



For Immediate Release:

The Mosaic Institute Presents "Making Peace Personal", Third Event in the *Building Bridges* Series

Toronto – June 4, 2009. The Mosaic Institute was proud to host two leaders in the field of grassroots peacebuilding at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies on Wednesday night. Janet Wallach, President Emeritus of Seeds of Peace, and Dr. Arnold Noyek, founder of the Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO), participated in a discussion entitled "Making Peace Personal." This was the third session in the *Building Bridges in Canada: New Perspectives on People and Peace* Speakers' Series, presented in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Diversity.

Ms. Wallach's organization, Seeds of Peace, features an innovative conflict resolution program that brings together teenagers from the Middle East, South Asia, the Balkans and divided Cyprus. The program is year-round, with an operational presence in ten cities worldwide. It is highlighted by the celebrated Seeds of Peace summer camp in Maine.

Dr. Noyek's organization, CISEPO, is a unique international network dedicated to enabling cooperation between Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian, Canadian and American health professionals. CISEPO is based at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto.

Ms. Wallach and Dr. Noyek were joined by two former participants of their respective programs: Nousha Kabawat, the first Syrian-Canadian to participate in Seeds of Peace, and Inbal Marcovitch, an Israeli-Canadian who conducted research with CISEPO in Israel. Both spoke of their transformative experiences. The conversation was moderated expertly by broadcast journalist Evan Solomon of CBC News.

The panel members discussed the challenges and rewards of building peace person-to-person. They explored how to "get behind the politics," by giving individuals belonging to opposite sides of the conflict opportunities to collaborate in unique ways. They also challenged audience members to examine their own lives and spheres of experience to identify those means and mechanisms by which they, too, can become builders of peace.

Approximately 110 invited guests from Canada's Arab communities and its Jewish diaspora were in attendance.

The next installment in the series – "Where Are We Now" – will take place on September 16th. Hosted by Margaret MacMillan, it will feature a scholarly assessment of the current status of peacebuilding in the Middle East.

Building Bridges in Canada: New Perspectives on People and Peace is a six-part Speakers' Series that will run from March to November of 2009. It endeavours to bring together leaders of those ethnocultural and faith-based communities in Canada with strong historical and personal connections to the Middle East, with an eye to identifying common ground and committing to collaborative peacebuilding activities. It is being jointly presented by the Mosaic Institute and the Canadian Centre for Diversity.

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