

**OneJax Examines  
“The Walls That Separate Us”  
For the Third “Oneness of Humanity Celebration”**

Jacksonville, FL (September 3, 2008)—OneJax, the local nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the diverse groups of Northeast Florida together as one unified community, will host the third annual “Oneness of Humanity Celebration” on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year’s event features the screening of two short films that examines the walls that separate us (real or imagined) and what really stands in the way of our living as one human family. The films will be followed by a panel discussion by diverse professionals. The event will be held at Theatre Jacksonville, 2032 San Marco Blvd., beginning at 6:00 PM.

Two films will be shown as part of this event:

- **“The Wall.”** A stunning award-winning drama written & directed by Michael Lloyd Green and produced by Sou Yun Sim, both graduates of FSU’s College of Motion Picture, Television Recording Arts. A lonely New York cellist struggles to cope with the guilt of his dark past while his neighbor, a Jewish immigrant from Germany struggles with another kind of pain.
- **“West Bank Story.”** Premiering at the Sundance Film Festival in 2006 and an Oscar Winner for “Best Live Action Short Film” that same year, this hilarious musical parody of “West Side Story” was directed and written by Ari Sandel with co-writer Kim Ray. An Israeli soldier and a Palestinian fast food cashier, fall in love amidst the animosity of their families’ dueling falafel stands in the West Bank, the Kosher King and the Hummus Hut. The couple’s love triggers a chain of events that forces all to find common ground.

The panel, moderated by Madeline Scales-Taylor, Director of Community Relations for Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, includes Rabbi Joshua Lief, Rabbi with the Congregation Ahavath Chesed, The Temple; Dr. Parvez Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Finance, UNF Coggin School of Business and former Chair of the Council on American-Islamic Relations; Dr. Fahed Abu-Aked, Minister, Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta GA; and Father Jason Trull, Priest, Resurrection Catholic Church.

“The ‘Oneness of Humanity Celebration’ was created to honor one of our founders, Duane Dumbleton, who passed away in 2006,” said Bobbie O’Connor, Executive Director of OneJax. “Duane was a member of the Baha’i faith and strongly believed we have more in common than we have differences. I think he would be very pleased by our program this year, as his vision and goal was to have our community break down the walls that divide us in order to come together as one human family.”

Because this year’s event falls during the month of Ramadan, the Islamic religious observance during which participating Muslims do not eat or drink anything from dawn until sunset as a way of learning patience and humility, the event will end promptly at 7:30 PM for those observing Ramadan to break fast.

The event is free and open to the public, although a \$10 donation is suggested. For more information about the Oneness of Humanity celebration or OneJax, contact them at (904) 354-1JAX (1529) or [www.onejax.org](http://www.onejax.org). RSVP’s are not required, but will be appreciated.

Through education, community building and advocacy, OneJax hopes to make Northeast Florida a better place for everyone by celebrating differences and identifying all we have in common. Its core programs include **Metrotown**, an intensive, week-long teen diversity program; **LOUD** (Leaders of United

Diversity), where Metrotown graduates bring the message of respect and appreciation for religious, racial and cultural differences into their schools; **Interfaith and Community Forums**, periodic forums for public dialogue on diversity and tolerance issues; and **Advocacy**, working to promote issues of importance to the **OneJax** mission. In addition, OneJax is a partner, with the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission and the Community Foundation in Jacksonville, in Project Breakthrough, an initiative to change the story of race in Jacksonville.

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