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**2021-2022**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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# 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.

## 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

## "Peace in the Age of Chaos"

with Steve Killelea and Chic Dambach

"Peace in the Age of Chaos"

Book Talk by

**Steve Killelea**  
Founder and Executive Chairman  
Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)

**Chic Dambach**  
Adjunct Faculty Member  
Johns Hopkins and American Universities

**Speaker**  
Steve Killelea

**Discussant**  
Chic Dambach

Thursday, July 29 @ 7:00 pm EST

"Peace in The Age of Chaos" tells of Steve's personal journey to measure and understand peace. It explores the practical application of his work, which is gathering momentum at a rapid pace. In this time when we are faced with environmental, social, and economic challenges, this book shows us a way forward where Positive Peace, described as creating the optimal environment for human potential to flourish, can lead to a paradigm shift in the ways societies can be managed, making them more resilient and better capable of adapting to their changing environments.

# Book Talks

## “God’s Diplomats”

with Victor Gaetan and Martine Miller

The poster features a central white area with text and images. On the left, the title 'GOD'S DIPLOMATS' is written in blue. Below it is a portrait of Victor Gaetan, a man with dark hair wearing a blue and white patterned sweater over a green collared shirt. To the right of the portrait, the subtitle 'POPE FRANCIS, VATICAN DIPLOMACY AND AMERICA'S ARMAGEDDON' is written in blue. Further right, the text 'IN-PERSON BOOK TALK by Victor Gaetan' is displayed in blue, followed by the date and time 'Thursday, October 28 6:30 pm'. On the far right is a small image of the book cover, which shows a man in a white suit holding a globe. The background of the poster is white with green and blue geometric shapes in the corners.

**GOD'S DIPLOMATS**  
POPE FRANCIS, VATICAN DIPLOMACY AND AMERICA'S ARMAGEDDON

**IN-PERSON BOOK TALK**  
by  
**Victor Gaetan**

**Thursday, October 28**  
**6:30 pm**

Venue: Alex Gallery  
2106 R St NW, DC

Using inside sources and extensive field reporting about the secretive, high-stakes world of international diplomacy, Vatican reporter Victor Gaetan takes readers to the Holy See to explicate Pope Francis's diplomacy, show why it works, and offer readers a startling contrast to the dangerous inadequacies of recent U.S. international decisions.

# Book Talks

## “People of the Book” with Craig Considine

The poster features a white background with blue and orange geometric shapes in the corners. At the top, the title "PEOPLE OF THE BOOK" is written in blue, followed by the subtitle "PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRISTIANS" in a smaller blue font. On the left is a portrait of Dr. Craig Considine. In the center, the text reads "IN-PERSON BOOK TALK by Dr. Craig Considine" and "Thursday, December 9 6:30 pm EST". On the right is the book cover, which has a blue and white design with the title "PEOPLE OF THE BOOK" and the subtitle "PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRISTIANS" and the author's name "CRAIG CONSIDINE". At the bottom, the venue is listed as "Venue: Busboys & Poets - 450 K St NW".

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK  
PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRISTIANS

IN-PERSON  
BOOK TALK  
by  
Dr. Craig  
Considine

Thursday,  
December 9  
6:30 pm EST

Venue: Busboys & Poets - 450 K St NW

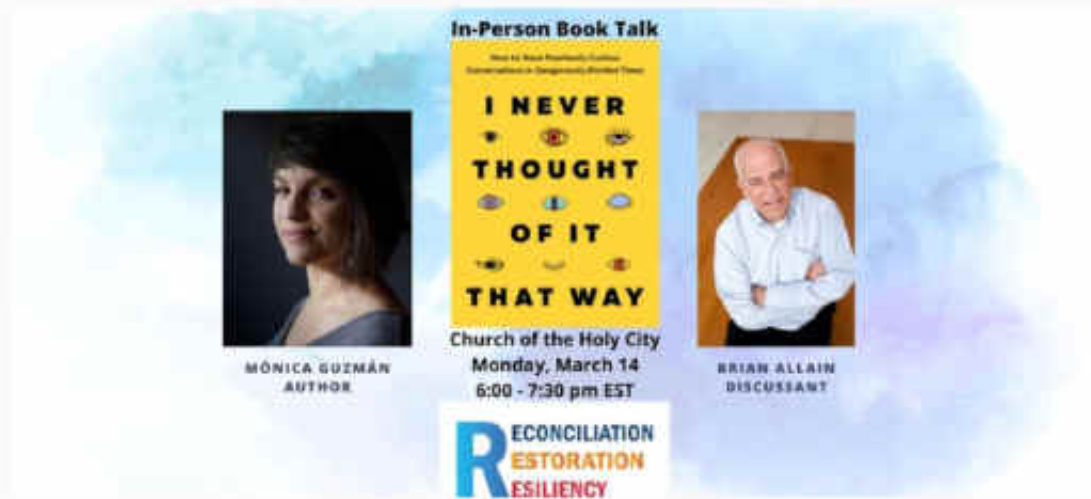
On December 9, 2021, participants joined this in-person book talk for a considered study of Muslim-Christian coexistence and dialogue in the time of Prophet Muhammad.

The Christians who lived around the Arabian Peninsula during Muhammad's lifetime are shrouded in mystery. Some of the stories of the Prophet's interactions with them are based on legends and myths, while others are more authentic and plausible. But who exactly were these Christians? Why did Muhammad interact with them as he reportedly did? And what lessons can today's Christians and Muslims learn from these encounters?

# Book Talks

## “I Never Thought of It That Way”

with Monica Guzman and Brian Allain



Journalist Mónica Guzmán is the loving liberal daughter of Mexican immigrants who voted—twice—for Donald Trump. When the country could no longer see straight across the political divide, Mónica set out to find what was blinding us and discovered the most eye-opening tool we’re not using: our curiosity.

In this timely, personal guide, Mónica Guzmán takes you to the real front lines of a crisis that threatens to grind America to a halt—broken conversations among confounded people. She shows you how to overcome the fear and certainty that surround us to finally do what only seems impossible: understand and even learn from people in your life whose whole worldview is different from or even opposed to yours.

# Panel Discussions

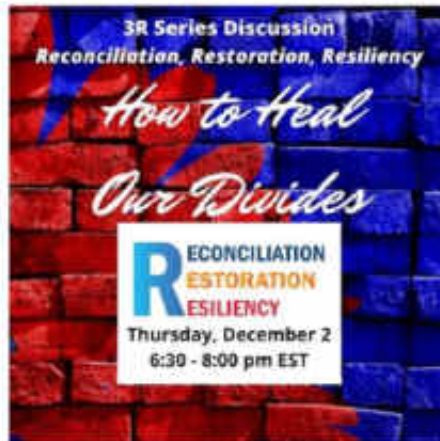
## “How to Heal Our Divides”



Allison Ralph, Ph.D.  
The Aspen Institute



Rev. Rich Tafel  
Church of the Holy City



Jeff Burns, Pathways to Peace



Martin Brooks, Peace Catalyst

### Rumi Forum launches **3R Series** “**Restoration, Reconciliation, Resiliency**”

We must restore our trust in our political system, government and agencies, civil society, and, more importantly, each other. Our goal with the **3R Series** is to inspire a vision of **Restoration** through **Reconciliation** and to remind ourselves of the **Resilience** Americans have repeatedly demonstrated under challenging times throughout our history. This effort will inspire hope, instill an urgency, and drive people to act to bridge the divides in our society so that we can heal and be whole again.

“**How to Heal Our Divides**” is a project aimed at building awareness of organizations taking real action to address these issues. The project is not an attempt to gloss over serious problems or “make happy” but to highlight tangible efforts that solve problems - healing divides in effective and practical ways.



# Panel Discussions

## “How to Heal Our Divides”



Rumi Forum, Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, and Prince George's County Memorial Library System presented a virtual panel discussion on **“How Do We Deal With Covid, Social Injustice, and Polarization?”** on February 3, 2022, for a conversation for our time, in recognition of World Interfaith Harmony Week.

How do we build and use interfaith harmony to develop restoration, reconciliation, and resiliency that apply to the world that we live in now? We are plagued by the Covid-19 pandemic, social injustice, economic inequities, limited and inequitable access to resources, environmental injustice, and the polarization of our times. Three faith leaders will consider these difficult questions and provide hope and practical solutions to taking steps toward restoration, reconciliation, and resiliency today.





# Panel Discussions

## “Modern Muslim and Jewish Thinkers Who Have Inspired Us”



On February 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., the Jewish Islamic Dialogue Society (JIDS) and Rumi Forum brought in four scholars to talk about Muslim and Jewish thinkers who left their mark on the modern world. We heard presentations about two contemporary Jewish thinkers: Rami Shapiro, who has brought a passion for various Eastern faiths into his study of Judaism, and Menachem Mendel Schneerson (aka the Lubavitcher Rebbe), whose ideas sparked the rapidly growing Chabad Movement within Judaism. We will also hear presentations about two modern Muslim thinkers: Said Nursi, whose commentary on the Qur'an inspired a renewed way of engaging with the contemporary age, and Muhammad Iqbal, who had a remarkable impact on Islam's intellectual and cultural reconstruction in South Asia and beyond.



# 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.

## Scriptural Reasoning

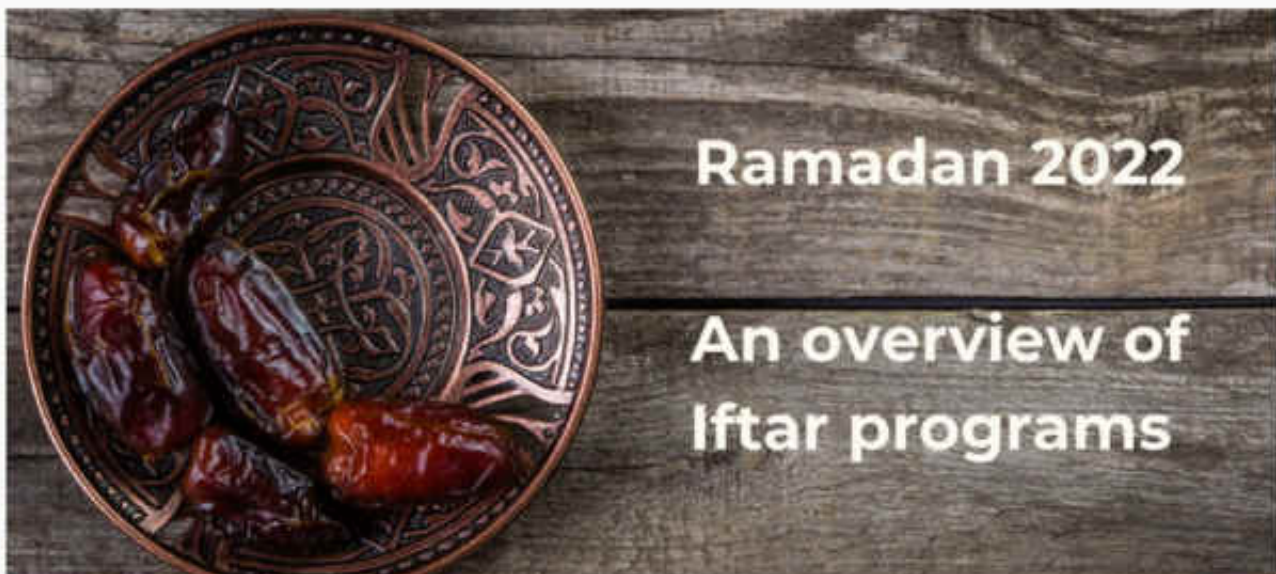
Scriptural Reasoning is a practice where Christians, Jews, and Muslims study each other's sacred texts. SR participants meet once a month to read short passages from their respective scriptures on a certain topic. Moderated by a study leader, each session is an opportunity to listen and share various 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

After two years of virtual Iftars, we had a joyous in-person Ramadan with our community partners. This also became our opportunity to launch the first in-person Scriptural Reasoning session, thanks to the hospitality of Virginia Theological Seminary.

Ramadan 2022 was an extraordinary time for Rumi Forum and its community partners. After two years of social distancing, this special period was the moment to reconnect with our friends and allies, sharing the joy of Iftar while engaging in fruitful conversations regarding future endeavors.



**Ramadan 2022**

**An overview of  
Iftar programs**

# Ramadan Iftar Series

## Interfaith Leadership Forum (ILF) Partners



## Church of the Holy City (Washington, DC) Congregation



# Ramadan Iftar Series

## Public Diplomacy Council (PDC) Members



## Braver Angels-Fairfax County Members



## Ramadan Iftar Series

**Scriptural Reasoning session on “Fasting” with  
LDS Church Reverse Open House members**



**Scriptural Reasoning on “Fasting” American  
University with Muslim Student Association**



# Ramadan Iftar Series

**Scriptural Reasoning session on “Fasting” with  
Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS)**



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute – George  
Mason University (OLLI-GMU) Members**



# Ramadan Iftar Series

**JAMAAT (Jews & Muslims & Allies Acting Together)  
& JIDS (Jewish-Islamic Dialog Society) Members**



## **Sikh Foundation of VA Members**





# Ramadan Iftar Series

## Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA) Members



## Holy Trinity Catholic Church (Washington, DC) Congregation



# Ramadan Iftar Series

## Adat Reyim (Springfield, VA) Congregation



## Peace Catalyst International`s Regional Coordinator



# Sufi Music Concert



Rumi Forum and FocusMusic were delighted to present "Tabla For Two," a unique duo consisting of Masood Omari and Abigail Adams Greenway. Tabla for Two performs traditional and classical music from Afghanistan and India, old Bollywood favorites, and Omari's original compositions, which blend classical Eastern beats with Western-style beats - a fusion of East and West mirrored in their partnership.

This performance featured select poems from Rumi, the great 13th-century mystic, poet, and jurist whose message of love, compassion, and mercy inspires millions today. The event will allow us to learn more about Rumi's legacy and core teachings as we reflect on some of his highlight lines before each song.



# Trudy Conway Memorial Fund



Trudy Conway was a much-loved and widely accomplished author and professor of philosophy at Mount St. Mary's University. She also served as a board member of the Rumi Forum.

To honor our former board member's legacy, Rumi Forum set up a fundraiser, "Trudy Conway Memorial Fund," to support Catholic Charities USA's efforts to help our new Afghan neighbors. With the support of our friends, we raised \$1,500.



# World Food Day Volunteer Event



Rumi Forum and its partners have participated in the largest Rise Against Hunger packing event in Virginia this year. 1,000+ volunteers packed 165,000 life-changing meals.

Thanks to Christian, Jewish, and Muslim community members, all generously sharing their time, talent, and treasure, 165,000 meals are packed for Haiti, which suffered massive devastation from a 7.2 magnitude earthquake followed only three days later by tropical depression Grace.



# Multi-faith Supplication



At a time of dramatic challenges, such as the surge in pandemic cases, the multi-faith prayer is intended to be a moment of supplication for Divine blessing. We also aim to make the healing words of different faiths known to others as we ask our Creator to deliver us from difficulties.

It was a pleasure to have faith leaders from various traditions who will offer healing or prayer from their own traditions. The event was broadcast live on YouTube and also posted on Rumi Forum's YouTube channel for those who want to watch and share it later.



# Scriptural Reasoning

## Monthly Study Sessions



## *Scriptural Reasoning*

WE PUT SCRIPTURES AT THE CENTER OF OUR  
CONVERSATION



### Monthly Topics

- Craft and Construction
- Created Human
- Delegating Responsibility
- Dreams
- Education and Learning
- Encountering God-1 & 2
- Encountering God-2
- Fasting
- Food
- Gates and Doors-1

# Interfaith Leadership Forum

## 3rd Forum



**Building Interfaith Partnerships  
Beyond Racism and Religious  
Nationalism**  
THURS, FEB 24TH  
6:45-9:20 PM ET  
ON ZOOM

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

  
Mark Juergensmeyer  
Founding Director of the Claremont Center for  
and International Studies of Claremont  
Graduate School, California State University

**PANELISTS:**

  
Rabbi Jack Rabinowitz, President,  
Interfaith Alliance

  
Cheryl Wilton  
Director of Education,  
Special Joint Committee for  
Religious Liberty

  
Peggy Kintner  
Senior Director, Religion and Faith,  
Center for American Progress

  
Sakran Singh  
Vice Chairman, JRF  
(Director of  
Religious Freedom)  
Secularism

It is a partnership of the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington,  
Rumi Forum and Washington Theological Consortium

Rumi Forum, Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington, and Washington Theological Consortium presented the 3rd Interfaith Leadership Forum: **“Building Interfaith Partnerships Beyond Racism and Religious Nationalism”** on February 24, 2022.



# Interfaith Leadership Forum

## 3rd Forum

Religious nationalism is on the rise worldwide. In the U.S., it has primarily taken the form of White Christian Nationalism: the affiliation of being White and Christian with belonging and mattering in this country. This program explored the nature of global nationalism and its specific manifestation in the U.S. First, we heard from Dr. Mark Juergensmeyer, who is an expert who has been studying this trend for over thirty years. His keynote remarks were followed by a panel of diverse faith leaders who shared their views on building interfaith solidarity to resist the White Supremacist Christian ideology threatening our nation. This program was a forum for people of faith to learn, become activated, and feel equipped to respond together effectively.

### **Panel Discussion Topics**

- The Interfaith Imperative
- Doctrine of Discovery, Manifest Destiny and Christian Nationalism: Nothing New
- The Pro-Democracy Faith Movement
- Religious Liberty and the Shortfall of Advocacy

# Research Papers

**“I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me”:  
The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in  
Immigration**

by **Bailey Haraburda**



Center for  
Faith  
Identity &  
Globalization

**“I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me”:  
The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in Immigration**

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Associate Paper

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**Bailey Haraburda**  
September 2021

# Research Papers

European Identities in the Context of  
Orientalism and Cultural Ambiguities

by **Ayşe Pirge**



Center for  
Faith  
Identity &  
Globalization

**European Identities in the Context of  
Orientalism and Cultural Ambiguities**

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Associate Paper

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**Ayşe Pirge**  
June 2022

# Research Papers

**The Power of Scripture:  
A Study of the Use of Sacred Texts in Combating  
Violence Against Women in Religiously Diverse  
Communities**

by **Sascha Shroff**



Center for  
Faith  
Identity &  
Globalization

**The Power of Scripture:  
A Study of the Use of Sacred Texts in Combating Violence  
Against Women in Religiously Diverse Communities**

Associate Paper

**Sascha Shroff**  
June 2022