

Saturday, November 2, 2019: 5:00 - 8:00pm

5:00 - 5:30pm | Welcome & Introductions

Amanda Ryan and Uroosa Jawed, Tri-Faith Initiative
 Imam Mohamad Jamal Daoudi, American Muslim Institute
 Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

5:30 - 7:00pm | Understanding & Contextualizing Islamophobia Jigsaw Activity + Conversation

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 discussion featuring:

Dr. Todd Green, Associate Professor of Religion at Luther College and nationally recognized expert on Islamophobia

7:00 - 8:00pm | Dinner & Conversation

Participants will take part in a listening and sharing exercise that serves as an effective tool for helping people deeply connect and get to know one another across difference. We will close by hearing Pastor Terry Kyлло share his own story and more about why and how people of faith are uniquely poised to address this issue.

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder
 Pastor Terry Kyлло, Neighbors in Faith

Sunday, November 3, 2019: 2:00 - 7:00pm

2:00 - 2:30pm | Reorienting & Review

Nina Fernando, Shoulder to Shoulder

2:30 - 4:30pm | Messaging and 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
 Samantha Owens, OverZero
 Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons, ReThink Media

4:30-5:00pm | Learning Groups: Applying the Guidelines

This content block will include interactive opportunities 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.

5:00 - 6:00pm | 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. Lida Azim 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”:

Lacey Studnicka, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.

Michelle Koch, Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee

Pastor Terry Kylo, Neighbors in Faith

Wendy Goldberg, Tri-Faith Initiative

moderated by Lida Azim, America Indivisible

6:00 - 7:00pm | 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. 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

Nina M. Fernando has served as Operations and Outreach Manager since 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. Nina received her BA in “Social Change through Music and Religious Studies” from the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies at the University of Redlands, and her MA in “Interdisciplinary Interreligious and Cultural Studies” from Claremont School of Theology. In addition to her work at Shoulder to Shoulder, Nina performs as a vocalist and songwriter in Washington, D.C.

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.

Dr. 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.

Wendy Goldberg is a fourth generation Omahan and a founding member of the Tri-Faith Initiative. She served on the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel for 10 years, including a two-year term as President of the congregation and was on the Temple Israel staff for seven years as Program Director. Wendy played a key role in communications, volunteer engagement, and the capital campaign during Temple Israel's transition to the Tri-Faith Commons in 2013. In 2016, Wendy earned a Master's of Art in Communication and graduate certificate in Creative Writing at the University of Nebraska at Omaha after which, she joined the staff at Project Harmony as Project Manager where she partnered with agency stakeholders to custom build and implement client management software, identify program goals, measurable outcomes and build the correlating reports. Wendy has served as Tri-Faith Communication Chair for a decade helping to develop communication policy, procedure, and plans for traditional and social media materials. She lead communication task force initiatives to set brand guidelines, create a speakers bureau, and create video stories archives. As a champion of interfaith efforts that build community and foster trust, Wendy will contribute to the management and implementation of the initiative's strategic plan including fundraising, communication, and stakeholder engagement. Wendy loves

practicing and teaching yoga and will complete 500-hour yoga teacher training in January 2019. She serves on the Board of Directors for Fontenelle Forest. Wendy and her husband, David, have three adult children, Joe, Molly and Sophie.

Uroosa Jawed joined the Tri-Faith Initiative in October of 2018. A graduate of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, she earned her bachelor's of science degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology in May 2002. Uroosa has worked in philanthropy over the past ten years, and began her career as Planned Giving Coordinator for the Islamic Society of North America. She has been instrumental in raising funds for both local and national non-profit organizations through capital campaigns and corporate sponsorships. Uroosa is passionate about serving her community through volunteer work and advocacy. She proudly serves on the board of directors of Omaha Girls Rock. A first generation immigrant, Uroosa moved to Indiana from Karachi, Pakistan at the age of five years old with her parents. A lifetime Hoosier, she now finds herself thriving in the Dundee community of Omaha with her daughter Laila and her son Oliver. A writer by avocation, she has served on the board of the Indiana Writers Center since 2013. Her poetry has been published in Hoosier Lit magazine and she is currently working on her first manuscript.

Michelle Koch is a co-founder and the Executive Director of the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee. She studied music theory and audio engineering at Hunter College, the Aaron Copland School of Music, and the Institute of Audio Research. After more than a decade as a music teacher, she co-founded the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee and co-led the organization's exponential growth. Michelle focuses her efforts on expanding programs and community outreach, creating volunteer opportunities, and speaking at events throughout NYC. She is a passionate believer in the power of active listening, dialogue, and personal relationship building to bring massive sustainable social change. Her current work focuses on the MJSC initiatives Love Your Neighbor, Compassionate Conversations, and Interfaith Space. Michelle is a We Are All New York fellowship alumni, and serves on the board of International Human Rights Arts festival.

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.

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.

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.

Amanda Ryan joined the Tri-Faith Initiative in January 2019, serving as a Program Associate. In 2009, Amanda moved to Omaha from Minden, Nebraska. Originally a business major at the University of Nebraska – Omaha (UNO), she quickly changed her major to Religious Studies after discovering her passion for learning about and engaging with different religions. While obtaining her degree, she interned with a local interfaith nonprofit, Project Interfaith, which sparked her passion for interfaith work. She graduated with her B.A. in Religious Studies in 2013 and is currently a Sociology MA Candidate at UNO, completing her degree in 2019. Her research interests include religion in public life and politics, human rights, race and religion, and social change. Presently, she is working on a research project about Latino Jewish identity and code switching, as well as writing podcast reviews for the Religious Studies Project. In 2018, Amanda was selected to be a Jew v'Nation Fellow for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). The fellowship brought together 16 non-white Jewish professionals to grow community, engage in professional development, and create change for the larger Reform community. As a result, Amanda and three other fellows are creating professional development trainings for URJ-affiliated synagogues centered on the importance of culturally-responsive curriculum and teaching within synagogues. Amanda has given presentations on religious diversity acceptance in Omaha, participated on panels about young professional spirituality, and has provided research assistance to local UU congregations. Amanda is a member of the American Academy of Religions, chair of Young Jewish Omaha, and serves on the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education. She is excited to continue working in the interfaith world. A millennial to her core, Amanda enjoys avocado toast, coffee, and hanging out with her cat, Piper.

Lacey Studnicka serves as director of advancement for community services at Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska and has dedicated her life to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community for refugees in the United States. Starting her career off as a resettlement case manager at LFS of Nebraska, the program that resettled the largest number of refugees per capita of any state in 2016, Studnicka earned the ins and outs of reception and placement of newly arrived refugees. She now oversees programs that span the state including volunteer management, faith community sponsorships, career mentoring, refugee arts programming and creating a refugee speakers' bureau, to name a few. Under Lacey's leadership, LFS-NE's refugee co-sponsorship program has gained national recognition, and she has raised millions of dollars for refugee services in Nebraska.

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 - OMAHA



Special thanks to the **Tri-Faith Initiative** for co-sponsoring and to leaders and partners (in order of appearance) from **American Muslim Institute**, **Teaching for Change**, **Luther College**, **ReThink Media**, **OverZero**, **Lutheran Family Services, Inc.**, **Neighbors in Faith**, **Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee**, and **America Indivisible** for their involvement in this training.