



PRESS RELEASE

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Project Interfaith and the Center for Faith Studies Present a Community-wide Gathering for Reflection and Remembrance on the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

(OMAHA) – Project Interfaith in partnership with the Center for Faith Studies at Countryside Community Church invite community members to explore the evolution of national security, interfaith relations and civil liberties in a post 9/11 America on Sunday, September 11, 2011, from 2:00-3:30 pm at “**Then and Now: Civil Liberties and Interfaith Relations Ten Years After 9/11,**” a community-wide remembrance and reflection event to be held at Witherspoon Concert Hall in the Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge Street.

This program will feature esteemed civil rights attorney and writer Sahar Aziz, who will share her insights on the delicate balance between civil liberties and national in a post-9/11 context and will offer thoughts on what the next ten years may hold.

Sahar Aziz is an associate professor of law at Texas Wesleyan School of Law and frequently writes about national security and civil rights issues for a variety of media sites including *CNN.com*, *Huffington Post*, *altmuslim*, and the *Houston Chronicle*. She has served as a senior policy advisor at the U.S Department of Homeland Security.

Organizers will provide community members an opportunity to reflect and share with fellow community members about the significance that the tragic events of September 11, 2001 had on their own lives. The event also will give perspective on the effect that the 9/11 tragedies and aftermath had on interreligious and intercultural relations locally and nationally. “The heartbreaking events of 9/11 impacted all Americans on a personal and national level,” said Project Interfaith Executive Director Beth Katz. “It’s important that we remember this event and the victims who lost their lives as a result of it. But it is important going forward that we find positive ways to engage our community as a way to honor their memory. One of the most significant ways we can positively affect our community is by taking the time to better know and understand our diverse neighbors so we can work together to strengthen our neighborhoods, schools and city.”

This event is open to the public. Community members may pre-register online at 911omaha.eventbrite.com or in person at Countryside Community Church (8787 Pacific Street).

This program is co-sponsored by The American Institute of Islamic Studies & Culture, Creighton University School of Law, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Nebraska Synod, Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society at Creighton University, Unity of Omaha, Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, Anti-Defamation League Plains States Region, Cotner College Education Ministries, Tri-faith Initiative, First United Methodist Church, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, Tinh Tam, University of Nebraska at Omaha Religious Studies and Islamic Studies Programs, Missouri River Valley Presbytery, & First Christian Church.

“Then and Now” is one of many programs provided by Project Interfaith. Founded in 2005, Project Interfaith is a non-profit organization that grows understanding, respect and relationships among people of all faiths, beliefs

and cultures through a wide array of programs that bring community members together to share, learn and connect. In the past year alone, nearly 6,000 people have participated in Project Interfaith's varied community-building programs which include interfaith arts programs, study circles, an annual speaker series, and religious and cultural diversity trainings for professionals. For more information, visit www.projectinterfaith.org, email info@projectinterfaith.org or call the Project Interfaith office at (402) 933-4647.

Established in August 2004, the Center for Faith Studies at Countryside Community United Church of Christ provides study of what it means to be the community of people through whom God is experienced. Besides offering adult education classes and events for study of Christianity, the Center provides opportunities for exploring the shared history and culture of the people of the Abrahamic faiths, and the other enduring major world faiths. The Center supports an annual lecture series, drawing from preeminent scholars, authors, and theologians nationwide, as a form of service and outreach to the city and region. For more information or to be added to our e-mail list, visit www.countrysideucc.org or contact Cyndi Kugler, Director, at [\(402\) 391-0350 Ext.121](tel:4023910350) or e-mail cyndik@countrysideucc.org.

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