

DECEMBER 2023

## END-OF-YEAR NEWSLETTER

CONNECTION. COMPASSION. COMMUNITY



Interfaith Round Table  
of Washtenaw County



Dear Friends,

This year has been filled with many accomplishments, and I am humbled and inspired by how much we have achieved together. At IRT, we recognize that compassionate and courageous conversation builds understanding and compassion. That's why we are always striving to find new and innovative ways to promote candid dialogue, learning, and community building through our various programs. In this report, you will find out about our success stories and the new initiatives we are working on.

However, there is still so much work to be done. At this critical moment, we need your financial and organizational support to help us continue providing a space, programs, and environment for people of all backgrounds to promote spiritual conversations that clarify commonalities and empower individuals to work together toward the greater good.

As we launch our Year-End Campaign, we invite you to join us in making a meaningful impact in our community by donating through our online donation webpage ([www.irtwc.org/donate](http://www.irtwc.org/donate)) or by sending a check. With your support, we can create more spaces for IRT's unique work of bringing people together to discuss sensitive issues that need to be understood more deeply.

Thank you for being part of our IRT community and supporting us throughout these years!

Sincerely,

Tasneem Sultan, Director, Interfaith Round Table



## DR. KING & THE LEGACY OF NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

A panel and community conversation



## DIFFICULT CONVERSATION AND AVP INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

*new initiative*

IRT held two interactive workshops:

(REMOTE)

1) Conversations Across Divide, which aimed to teach the essential skills to converse across religious, racial, and political divisions.

2) Interfaith Nonviolent Actions that Work for Justice and Peace **IN-PERSON**

The Friends International Peace Team shared interfaith practices that strengthened the nonviolence work through various activities.



## REAL TALK

(REMOTE)

Real Talk community forums focus on topics of race, ethnicity, religion, and the advancement of justice through the lens of diverse faiths. Some topics that we covered this year are: | Dr. King and the Legacy of Non-Violent Direct Action | The Migrant and Refugees Crisis | Prisoner re-entry

## Faith Stories



Rev. Greer Cherney

## FAITH STORIES

(REMOTE)

This **new initiative** highlights the personal experiences of individuals from different faiths, giving the community a window into the beliefs and traditions of various religions. So far, we have featured Paul Harrison (Bahá'í faith) and Rev. Greer Cherney (Lutheran Christian). More to come!



## INTERFAITH GATHERING FOR PEACE & UNITY

### IN PERSON

This year, our fall interfaith service brought together more than 100 people from various backgrounds for a meaningful and powerful experience. Multiple speakers and participants offered prayers, singing, and reflection, giving a source of hope and inspiration for all of us during these challenging times.

IRT also donated approximately \$250 worth of food items to The Back Food Pantry.

## WORLD INTERFAITH WEEK OF HARMONY:

### DIGITAL INTERFAITH EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

A week-long educational social media campaign allowed the online community to learn about various faith traditions and their tenets, build meaningful relationships, and create social harmony and unity.

### WORLD INTERFAITH WEEK OF HARMONY



WORLD INTERFAITH  
HARMONY WEEK



Feb, 1 - 7, 2023



www.irtwc.org

### GET TO KNOW

### FACES OF FAITH

## Shaping the Future

WITH FAITH AND RESILIENCE... TOGETHER



IRT FUNDRAISING DINNER

## FUNDRAISING DINNER- IN PERSON

In May, IRT hosted a fundraising dinner featuring diverse speakers, entertainment, and a delicious dinner provided by Chinmaya Mission. Around 175 community members attended the dinner, calling it a magical evening of togetherness.



## DAY FORUM

(REMOTE)

A series of “courageous and compassionate conversations” to explore turning difficult conversations about race and faith into productive engagement toward change. This year, IRT hosted multiple Day Forums on various topics, such as: Breaking Stereotypes | Courageous Conversation | How can we learn to forgive ourselves and others for past missteps? | Balancing Free Speech with its natural and unanticipated negative consequences



## IRT ONLINE COMMUNITY!

Interfaith Round Table has created many social media infographics to educate and spread awareness about diverse religious and cultural traditions. We invite you to join the Interfaith Round Table Online community to stay connected and updated.

**Please follow IRT on Facebook and Instagram pages.**

**Facebook:** @irtwc

**Instagram:** @irt\_connections

## UPCOMING REMOTE EVENTS

-Day Forum: Tuesday, December 19, 2023  
Time: 11:45am-1:00pm

-Faith Stories: Wednesday, January 3, 2024, Time: 7-8 pm

-MLK Day Panel Talk Monday, Jan. 15 2024  
Time: 7-8:30 PM

**REGISTER VIA WEBSITE.**

## SUPPORT OUR WORK & BE PART OF THE CHANGE!

**Send a check:**  
Interfaith Round Table  
P.O. Box 3653  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

**Donate via website:**  
[www.irtwc.org/donate](http://www.irtwc.org/donate)

*JOIN US IN 2024: Finding Novel Ways to Build Community*

