

Friday, November 15, 2019 | 5:00pm - 9:00pm

5:00pm - 5:15pm | Welcome, Orientation

Dane Skilbred, Willmar Interfaith Network
Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

5:15pm - 6:15pm | Understanding & Contextualizing Islamophobia

Participants will engage in a 'Teaching for Change' Jigsaw Activity aimed at helping people understand the complexity of Islamophobia in order to begin shaping our responses to it, followed by a reflection featuring:

Kahin Adam, UniteCloud

6:15pm - 7:00pm | Why We're Here: Responses From a Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Perspective

Aneelah Afzali, Muslim Association of Puget Sound -American Muslim
Empowerment Network (MAPS-AMEN)
Pastor Terry Kylo, Neighbors in Faith
Rabbi Alana Suskin, Pomegranate Initiative

Introduction of Local Willmar Organizers: Hamdi Kosar, Jessica Rohloff, & Christina Nelson

Break to Serve Dinner

7:00pm - 9:00pm | The People's Supper - Workshop

This session will engage participants in an active demonstration of The People's Supper, one highly effective model for getting people to engage in deep conversation across difference. The workshop will also share different approaches The People's Supper team has taken in using this model to affect local community change.

K Scarry, The People's Supper

Saturday, November 16, 2019 | 9:00am - 5:00pm

9:00am - 10:45am | Welcome, Review & Recap, Live Poll

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder
Hind Makki, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

10:45am - 12:00pm | Messaging & Communicating to Create Change

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. It will begin with a discussion of the underlying dynamics, the psychology of fear, and trends and patterns of countering dangerous speech, then move into designing values-

based communications based on top messaging findings and communications fundamentals & tips for public and private settings.

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

Hind Makki, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

Samantha Owens, OverZero

Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, ReThink Media

12:00pm - 1:00pm | Applying the Guidelines/Video Responses/Learning Groups

This is a moment to put the messaging and communications strategies into practice. Take three minutes to write down what resonates with you and start working with values based messaging. All are encouraged to share with table and ask for feedback and guidance.

Aneelah Afzali, MAPS-AMEN

Pastor Terry Kyлло, Neighbors in Faith

1:00pm - 2:15pm | Lunch & Continued Discussion

2:15pm - 3:30pm | Strategies for Engagement + Change 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. Usra Ghazi from America Indivisible 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”:

Pastor Mandy France, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

Rev. Cynthia Bronson Sweigert, Taking Heart Open Houses, a program of the MCC

Natalie Ringsmuth, UniteCloud

Rabbi Alana Suskin, Pomegranate Initiative

Rev. Dr. Naomi Ludeman Smith, South Dakota Voices for Peace

Christina Nelson, ISAIAH

3:30pm - 3:45pm | Break

3:45pm - 4:15pm | News Values & Media Communications Tips

ReThink Media enables leaders to better engage in the public square around issues related to religious diversity and pluralism and with messages that counter religious discrimination, including anti-Muslim bias and Islamophobia. Greater media competency is necessary to move divisive and hateful rhetoric towards conversations fostering justice and peace.

Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, ReThink Media

4:15pm - 5:00pm | Developing Your Strategy for Change

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. We’ll share out and commit to continue developing ongoing relationships and networks for future collaboration. We will close and reflect on the training, while engaging in conversation with other partners active in this field of work in various ways.

Speaker Biographies

Arranged in alphabetical order by Last Name

When **Kahin Adam** was just a teenager, the civil war in Somalia forced him to flee his country. In a matter of months, he left behind his parents and extended family, his school, and everything he had ever known. Aided by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Kahin came to the United States. After a brief stay in Dallas, Texas, he spent a year in Columbus, Ohio, where he lived amid a large Somali community and attended community college. Kahin then moved to Richmond, Virginia to pursue his undergraduate studies at Commonwealth Virginia University. Kahin graduated in 2009 with a double major in Religious Studies and International Studies and Global Health, and embarked on the work that has remained his passion ever since: helping fellow refugees. After college, he worked as the Refugee and Immigrant Coordinator for a program funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Determined to help address the topics of mental health and trauma, Kahin then attended Columbia University and obtained a dual Masters of Public Health and Masters of Social Work degree. He now works as a Somali Community Educator and Psychotherapist at Center for Victims of Torture and as Community Liaison at Catholic Charities. He is also a speaker and board member with #unitecloud, a non-profit in Central MN devoted to addressing cultural, religious, and racial tensions.

Aneelah Afzali is the Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS). A leader of MAPS' interfaith outreach, Aneelah has become a dynamic and inspiring spokesperson in local ecumenical networking, and instrumental in changing the narrative and public perceptions concerning Muslim women. In 2017 she was named among the Most Influential Seattleites of 2017 by Seattle Magazine. Aneelah Afzali has been instrumental in changing the narrative about American Muslims and public perceptions around women in Islam. As Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound, she spearheads MAPS' efforts in local ecumenical networking. Aneelah offers a dynamic and inspiring refutation to Islamophobia and the politics of divisiveness. An attorney and graduate of Harvard Law School, she co-founded the Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington and received the Washington State Bar Association's Excellence in Diversity award. In 2017 Aneelah was named among the Most Influential Seattleites of 2017 by Seattle Magazine. In 2018 Aneelah received the CAIR Muslim American of the Year award.

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. Nina 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.

Pastor Mandy France was called to Our Savior's in September 2017. She has her B.S. in Religious Studies from Liberty University and her Master's of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary. She lives in Atwater where her husband, Rev. Kelly France, serves as a solo pastor. They have a three year old daughter named Miriam and are expecting their second child in August 2019. Pastor Mandy is passionate about worship planning, inter-religious relations, and preaching. In her free time she loves being outside, drinking coffee, playing board games, and being with her family.

Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons is the Rights and Inclusion Collaborative's Senior Media Associate at ReThink Media. He works to broaden the movement of allies speaking out against anti-Muslim bigotry, including the religious, veteran, and business communities as well as local elected officials. He's based in Louisville, Kentucky but can often be found in ReThink's Washington and Berkeley offices. Prior to joining ReThink, Guthrie worked at the National Immigration Forum from 2011 to 2015 to mobilize conservative and moderate faith, business, and law enforcement officials in support of comprehensive immigration reform. He holds a BA in International Studies from American University and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary.

Hamdi Kosar is actively involved in the community. She is a community organizer She is a member of ISAI AH, an interfaith political organization. Hamdi recently attended a statewide conference where she was able to speak on and address Islamophobia. She is a facilitator a leadership program called We All Do Better. She loves talking

about diversity. She also attended Muslim Day on the Hill, is planning on joining the League of Women Voters, and the Human Rights Commission of Willmar. She appreciates when people are open-armed and welcoming. She is a person that is willing to include, engage, and say yes as a part of an organization she believes in. She believes in taking the chances available to her and being willing to grow.

The Rev. Terry Kylo is a Lutheran pastor serving as the director of Neighbors in Faith. He began this work part-time in September of 2016 and full-time in September Of 2017. A graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, he has been a pastor since 1991 and has served in partnership between Episcopalians and Lutherans since 2004. He is the author of two books, *Being Human* and *Apprenticeship*. Terry was the recipient of the Faith Action Network Interfaith Leadership Award in 2016, the Interfaith Leadership Award from the Muslim Association of Puget Sound in 2017, the Sultan and Saint Peace award in 2017, and the Muslim Association of Puget Sound 2018 “Inbound Good” award for a non-Muslim who benefitted the Muslim Community.

Hind Makki is an interfaith and anti-racism educator who holds a degree in International Relations from Brown University. She is an Educator with the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) and is the founder and curator of Side Entrance, an award-winning website documenting women’s prayer experiences in mosques around the world. In 2018, Hind was recognized as one of CNN’s 25 Influential American Muslims and her work has been featured in a variety of national and international media. She has served on the Islamic Society of North America’s Mosque Inclusion Taskforce and is a former Fellow of the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute. Hind is an advisor to the ISPU project Reimagining Muslim Spaces, and currently offers consultations, lectures, and workshops on building inclusive Muslim spaces in Western Europe and the United States. Locally, Hind serves on the advisory boards of the Br. Jeffrey Gros, FSC Institute for Dialogue, Justice, and Social Action at Lewis University and the Chicago History Museum’s exhibit “American Medina: Stories of Muslim Chicago.”

Christina Nelson is a community organizer and leader in the Willmar area. She has lived in Willmar for over six years and grew up in the Chicagoland area. Christina has always been active in social justice work and looks to find strategic, long-term solutions to issues of racial, religious and economic justice. Christina has a degree in Engineering from Valparaiso University. She currently serves on the Southwest MN Synod Council for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as the Synod Board for Women of the ELCA. She is on the Willmar Planning Commission and Kennedy Elementary PTSA. Christina currently works for ISIAAH as the Central MN Organizer serving St. Cloud and Willmar.

Natalie Ringsmuth grew up in Central Minnesota and received her Music Education degree from Concordia College in Moorhead. She taught middle school choir in Georgia and worked in the church sector for over a decade. She now works as Founder and Director of #unitecloud, a non-profit working to reduce racial, religious, and cultural tensions in Central MN and is a trainer with the CARE (Community Anti-Racism Education) Team at SCSU (St Cloud State University). She is a member of multiple boards, including the St Cloud School District 742 board, the United Way Community Impact Team, and the United Way’s education initiative, Partner for Student Success. In her spare time (haha) she loves to spend time with her husband and 3 children, making music and playing games.

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.

Jessica Rohloff is a community organizer, speaker and writer based in West Central Minnesota. A life long rural Minnesota resident, Jessica brings a unique perspective of helping communities and organizations adjust and thrive during times of change and increasing diversity. Jessica is dedicated to human rights and dignity. She devotes her time to working, studying and teaching best practices for equity, integration and relationship building across faith, race, gender, age and culture. She is a 1996 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Morris; a two term Volunteer in Service to America member; a recipient of the 2000 Business and Professional

Women MN Young Careerist Award; a 2014 graduate of the Blandin Foundation Leadership program and is currently serving her second term on the National League of Women Voters US Board in Washington DC.

Rev. Dr. Naomi Ludeman Smith's personal vision statement is to have an impact for peace and to be a champion for human dignity of all people. She serves as board of directors chair for South Dakota Voices for Peace and South Dakota Voices for Justice. The two are sister organizations working together on grassroots empowerment to building strategic allyship as well as countering top down legislated hate and fear-mongering against Muslims, immigrants and refugees in South Dakota. Ludeman Smith's career focus has been as a professor of Intercultural Studies, director of culture and language institutes and conferences, and designing cross-cultural experiential programs for transformative intercultural development. Currently she is the principal of Impact Leadership Consulting Group, designing and delivering intercultural training and coaching to a range of organizations. She also serves as an Avera Health System chaplain to people of all faiths who are in a health crisis.

The Rev. Cynthia Bronson Sweigert is a retired Episcopal priest who has divided her ministry between parish positions and interfaith agencies in New York City, Youngstown, OH, Buffalo, NY and the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA. During this time her interfaith work focused principally on the history of Christian antisemitism, and anti-Judaism in the Christian Scriptures. Since returning to Minnesota she served as Transitional Associate at St. Mark's Cathedral and as Interfaith/Multifaith Associate at the Minnesota Council of Churches. A major focus of her work at the Council was the Taking Heart Open Houses program. Taking Heart is a program bringing Muslims, Christians and people of other faiths (or none) together at local mosques during Ramadan, for learning, encounter, and sharing a meal. She has continued to coordinate Taking Heart since leaving the MCC position in 2016.

K Scarry has always been enamored with the life that can be shared around the table, and the way those spaces invite us to be fully human together. Driven by a conviction that people should have consistent space where they are welcomed in, K launched an open community meal in her hometown a few years ago that continues today. Before joining our team, she worked in a number of non-profit organizations exploring different manifestations of community: with women coming out of sex trafficking, in a fraternity house, as an associate pastor, and as a chaplain in a maximum security women's prison. She's currently finishing up her Masters of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary. As you read this, she's likely either journaling or doing the Cupid Shuffle — her two all-time favorite things.

Rabbi Alana Suskin is an educator, activist, and writer. Ordained as a rabbi by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in California, she also holds BAs in Philosophy and Russian Linguistics, an MA in Philosophy and a graduate certificate in Women's Studies, and is a popular speaker and teacher around the country. She is a senior editor of the progressive blog Jewschool.com, called "The most important thing happening online in the Jewish community today," by noted Jewish sociologists Ari Kelman & Steven M. Cohen. Rabbi Suskin served as Assistant Rabbi at Adas Israel in Washington DC, the first synagogue in the USA to be addressed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and as Director of Lifelong Learning at Shaare Torah in Gaithersburg, MD. She then was called to work for peace and justice between Israelis and Palestinians with the two-state policy organization Americans for Peace Now. After nearly ten years at APN, as an outgrowth of her justice, peace-building, and interfaith efforts, she has recently co-founded the Pomegranate Initiative, which sends a pair of Muslim and Jewish religious leaders to churches in areas with small numbers of Jews and/or Muslims, to educate, be in dialogue with, and build relationships across faith traditions to fight Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, and to increase understanding and friendship in the USA. She has served on the boards of T'ruah, Jews United for Justice, and Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington and is a founding fellow of Rabbis Without Borders.

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

FAITH OVER FEAR – WILLMAR



Special thanks to the **Willmar Interfaith Network** and **The Minnesota Council of Churches** for co-sponsoring and to leaders and partners (in order of appearance) from **Teaching for Change**, **#UniteCloud**, **Neighbors in Faith**, **The American Muslim Empowerment Network at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound**, **The Pomegranate Initiative**, **ISAIAH**, **We All Do Better**, **The People's Supper**, **The Institute for Social Policy & Understanding**, **ReThink Media**, **OverZero**, **Our Savior's Lutheran Church**, **South Dakota Voices for Peace**, **Taking Heart Open Houses**, and **America Indivisible** for their involvement in this training.