

Interfaith Institute 2023

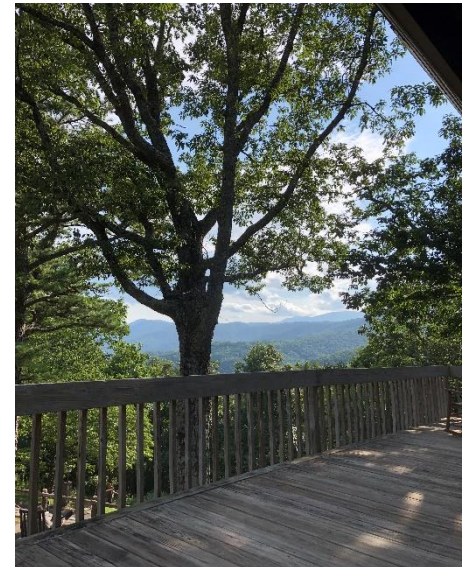
Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis

July 31—August 3, 2023

Wildacres Retreat

Blue Ridge Parkway

Little Switzerland, North Carolina



Interfaith Retreat 2023 theme:
Hope in Troublesome Times:

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How can our sacred stories and faith traditions empower us to address the crises facing our world?

Our retreat brings together people of all religious traditions for three days of discussion, relaxation, contemplation, and friendship. The gathering is open to clergy and lay-people of all traditions, as well as those who practice no religious tradition at all. We invite open minds and hearts who are interested in learning, comradery, and sharing on a mountaintop with a magnificent view of the Blue Ridge mountains. (Check out Wildacres website www.wildacres.org)



In our sessions, the leaders will explore the stories, values, and foundational teachings of their respective faith traditions as inspiration for finding our common humanity, for lifting up the struggles of the marginalized, and for action leading to world repair.

What does God require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. Micah 6:8

“Believers! Uphold justice and bear witness to truth for the sake of Allah, even if it is against yourselves, your parents, and kinsmen, or the rich or poor. Allah can best take care of both. Quran 4:135

This year’s leaders, Dr. Hadia Mubarak, Rabbi Tracy Guren Klirs, and Reverend Nancy Hastings Sehested, each bring a unique perspective, not only from their religious traditions, but also through their rich life experiences.

This year we again offer a writing workshop led by Rabbi Robert Wolkoff. Writers may share their creations on Wednesday evening. The Sassafra Band returns to entertain us on Tuesday night. We have comfortable accommodations and all meals will be kosher. There will be lots of opportunities to gather informally on the patio and canteen, as well as time to explore the hiking paths surrounding Wildacres.

Our 2023 Interfaith Institute Discussion Leaders



Tracy Guren Klirs was ordained as a rabbi at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 1984. She has held pulpits in both the Reform and Conservative movements, and also has enjoyed an extensive career as a Jewish educator, teacher, lecturer, writer, educational consultant and chaplain throughout the U.S. and Canada. For the past few years Rabbi Klirs has served as a free-lance rabbi in the greater Charlotte area, teaching groups and individuals Hebrew, Yiddish and other Jewish subjects, conducting life cycle events and providing creative programming on Jewish topics. Klirs is the co-author of *The Merit of Our Mothers: A Bilingual Anthology of Jewish Women's Prayers*, Hebrew Union College Press, 1992. Rabbi Klirs and her husband Elisha have lived in Charlotte since 2012, and have 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren.



Hadia Mubarak is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Queens University of Charlotte. She previously served as Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Guilford College and as a Research Fellow at New York University-Abu Dhabi (NYUAD). Her new book, *Rebellious Wives, Neglectful Husbands: Controversies in Modern Qur'anic Commentaries* (Oxford University Press, 2022), explores significant shifts in modern Qur'anic commentaries on the subject of women against the backdrop of broader historical developments in twentieth-century North Africa. Mubarak completed her Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from Georgetown University, where she specialized in modern and classical Qur'anic exegesis, Islamic feminism, and gender reform in the modern Muslim world. She currently serves as a scholar-in-residence with the Muslim Community Center of Charlotte (MCC), a Board of Advisors member with the Carleton Center for the Study of Islam (CCSI), and a scholar with the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU). She lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband and two children, Ibrahim and Jinan.



Nancy Hastings Sehested is a retired pastor and state prison chaplain. Ordained in 1981, she pastored churches in Atlanta, Memphis and Asheville. She served as a state prison chaplain in North Carolina in high-security prisons for men for over a decade. She wrote a book about her experiences: *Marked for Life: A Prison Chaplain's Story* published by Orbis Books. She is a graduate of City College of New York and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She is married to Ken. They have two daughters, four grandchildren and one friendly mutt.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We are grateful to the Blumenthal Foundation for subsidizing this event. The registration fee includes the program, 3-nights lodging, and 8 kosher meals.

\$395 per person double occupancy if paid before June 15

\$450 per person double occupancy if paid after June 15

\$100 additional fee for single room occupancy

Children are welcome to attend. We will arrange a special program during our sessions, under the direction of Educator Kitty Wolf.

Ages 6-12 \$110

Ages 3-5 \$75

2 and under—no charge

We encourage those who may be able, to contribute an additional sum to our scholarship fund to help defray the costs of the program and to provide assistance for those who may not be able to afford the full cost.

To register, click the link or use the QR code. Each attendee must fill out a registration form



<https://forms.gle/MvwRpQ2sJhjoXSRWA>

Registration payment is by check or Zelle (224-234-4221)

Please make checks payable and send to Marilyn Katz
208 S. Western Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506

See you on the mountain!

Rabbi Edward Friedman, Chair

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Rev. Dr. Amy Laura Hall, Program Coordinator

Rev.al.hall@gmail.com 919-616-8642

Marilyn Katz, Registrar

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