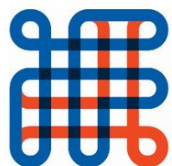




INTERSECTIONS OF INTERFAITH

APRIL 6 & 7
2019

PYLE CENTER
MEMORIAL UNION



IFYC
interfaith
youth core



Center for Religion
and Global Citizenry
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



interfaith
NETWORK

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON'S
PREMIER INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

CONTENTS

1	Contents
2	Welcome
3	Schedule
4	Guidelines
5	Workshops
6	The Center for Religion and Global Citizenry Team
7	Keynote: Imam Sami Aziz
8	Women in Interfaith: Janan Atta-Najeeb
9	Women in Interfaith: Sister Toni Ann Palermo
10	Women in Interfaith: Pastor Erica Liu
11	Women in Interfaith: Reverend Selena Fox
12	Women in Interfaith: Rabbi Andrea Steinberger
13	Contact Us, Get Involved
14	Thank You
15-16	Notes



WELCOME

Dear conference attendees,

We are overjoyed to have you at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's first interfaith conference. Our conference theme, Intersections of Interfaith, is inspired by our desire to create spaces for discussions of religious identity within larger conversations about diversity and inclusion. We seek to encourage the consideration of religious affiliation, or lack thereof, in conversations about identity, inequality, and social justice. Through a series of interactive workshops, panels, and speakers, participants will gain the skills necessary to become interfaith leaders in their own communities.

This event represents a collaborative effort between UW-Madison's Center for Religion and Global Citizenry and Chicago's Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), one of the nation's largest interfaith non-profits. We are happy to welcome participants from across the region and look forward to working together to achieve our conference goals:

- Explore the way religious and non-religious identities shape and complicate our lives.
- Highlight religious identity as essential for an intersectional understanding of the world.
- Equip attendees to engage in intentional interfaith collaboration beyond this conference.

Thank you all for attending, and for your support, participation, and patience throughout the event.

Sincerely,

The Interfaith Fellows

The Center for Religion and Global Citizenry

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

12	Registration
1	Opening Remarks
1:45	Workshop 1
3	Social, Refreshments
4	Workshop 2
5:30	Keynote
6:30	Dinner, DJ
8:10	Havdalah

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

8	Registration, Breakfast
9	Workshop 3
10:15	Break
10:30	Workshop 4
12	Unconference
1	Lunch, Panel: Women in Interfaith
2:30	Closing Remarks



GUIDELINES

During your first workshop session, you will discuss guidelines to follow throughout the course of the conference. Please review the suggestions for productive and respectful discussion outlined below and talk through any additions with your group.

- **One mic, one voice.** Do not interrupt or speak over others.
- **Monitor how much you speak.** Practice self-awareness regarding how much you space you hold in conversations. We want to hear from you and from as many voices as possible. If you have spoken several times, listen to what others have to say before contributing again.
- **Use 'I' statements.** Speak from your own experience. No one speaks for their entire religious community. Do not ask yourself or other people to do so.
- **What's said here stays here, what's learned here leaves here.** Please respect the confidentiality of others by not repeating stories and comments heard in this space. Please respect the effort others put into sharing by learning from them and using that knowledge going forward.
- **Offer content warnings.** If you are going to disclose sensitive information or stories, please offer those around you a content warning, and a chance to excuse themselves if desired. This is good practice when talking about emotionally, spiritually, or physically violent incidents.
- **Engage in difficult discussions.** Assert yourself through communication if you feel uncomfortable with something someone says or does during this workshop. For this to be productive, we must be able to question each other. Please do so with respect.
- **The space is yours.** Please feel comfortable to move about the space, leave for any reason, or request accommodations throughout. Do not feel a responsibility to communicate with us about your choices unless you need our assistance.

WORKSHOPS

Foundations of Interfaith Leadership

- Learn foundational definitions of interfaith leadership and interfaith cooperation.
- Understand the goal of interfaith leadership.
- Explore how we orient around religion through a series of reflection exercises.

Engaging Religious Difference

- Identify personal biases toward people of other religious and/or philosophical backgrounds.
- Identify opportunities to unpack biases.
- Learn key skill sets for navigating conversations around significant difference.
- Workshop examples and scenarios for navigating religious tensions.

Building Interfaith Spaces

- Stimulate discussion about inclusivity in religious and secular spaces.
- Brainstorm how campuses and organizations can better serve religious individuals.
- Gain tools to further interfaith inclusivity in our own communities.

Social Action from an Interfaith Approach

- Explore and define social justice as it relates to interfaith.
- Reflect on the identities we hold and how they offer experiences of privilege and marginalization.
- Brainstorm methods of accountability and allyship for pursuing a more socially just world.

CENTER FOR RELIGION AND GLOBAL CITIZENRY TEAM

The interfaith fellows and program staff welcome you to Intersections of Interfaith! The mission of The Center for Religion and Global Citizenry is to increase UW-Madison students' religious literacy and their facility for communicating across boundaries of faith. Thank you for helping us further this goal through our first regional interfaith conference!



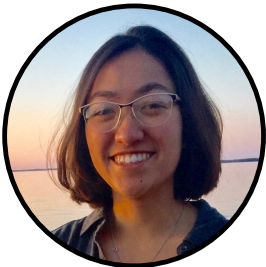
Ulrich
Rosenhagen,
Director



Sari
Judge,
Program
Coordinator



Karen
Turino,
Administrator



Emma
Lai



Ufaira
Shaik



Mishal
Athar Shah



Katherine
O'Brien



Emma
Cox



Erik
Franze



Noa
Rose



Hannah
Kwiatkowski



Michelle
Thomas



Adam
Fendos



Sam
Ropa



Peyton
David



Sooraj
Dash



Gwen
Salm



Aly
Hamrick



KEYNOTE SPEAKER IMAM SAMI AZIZ

Director of Center for Spiritual Life, Muslim Chaplain, DePauw University

Imam Sami Aziz became the first Imam chosen to direct a spiritual life program in the United States when he assumed the position of Director of Center for Spiritual Life at Depauw University. He firmly believes that interfaith dialogue is the key to breaking down barriers of ignorance, which lead to fear and hate and, in turn, to global calamities such as genocide. He is grateful for the opportunities and challenges that have come with his recent move to Indiana, and looks forward to continuing to make a home for himself, his wife, and other Muslims in Greencastle. He believes the fact that the University chose a Muslim for his position in the midst of rising Islamophobia, such as the "Muslim ban," is a testament to their desire for world peace, greater understanding and interfaith dialogue.

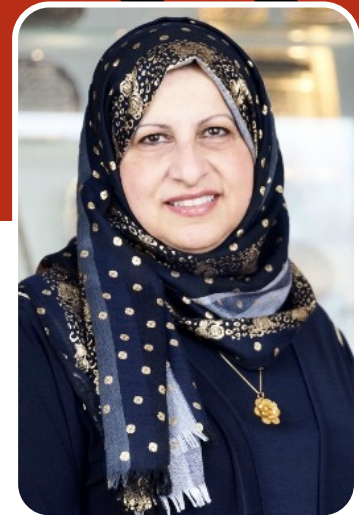
Imam Aziz is a graduate of Hartford Seminary Islamic Chaplaincy Program, where he received his masters in Islamic Studies and Muslim-Christian Relations. In 2015, he founded the Islamic consulting firm Common Ground Services and has been a frequent presenter at Connecticut schools, libraries, and places of worship, spreading his desire for peace through education. He has been the Muslim Chaplain at Wesleyan University and has worked at over a dozen educational and service based organizations in the Muslim American community over the past decade.

He has received training in combating domestic violence as well as National Imam and chaplaincy training at a very young age. Imam Aziz's love and dedication for interfaith action came from his father, who exemplified the role of a bridge builder and community service leader in his life. Imam Aziz hopes to impart his passion for seeking justice through interfaith collaboration to those at this conference.

WOMEN IN INTERFAITH

JANAN NAJEEB

President of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition,
Milwaukee, WI



Janan Najeeb, a founding member and the current President of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, has been a spokeswoman for Wisconsin's Muslim community to media outlets, government officials, interfaith leaders, and a wide range of community groups. A microbiologist by profession, Ms. Najeeb left her career because of the tremendous need to bridge the gap between the erroneous perception of Islam and the actual beliefs and practices of the overwhelming majority of the world's Muslims.

Ms. Najeeb serves on many committees and community boards, including the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, and the Airport Meditation Room, and she currently chairs the Committee for Interfaith Understanding of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee.

Dedicated to social justice and anti-racism work, Ms. Najeeb is a frequent lecturer at colleges and universities across the state. She also directs the Islamic Resource Center on the south side of Milwaukee, a cultural center which hosts Wisconsin's first Islamic public lending library.

In 2015, Ms. Najeeb founded the Milwaukee Muslim Film Festival, one of the only annual citywide Muslim Film Festivals in the Country. In 2016, she became the first Muslim ever to offer a prayer at the Wisconsin State Assembly in Madison, and in February of 2018 she launched the Wisconsin Muslim Journal, an online newspaper that publishes twice a week. Ms. Najeeb was recently awarded a grant to launch the first Domestic Violence program run by a Muslim organization in the State of Wisconsin.

Janan Najeeb is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including the International Institute of Wisconsin's World Citizen Award, CAIR's (Council on American Islamic Relations) national award for activism, ACLU's Special Recognition Award, and The Woman of Honor award.

WOMEN IN INTERFAITH

SISTER TONI ANN PALERMO

Catholic Sister, School Sister of St. Francis,
Madison, WI



Sister Toni Ann "Peanuts" Palermo is a School Sister of St. Francis who resides in the Madison area. Sister Toni has played a large part in interfaith action, being awarded the Values in Actions Award by the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee in 2016 for her work in both assisting those in need and empowering women.

Perhaps what Sister Toni is most famous for is her experience as a professional women's baseball player (A League of Their Own, anyone?). Balancing her love for the Church with her passion for baseball, she toured the nation from 1949-1950 as a shortstop star, and after that she played professional softball until 1953. She then became a Sister in 1954. She was inducted as an All American Professional Baseball Player in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Elgin, Illinois. Sister Toni was also recognized by the Baseball Association of Chicago for her "Excellence as an AAGPBL Player, Educator and Leader." She recently appeared on "To Tell the Truth" which will air on ABC National TV in June or July.

She graduated from Alverno College with a degree in English, History, and Math. After working as an elementary school teacher in Illinois, she went on to UW-Madison. There she earned three Master's Degrees, in psychiatric social work, kinesiology and physical education, and educational policy, as well as a Ph.D. in six interdisciplinary studies. She taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Physical Education Department and the School of Social Work.

She now works in Madison providing employment and places to live for those in need. She is also a tutor, psychotherapist and electrologist, energized by her love of helping people. She hopes her life and service can be a source of inspiration for young women everywhere.

WOMEN IN INTERFAITH

PASTOR ERICA LIU

Co-Pastor at Pres House,

Madison, WI



Erica has served Pres House since 2004. She is a second generation Taiwanese-American who grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. She has a BA in Mass Communications from UC Berkeley and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Some of her favorite spiritual disciplines include practicing the martial art, taekwondo, and Sabbath.

Erica is a community leader with over 18 years of experience working with diverse groups to bring positive transformation in people's lives through facilitation, coaching, and vision casting. Erica is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, USA and is regularly called upon to lead and serve in other organizations and institutions.

Pastor Erica has led the transformation and re-development of Pres House from a dormant non-profit into a vibrant, growing, and active campus center that now reaches more than 750 people per year and has served more than 5,000 students from 2004-2017. In 2016 and 2017, Erica led Race and Faith events at UW-Madison, bringing together 27 organizations and engaging more than 500 participants on the issue of racism.



WOMEN IN INTERFAITH



REVEREND SELENA FOX

Wiccan Priestess of Circle Sanctuary,
Barneveld, WI

Rev. Selena Fox is Senior Minister of Circle Sanctuary, a Nature Spirituality church headquartered near Barneveld, Wisconsin which has been serving Wiccan, Druid, Pagan, and other Nature religion practitioners worldwide since 1974. Rev. Fox has a MS in Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and does holistic spiritual counseling and psychotherapy. She does spiritual care and diversity education in a variety of settings, including military installations, prisons, campuses, hospitals, hospices, birthing centers, and rehabilitation facilities. Rev. Fox has been serving as a consultant on religious accommodation and Pagan religion for the U. S. Department of Justice since 1992 and does training of federal chaplains in corrections from across the nation at the National Correctional Academy. In addition, she is active in national chaplaincy associations and is a U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs chaplain endorser. For over fifty years, Rev. Fox has been an activist for gender and racial equality, religious freedom, interfaith collaboration, social justice, and environmental preservation. She is founder and director of Circle Cemetery, Wisconsin's first Green cemetery and one of the first in the nation. Over the years, Rev. Fox has been active in regional, national and global interfaith endeavors, including the Parliament of the World's Religions. Her writings, meditations, and photographs have been widely published, in-print and on-line. She hosts two weekly podcasts, Divining Dreams and Nature Mystic on Circle Sanctuary's internet radio network, CSNP. Rev. Fox travels internationally presenting workshops and facilitating ceremonies.

More info: www.selenafox.com; www.circlesanctuary.org.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SelenaFoxUpdates

Twitter: @Selena_Fox

Instagram: selenafox

WOMEN IN INTERFAITH



RABBI ANDREA STEINBERGER

Rabbi at Hillel Center,
Madison, WI

Rabbi Andrea C. Steinberger serves as a rabbi at the Hillel Foundation at the University of Wisconsin, the Jewish student center on the UW campus. She provides spiritual leadership and education to members of the student community on the UW campus, and helps create and expand opportunities for the exploration and expression of Jewish life and values at the University of Wisconsin. Rabbi Steinberger provides opportunities for students to learn and have conversation across differences of race, ethnicity, gender and faith in order to promote friendship, community and understanding among people.

Rabbi Steinberger received her ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio and her BA from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. This is her 20th year serving the student community at the University of Wisconsin.



CONTACT US, GET INVOLVED

THE CENTER FOR RELIGION AND GLOBAL CITIZENRY

Email crgc@wisc.edu
Website www.religion.wisc.edu/
Facebook [@CRGCscholars](https://www.facebook.com/CRGCscholars)
Instagram [@crgc_uw](https://www.instagram.com/crgc_uw)



Apply to be a Center for Religion and Global Citizenry Interfaith Fellow for the 2019-2020 school year! Use the QR code or visit our website to access the application.

THE INTERFAITH NETWORK

Email crgcuw@gmail.com
Facebook [UW Interfaith Network](https://www.facebook.com/UWInterfaithNetwork)



Join UW's first registered student organization aimed at promoting interreligious literacy and cooperation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and in the greater Madison community!

THE INTERFAITH YOUTH CORE

Email info@ifyc.org
Website www.ifyc.org/
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Instagram [@interfaithyouthcore](https://www.instagram.com/@interfaithyouthcore)



THANK YOU

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COORDINATED BY

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Volunteer Coordination Chairs

Hannah Kwiatkowski, Gwen Salm

Hospitality Chairs

Aly Hamrick, Hannah Kwiatkowski

Program designed by Katherine O'Brien

NOTES

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