

If Only

If only...we can stop looking with our hi-tech “screens and windows” to know each other,

If only...we can look through the real screens and window of our sacred spaces to see our neighbors across the street.

If only...we can become better acquainted with our brothers and sisters and keep our doors and minds open.

If only...we can keep our dialog ongoing to further our understanding of our commonalities and differences.

If only...we can show our community, our state, our country, our world what we have achieved.

If only...we can instill this peaceful, respectful, and welcoming attitude in others outside of Wayland, MA.

If only...we can make this a working model for other neighbors to emulate.

If only...we can listen to our hearts more than our political commentators, for we intuitively know what is right.

If only...we can take this feeling of good will into our daily lives and serve as an example of tolerance.

If only...we can make our hopes and dreams of a peaceful and prosperous world come true for us and future generations.

If only...we can bring about change...and I think we can!!!!

by Jan Dash, Temple Shir Tikva member

My Brother Lives in Santa Fe

Learning about our common roots, similarities, and differences led me to think about those a little closer to home.

My brother, Alan, lives in Santa Fe. We love each other very much.

Alan is an engineer, forever tinkering and inventing.

He's a political liberal, more or less an introvert,

Very content when alone.

He's an outdoorsman most happy when hiking, bicycling, camping, And is a vegetarian, has been a vegan, even a raw foodie.

I'm a musician and have never understood how a radio works. I'm a political conservative, outgoing,

Have trouble sitting still.

I'm most content when teaching and practicing,

And love a good hot dog.

My brother, Alan, lives in Santa Fe. We love each other very much.

by Marilyn Darack, Temple Shir Tikva member

A booklet of poetry from

Crossing the Street:2



Contributed by the members of Islamic Center of Boston and Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland

The four sessions in this series explored the common heritage of Jews and Muslims. The discussions were led by Dr. Mohamed Lazzouni and Rabbi Neal Gold, and hosted by both houses of worship on alternate weeks.

This booklet represents the participatory component of the program where members of the audience were invited to write poems to express artistically the vision and the theme of the experience we shared in the 4 weeks.

Islamic Center of Boston

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Temple Shir Tikva

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Crossing the Street

At first it's tentative,
Moving cautiously, head down.
You hold tight to a protective hand,
Your face set in a frown.

Now baby steps are being taken,
Head turning every which way.
Everything seems to be a roadblock,
And you don't want to go astray.

Time keeps tumbling on and on,
Confidence is gained.
Now you're free from all the binds,
Feeling strong and unrestrained.

Then it's time to take the lead,
Show them who you are!
Don't be afraid to make a stand,
Don't worry about being bizarre.

Sometimes you have to simply stop,
Stop and just observe.
A need for speed gets in your way,
Don't let it make you swerve!

When we cross the street we always have,
A very common goal.
To get somewhere, and get there soon,
Using perfect self-control.

by Mona Baloch, ICB Wayland Youth Group

Back and Forth

Back and forth we traveled weekly
We talked and learned as we crossed the street
But my own darkness kept me wandering in a narrow tunnel
Two scholars began unraveling the path of life
By week three, my darkness began brightening and my tunnel
seemed wider
At the end of week four, I could feel the light's warmth and that
my direction was heading towards enlightenment
Who would ever have known that "talking" would change my
trip..... my path of life!

by Linda D. Levitt, Temple Shir Tikva Member

All in the Family

Quran 2:62. Those who believe (in the Quran), and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians and the Sabians, any who believe in God and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.

As a family, we share the same God, Allah or Yahweh,
who gives us life.

Our religions, Islam and Judaism share so much.

We share Jerusalem as a Holy city.

Sometimes we are in and out of touch.

As a family, we share a common Grandfather in the name of
Abraham

We are siblings originating in the Middle-East

In America, we both face challenges so let us work better together

As we enjoy our halal and our kosher feasts

by Mario Moreira, ICB Wayland member