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**Morocco's Ambassador Attends Opening of
*Drinking From the Same Well***

exhibition of photos from Morocco by Rose-Lynn Fisher

His Excellency Aziz Mekouar speaks at opening reception
Sunday September 12, 2004 7:30 p.m. Jewish Cultural Center, Chattanooga, TN

In partnership with the Islamic Education and Services Institute, the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Chattanooga opened the photographic exhibit, *Drinking From the Same Well* on September 12 at the Jewish Cultural Center. His Excellency Aziz Mekouar Ambassador to the United States from the Kingdom of Morocco was the featured speaker and he introduced Sir Charles Dahan, World Vice President of the World Federation of Moroccan Jewry, who accompanied him to Chattanooga and also spoke. Their presence and comments exemplified the history of harmonious relations among Jews and Muslims in Morocco.

The exhibit, which runs through November 14, was created by Los Angeles photographer Rose-Lynn Fisher who was also in attendance at the September 12 opening and offered her perspective on the importance of the Chattanooga partnership. Her photographs explore the history of Jewish and Muslim peaceful co-existence in Morocco. Shot over the course of two extended visits to the country in 1995 and 1998, the photographs reveal Fisher's encounter with a landscape marked by the spirituality, friendship, and interdependence of two faiths sharing the same community and culture.

Mayor Bob Corker declared Sept. 12 "Drinking From the Same Well Day". In addition, City Councilman Yusuf Hakeem presented on the mayor's behalf, proclamations declaring Ms. Fisher and Ambassador Mekouar honorary citizens of Chattanooga.

The photographs included in this exhibit have traveled extensively throughout the United States and overseas.. However, the Chattanooga project marks a unique turning point for these images. It is the first time that Jews and Muslims have come together in a community to jointly contemplate the powerful meaning behind this work. As photographer Fisher remarks, "I am deeply moved by the fact that this project was initiated by Jewish and Muslim people of Chattanooga, using my exhibit as the jump-off point for developing deeper relations with each other and outreach to the city for fostering coexistence. For me this goes way beyond having an exhibit—it extends the wonderful and important experience I had in Morocco into something dynamic and relevant to others here, today."

In conjunction with *Drinking From the Same Well* exhibit, Fisher showed slides of many more of her photos of Morocco and answered questions about the exhibit at a presentation and dinner on Monday, September 13 at the Jewish Cultural Center. All events were free of charge and open to the public.