



“Giving, Sharing and Caring”

An Interfaith Discussion with a Focus  
on Service and Social Responsibility



American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) and Rumi Forum of Maryland is inviting you to the second Abraham's Tent program of the year with the motto “Open Doors, Open Minds and Open Hearts”. This initiative aims to provide space for people of different religious and cultural traditions to get-to-know one another and seeks to build community through casual conversations.

During this "giving season" we would like to explore and underline the meaning of service, importance of taking care of the poor and needy in Abrahamic faiths.

#### **DATE & TIME**

Thursday, December 7, 2017

7:00 PM

#### **LOCATION**

6470 Dobbin Rd., Suite C, Columbia, MD, 21045  
(ATFA/MARTI is across from Columbia MVA)

#### **PROGRAM**

7:00 - 7:30 - Meet & Greet and Light Reception

7:30 - 8:15 - Panel Discussion (*see bios below*)

8:15 - 8:30 - Q&A

We hope you consider becoming a part of this interfaith program that will lead to a growing pool of open hearts and minds in the greater Maryland region.

If you have any questions about the Iftar dinners, please let us know via e-mail:

[maryland@atfa.us](mailto:maryland@atfa.us)

**Please register to RSVP by Wednesday, December 6 via the link below:**

[bit.ly/AbrahamsTent-12-07-17](http://bit.ly/AbrahamsTent-12-07-17)



**Dr. Pim Valkenberg** is currently the Cardin Chair in the Humanities at Loyola University in Maryland. He is originally from the Netherlands, and taught for two decades at the Catholic University of Nijmegen, and for five years at Loyola University in Maryland from 2006 to 2011. He is now a Professor of Religion and Culture at the Catholic University of America. His recent publications include "World Religions in Dialogue" (2013), "Renewing Islam by Service" (2015) and *Nostra Aetate* (2016). He is now finishing a Christian commentary on texts about the "People of Scripture" in the Qur'an.



**Imam Hassan A. Amin** is the Imam at Johns Hopkins University and volunteer Islamic Chaplain at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Additionally, he is the Islamic chaplain with Baltimore City's Police Department and Islamic chaplain with United States Park Police. He has over twenty-five years of volunteer service as a counselor at the Islamic Community School in West Baltimore. He is the founder and executive director of Muslim Social Services Agency of Baltimore City.



**Rabbi Craig Axler** has been serving at Temple Isaiah since July of 2012. As a native of the Philly area, he served as a rabbi at Congregation Beth Or for 9 years before arriving Temple Isaiah. He was ordained at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2003, where he was awarded an M.A. in Hebrew Letters in 2002. Before he entered rabbinical school, he studied and worked for a number of years in the field of Music Therapy, completing his B.S. in Music Therapy at the SUNY–New Paltz.

### **WHY ABRAHAM?**

Abraham, "Friend of Allah" (c.f. Q4:125) and beloved patriarch for Christians, Muslims and Jews alike, is seen as a leading model of moral and ethical conduct. The biblical tradition illustrates the value of "hospitality" in the story of Abraham at Mamre (Gen. 18:1-33) where Abraham selflessly provides food, shelter and comfort to three unknown travelers in his and his wife Sarah's welcoming tent. Over the centuries, each of the three traditions has developed a unique cultural and theological expression of this value. Now our dialogue centers provide the same space for hosting temporary and mobile gatherings of interreligious and intercultural encounter. Although the reference to Abraham will speak to Muslims, Jews, and Christians, all faiths are welcome and encouraged to gather under a tent!