Interfaith Institute 2024

A part of the Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis

And supported by the

Blumenthal Foundation of Charlotte, NC

July 29—August 1, 2024

Wildacres Retreat
Blue Ridge Parkway

Little Switzerland, North Carolina

Interfaith Retreat 2024 Theme

How does your work, and your life, connect to your religious or spiritual identity?

We gather to consider how our own practices of expression: writing, music, art, your hobbies and extracurricular activities intertwine with our religious identities.

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

Wildacres Interfaith Institute is a decades long conversation between Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others. Over time, the models of dialogue have changed and evolved but the mission has always been clear: this is a safe gathering spot, on top of a stunning mountain, where everyone has a voice and each voice is heard.

This year we will feature 3 celebrated authors who will discuss how their writing intertwines with their religious and spiritual identities. When is writing a response to these things, when does it pull you away, when does it bring you closer. How do our life experiences and expressions of living do these too.

This year's featured speakers are Yonat Shimron, Rabbi Vanessa Ochs, and Miranda Richmond Mouillot. Each brings a unique perspective, not only from their religious tradition, 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 Sassafras 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 in the canteen and on the patio, as well as time to explore the hiking paths surrounding Wildacres.

Our 2024 Interfaith Institute Discussion Leaders

Yonat Shimron is a North Carolina based reporter who has written about religion for more than 20 years. Yonat joined Religion News Service in April 2011 and became managing editor in 2013. She was the religion reporter for The News & Observer in Raleigh, NC from 1996 to 2011. During that time she won numerous awards. Shimron is a past president of the Religion Newswriters Association.

In 2022, Yonat wrote about the Interfaith Institute at Wildacres: https://religionnews.com/2022/08/01/in-the-carolina-mountains-a-breath-taking-interfaith-conference/

Rabbi Vanessa Ochs is a Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and a core member of the Jewish Studies Program, at the University of Virginia. Rabbi Ochs teaches such topics as Jewish feminism, Jewish weddings, the Passover Haggadah, ethnographic fieldwork in religion, and spiritual writing. She is Chair of the Professional Consulting Committee: UVA Chaplaincy Service and Pastoral Education at the UVA Health System. For her many writings she was awarded a Creative Writing Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Miranda Richmond Mouillot, a native of Asheville, NC is the author of A Fifty-Year Silence: Love, War, and a Ruined House in France. She won a PEN/Heim Translation Award for her translation of The Kites by Romain Gary. Miranda began attending the Interfaith Institute as a child, and has attended many years since. She currently lives in France.

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 1
$450 per person double occupancy if paid after June 1
$545 per person single occupancy if paid before June 1
$600 per person single occupancy if paid after June 1

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

Ages 6-12 $130
Ages 3-5 $95
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 help with 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/6M2Si5Bzwe3yXwUo9

Registration payment: Check or Zelle

Send Zelle payment to: 224-234-4221

Please make checks payable to, and send to:

Marilyn Katz
208 S. Western Avenue
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See you on the Mountain!

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