

# Schedule Overview

Faith Over Fear – Nashville | February 28-29, 2020  
Otter Creek Church | 409 Franklin Rd, Brentwood, TN 37027

## Friday, February 28, 2020 | 6:00 - 9:00pm

### **6:00pm - 7:15pm | Welcoming Dinner & Table Conversations**

Pastor Josh Graves, Otter Creek Church  
Dr. Mallory Wyckoff, Faith & Culture Center  
Dr. Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder

### **7:15pm - 8:45pm | Keynote Address & Conversation**

Toni Collier and Saadia Qureshi, Preemptive Love  
&  
Dr. Simran Jeet Singh, Professor/Writer/Activist, The Sikh Coalition  
Dr. Todd Green, Luther College  
Samar Ali, Millions of Conversations  
Moderated by Dr. Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder

## Saturday, February 29, 2020 | 8:30am - 4:00pm

### **8:30am - 9:00am | Registration, Coffee & Light Refreshments**

### **9:00am - 9:30am | Orientation & Why We're Here**

This opening Faith Over Fear session will feature some words of welcome & orientation, group introductions, an internal check-in, and a live anonymous poll paired with research.

Pastor Josh Graves, Otter Creek Church  
Dr. Mallory Wyckoff, Faith & Culture Center  
Dr. Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder  
Azka Mahmood, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

### **9:30am - 10:30 am | Understanding the Issue: Contextualizing Anti-Muslim Bigotry**

Participants will engage in a 'Teaching for Change' Gallery Walk aimed at helping people understand the complexity of anti-Muslim discrimination & violence in order to begin shaping our responses to it, followed by a discussion with:

Aisha Lbhalla, Founder Muslim Women's Council and Faith & Culture Center Advisory Board Member  
Dr. Todd Green, Professor, Luther College, and author of *The Fear of Islam*  
Dr. Simran Jeet Singh, Professor/Writer/Activist, Sikh Coalition  
Azka Mahmood, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding  
Moderated by Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

### **10:30am - 10:45 am | Coffee Break**

### **10:45am - 11:45 am | Messaging and Communicating to Create Change, Part 1**

This core Faith Over Fear workshop block features content from the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) ReThink Media, OverZero, and Shoulder to Shoulder. Part 1 will include a discussion of the underlying dynamics, the psychology of fear, and trends and patterns of countering dangerous speech.

Samantha Owens, OverZero

### **11:45am - 1:15 pm | Lunch & “But What About...” Conversation**

This moderated conversation on hot button topics, common tropes, myths, and misperceptions will dive into the hard issues that come up in this space that we sometimes brush over - i.e., evangelism, political polarization, etc.

Nahed Zehr, Former Faith & Culture Center Executive Director, Palestinian-Christian  
Samar Ali, Millions of Conversations

Dr. Issam Eido, Vanderbilt University

Martin Brooks, Acting President, Peace Catalyst International

Moderated by Dr. Mallory Wyckoff, Faith & Culture Center

### **1:15pm - 2:15pm | Messaging and Communicating to Create Change, Part 2**

Part 2 of this segment will move into designing values-based communications based on top messaging findings and communications fundamentals & tips for public and private settings. The presentation will be followed by learning groups, an interactive opportunity to unpack the content from the messaging/communications sessions.

Corey Saylor, ReThink Media

Dr. Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder

### **2:15 - 3:00 pm | Strategies for Engagement & Change: A Panel Discussion**

This panel will focus on some key ways people have navigated the challenges of showing up for one another and reaching beyond the interfaith choir. Catherine Orsborn will moderate a conversation with a few partners who have been successful in organizing on different fronts and different contexts, including “firefighting” and “tree planting”:

Daoud Abudiab, Faith & Culture Center Co-Founder and Board President

Saadia Qureshi, Preemptive Love

Wes Harrell, Siloam Health

Matthew Hawkins, Board Member, One America Movement; formerly with Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Emily Baird-Chrisohon, Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition

Moderated by Dr. Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder

### **3:00-3:10 pm | Break**

### **3:10 - 4:00 pm | Developing Your Strategy, Next Steps & Closing**

Participants will continue to unpack and develop their values-based communications messaging work and delve deeper into audience mapping and an attitudes & involvement chart for strategically moving people toward positive & active engagement.

Dr. Catherine Orsborn, Shoulder to Shoulder

### **Closing & Next Steps**

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

Dr. Mallory Wyckoff, Faith & Culture Center

## **Speaker Biographies**

*Arranged in alphabetical order by Last Name*

**Daoud Abudiab** is President and Founder of Faith & Culture Center and a recipient of the 2016 Goldziher Award for The Our Muslim Neighbor Initiative. He is a veteran healthcare executive with more than 25 years in physician group management. Daoud received his Masters of Health Services Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. In 2010, Abudiab was recognized by the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition with the Johnny Hayes American Dream Award, and in 2012 received the Rising Advocate Award by the Tennessee Human Rights Commission. In addition to spending time with his wife and three children, Daoud Abudiab continues to serve in leadership positions with several community organizations.

**Samar Ali** is an entrepreneur and lawyer whose international career has spanned tenures at the White House, in South Africa, at the State Government of Tennessee. Samar is a recipient of the White House Fellows IMPACT Award and the Young Alumni Professional Achievement Award from Vanderbilt University. As a White House Fellow in President Barack Obama's administration, Ali worked closely with U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, focusing on bilateral national security negotiations. After Ali's time in federal government, she served as Assistant Commissioner for International Affairs to Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam. Samar later co-founded Lodestone Advisory Group, a multi-national consulting firm. She maintains her law practice through Bass Berry & Sims with a focus on national security and cybersecurity law. She is a Young Global Leader with the World Economic Forum; a Term Member with the Council on Foreign Relations; and is a Winrock International Board Member. Samar is also an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University School of Law and sits on the board of several non-profit and educational institutions, including Vanderbilt Law School. She is also a Commissioner on the Nashville Metro Council Human Relations Commission, whose mission is to protect the personal dignity, peace, safety, security, health and general welfare of all people in Nashville and Davidson County. With a background in national security and conflict mediation, Samar now leads the Millions of Conversations Campaign. Her work is featured in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Tedx Nashville, the Tennessean and she is currently working on a book about finding belonging in America today.

**Emily Baird-Chrisohon** is originally from Alabama, and after graduating from Berry College, Emily became the Managing Director of a team building company in Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to joining the staff of Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) in April 2018, Emily was the Regional Organizer with Religions for Peace USA and the Director of A Seat At The Table Knoxville. She holds a Master of Divinity with a certificate in Religion in the Arts and Contemporary Culture at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Emily was a 2017 New Leaders Council (NLC) Fellow and now serves on the NCL Nashville board. As the Welcoming Tennessee Coordinator for TIRRC, she works to foster a more positive narrative around immigration and create opportunities for local communities to better welcome their immigrant and refugee neighbors.

**Martin Brooks** is the Interim President of Peace Catalyst International, a Jesus-centered peacemaking organization that focuses on building relationships between Christians and Muslims. Peace Catalyst is a growing organization of 40 people, located in 15 cities in the USA, Bosnia and Indonesia. Martin is overseeing the mission, strategy and development of the organization. Martin has been a pastor and a missionary with the Christian Churches. He has been with Peace Catalyst since 2011 when he and his wife returned from Turkish Cyprus. Martin lives in Louisville, Ky where he works with local churches and mosques to create safe spaces to ask questions and build greater trust between Christians and Muslims. He has organized

dialogue events, service projects, iftar meals and “Peace Feasts” with Palestinians, Syrians, Turks, Pakistanis, Somalis, Kurds, and Iranians. He works with city officials, refugee agencies, local clergy and interfaith groups to seek the peace of the city and mutual thriving for all. You can follow his work on Facebook at Peace Catalyst International (Midwest Region). Peace Catalyst is always looking for more peacemakers to expand the work to additional cities. You can see openings or make inquiries at [www.PeaceCatalyst.org](http://www.PeaceCatalyst.org). Martin is married to Susan Brooks who uses her artistic skills as a visual peacemaker. They are based in Louisville, Kentucky with their three children and nine grandchildren nearby.

**Issam Eido** is a Senior Lecturer and the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University, a board member of FCC, a former Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies and Arabic from the University of Chicago Divinity School (2013-2015), and a former fellow of the “Europe in the Middle East/Middle East in Europe” (EUME) Research program at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. Eido's research focuses on the Qur'an in late antiquity, Hadīth Studies, Sufism and Islamic ethics. Prior to the Syrian Uprising, Eido served as a lecturer in the faculty of Islamic Studies at the University of Damascus. His doctoral work, 'Early Hadīth Scholars and their Criteria of Hadīth Criticism,' presented a new understanding of the criteria used by Muslim scholars in accepting or rejecting traditions attributed to Muhammad and the transformations of that criteria from the classical to the modern period. Eido has also become active locally in the arts since moving to Nashville. Most significantly, he worked closely with Nashville Ballet to produce the world premiere of Layla and the Majnun.

**Nina M. Fernando** serves as Program Director at The Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, a multifaith coalition of religious denominations and faith-based organizations committed to countering anti-Muslim discrimination and violence in the United States and building a society where all are treated with dignity and respect. She joined the Shoulder to Shoulder team in August of 2017. Prior to this, she worked as a LankaCorps Fellow with The Asia Foundation at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka, a Faith-Rooted Organizer with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice in Southern California, and most recently, a 2018 OneBeat Fellow. In addition to her work at Shoulder to Shoulder, Nina regularly performs as a vocalist and songwriter. She graduated with BA in "Social Change through Music and Religious Studies" from the University of Redlands, Johnston Center for Integrative Studies, and a MA in "Interdisciplinary Interreligious and Cultural Studies" at Claremont School of Theology.

**Todd Green** is Associate Professor of Religion at Luther College. A nationally recognized expert on Islamophobia, Green served as a Franklin Fellow at the U.S. State Department in 2016-17, where he analyzed and assessed the impact of anti-Muslim prejudice in Europe on countering violent extremism initiatives, refugee and migrant policies, and human rights. He has also given lectures on Islamophobia to other federal agencies, including the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security. Green is a public scholar and is the author of *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West* (Fortress Press, 2015). The book surveys the history of anti-Muslim prejudice in Europe and the United States and addresses the political and cultural factors contributing to the rise of Islamophobia in the post-9/11 era. Green's most recent book is *Presumed Guilty: Why We Shouldn't Ask Muslims to Condemn Terrorism* (Fortress Press, 2018). In this book, Green argues that asking Muslims to condemn terrorist attacks is a distraction that prevents majority populations in the United States and Europe both from facing their own violent histories and from asking critical questions about how their countries' national security initiatives and foreign policies contribute to a violent world order.

**Wes Harrell** serves on Siloam Health's development team as their Director of Engagement,

overseeing church, community, and volunteer engagement. He has been a part of the Siloam Health team and Nashville community since 2013. Siloam Health is a faith-based, charitably funded nonprofit organization that provides low-cost, high-quality, whole-person care to the uninsured in Middle Tennessee as well as health promotion among our city's immigrant and refugee communities. Siloam's mission is to share the love of Christ by serving those in need through health care.

**Matthew Hawkins** is a Ph.D. student in public theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Alongside, he cohosts the Crossing Faiths podcast with a Muslim friend. Matt's career spans 18 years at the intersection of religion and politics, including over a decade of broadcast experience and 8 years in government relations. Most recently he served in Washington, D.C. as a policy director for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), the public policy entity of the largest organization of Protestant churches in the United States. During that role he hosted a podcast for four years that featured members of Congress, ambassadors, and other policy makers. Matt also participated in the International Religious Freedom Roundtable, serving as co-chair of the congressional working group and on the steering committee. Earlier in his career, Matt served as executive producer for two nationally syndicated radio broadcasts. Matt remains an Associate Fellow with the ERLC's Research Institute and serves as a board member for One America Movement, an organization that reduces polarization by bringing Americans together across racial, religious, and political divides. His writing has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, at ERLC.com, and in a collaborative chapter for The Rhetoric of Religious Freedom in the United States. Matt holds an M.A. in Philosophy (Ethics & Public Affairs) from George Mason University and a B.B.A. in Music Business from Belmont University. He lives with his wife Crystal (a nurse practitioner) and his daughter Maggie Jo in Lebanon, TN where they are members of Fairview Church. More info at [matthewhawkins.com](http://matthewhawkins.com).

**Cassandra Lawrence** consults with Shoulder to Shoulder on campaign messaging and communications to equip and engage faith communities and people of good will to end Anti-Muslim bigotry. Cassandra has worked at the intersection of religion and diplomacy. Previously she worked with the diplomatic community to better engage religious and traditional peacemakers. She has worked with Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs for two years on the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge International Program. She is a trained mediator by Mediation Northern Ireland, a dialogue facilitator, and an interfaith and racial justice community organizer. She has a BA in Religious Studies from the University of British Columbia and master's degree in comparative ethnic conflict from Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. She is currently pursuing her Master's of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary focusing on Public Theology.

**Azka Mahmood** is a Pakistani-American advocate for human and civil rights. She has a background in research, policy analysis, and social inequalities. Azka believes in creating research-informed social change and policy reform. She holds a Master's degree in Sociology and a bachelor's degree in Economics. Azka's focus is on American Muslims and their engagement in social and political spheres. She co-authored ISPU's American Muslim Poll 2019 and is currently engaged in research and education projects with the ISPU

**Catherine Orsborn** has served as the Executive Director of Shoulder to Shoulder since 2014. Previously, Catherine co-led the Social Justice Community at the University of Denver while working on her doctoral studies in religion, conflict and peace. She also worked as a researcher at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, examining the interactions between religion and peacebuilding in deeply divided societies. Catherine received her undergraduate degree from Asbury University, holds a master's and PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Denver.

Born and raised in Kentucky, Catherine recently relocated from Washington, D.C., to Nashville, TN, with her husband, son, and daughter.

**Samantha Owens** is the Trainer at Over Zero, which supports societies to resist division and create long-term resilience to identity-based conflict through trainings, strategy advising, piloting and testing new approaches, and supporting interdisciplinary research. Samantha's work has focused on using strategic communications, in particular creative multimedia, to educate and foster social change. This work has spanned the globe and included projects such as National Runaway Prevention Month, a national awareness campaign about changing narratives around youth homelessness in the United States; The Prosecutors, a full-length documentary about the prosecution of sexual violence in conflict as a war crime; and On the Margins, a photo exhibition documenting the widespread discrimination faced by Bosnia and Herzegovina's Roma community. Samantha holds a B.A. in International Studies and Religious Studies from Northwestern University and an M.A. in Human Rights from University College London, where her studies focused on the economic, social and cultural rights of ethnic and religious minorities.

**Saadia Qureshi** worked for the government to ensure compliance of landfills and power generation facilities after graduating as an Environmental Engineer. She took a pause to raise her family and volunteer for several non-profits, ultimately discovering herself by being an active, responsible citizen in her hometown of Oviedo, Florida. Saadia believes meaningful friendships can be found in unexpected places. Her work to show neighbors how similar we are regardless of ethnic or religious differences led her to Preemptive Love. As a Gathering Coordinator, Saadia hopes to spread this message to communities nationwide. If she's not participating at an event around town, you may find Saadia picking up after her two girls, reminding her husband where he left his wallet, or saving the last three bananas for her famous banana bread.

**Corey Saylor** is the Deputy Director of Strategy at ReThink Media. In this role, he works with a specialized team of ReThink professionals to protect human and civil rights in a post-9/11 world. He has spent over 20 years in non-profit advocacy working on political communications, media relations and combatting anti-Islam prejudice in the United States. He has appeared on news outlets ranging from Fox News to CNN, the BBC, the New York Times and Al Jazeera. He has run successful advocacy campaigns holding major companies such as Burger King, American Express and Bell Helicopter-Boeing accountable for their corporate policies as well as combatting anti-Islam legislation nationwide and removing biased and inaccurate materials from law enforcement counterterrorism trainings. Corey has also authored a number of reports documenting anti-Islam sentiment and civil rights issues in the United States. For instance, *Confronting Fear*, produced in partnership with staff at the University of California, Berkeley, explores the funding and impact of U.S. anti-Muslim groups. Corey has also conducted dozens of leadership, advocacy and media trainings across the United States, including speaking to audiences at NASA, Yale, Princeton, and the U.S. National War College. Saylor is an avid DC United fan. He reads entirely too many history books and often bores his family with long walks on Civil War battlefields. He is convinced one of his daughters will become President of the United States and the other will win a Nobel Prize. He just cannot decide which one and in what order.

**Dr. Simran Jeet Singh** is an educator, scholar, and activist who speaks regularly on issues of diversity, equity, race, and religion. Audiences are inspired by his hopeful vision for a more inclusive, peaceful world. An accomplished professor, author, and dad-joke teller, Simran uses personal stories, humor, and a love of pop culture to connect with people. That's because Simran understands that marginalized groups will not lecture their way into dignity. Empathy is nurtured through personal relationships and Simran has forged these connections through a variety of media, including writing, personal connection, and his new podcast, *Spirited*. Simran has

recently added author to his resume. His new picture book, 'Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon' (Penguin Random House), is now available for pre-order. Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Simran is a diehard Spurs fan and an avid marathoner. He lives in Manhattan, New York with his wife and two daughters. Current Appointments: Visiting Professor, Union Seminary; Columnist, Religion News Service; Host, 'Spirited'; Senior Fellow, Sikh Coalition; Chaplain, New York University & Columbia University; Governor's Interfaith Advisory Committee for the State of New York.

**Dr. Mallory Wyckoff** is a Florida native living in Nashville, TN with her husband, Tim, and daughters Olive and Ivy. She is honored to serve as executive director of Faith and Culture Center, working to help bridge divides of religion, race, ethnicity, and culture. She is a professor in the Bible department at Lipscomb University and the Institute for Christian Spirituality. Prior to teaching, Mallory spent 5 years working with women survivors of trauma, which inspired her doctoral research. Mallory's fundamental conviction is that human dignity is the answer to every question, and she kindly requests that you let her know if you have any ways of helping her meet Justin Timberlake.

**Aisha Lbhalla** has engaged in community outreach and faith education for over 20 years. In 2011 she formed The Muslim Women's Council which brings cultural understanding of Islam and Muslims to the public in order to correct misinformation and stereotypes particularly those about Muslim women. Additionally, the Council organizes activities that focus on the education, social and personal development of women and children in the community. Aisha is a twice mayor appointed Commissioner to the Metro Human Relations Commission. In 2019, she was mayor appointed again, this time to the NECAT (Nashville Education & Community Arts Television) Board of Directors. She serves on various advisory boards such as the Nashville's Religious Communicators Council, the Faith & Culture Center and Vanderbilt Divinity School Board of Visitors. For her community work, she was the Human Rights "Rising Advocate" honoree at the 2015 Tennessee Celebration of Human Rights Day. In 2016, she was selected by the White House to attend President Obama's United State of Women Summit aimed at improving the quality of life and opportunities for women and girls while acknowledging women who are doing positive things in their community. Aisha studied History at Tennessee State University. She operates Loving Home Care, a small home care service that provides in-home assistance with activities of daily living for the elderly. Aisha is a homeschool mother of two sons ages 14 and 8 who are dedicated 4-Hers that raise chickens in their backyard.

**Dr. Nahed Artoul Zehr** is a Palestinian Christian, who was born in Israel and immigrated to the U.S. as a child. She graduated high school in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and earned both the BA and MA degrees from the University of Iowa. She then received a PhD in religious studies from Florida State University and held a post-doctoral position as a Minerva Research Chair at the United State Naval War College in Newport, R.I. She spent five years an assistant professor at Western Kentucky University, and three years as executive director of Faith & Culture Center. A published author, Nahed currently serves as the President of the Junior League of Nashville. Nahed enjoys traveling, food, coffee, reading, and exercising. She and her husband, Joel, have two young daughters, ages five and two.

## ABOUT FAITH OVER FEAR

Faith Over Fear is a training program developed to equip faith leaders and communities with effective strategies for better advocating against anti-Muslim bigotry.

The approach, which centers on positive, aspirational, and values-based messaging to correct a narrative of fear and divisiveness, was originally developed collaboratively by Shoulder to Shoulder, the Muslim Association of Puget Sound- American Muslim Empowerment Network, Neighbors in Faith, and CAIR-Washington. We are grateful to partner with numerous additional national organizations and experts on the content for this training, which we are bringing to communities around the United States.

The core-curriculum has been developed and shaped by **Shoulder to Shoulder**, **ReThink Media**, the **Institute for Social Policy and Understanding**, and **OverZero**.



*Shoulder to Shoulder is a national coalition-based campaign of religious denominations and faith-based organizations and communities that are committed to ending discrimination and violence against Muslims in the United States by equipping, connecting, and mobilizing faith leaders to effectively take action. Visit [www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org/trainings](http://www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org/trainings)*

## FAITH OVER FEAR – NASHVILLE, TN



Special thanks to the Faith & Culture Center and Preemptive Love Coalition for co-sponsoring and to leaders and partners (in order of appearance) from Otter Creek Church, Lutheran College, The Sikh Coalition, Millions of Conversations, **The Institute for Social Policy & Understanding, Teaching for Change, Muslim Women’s Council, OverZero, ReThink Media, Vanderbilt University, Peace Catalyst International, Siloam Health, One America, and Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition** for their involvement in this training.