



Spring Interfaith Council  
United for Understanding

## **Newsletter Volume 44 August, 2021**

All of us at the Spring Interfaith Council hope that you have had a summer that has been restful and yet engaging. As the summer ends and we invite you to participate in some of the interfaith events, gatherings, and opportunities in our community.

If you would like to become more involved in interfaith activities this fall, please send an email to [springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com) and we will be sure you receive a notice to our next planning meeting.

Also, please send us any ideas or suggestions for future events, discussions or gatherings that you would find meaningful. And finally, if your faith community has an event, gathering, activity, training class or an opportunity to serve the community and you would like to have that information included in our next newsletters, please send the information to us at [springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com) We aim to publish the newsletter about the first of each month.





## Women's Voices

After more than a year the **Women's Voices** interfaith discussion group will hold its first "in-person" regular monthly gathering on **Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>** from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. We invite women of all faiths (or women with no faith community) who want to engage in respectful discussion about spiritual issues with their neighbors to join us. For the start of 2021 we will gather in the Oasis Room at **Northwoods Presbyterian Church**, 3320 Cypress Creek Pkwy (FM 1960), at the intersection with T.C. Jester, Houston TX 77068.

The group selected **Embracing Uncertainty: Breakthrough Methods for Achieving Peace of Mind When Facing the Unknown** by Susan Jeffers to use as our discussion guide. The book has been described as powerful, life-affirming and healing, and we hope it will give us some good guidance as we move out of the pandemic into an uncertain future. For this first session, we ask everyone to read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2. It is available from Amazon in paperback (new and used) and in Kindle format.

For this first meeting only, the group is invited to come early at 12:00pm, and shop in the World Store just outside the Oasis Room. This special opportunity gives you a chance to buy something nice for yourself or as a gift while doing something good for others. Proceeds from all sales support the missions of Northwoods Presbyterian Church (<https://www.northwoods.org/missions/#> ). Here are some photos of samples of their merchandise.



The Women's Voices group meets on the first Thursday of every month, Contact Nancy Agafitei ([nancy.agafitei@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.agafitei@gmail.com)) for more information.

These are pictures from the Women's Voices summer gathering .





## **Welcome to the Interfaith Prayer Gatherings**

Time: 11:00 AM via Zoom.

Days: the SECOND and FOURTH TUESDAYS of every month.

Dates: **Tuesday, August 10, Education**  
**Tuesday, August 24, Love for Others**  
**Tuesday, September 14, Spiritual Strength**  
**Tuesday, September 28, Love Thy Neighbor**

In sharing prayers, readings, and music from our various Faith Traditions we receive encouragement, healing, unity, peace, and justice. Throughout this past year attendees have found new friendships, strength, and courage. We have learned that we are more alike than different whether we are: Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian, or independently spiritual. We would love to have you join us in our quest for unity.

The focal topics are shown above if you have a need or desire to pray for something that may appear to be outside of these focal qualities, please come and allow us to join you in praying for your need or concern.


You can join any of these gathering by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81197042692>


or by typing the Meeting ID into Zoom: 811 9704 2692

or by dialing in: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

The Gatherings have a simple, open format which includes prayers, readings, writings, and music focused on the selected topic. You are welcome to join in whatever format you feel most comfortable....by just listening or by sharing a favorite writing or prayer. We ask you to respect the space by keeping offerings around 3 minutes or less so everyone can have a turn and we also request that you keep this space a place where everyone can present their offering safely without feeling pressured or judged. We are all looking forward to having you join us! Everyone is invited to join in this Prayer Gathering sponsored by the Spring Interfaith Council.



Islamic Arts Society



# Art & Architecture of Coexistence: Past and Present.

Promoting interfaith dialogue, cross-cultural understanding & peace through art

**Shared Visual Cultures: The Art of Medieval Jews and Muslims.**  
*Diane Wolfthal - Rice University*

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**The Word Made Flesh: Incarnation, Sacrament, and the Arts in Christianity**  
*Louis Markos - Houston Baptist University*

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**Multicultural Architecture: Muslim Artisans and the Palace Church of Medieval Palermo, Sicily**  
*Farshid Emami - Rice University*


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**Cultivating Convergence: Qibla wall at the Islamic Cemetery in Austria**  
*Azra Aksamija - MIT*

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**Saturday August 14th, 2021**  
**3pm -4pm CST**  
[www.IslamicArtsSociety.org](http://www.IslamicArtsSociety.org)

Presentation followed by Q&A  
Register via Eventbrite  
<https://qr.go.page.link/gKU21>



**This is a panel discussion on the role of art and architecture in promoting interfaith dialogue, cross-cultural understanding and peace.** Throughout history, art and architecture has been a window into the lives and times of people, have captured their triumphs and tribulations, and expressed their emotions and feelings. People of diverse backgrounds have shared common art themes, adopted artistic forms from each other and coexisted in the space of art for centuries. Our panel of expert art historians come together to discuss how art and architecture can promote harmony and coexistence in our world today. Join Drs. Louis Markos (Houston Baptist University), Diane Wolfthal (Rice University), Farshid Emami (Rice University) and Azra Aksamija (MIT) to find how followers of different religions can come together through art to understand each other and live in peace and harmony.

## Interfaith Relations: What Have We Learned in the Twenty Years Since 9/11?



**Presents:**



**Participating Organizations:**  
The Barbara Bush Library  
The Pearl Fincher Museum  
The Islamic Art Society  
Saadia Faruqi

### What Have We Learned in the Twenty Years Since 9/11?

*Representatives from diverse faith  
traditions as well as artists and authors  
will present their thoughts.*

Saturday September 11, 2021  
4pm in the Forum at Cypress Creek  
Christian Church  
6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77379

Cypress Creek Christian Church will present a 9/11 program to reflect on the tragic events of twenty years ago.

Presenters will include:

Dr. Khawaja Azimuddin from the Islamic Art Society and other local artists will discuss their work and how interfaith relations have shaped and influenced them.

Saadia Faruqi, the author of the book, "Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero", will share the theme of her book which is about a young man who personally experiences the aftermath of 9/11 in how he is treated by others.

Cypress Creek Christian Church will reflect on how our society has changed and what we have learned as a result of those events twenty years ago.

The Barbara Bush Library will have a display of books written on the subject and available at the event. These books may be checked out at the event using the library's mobile app.

The Pearl Fincher Museum will also have an event at their facility next door to the Church.

The event will take place at Cypress Creek Christian Church, 6823 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379 on **Saturday September 11, 2021** at 4pm. A reception will follow with the opportunity to meet the speakers.



NORTHWEST ASSISTANCE  
MINISTRIES

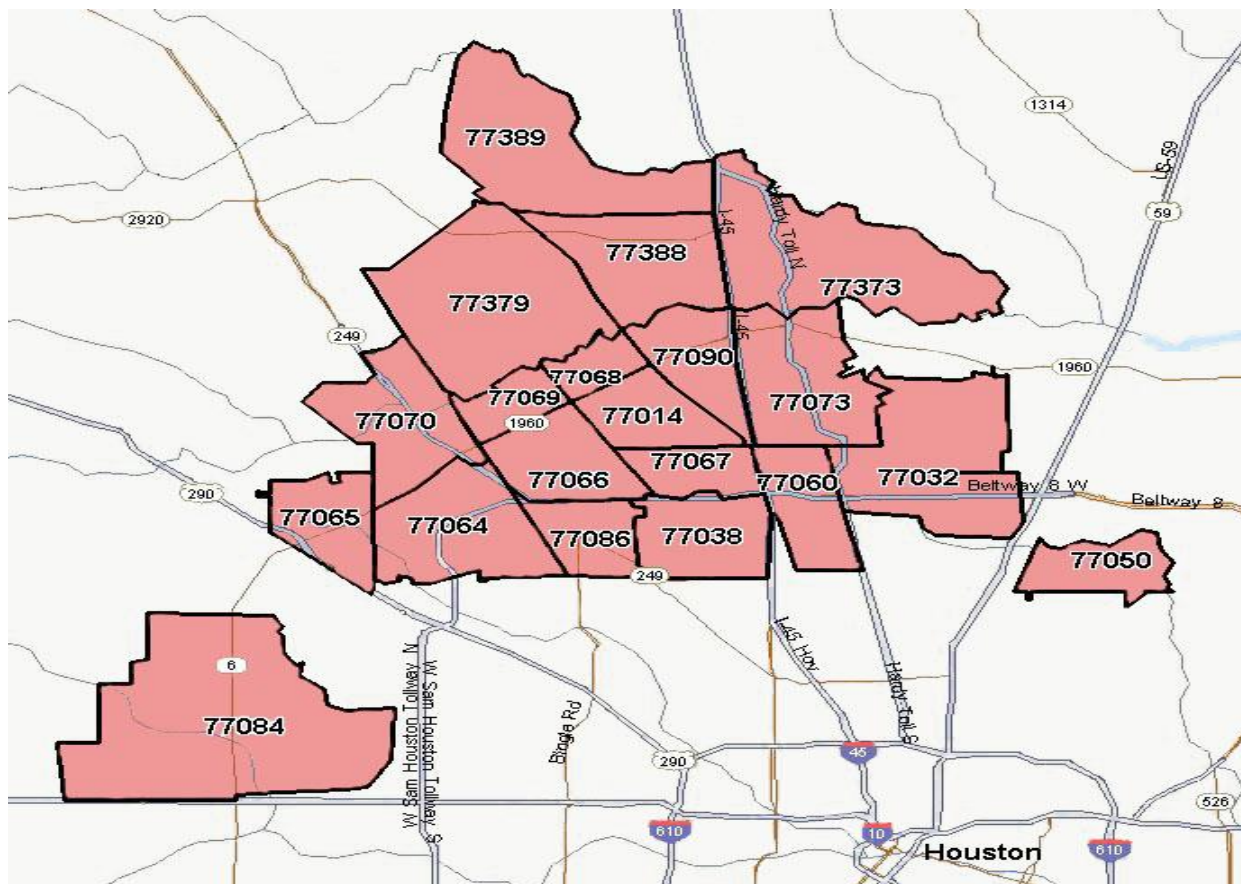
*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

Northwest Assistance Ministries

<http://www.namonline.org/>

500 boxes of food along with the **school supplies** will be handed out on **August 7th** at Northwest Assistance Ministries. NAM continues helping anyone needing food, currently assisting 30-40 families a day. NAM's other programs and services include, rental assistance, showers and clean clothes for the homeless, support for families experiencing domestic violence, employment training, as well as mental health programs and assistance for Veterans. For assistance you can walk into NAM's intake office located on the first floor of NAM's main building (15555 Kuykendahl Rd., Houston TX 77090, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. For questions or concerns please call (281) 885-4555 or visit [www.namonline.org](http://www.namonline.org)

If you would like to volunteer with NAM, please visit [www.namonline.org/volunteer](http://www.namonline.org/volunteer) and complete the application. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Erica Bryant at (281) 855-4604.



## Open Wide Our Hearts Community Conversations Group

St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church in Spring, Texas invites you to join us for a monthly online community conversation about race, faith, and finding our way forward in love. Each *Open Wide Our Hearts* meeting includes a speaker on a relevant topic, a presentation on anti-racism skills-building, and small group discussion. Meetings are held online from **10am-noon**. Our next discussion will be on **Wednesday, August 18th**.

Please join the conversation by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAude-rqDMjHdM-AbcNDBZLVhUnNPFQ2SDL> Or for more information contact Amy Auzenne at [aauzenne@silcc.org](mailto:aauzenne@silcc.org) or call **281-370-3401**.



### open wide our hearts

Reflections from the United States Catholic  
Bishops' pastoral letter on racism

*St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church invites you to join us  
for an online community conversation about race, faith,  
and finding our way forward in love.*



# BYSTANDER INTERVENTION 101

If you are interested in learning how to stand up to identity based harassment when you encounter it, you might consider this training class.

## YOU CAN STAND UP TO IDENTITY-BASED HARASSMENT

### BYSTANDER INTERVENTION 101

PRESENTED BY



HOUSTON  
COALITION  
AGAINST  
HATE



This 1.5-hour interactive webinar offers concrete tips for safely standing up to hate and bigotry in person and online.

The next webinar will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 PM  
Register at: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CUyoqHldQmqc9UKjts\\_Cdw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CUyoqHldQmqc9UKjts_Cdw)

The final webinar will be held on September 18th from 12:00-1:30 PM.

You can register for this webinar at:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Kb5eyGbaQZa3mOH8vmaBVw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kb5eyGbaQZa3mOH8vmaBVw)



821 Peakwood  
Houston, TX 77090  
Phone 832-965-5511

### **Hope Center Houston is serving Guests**

While our number one priority is the health and safety of our guests, staff and volunteers, our homeless community is still in dire need of our services. To continue our mission of feeding the homeless, we serve a hot lunch on the front porch of the Center and deliver mail between 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Manna bags are provided for the weekends.

Our Center is open for services such as counseling, showers, clothes washing and clothes pickup by appointment only, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Masks and proper social distancing are required and practiced. For more information, to donate or volunteer please visit the Hope Center Houston website: <https://www.hopecenterhouston.org/>

Needs at the Center:

#### **URGENT NEEDS**

- Styrofoam food trays with lids
- Lysol Spray
- Deodorant and Toothpaste (travel size)
- Bottled Water
- Paper Towels

#### **CLOTHING NEEDS**

- Men's boxer briefs (no white) all sizes, new
- Men's jeans sizes 30-36
- Men's belts
- Men's and Women's shoes
- Women's bras and sports bras, all sizes
- Athletic/Tennis shoes (new or gently used)

#### **ONGOING NEEDS**

- Trash bags - Kitchen (13 gal.), Liner (55-60 gal.)
- Plastic utensils
- Coffee
- Women's Hygiene products
- Latex Gloves - large
- Gift cards to Kroger, Walmart, H-E-B, Sam's, Office Depot



## Hope Center Houston 4th Annual Golf Tournament

Hope Center Houston is preparing for the 4th Annual Hope Center Houston Golf Tournament.

Registration is now open for anyone that would like to participate.

The date is set for **Monday, September 27, 2021.**

Entries can sign up [here](#).

Please contact Joe Wilson at 832-965-5511  
or [info@hopecenterhouston.org](mailto:info@hopecenterhouston.org) with any questions.

## Resources Available to the Spring Community

So, if your faith community has a resource to offer, please send an email containing information about that resource to [springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com) and we will include the information on the listing.

### Resources for the Spring Community - Updated 4-27-2020

| Resource                       | What is provided  | Provider/Sponsor  | Contact Information  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Medical Clinics</b>         | Medical Care  | Masjid Al Salam Mosque  | <a href="mailto:ahsanhuq@sbcglobal.net">ahsanhuq@sbcglobal.net</a>   |
|                                | Medical Care  | Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)   | Assistance Office at 281-583-5600  |
| <b>Housing</b>                 | Rehousing   | Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)   | Assistance Office at 281-583-5600  |
| <b>Transportation</b>          | Transportation  | Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)   | Assistance Office at 281-583-5600  |
| <b>Family Support</b>          | Food pantry, Counseling, Health Services, After School Clubs, Literacy, Educational Support | Bridging For Tomorrow<br><a href="http://www.bridgingfortomorrow.org">www.bridgingfortomorrow.org</a><br>Serving ZIP Codes: 77066, 77086, | 5351 W. Richey Road<br>Houston, TX 77066<br>Phone: 281-203-0830<br>Email:<br><a href="mailto:infor@bridgingfortomorrow.org">infor@bridgingfortomorrow.org</a>                    |
| <b>Employment Assistance</b>   | Counseling and training to help those who lost jobs   | Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)   | Assistance Office at 281-583-5600  |
| <b>Food</b>                    | Food  | Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)   | Assistance Office at 281-583-5600  |
| <b>Mobil Food Distribution</b> | Food  | Kinsmen Lutheran Church, Bridging for Tomorrow, Houston Food Bank   | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 8-11 AM<br>Mobil Food Distribution at Kinsmen Lutheran Church, 12100 Champion Forest Dr, Houston, 77066 Phone: 281-444-3137, ext 143 |
| <b>Clothing</b>                | Clothing  | Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)   | Assistance Office at 281-583-5600  |

# Do You Have An Announcement?



If you have an event or announcement you would like to include in future newsletters, please send the information to Linda Barry at [springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com). Our newsletter will be sent out via email no later than the first week of each month. Therefore, please send the information about your event or announcement no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to the event.

## Subscription Information

If you have friends who might enjoy receiving this newsletter, please forward this copy of the newsletter to them. Anyone can subscribe by clicking the following link [Subscribe to Newsletter](#) and then ask to receive our newsletter. Or if you do not wish to receive this newsletter in the future, please click the following link and ask to have your name removed from our subscribers list. [Please remove my name](#) Or you may call Linda Barry at 281-350-8420 to subscribe or unsubscribe. Also, please feel free to print and post this newsletter on your faith community bulletin board.

## BULLETIN BLURBS

These snippets are available for you to copy and paste into your faith community bulletins or to print out and serve as a personal reminder

### Women's Voices In-Person Meeting

The next Interfaith Women's Voices' monthly meeting will be on **Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM** at Northwoods Presbyterian Church, 3320 Cypress Creek Pkwy (FM 1960), Houston TX 77068. For more information email: [nancy.agafitei@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.agafitei@gmail.com)

**Interfaith Prayer Gatherings for the month of August** will focus on Education, and Love of others

**First prayer gathering**

Time: **Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM**

**Second prayer gathering**

Time: **Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM**

**Zoom Link for meetings:** : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81197042692>

Meeting ID: 811 9704 2692 or Dial in: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

### Art and Architecture of Coexistence: Past and Present

The Islamic Arts Society will offer a presentation and Q&A on **Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM** on Art and Architecture of Coexistence: Past and Present. Register via Eventbrite at:

<https://qrqo.page.link/gKU21>

### Open Wide Our Hearts Community Conversations

St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church will host the next "Open Wide Our Hearts Community Conversation" on Zoom on **Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM** . To register email or call [aauzenne@silcc.org](mailto:aauzenne@silcc.org) / 281-370-3401.

### BYSTANDER INTERVENTION 101

Bystander Intervention webinar will be held on **August 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 PM**. This webinar is sponsored by: Houston Coalition Against Hate, Advocate Greater Houston, and Hollaback. Register at: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CUyoqHldQmqc9UKjts\\_Cdw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CUyoqHldQmqc9UKjts_Cdw)

### What Have We Learned in the Twenty Years Since 9/11?

Cypress Creek Christian Church will present a 9/11 program **Saturday, September 11 at 4 PM** at Cypress Creek Christian Church, 6823 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379

### Hope Center Houston 4th Annual Golf Tournament

Hope Center Houston 4th Annual Golf Tournament will be held **Monday, September 27, 2021**. Registration is now open. Contact Joe Wilson at 832-965-5511 or [info@hopecenterhouston.org](mailto:info@hopecenterhouston.org).