



November 4, 2010

Dear Editor,

We are a growing Reform Jewish Synagogue located in Ashburn, VA, and for the past three years, we have undertaken a unique partnership with the All Dulles Areas Muslim Society (ADAMS) in Sterling, VA. We have held joint programming with our youth, hosted adult education classes with members from both congregations, undertaken social events and activities, and we even share a space – the Synagogue and Mosque holding services in separate sections of the same building.

As we have come to know our Muslim neighbors and friends at ADAMS, we understand that Islam and the ADAMS community both extol and practice the virtues of brotherhood, peace, and cooperation – as does our Jewish tradition.

We are saddened that yet another terrorist action against the United States has been planned by foreign groups, yet heartened that the U.S. Government was able to intervene in a timely fashion before internationally shipped packages could cause damage to property or persons.

We feel that it lacks common sense to accuse Muslims of planning yet another terrorist attack. To us, that is like accusing Christians of being responsible for the blast in Oklahoma City ('95), or Jews for the killings in a mosque in Hebron ('94). In the end, we know these are actions of disturbed individuals and/or organizations with violent ideologies.

It is not our faith or religious communities that sanction such actions. And it has certainly not been our experience with our neighbors and friends at the ADAMS Center.

In the words of the great Jewish sage, Hillel "What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah". So, we continue to extend our friendship and support to our thoughtful and responsible Muslim neighbors at ADAMS.

Tracy Cirone, President (on behalf of the Board of Directors)
Ray Daffner, Tikva Committee Chair (Interfaith and Outreach)
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