



2020-2021

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Speaker Series

Book Talks

Book Talks feature prominent authors from a variety of disciplines in a platform where they can present their latest publications and engage in discussions with a diverse audience.

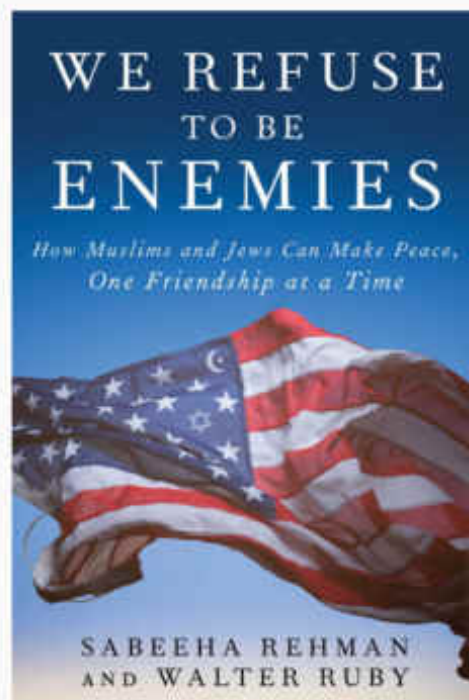
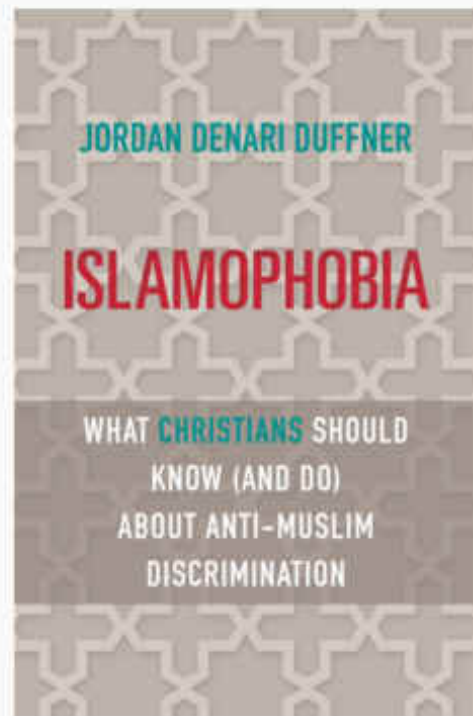
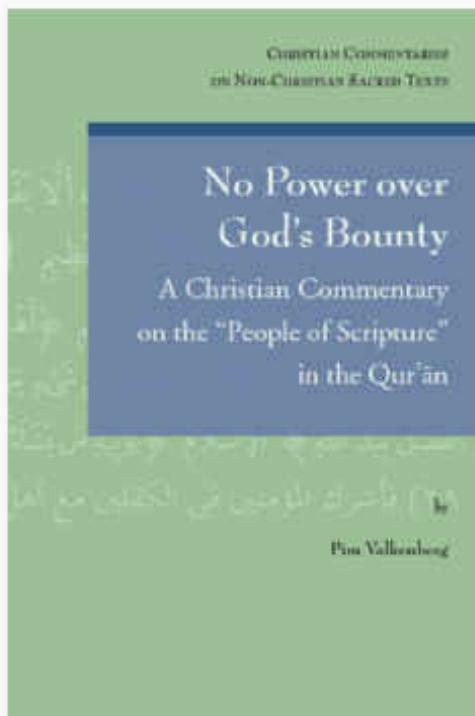
Coffee Nights

Coffee Nights program was launched during the pandemic with an aim to remain connected while distant from one another spatially. The program hosts distinguished speakers and stimulating exchanges on topics related to faith and society.

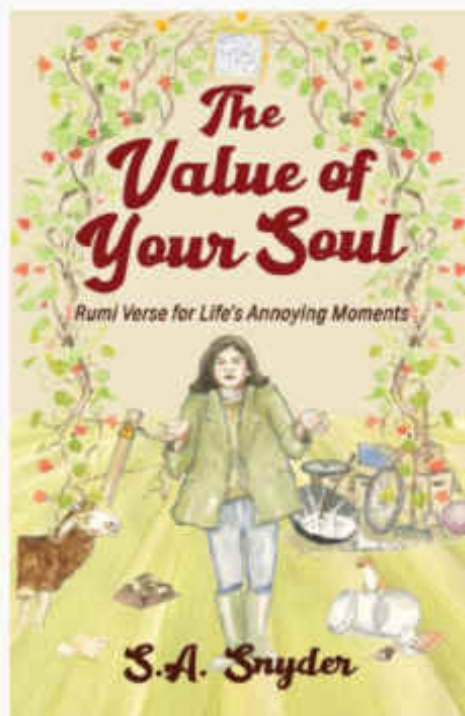
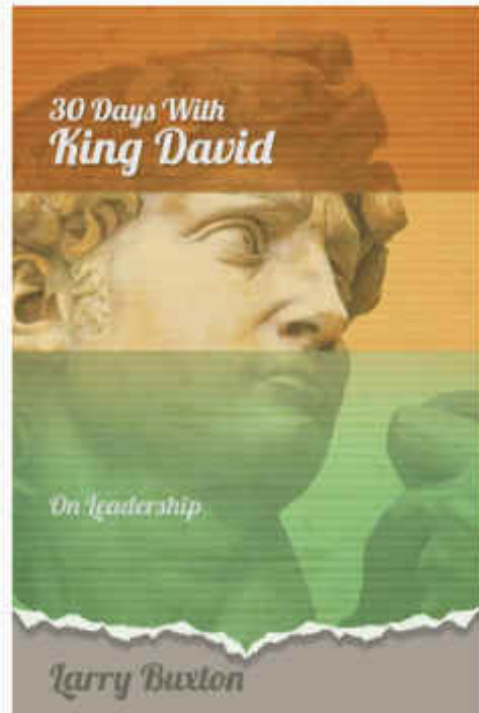
Panel Discussions

Panel Discussions are aimed to address key spiritual and social issues by offering an academic platform. These discussions bring together scholars and experts with different perspectives on a certain topic.

Book Talks



Book Talks



Coffee Nights

A Baptist veteran talks about Islam

RUMI FORUM

A Baptist Army Veteran's Journey with Islam

Moderator
Joel O. Rainey, Ph.D.
Pastor & Author

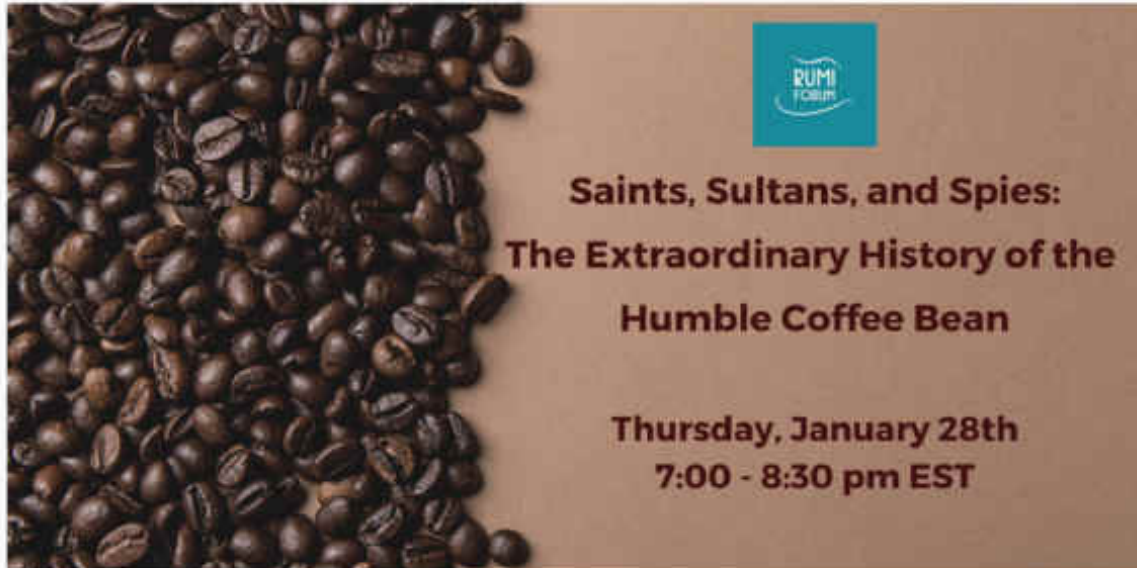
Speaker
Jason Howk
Author & Interfaith Speaker

Thursday, September 24
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Rumi Forum hosted podcast host, award-winning author, and university lecturer Jason Howk. An army veteran of Baptist confession, Howk shared with us his stimulating story that connected his first career as a military officer to a second and no less interesting one as an interfaith speaker and lecturer on Islam.



The History of Coffee



"From the secretive circles of Yemen's ancient Sufi mystics to the Constantinople court of the Ottoman Sultans to the backstreets of Mercantile London, coffee has changed every society that fell under its heady sway. Abdul-Rehman Malik has spent a lifetime searching for the soul of coffee. We explored the culture, politics, spirituality and the extraordinary history of the world's most second traded commodity - and learned how a humble bean - quite literally - changed the world."



Panel Discussions

Religious Freedom for all!

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR ALL:
REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF
ACTS OF VIOLENCE**

**AUGUST 20
6:00 - 7:15 PM**

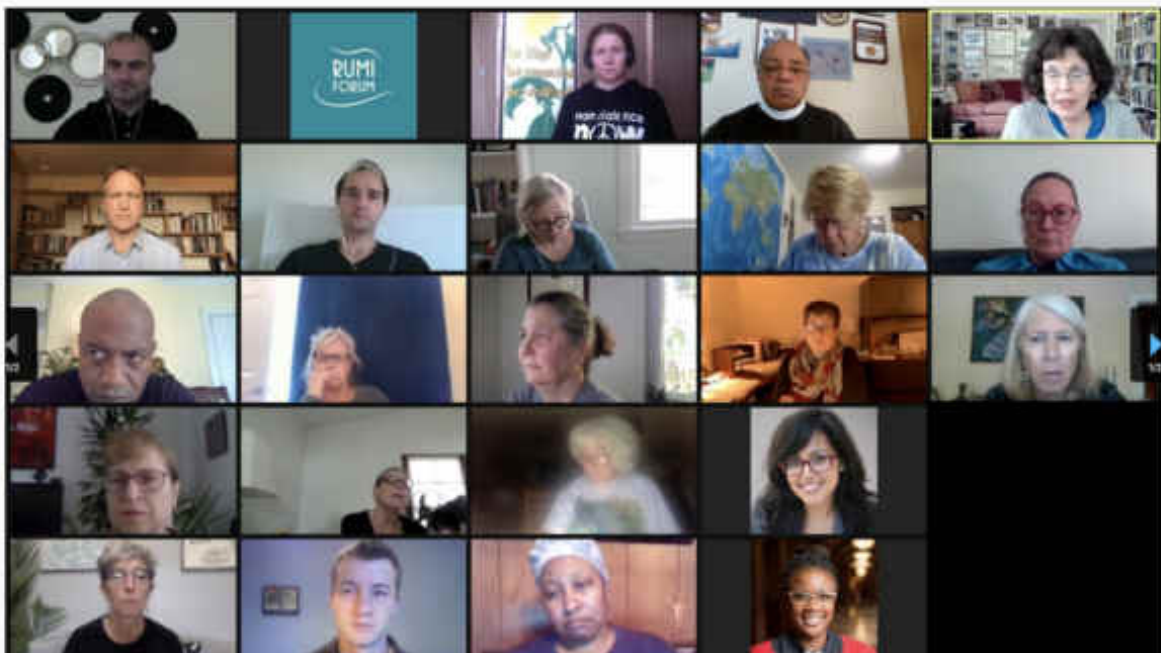
Sabrina Dent
Senior Faith Advisor
Americans United

Richard T. Foltin
Fellow
Freedom Forum

Kirsten Lavery
Supervisory Policy Analyst
USCIS

Rev. William H. Lamar IV
Pastor
Metropolitan AME Church

Upholding the First Amendment and responding to the alarming increase in persecutions of religious people and communities around the world, we believe within the scope of open, constructive, and respectful exchanges at various platforms across local, national, and international levels will be invaluable assets in confronting these ongoing acts of intolerance. To that end, Rumi Forum invited distinguished speakers to share their insights on highlight mechanisms to prevent unfair treatments towards individuals, communities, and minorities.



"Charity" with UNA-NCA



In the spirit of "International Day of Charity" by the UN General Assembly to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa, on September 9, our speakers Katherine Marshall, Kim R. Ford, Jerome Tennille, our moderator Stephen Moseley, and our partner UNA-NCA had a great discussion about how community solidarity has displayed itself in ways that we haven't seen before to eradicate poverty in the age of pandemic.



"Nonviolence" with Gandhi Institute

Nonviolence: A Strategic and moral compass in extraordinary times

Friday, October 2 2020
12:00 - 1:30 pm

 The Rev. Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr. Canon Missioner Washington National Cathedral	 Dr. Mary Elizabeth King Director James Lawson Institute	 Rivera Sun Editor Nonviolence News	 Hardy Merriman President and CEO International Center on Nonviolent Conflict
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On October 2nd, the International Day of Non-Violence, our speakers Rev. Canon Leonard Hamlin, Hardy Merriman, Rivera Sun, and Mary Elizabeth King had an excellent discussion on the current state and relevance of nonviolent action in the contemporary globe. Our speakers guided and explored the current state of nonviolent action around the globe, its growing relevance amid social unrest, and efforts to make it an inherent element of individual and collective behavior.



"Resisting Injustice" with JIDS



"Few are guilty, but all are responsible." So said Abraham Joshua Heschel, reminding us of one of the key teachings of our Abrahamic Prophets. We are indeed all responsible for confronting and resisting injustice. But how do we do this wisely, effectively, and morally? Rumi Forum and JIDS brought in two leading experts to provide insights on this question.



"Human Fraternity" in World Interfaith Harmony Week



The eminent signatories of the Human Fraternity "ask that this Document become the object of research and reflection in all schools, universities and institutes of formation". Rumi Forum welcomed this call by hosting the panel "In the Name of Human Fraternity" on the first International Day of Human Fraternity. We had a spectrum of reflections by a panel of prominent Catholic and Muslim speakers and an interactive session that followed. The panel aimed to observe the first International Day of Human Fraternity by highlighting the operational vision of the Human Fraternity Document rather than being a ceremonial text of goodwill.



"Women Empowerment" with UNA-NCA



This panel is intended to explore the connection between faith and women empowerment with a particular focus on women's leadership. Our aim is to highlight the potential of faith in efforts for women's participation in decision making, elimination of violence, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls within the framework of the SDG5. The event shed a spotlight on the role of women leaders of faith as key stakeholders and entrepreneurs of change in achieving these goals.



Intern-led projects for youth

December 2020



Say YES
(Youth Empowered Solutions)
to Human Rights

Friday - December 11
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

In support of the UN SDGs



April 2021



A Muslim-Jewish Young Adult Dialogue and Iftar Event



Conversation: 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Social hour & Iftar: 7:30 - 8:15 pm



Interfaith Engagements

Community Events

Community Events is where we unite efforts with a large array of stakeholders. Together with our partners, we collaborate on occasions like iftars, concerts, and unity walks as opportunities for people of all walks of life to meet their neighbors in an interfaith context.

Religious Literacy

Religious Literacy gatherings provide space for members of different religious communities where they can learn about each other's faiths and strengthen the sense of cohesion through cordial conversations

Scriptural Reasoning

Scriptural Reasoning is a practice where Christians, Jews, and Muslims study each other's sacred texts. SR participants meet once a month to read short passages from their respective scriptures on a certain topic. Moderated by a study leader, each session is an opportunity to listen and share various perspectives. SR session thereby helps participants reflect on a curious list of topics within the Abrahamic tradition. The result is often a deeper understanding of others' and one's own scriptures, as well as the development of strong bonds across faith communities.

Community Events

Ramadan Iftar Series

In the very spirit of Ramadan in 2021, Rumi Forum coordinated the virtual iftar series throughout Ramadan. We invited everyone as we matched Muslim and non-Muslim friends, families, students, and professions to build new friendships and break bread together at iftar time. We had the pleasure of meeting with members and friends of Sikh Foundation of Virginia, Christian Science Church, LDS Church Annandale Stake, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, DC United Hindu Temples, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Braver Angels Fairfax County Alliance, Congregation Adat Reyim, and many more.



Rumi Forum
cordially welcomes you to

VIRTUAL RAMADAN IFTAR

Let's make this time of spatial
distancing an opportunity for socially
connecting.

While we can't be together in person,
we can still connect heart to heart,
break bread, share friendship &
conversation, and learn about each
other.

Ramadan Iftar Series

Sikh Foundation of Virginia



Congregation Adat Reyim



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

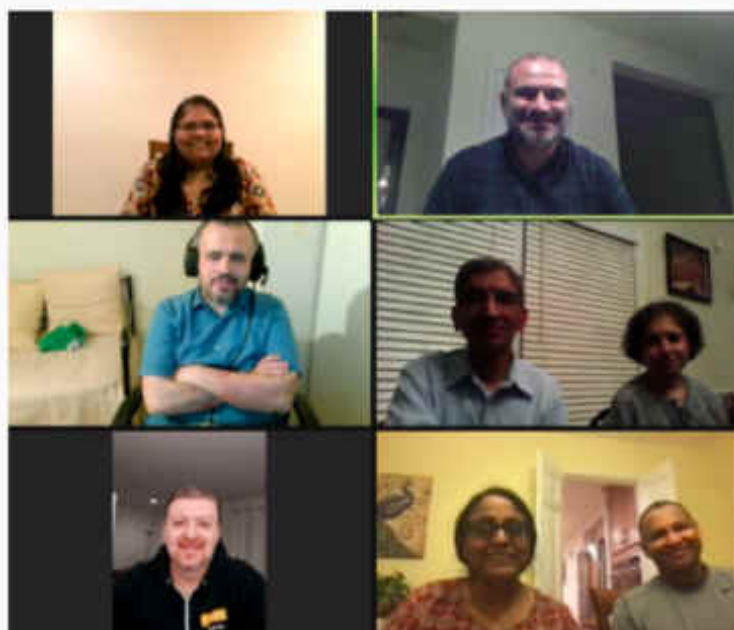


Ramadan Iftar Series

Christian Science Church



DC United Hindu Temples

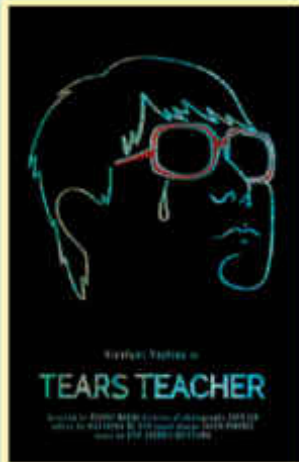


Ramadan Iftar Series

Braver Angels Fairfax County Alliance



Virtual Screenings



Screening and Discussion

TEARS TEACHER

A documentary about the healing power of crying, and a man's effort to help people discover it.



Virtual screening and conversation on the documentary,

"PURPLE"



Join us for a virtual discussion of Netflix Series

"STATELESS"

on

Friday, October 30

at

7:00 - 8:15 pm

Religious Literacy

Sacred Spaces



SACRED SPACES



Panelists

Clayton Foulger

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Stake President

Mehmet Ayaz

Ezher Bloom Mosque, Imam



Khenpo Samdup Rinpoche

Drikung Dharma Surya Center, Spiritual Director



Chana Leslie Glazer

Congregation Adat Reyim, Rabbi



Moderator

Regan Brough

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Stake, Stake Director of Communication

Tuesday, October 27
7:30 pm

Rumi Forum held a discussion on the significance and importance of sacred spaces in various faith traditions. In light of recent events where sacred spaces in a number of communities have been vandalized, we felt it's important to foster dialogue in an effort to preserve the spaces for the sacred functions for which they're intended. We believe that as people become better educated about the significance of sacred spaces, that respect for them will increase.



Scriptural Reasoning: Monthly Study Sessions



Scriptural Reasoning

WE PUT SCRIPTURES AT THE CENTER OF OUR
CONVERSATION



Monthly Topics

- Abraham's Hospitality
- Abraham's Journeys
- Beginnings 1
- Beginnings 2: Humanity
- Cain and Abel
- Modesty and Clothing
- Covenant

Interfaith Prayer

Prayer for National Understanding and Reconciliation

Tuesday, January 12th
5:00 pm ETS



The times we were going through were a call for greater efforts for cohesion. Rumi Forum invited distinguished faith leaders to participate with their powerful words of healing during the Prayer for National Understanding and Reconciliation. Faith leaders offered prayers for our nation. The multi-faith prayer service was live-streamed on Youtube



Interfaith Leadership Forum

Inaugural Forum



INTERFAITH
LEADERSHIP
FORUM

FROM INTERFAITH ENCOUNTER
TO ENGAGEMENT

SUNDAY, OCT 25
3:00-5:45 PM EST

MODERATED BY:



Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines
Assistant Pastor, National
City Christian Church



Rev. Dr. Larry Goleman
Executive Director,
Washington Theological
Consortium

PANELISTS:



Dr. Ori Soltes
Professor,
Georgetown University



Ann Delorey
Program Director,
Interfaith Council
of Greater Washington



Dr. Wilhelmus (Pim) Valkenberg
Professor, The Catholic
University of America



Ibrahim Anli
Executive Director
Rumi Forum

Interfaith Leadership Forum

Inaugural Forum

In October 2020, the inaugural event of the new Interfaith Leadership Forum explored how to deepen interfaith work in religious communities, professional life, and our culture. Leaders from all segments of society joined us for this virtual event. The theme for the Inaugural Event was **From Interfaith Encounter to Engagement.**

Breakout Session Topics

- Stories of Interfaith Dialogue
- Tackling Prejudices
- Learning from Differences
- Engaging a Racialized Society, and
- The Life Cycle of Dialogue

Interfaith Leadership Forum

2nd Forum



Human Dignity and Solidarity: Interfaith Responses to *Fratelli Tutti*

Keynote by Wilton Cardinal Gregory,
Catholic Archbishop of Washington

INTERFAITH PANEL RESPONSES



Brahmachari Vrajivhari Sharan
Director for Hindu Life,
Georgetown University



Imam Mohamed Magid
Executive Imam
All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS)



Debra Boudreax
Buddhist
Tzu Chi Foundation



Ori Z. Soltes
Professor
Center for Jewish
Civilization, Georgetown
University

*followed by an interfaith panel of Buddhist, Jewish, and Muslim
leaders and moderated issue-focused breakout sessions*

*A virtual program sponsored by
Interfaith Leadership Forum, including:*



**Thursday, May 20
6:00 - 7:00 pm EST**

Interfaith Leadership Forum

2nd Forum

On May 2020, **Fratelli Tutti (All brothers and sisters)** was the focal point of the 2nd Interfaith Leadership Forum. The conversation brought together a diverse array of faith leaders and scholars in the DMV area and beyond for an interactive exchange on some of the most pressing issues of our age. As the search for answers on how to emerge better into a post-pandemic society continues, a collective reflection on Fratelli Tutti can renew hopes and illuminate the way forward.

Breakout Session Topics

- Social and economic justice
- Racism, ethnocentrism, and white nationalism
- Immigration
- War and conflict resolution

Research Paper

Behind the Greatest Fortune and Misfortunes:
The Aftermath of ISIL and Responses to the
Destruction

by **Mona Elsaai**



Center for
Faith
Identity &
Globalization

**Behind the Greatest Fortune and Misfortunes:
The Aftermath of ISIL and Responses to the Destruction**

Associate Paper

Mona Elsaai
June 2021