



SUMMER 2024

# UNITY

MAGAZINE



[THEBRIDGEMCP.ORG](http://THEBRIDGEMCP.ORG)





## MAYOR ADAMS PRESENTS PROCLAMATION ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRIDGE

On behalf of The Bridge Multicultural & Advocacy Project, I am thrilled to introduce our latest publication. "Unity Magazine." This magazine celebrates our diverse community engagements and illustrates the wide range of ethnicities and groups we work with, including Jewish, Muslim, Christian, African-American.

Our message is unequivocal: we stand firmly against all forms of hate. We are committed to collaborating with interfaith leaders and continuing our advocacy for a society free from prejudice and hate. We warmly invite you to join our extended family as a volunteer, organizational partner, or community member. Please take a moment to sign up for our newsletter, discover our calendar of upcoming events, and register to attend one of our forums. We are delighted that our message of "Unity in Action" continues to resonate both locally and nationally. In our communities, fostering unity across all political and religious lines.

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We are delighted that our message of "Unity in Action" continues to resonate both locally and nationally. In our communities, fostering unity across all political and religious lines is vital.





## **Bridge History: History of the Bridge Multicultural and Advocacy Project**



In January 2014, Mark Meyer Appel and a group of political, religious, and community leaders discussed building a center where diverse leaders can share and advocate as a unity group. The group consisted of clergy from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and the Buddhist community. Together with Co- Founder, Dorinda Angelucci, they launched The Bridge Multicultural & Advocacy Project (MCP).

The center became a symbol of hope in the Flatbush Brooklyn community. The team sparked a “Unity in Action” movement to work on eliminating hate from the hearts of New Yorkers.

Since its inception, The Bridge MCP has hosted over 500 cultural exhibits, musical celebrations, art exhibits, and educational forums promoting 'Unity in Action. These efforts have resonated across communities, from New York State's capital to the White House, fostering a strong, united community that speaks with one voice.

A large increase in Unrest and violence in New York inspired Mark to take action. He secured \$300,000 in private funding to transform a 9,000-square- foot building into The Bridge MCP. At the grand opening of the MCP, Mark emphasized their mission: to stop hate, invest in ways for the New York population to work together, advocate for understanding, and protect children and families.

Mark firmly believes,” The greater the diversity, the greater the perfection.”  
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



# THE NEED



The Bridge Multicultural Project (MCP) is based in Flatbush, Brooklyn, New York. A city known to be the most culturally and linguistically diverse region in the United States. New York has over 800 different languages spoken by its 8.4 million residents. The city's enduring history as an immigrant gateway has allowed generations of ethnic, racial, and religious groups to establish themselves as sources of political, cultural, and economic power.

Statistics indicate that the city's immigrants have reached a new peak of more than three million residents. Immigrant influx has played a major role in maintaining New York City's record population growth, and the ever-growing needs of these "New Americans" must be attended to. There is an urgent need for diverse communities to jointly collaborate to advocate with various government agencies to ensure that everyone's needs are met.

There are a number of serious issues faced by all residents of New York City and the nation in general, regardless of their specific cultural, ethnic, national or religious origins is how to manage everyone's unique backgrounds and complexities.





# BRIDGE TV

## VOICES OF EMERGING COMMUNITIES

The Bridge Multicultural & Advocacy Project expanded its voice through diverse media programming on its new BRIDGE TV network.

The Bridge TV programming focuses on New York's emerging communities, politics, nonprofit organizations, and efforts to support local commercial businesses across the city.

Every community is a composition of many ethnic groups. People - emerging from diverse backgrounds, including religions, foods, folklore, and culture. These diverse communities unite to create the patchwork of humanity that makes up the United States.

The Bridge TV Network creates cultural programming that is genuinely accessible, enabling the nurturing of individual expression while presenting exceptional cultural experiences.

With its inclusive appeal, Bridge TV promotes its cross-cultural programs across social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



The network provides an unparalleled opportunity to produce unique content that advocates for diversity on the global stage.





The Bridge Multicultural & Advocacy Project will expand its voice through diverse media programming on its new BRIDGE TV network. The Bridge TV programming will focus on New York's emerging communities, politics, nonprofit organizations, and efforts to support local commercial businesses across the city.

Bridge TV is available on BRIC TV at [BRICartsmedia.org/1](http://BRICartsmedia.org/1) 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 2:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:30 pm (Replay Thursday, same week & times) and can be viewed on our YouTube channel. It is also on Manhattan Cable and Manhattan Neighborhood Network, reaching thousands of viewers daily through its multi-faceted outreach programming networks.

Our vision is to create a platform for honest, authentic, and diverse conversations—a bridge that unites people of all backgrounds and allows them to find their voice and broadcast it to the world.

## Goals

- To serve millions of voiceless Americans with a TV network that provides diverse, service-based programming. To create programming focusing on New York's emerging communities, politics, social action, and criminal justice reform.
- To grow awareness of Bridge TV across digital and traditional media platforms.
- To present bold, relevant works that reflect different cultures and inspire action and change. To provide a safe space that educates people of all ages about the need for equality and tolerance. To unite our community





# The Bridge Projects







# The Bridge Projects



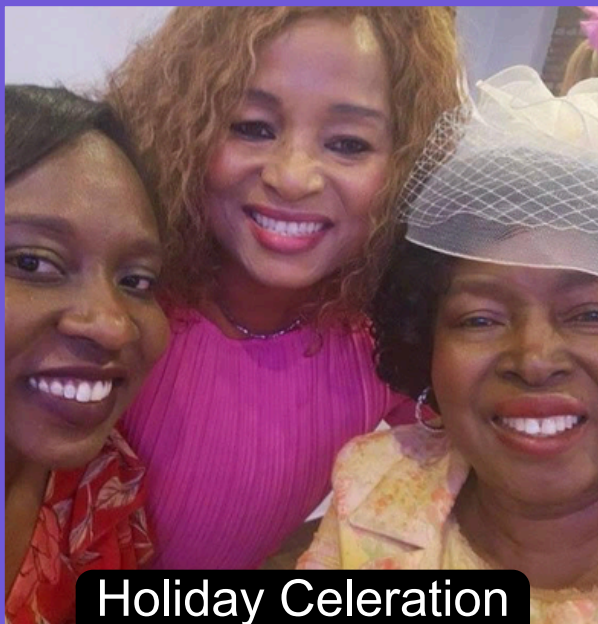
IFTA Dinner



Migrant Clothing Drive

- Emergency relief-communities in distress
- Food pantries for the needy
- Migrant support services
- Blood drives

- Multicultural and musical programming
- Educational programs
- Health advocacy and support
- Anti-hate curriculum and initiatives



Holiday Celeration



Ramadan 2024





# The Bridge Projects





# CONTENTS



**02**  
**THE BRIDGE**

**11**  
**ISLAM**

**14**  
**JUDAISM**

**17**  
**CHRISTIANITY**

**21**  
**AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY**

**24**  
**ASIAN-AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY**

**27**  
**HISPANIC-AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY**

**31**  
**LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY**

**34**  
**INTER-FAITH**

**45**  
**ANTI-HATE**

**58 CONTACT US**



# ISLAM

# وَسْلَام



# MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA



Islam, founded in the 7th century in the Arabian Peninsula, began with the Prophet Muhammad's revelations from Allah, recorded in the Quran. Born in Mecca around 570 AD, Muhammad experienced divine revelations at 40, which urged a monotheistic worship, rejecting Mecca's polytheism. His teachings emphasized morality, social justice, and equality, attracting followers and detractors. Persecuted, Muhammad and his followers migrated to Medina in 622 AD, a pivotal event known as the Hijrah, marking Islam's calendar start. Over time, Muhammad united Arabian tribes under Islam, rapidly expanding beyond Arabia through conquest and conversion, profoundly influencing religious, social, and political landscapes globally. The global Muslim population is approximately 1.9 billion. Which represents about 23% of the world's population. The following are either considered Muslim countries or are the majority of the faith of Islam.

Afghanistan\*Albania\*Algeria\*Azerbaijan\*Bahrain\*Bangladesh  
Brunei\*Burkina\*Faso\*Chad\*Comoros\*Djibouti\*  
Egypt\*Gambia\*Guinea\*Indonesia\*Iran\*Iraq\*  
Jordan\*Kazakhstan\*Kosovo\*Kuwait\*Kyrgyzstan\*Lebanon  
Libya\*Malaysia\*Maldives\*Mali\*Mauritania\*Morocco  
Niger\*Nigeria\*Oman\*Pakistan\*Palestine\*Qatar  
Saudi-Arabia\*Senegal\*Sierra\*Leone\*Somalia\*Sudan\*Syria\*  
Tajikistan\*Tunisia\*Turkey\*Turkmenistan\* United Arab Emirates\*Uzbekistan\*Yemen





## عائلة أمريكية مسلمة



Muslim-American Family



# Judaism

# יהדות





# הכותל המערבי

## The Western Wall Jerusalem, Israel

Judaism, one of the oldest monotheistic religions, traces its origins to the covenant between God and Abraham around 2000 BCE in the Middle East. Abraham's descendants, particularly Isaac and Jacob, are central figures, with Jacob's twelve sons forming the tribes of Israel. Central to Judaism is the Torah, encapsulating laws, teachings, and historical narratives fundamental to Jewish identity and faith. After enduring slavery in Egypt, the Israelites, led by Moses, received the Torah at Mount Sinai, a pivotal moment establishing their religious laws and connection to God. Throughout history, despite repeated exiles and persecutions, Judaism has preserved its rich traditions, profoundly influencing Christianity and Islam. The global Jewish population is approximately 15 million. Which represents about 0.02% of the world's population.

- Israel: 7 Million
- New York: 1.8 million
- New Jersey: 625,000
- California: 1.2 million
- Florida: 672,000
- Pennsylvania: 441,500
- Illinois: 325,000
- Maryland: 240,000
- Massachusetts: 302,000



## משפחה יהודית-אמריקאית



Jewish-American Family



# Christianity











The U.S. Christian population is approximately 213 Million. Which represents about 65% of U.S. population.

The global Christian population is 2.6 Billion. Which represents about 32% of the global population.

Christianity, founded in the 1st century AD in Judea, is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, proclaimed as the Son of God. Jesus' teachings emphasized love, forgiveness, and the coming Kingdom of God, attracting a diverse following. After his crucifixion and claimed resurrection, his disciples spread his teachings across the Roman Empire. Key figures like Paul of Tarsus were instrumental in broadening Christianity's appeal, establishing it beyond Jewish communities. Despite initial persecution, Christianity gained imperial endorsement under Constantine in the 4th century. It evolved into a major world religion, splitting into various denominations over doctrinal disputes, profoundly shaping Western civilization and influencing global culture.





American Family



# AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

## Pan-African Flag





The African-American population is approximately 48 million.  
Which represents about 14.5% of the world's population.

The following 7 states are  
the highest concentrations  
of African-Americans in  
The United States.



• California:	2.9 Million
• Texas:	3.8 Million
• Florida:	3.7 Million
• New York:	3.4 Million
• Pennsylvania:	1.6 Million
• Illinois:	2.0 Million
• Ohio:	1.7 Million





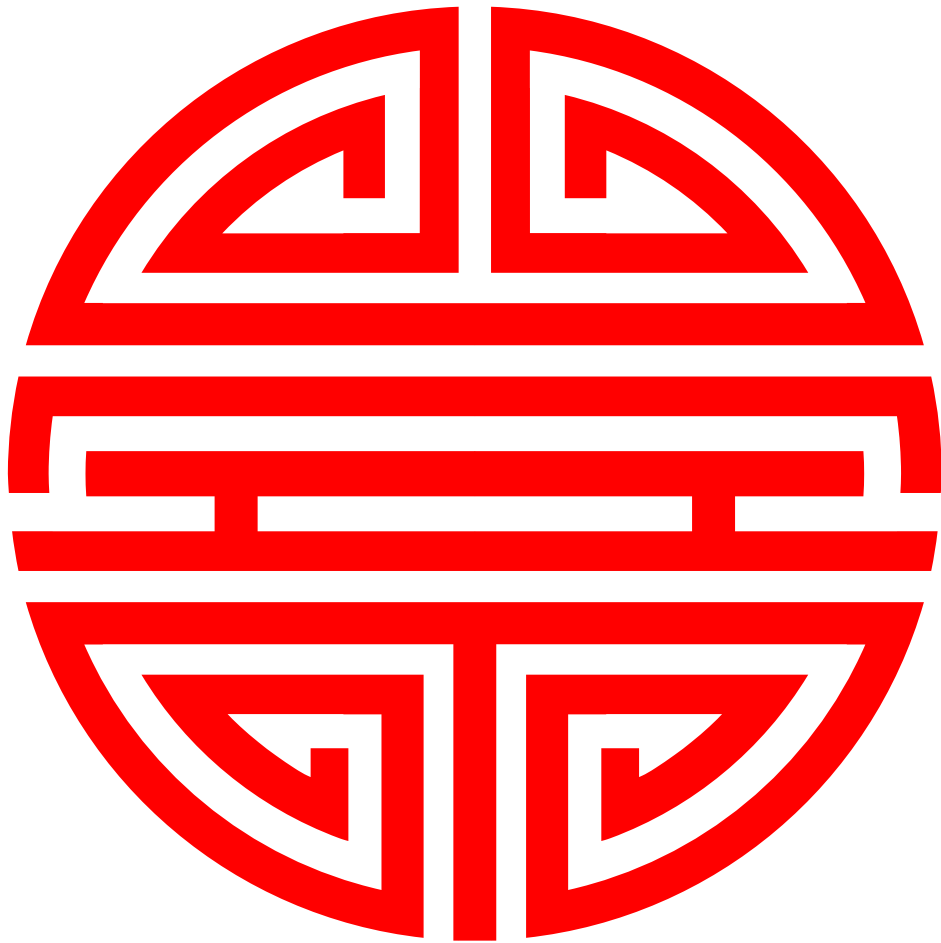


The African-American family, woven deeply into the American tapestry, stands as a pillar of the nation's cultural and social structure. Rooted in resilience and rich heritage, these families have overcome profound adversities, influencing music, literature, and social justice, and continuously shape the country's identity. Their strong familial bonds and vibrant cultural traditions reinforce their role as a fundamental backbone of American society.





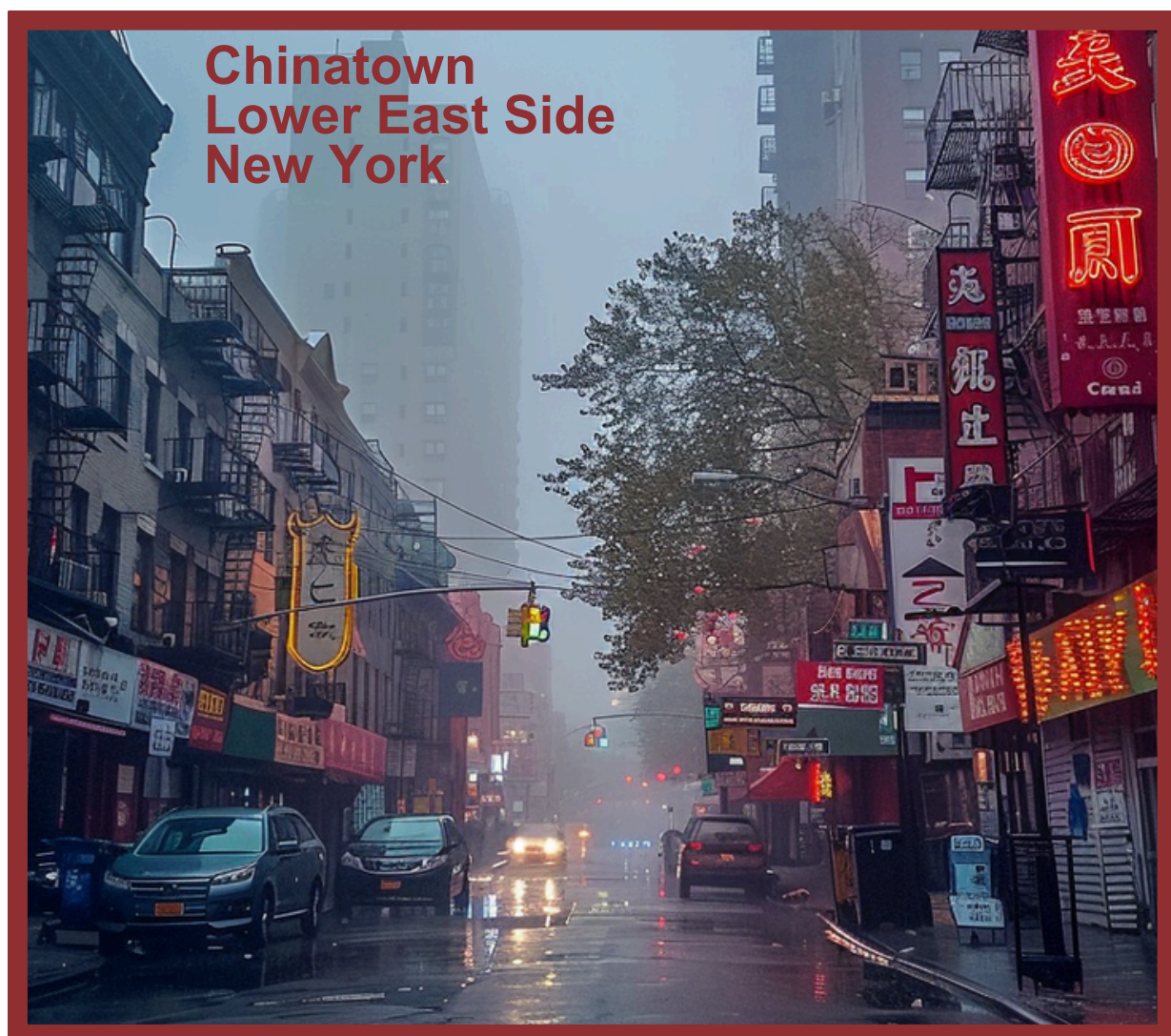
# ASIAN COMMUNITY



駐美台北經濟文化辦事處



Asia's diversity is one of its greatest strengths, with each region contributing to the continent's rich cultural mosaic. There are over 500 languages considered to be "Asian." Asia is the most populous continent, home to over 4.6 billion people, roughly 60% of the world's population. It is incredibly diverse, encompassing a wide range of cultures, languages, climates, and landscapes across its vast expanse. Chinese civilization is one of the world's oldest, with roots going back over 4,000 years. The Xia Dynasty, around 2070 BCE, is often considered the beginning of Chinese civilization, though earlier cultures like the Longshan culture date back even further. Asian culture is renowned for its rich diversity, profound historical depth, and significant contributions to various fields.







Asian-American Family



# HISPANIC-AMERICAN COMMUNITY







Hispanic refers to people, cultures, or countries that have a historical link to Spain and the Spanish language. While the term is often used to describe people from Latin America who speak Spanish, it can also include Spain itself. Here is a list of countries that are generally considered Hispanic:

1. Argentina
2. Bolivia
3. Chile
4. Colombia
5. Costa Rica
6. Cuba
7. Dominican Republic
8. Ecuador
9. El Salvador
10. Guatemala
11. Honduras
12. Mexico
13. Nicaragua
14. Panama
15. Paraguay
16. Peru
17. Puerto Rico U.S. Territory)
18. Spain
19. Uruguay
20. Venezuela

Hispanic culture is vibrant, diverse, and rich in traditions, encompassing passionate music, flavorful cuisine, colorful festivals, and deep-rooted family values and heritage.



The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, Mexico. This basilica is one of the most important religious sites in the world for Catholics, particularly those of Hispanic and Latino heritage.







Hispanic-American Family



# LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



**The worldwide LGBTQ+ population  
is approximately 700 million people.**

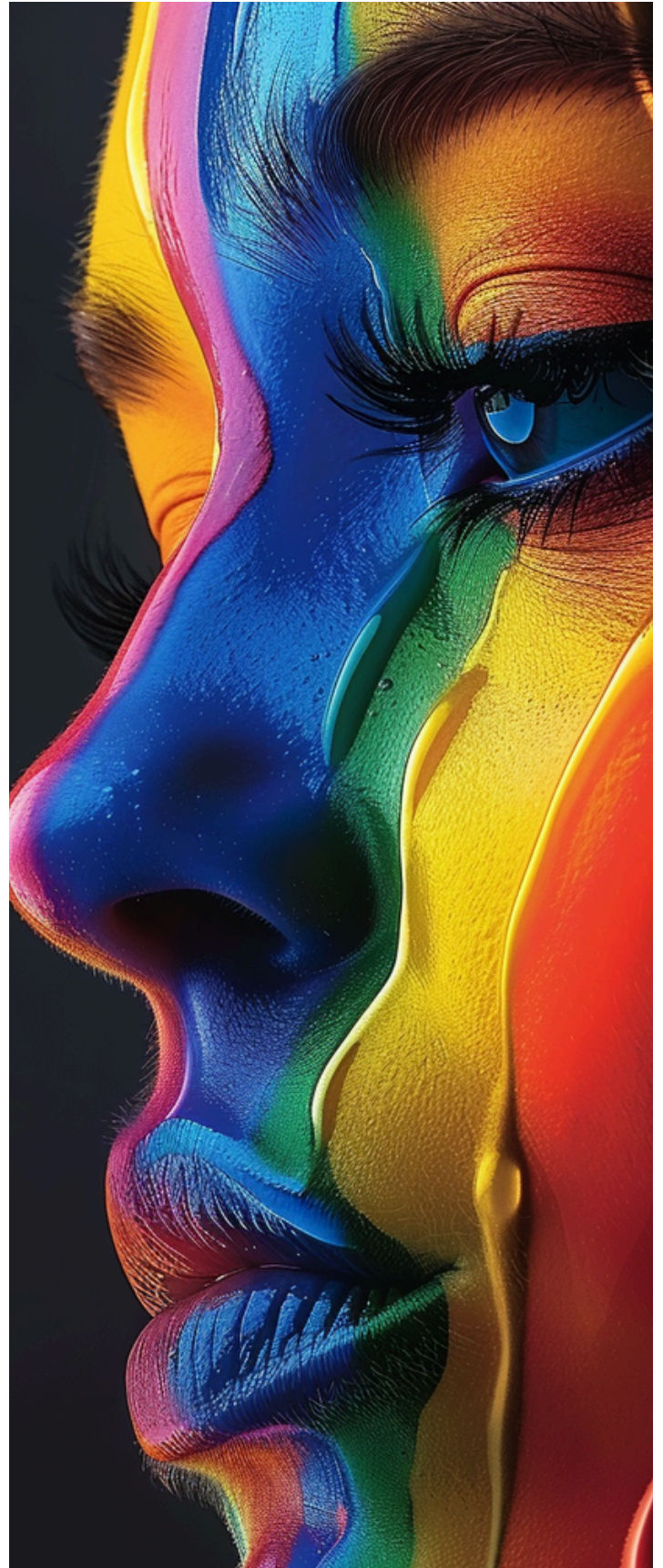
**(World Population Review)  
(Ipsos) (Pew Research Center).**



# PRIDE



FREE SPIRIT



Don't let anyone ever dull your sparkle.  
Lady Gaga





## LGBTQ+ Community: Embracing Diversity and Inclusion

At Bridge, we are committed to celebrating and supporting the LGBTQ+ community. We create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

We recognize the unique challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community and strive to provide resources and support to address these issues. From educational programs to advocacy initiatives, we are dedicated to promoting equality and fostering a culture of acceptance.

Join us as we continue to champion the rights and dignity of the LGBTQ+ community, working together to build a more inclusive and vibrant society.

THIS IS A  
SAFE  
SPACE





# INTER-FAITH & DIVERSITY







Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Rabbi Abraham Heschel &



# INTERFAITH LEADERS

## IMAM



The word Imam refers to anyone leading prayer. This could be a person who is leading prayer in a congregation or a person leading prayer in a group of three or four people. In context, an imam of the Islamic faith generally refers to an appointed congregational leader or scholar. Imams take on varying roles with differing levels of community involvement

## FATHER



Father is a title we traditionally use to greet a church leader like a pastor, a priest, a deacon, or a bishop. A priest is the ordained minister of any Catholic-based Church. In comparison, a pastor is the spiritual leader of any other type of Christian congregation.

## RABBI



Rabbi, in Judaism, a person qualified by academic studies of the Hebrew Bible and the Talmud to act as spiritual leader and religious teacher of a Jewish community or congregation. Ordination (certification as a rabbi) can be conferred by any rabbi, but one's teacher customarily performs this function by issuing a written statement. Ordination carries with it no special religious status.





Ibrahim patiently waits for his friend Abraham to finish “Mincha” (afternoon prayers). Together, they take time to learn about each other's cultures and religions. Interestingly, they share the same name, pronounced differently, which is the patriarchal name of both Jewish and Muslim faiths, highlighting their deep-rooted commonalities.



## T O L E R A N C E



Abraham patiently waits for his friend Ibrahim to finish his “Jum'ah” prayers every Friday. As community leaders, they set an example of the importance of tolerance. Through their interactions, they have come to realize that they share more in common than they initially thought, underscoring the value of understanding across different cultures and faiths.





**Parents play a crucial role as role models, teaching children to be inclusive and not discriminate based on religion, ethnicity, or nationality. By embodying these values, parents inspire understanding and acceptance, fostering a world where every child respects and cherishes diverse backgrounds, setting the foundation for a harmonious and inclusive society.**





- Halal and kosher are dietary laws practiced by Muslims and Jews respectively. While both sets of laws dictate what adherents can eat, how the food should be prepared, and which foods are forbidden, they stem from different religious texts and have distinct rules and rituals.
- Halal: Comes from Islamic law as dictated in the Quran and the Hadiths.
- Kosher: Derived from Jewish law, specifically the Torah.
- Halal: Generally allows the consumption of any animal that is not explicitly forbidden. Forbidden animals include pigs, carnivorous animals, birds of prey, and any land animal without external ears (some reptiles and rodents).
- Kosher: Restricts eaters to ruminant animals with split hooves, such as cows, sheep, goats, and deer. Forbidden animals include pigs, rabbits, squirrels, camels, and horses.







Western Wall



Dome of the Rock



Il Vaticano

Holy sites for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. 55% of the world's population adheres to the two main religions, Christianity and Islam.





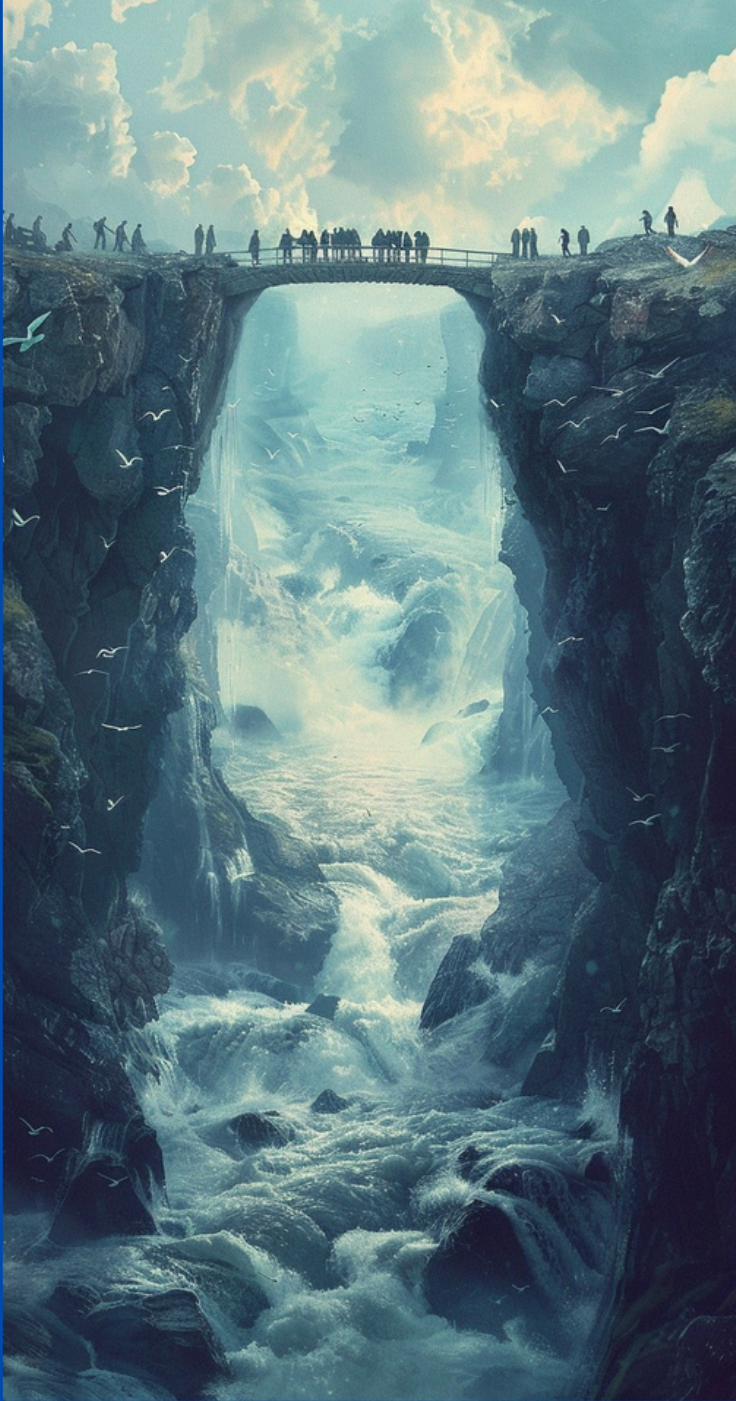


א  
ב  
ג



Jacob is in the second grade and can  
recite the entire Hebrew alphabet. 42





Life often presents challenges where things don't go as planned, and we find ourselves in need of assistance. As we endeavor to cross the metaphorical bridges toward our goals, unforeseen obstacles can halt our progress. In such times, what we require is not merely a handout, but a substantive hand up—an empowering form of support. This assistance can come through various forms, whether it be time, money, experience, contacts, or other valuable resources. Offering such support is not only a moral obligation but also benefits the entire community by fostering resilience and mutual aid. It's essential that we actively engage in helping others, providing the necessary tools for them to succeed, which in turn reinforces the foundation of our societal structure and ensures a collective advancement.







Diversity enriches our communities, fostering openness, respect, and inclusivity. By welcoming friends from various backgrounds, supporting interracial marriages, and exemplifying non-judgmental living, we set a powerful example for future generations. This inclusive approach dismantles exclusivity and discrimination, promoting a society where everyone feels valued and connected. Let's champion inclusiveness to ensure our communities thrive on the collective strengths and unique perspectives of all members, paving the way for a united and vibrant future.



# ANTI-HATE







Spread  
Love  
Not  
Hate





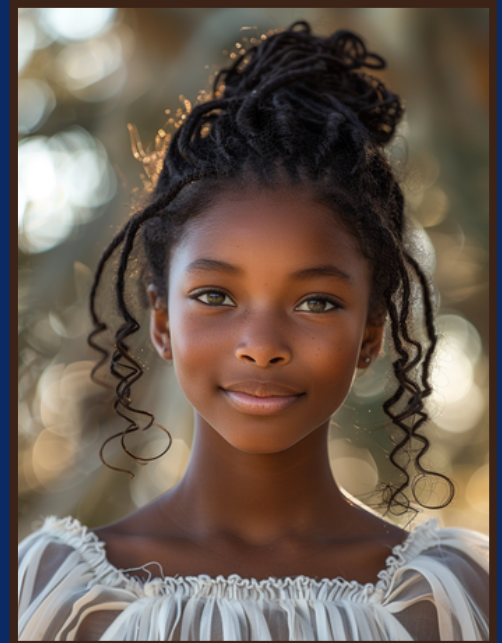








# Best Friends & Siblings



All you need is love!









United against bullying, we stand strong

Together, we protect each other



United for kindness, against bullying

Stand together; stop bullying





Always choose kindness; it's contagious and spreads faster than gossip. When we act with compassion, we inspire others to do the same, creating a ripple effect of positivity. In contrast, spreading lies and gossip only breeds negativity and distrust. By choosing kindness, we build a supportive, understanding community that values truth and empathy over malice.







Despite differences in age, gender, ethnicity, race, or color, we are all equally endowed with inalienable rights.







Hate has no place in our society, as it divides and destroys, breeding fear and misunderstanding. Instead, embracing diversity, practicing empathy, and fostering open dialogue are crucial. These actions cultivate a culture of respect and peace. We must unite in our differences and close the doors to hatred, opening avenues for growth and unity. Together, we can build a community where everyone feels valued and heard, making no room for hate.





# Leadership: Standing Up Against Hate



Whether in the halls of Congress in Washington, DC, or on the streets of NYC, leaders are uniting to combat hate. Their collective efforts are essential in fostering inclusivity, promoting justice, and ensuring a safer, more respectful society for all. Together, they are making a powerful stand against intolerance.







**Hon. Mayor Eric L. Adams – New York City**  
**Hon. Letitia James, New York State Attorney General**  
**Jumaane D. Williams, Public Advocate**  
**Bill Tinglin, Chairman, Center For Black Learning**  
**Hon. Councilwoman Farah N. Louis – Brooklyn, NY**  
**Hon. Councilwoman Rita Joseph**  
**Hon. Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse**  
**Hon. Senator Kevin Parker**  
**Hon. Eric Gonzales, District Attorney Kings County**  
**The Office for The Prevention of Hate Crimes**  
**The Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnership**  
**Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce**  
**Anti-Defamation League**  
**Jewish Community Relations Council**  
**The Council of Peoples' Organization**  
**Pakistani American Skilled Worker Organization**  
**Rabbinical Alliance of America**  
**Foundation for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity**  
**Caribbean Nurses Association**  
**67 th Precinct Clergy Council (The God Squad)**  
**Shmira City-Wide Safety Patrol**  
**Kehilath Moshe**  
**Disaster Relief and Emergency Preparedness**  
**Dr. Monalisa Ferrari**  
**A.N.S. Association**  
**Pakistani Christian Association**  
**Pakistani American Youth Organization**  
**Pak Sadiq American Organization**  
**American Nation Building Foundation**  
**Flatbush Community Fund**  
**JCC of Marine Park**  
**Tour for Tolerance**  
**Moroccan American Council to Empower Women**  
**NY Board of Rabbis**  
**Allama IQBAL Community Center**  
**Kashmir American Alliance**

**The Bridge  
MCP Would  
Like to Extend  
a Special  
Thank You to  
Our Friends  
and  
Supporters**



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