

Jews and Muslims unite through festival

BY ASHLEY NICOLE LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

Many Jewish and Muslim students at UNC will aim to overlook international conflicts today through a shared appreciation of art and entertainment.

And to do her part, senior Sophia Malik is looking to comedian Adam Sandler for inspiration.

As part of the fourth annual Muslim-Jewish Arts Festival, Malik will sing an acoustic adaptation of Adam Sandler's "Hanukkah Song"

to add some humor to the festival.

"The Jewish and Muslim communities deal with a lot of serious issues, so I decided to do something more entertaining to lighten the mood," Malik said.

N.C. Hillel and the Muslim Students Association have united to host the festival, themed "Living Together is an Art."

"We chose that theme because it fit the event well, as well as the stories behind the two faiths," said Arif Khan, a representative of the Muslim

Students Association. "Sometimes living together is difficult, but we wanted to reflect the good things about the communities by showing how they connect and live together through various forms of art."

The festival features 10 local visual artists and 12 live performances that focus on issues of community and peace. Other pieces focus on family, the situation in the Middle East and a work in honor of Eve Carson.

A variety of mediums will be used in the show, ranging from

more culturally and religiously focused monologues to calligraphy, photos and tabla drums.

"There is an even distribution of Jewish and Muslim performances," said Stephanie Berman, organizer for Hillel. "This year there are even a few collaborative pieces, songs where Jews and Muslims are performing together."

Organizers from both groups said the goals of the festival are reflected in its theme.

"We want to show how vibrant

the communities are," Berman said. "We want to encourage friendships and new relations. Sometimes other cultures are daunting when you aren't familiar with them. These events can help demystify them and encourage positive relations."

Khan and Berman said although in other places around the world Jewish and Muslim communities sometimes express a great deal of animosity, Chapel Hill celebrates a united and peaceful existence.

"We encourage everyone to

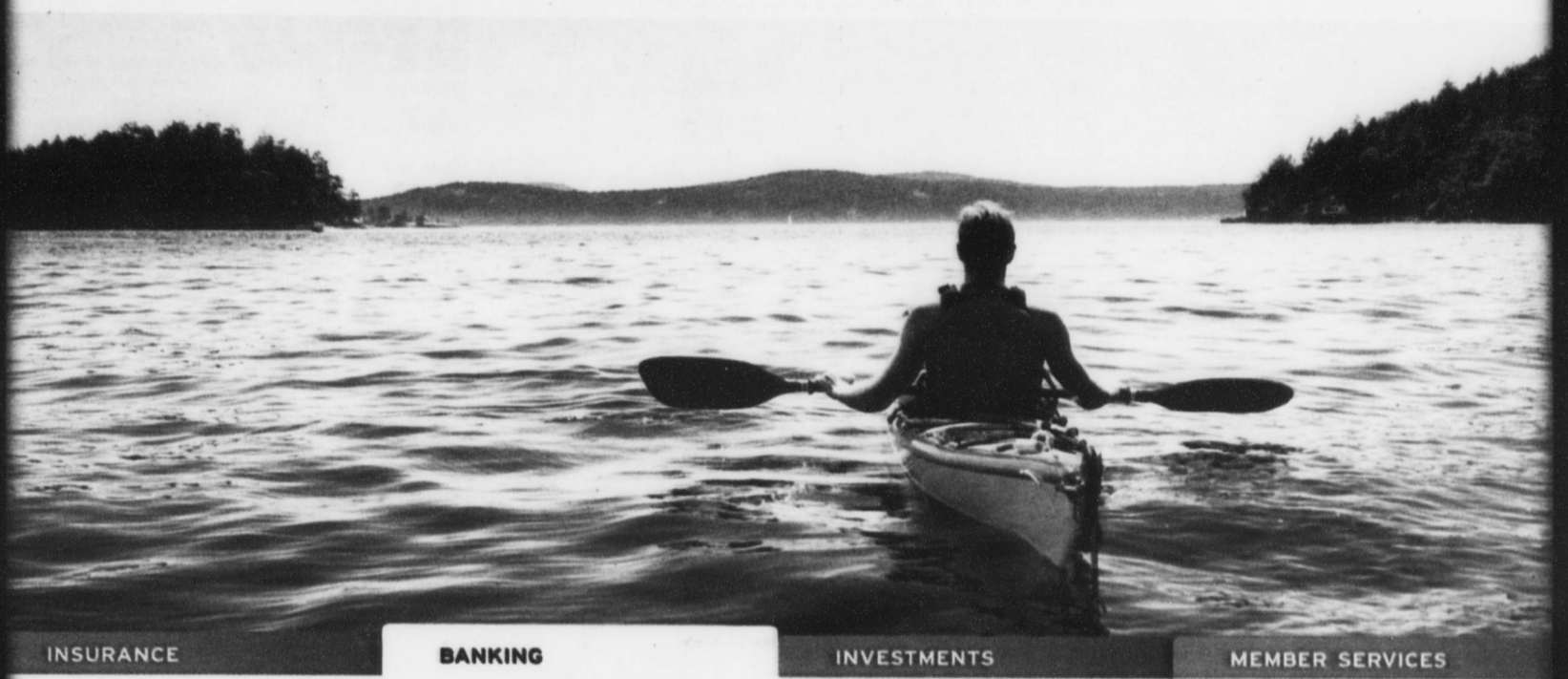
ATTEND THE FESTIVAL

Time: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. today
Location: Alumni Hall
Info: www.nchillel.org

come out even if they aren't part of the Jewish or Muslim communities," Khan said. "We want to foster people living and working together in peace."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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