimes fearing then harming each other. Education can help us discover how to close those distances to live cooperatively with Earth and each other as one — wahad. Wanting peace requires seeking human relationships. In our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and international community, we see that the person with the will and skill to listen is the one with the power to transform the relationship.

WHAT:

Sitting together in a large circle, diverse students will experience introducing themselves to one another in a way that dignifies, humanizes, and includes each person, while strengthening their campus community. The youth will first observe personal exemplars from the day's facilitation team of the guest Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue. Then the youth will engage with lots of guidance to hear one another's personal narratives while practicing a new quality of listening-to-learn. Students will realize that "story is the shortest distance between people," and that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard." Participants will be gifted practical, how-to materials and instructional DVDs, then return to their homes and classrooms with new communication skills and tools to facilitate similar circles themselves.

WHO:

This inter-religious, cross-cultural, gender-inclusive afternoon is for 7th, 8th and 9th grade participants ages 12-15, and some deeply interested faculty and community visitors. The workshop envisioned by Brother Anwar Abdelsalam will be facilitated by San Mateo residents Libby and Len Traubman, and Jebril Fayyad, of the 24-year-old Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue preparing for its 285th meeting.

More about the Living Room Dialogue is in Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish-Palestinian_Living_Room_Dialogue_Group

SCHOOL SPONSOR:

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<http://www.granadaschool.org>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/Granada.Islamic.School/>

Facilitator Guidelines

STORY AS ENTRY TO RELATIONSHIP: Teachers Guide (90-minute experience)

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidschoolguide.pdf>

ENGAGING THE OTHER: Teacher's Guide (55-minute experience)

<http://traubman.igc.org/engagingtheother.pdf>

Facilitators were invited from the
Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue

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