

The 26th Annual

FESTIVAL of FAITHS

SACRED STORIES

CONTEMPLATION AND CONNECTION



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The 26th Annual
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SACRED STORIES
CONTEMPLATION AND CONNECTION

THE 26TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FAITHS, *Sacred Stories: Contemplation and Connection*, will celebrate the power of narratives to inspire purpose, instill a sense of belonging and define our lives. The festival will investigate old and new stories through the lens of faith and explore how our identities are shaped by associations with religion, culture, politics, heritage and more. Sessions will engage participants in the sacred work of sharing stories to illuminate both our complexity and our interdependence.

#FOF2022

Join the Conversation. Join the Movement.



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ZERO WASTE EVENT

THE CENTER FOR INTERFAITH RELATIONS IS PROUD TO HOST A ZERO WASTE FESTIVAL OF FAITHS. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EFFORT TO DIVERT THE WASTE PRODUCED DURING THE FESTIVAL FROM OUR LOCAL LANDFILL BY USING THE RECYCLING AND COMPOST BINS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

FESTIVAL MATERIALS ARE PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED-CONTENT PAPER.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022

CATHEDRAL OF
THE ASSUMPTION

5:30 to 7 pm **THE 26TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FAITHS OPENING CELEBRATION**
Featuring Shelton Fabre and Carrie Newcomer

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022

KENTUCKY CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

8:30 to 9:15 am **HINDU SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**
Sunder Iyer

10 am to Noon **LESSONS OF OLD STORIES IN A NEW CONTEXT**
Moderator: Martien Halvorson-Taylor
Speakers: Lewis Brogdon, Anam Thubten, Shmuly Yanklowitz

1:30 to 3:30 pm **CHANGING STORY KEEPERS: MILLENNIALS AND GEN ZERS**
Moderator: Michael Brandon McCormack
Speakers: Lyla June, storäe michele, Najeba Syeed

4 to 4:30 pm **CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP**
Led by Contemplative Outreach of Louisville

6 to 7 pm **EVENING RECEPTION**

7:30 to 9 pm **AN EVENING OF SACRED STORYTELLING**
Moderator: Tara Anderson

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022

KENTUCKY CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

8:30 to 9:15 am **BUDDHIST SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**
Anam Thubten

10 am to Noon **THY NEIGHBOR: FAITH, POLITICS AND RADICAL ACCEPTANCE**
Moderator: Carla Goldstein
Speakers: John Gable, Neonu Jewell, Courtney Martin, Vivian Williams-Kurutz

11 am to 5 pm **MULTIFAITH BLOOD DRIVE** **MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER**
with the American Red Cross

1:30 to 3:30 pm **THE SACRED STORIES THAT CONNECT US**
Moderator: Meghan Campbell
Speakers: Judith Simmer-Brown, Anantanand Rambachan,
Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

4 to 4:30 pm **SIGNIFICANT STORIES FOR OUR TIMES**
A workshop with Matthew Fox

6 to 7 pm **EVENING RECEPTION**

7:30 to 9 pm **SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE:
TRANSFORMING HEARTS AND MINDS TO DEEPEN SPIRITUAL LIFE**
Speakers: Richard Davidson, Daniel Goleman, Mary Evelyn Tucker

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022

KENTUCKY CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

8:30 to 9:15 am **CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**
Matthew Fox

10 am to Noon **FAITH AND A NEW LOUISVILLE THINK-IN**
Moderators: Stephen George, Josh Moss

9:30 am to 12:30 pm

A WORKSHOP WITH CARRIE NEWCOMER

MEX THEATER

Carrie Newcomer invites participants to explore the depth and value of our individual and collective stories. This mini retreat explores what happens when we frame our individual and community stories through a spiritual lens. It changes how we see ourselves and the world. It will also explore the stories we choose to tell ourselves as individuals and as a community. Newcomer will use conversation, exploratory writing, poetry, music, and group and individual experiences. The second part of the retreat will include writing a song in community based upon the writing and conversation of the first half of the workshop.

5:30 to 7 pm

**THE 26TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FAITHS
OPENING CELEBRATION**CATHEDRAL OF
THE ASSUMPTION

The 26th Annual Festival of Faiths *Sacred Stories: Contemplation and Connection* opens with a multifaith celebration hosted by the Archdiocese of Louisville in the historic Cathedral of the Assumption. This year we are pleased to introduce Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre to Louisville's rich interfaith community and look forward to sharing music, story and prayer reflective of the rich diversity of faiths in our community. In addition to remarks by Archbishop Fabre, singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer will share music rooted in her Quaker faith which will emphasize the sacred in the ordinary. This year's celebration offers expressions from individuals of all ages and faith traditions.

**SHELTON
FABRE**

The Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre became the fifth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville in 2022, becoming the city's first Black archbishop and only the second in the U.S. Fabre attended St. Joseph Seminary College, graduating with a bachelor's in history. After obtaining a master's in religious studies at a Catholic research university in Belgium, Fabre was ordained. He served at numerous churches and as chaplain at Louisiana State Penitentiary. As Bishop of New Orleans, he helped rebuild the archdiocese in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He's chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism and serves on the board of Catholic Relief Services.

**CARRIE
NEWCOMER**

Carrie Newcomer is a songwriter, recording artist, performer, educator and activist. Described as a "prairie mystic" and one who "asks all the right questions", Newcomer has 19 albums and three books. Her song "I Should've Known Better" appeared on Nickel Creek's Grammy-winning album *This Side*, and she earned an Emmy for her PBS special *An Evening with Carrie Newcomer*. The American Embassy of India invited Newcomer to be a cultural ambassador, resulting in her interfaith benefit album *Everything is Everywhere*, and she's performed worldwide. She is known for her low and resonant voice, her musical depth, and her progressive spiritual content.

8:30 to 9:15 am

HINDU SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Yoga has been in the traditions and lifelines of the sacred ways of living within India for millennium. The very essence of breath is what makes one feel alive and vibrant. You will receive instruction in age-old practices that lead to meaningful and transformative knowledge. These practices serve to help you seek deeper devotion, enlighten philosophical precepts, spiritual liberation, or greater service to others.

SPEAKER: Sunder Iyer

10 am to Noon

LESSONS OF OLD STORIES IN A NEW CONTEXT*Co-curated by the University of Virginia Department of Religious Studies*

Lessons of Old Stories in a New Context will explore the ways that our sacred stories re-shape and re-invigorate our perspectives, behaviors and values as human beings. They convey the wisdom and insights gained through the ages, help us understand the interior currents of our lived experiences, and provide fresh insights to enrich our lives with deeper meaning and purpose. Speakers will share the power of sacred stories to guide us as we face the significant complexities of the modern world.

MODERATOR: Martien Halvorson-Taylor**SPEAKERS:** Lewis Brogdon, Anam Thubten, Shmuly Yanklowitz

1:30 to 3:30 pm

CHANGING STORY KEEPERS: MILLENNIALS AND GEN ZERS*Co-curated by the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research*

Millennials and Gen Zers will explore the next generation of storytellers and how faith has shaped their activism in response to the historic events of the past few years – specifically racial reckonings and other social justice concerns. Learn the ways sacred stories relate to social justice work and contribute to a deepened sense of identity, purpose, and belonging. What are the sacred stories that guide us during times of momentous change? How are narratives shifting to adapt to new realities? Why will our stories matter in future generations?

MODERATOR: Michael Brandon McCormack**SPEAKERS:** Lyla June, storäe michele (participating virtually), Najeeba Syeed

4 to 4:30 pm

CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP

MEX THEATER

Led by Contemplative Outreach of Louisville

6 to 7 pm

EVENING RECEPTIONSCENE AT
THE CENTER

7:30 to 9 pm

AN EVENING OF SACRED STORYTELLING

A curated storytelling experience providing festival attendees with the opportunity to hear personal stories of faith. Be a part of a community as it is transformed by moving, amusing, authentic narratives from our friends and neighbors.

MODERATOR: Tara Anderson

8:30 to 9:15 am

BUDDHIST SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The Four Immeasurables: Each of us has the extraordinary capacity for boundless love and compassion, yet these qualities often lie untapped. The Four Immeasurables is a traditional Buddhist practice of extending love, compassion, joy and equanimity towards all beings. This practice has the power to bring deep healing for ourselves and the world.

SPEAKER: Anam Thubten

10 am to Noon

THY NEIGHBOR: FAITH, POLITICS AND RADICAL ACCEPTANCE*Co-curated by Omega Institute*

In the context of an increasingly polarized country, building on insights gained during our 2021 festival on systemic racism, and taking place during the week of midterm elections and on Veterans Day, we will explore the powerful and challenging concepts of “love of thy neighbor” and “radical acceptance.” Speakers will share frameworks for building more healed, connected, loving, and just communities, and invite participants to reflect on the transformative possibilities with “neighbors” in their own lives.

MODERATOR: Carla Goldstein**SPEAKERS:** John Gable, Neonu Jewell, Courtney Martin, Vivian Williams-Kurutz

MULTIFAITH BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, November 11 • 11 am to 5 pm
Muhammad Ali Center
Register at www.festivaloffaiths.org/blood

1:30 to 3:30 pm

THE SACRED STORIES THAT CONNECT US*Co-curated by Fetzer Institute*

Our lives are made up of connections. Sacred stories illuminate this relationality of life by orienting us to the ways in which we know ourselves, our communities, the natural world, and the sacred. This panel will explore sacred-supported resources for connection across difference, healing, and imagining a shared future through narratives from the Christian, Buddhist, and Hindu faith traditions.

MODERATOR: Meghan Campbell**SPEAKERS:** Judith Simmer-Brown, Anantanand Rambachan, Rubén Rosario Rodriguez

4 to 5:15 pm

SIGNIFICANT STORIES FOR OUR TIMES*A Workshop with Matthew Fox*MEX
THEATER

This workshop will combine teaching from Matthew Fox with active participation by way of journaling, sharing and spiral dancing. Thomas Merton says that “Everything that is, is holy.” Is every being another Christ, another Buddha, potentially? Participants will practice creating their own “I am” poems.

Does the new creation story from science underscore the “miracle” that all existence is? What does that mean for the future of humanity and our relationship to Mother Earth and our liberating ourselves from our own violence and “fatalistic self-hatred”?

SPEAKER: Matthew Fox

7:30 to 9 pm

**SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE: TRANSFORMING HEARTS AND MINDS
TODAY AND TOMORROW**

Featuring preeminent scientists in the fields of neuroscience, social and emotional learning, and ecology, this evening program will focus on the relationship between heart and mind and whether misalignment leads to human suffering today. Do prevailing narratives disconnect us from ourselves, each other, and the planet? Can we look at the social and environmental justice conditions we faced in 2022, and through faith and science consider shifting prevailing stories so that they enhance our spiritual lives and inspire greater purpose and meaning for the future?

SPEAKERS: Richard Davidson, Daniel Goleman (participating virtually), Mary Evelyn Tucker

8:30 to 9:15 am

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

In the spirit of Deep Ecumenism and Interfaith ideology, Matthew Fox will lead a chant in mantra format varied names of the Divine. He will also share other practices appropriate for and deriving from a “Festival of Faiths” that focuses on “Sacred Stories: Contemplation and Connection.” Included is a practice of calling in the four directions and the angels as well as a shared silence.

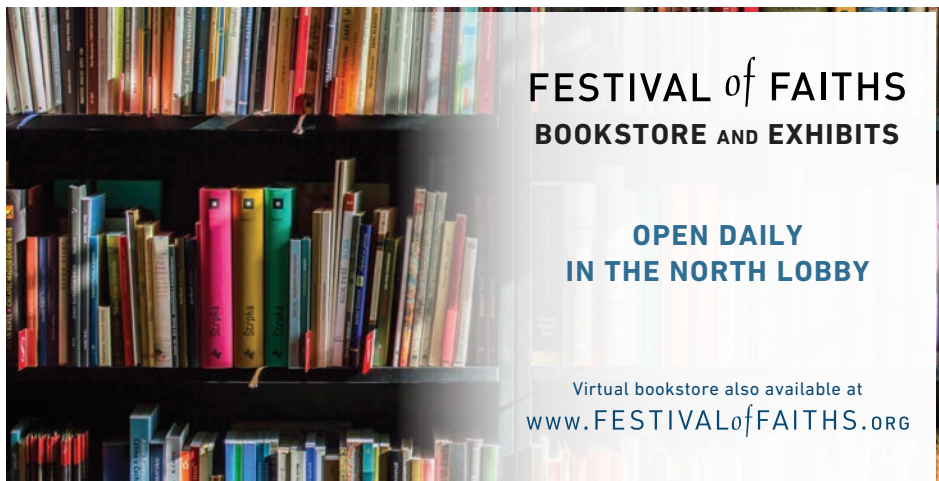
SPEAKER: Matthew Fox

10 am to Noon

FAITH AND A NEW LOUISVILLE THINK-IN

Faith and a New Louisville will introduce a completely new format to the festival. Building on an enhanced understanding of narrative and faith, as well as last year’s essential conversations about race and faith, the session brings together local luminaries with expert panelists to begin envisioning a new story. This facilitated “think-in” will be a quick-moving co-creation of ideas and imagination. It will tap into the creativity and concerns of the group to sketch a faith-informed potential future for Louisville.

MODERATORS: Stephen George, Josh Moss



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BOOKSTORE AND EXHIBITS

OPEN DAILY
IN THE NORTH LOBBY

Virtual bookstore also available at
WWW.FESTIVALofFAITHS.ORG



TARA ANDERSON

Tara Anderson is a writer, podcast producer and storyteller from Louisville, Kentucky. She's made too many podcasts to count, and she's been the producer of the Louisville edition of *The Moth StorySLAM* since 2011. She's currently the producer of *A Skeptic's Path to Enlightenment*, a podcast about Buddhism and science, and she's part of the team at *Ten Percent Happier*, which makes a podcast and an app focused on meditation and compassion. She has degrees in journalism and music performance from the University of Kentucky, a master's in communications from Fordham University, and an MFA in creative writing from Spalding University.



LEWIS BROGDON

Dr. Lewis Brogdon is an associate professor of Preaching and Black Church Studies and director of the Institute for Black Church Studies at the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. He has served in numerous positions in undergraduate and graduate institutions including Simmons College of Kentucky and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In addition to his forthcoming book, *The Bible in the Ashes of Social Chaos: An Introduction to Problematic Texts*, he is the author of *A Companion to Philemon*; *The Spirituality of Black Preaching*; *Hope on the Brink*, and *No Longer a Slave but a Brother*. He's also a regular contributor to publications such as *Christian Ethics Today*, *Virginia Capital Connections Quarterly* and *Black Politics Today*.



RICHARD DAVIDSON

Dr. Richard Davidson is founder and director of the Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is best known for his groundbreaking work studying emotion and the brain. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in psychology, psychopathology and psychophysiology with a minor focus in behavioral neurology and neuroanatomy; and a B.S. in psychology from New York University. A friend and colleague of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, he is a highly sought-after expert and speaker, leading conversations on international stages such as the World Economic Forum. In 2006, *Time* magazine included him as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. His research is broadly focused on the neural bases of emotion and emotional style and methods to promote human flourishing including meditation and related contemplative practices.



MATTHEW FOX

Rev. Matthew Fox, Ph.D., author, theologian and activist priest, has been calling people of spirit and conscience into the Creation Spirituality lineage for over 50 years. His 39 books, lectures, retreats and innovative education models have ignited a movement to awaken people to honor and defend the earth and work for justice. Seeking to establish a new pedagogy for learning spirituality that was grounded in an effort to reawaken the West to its own mystical traditions, as well as interacting with contemporary scientists who are also mystics, Fox founded the University of Creation Spirituality. Fox is recipient of the Abbey Courage of Conscience Peace Award, the Gandhi King Ikeda Award and the Tikkun National Ethics Award, among others. His most recent book is *Matthew Fox: Essential Writings on Creation Spirituality*.

**JOHN GABLE**

John Gable is co-founder and CEO of AllSides, which provides balanced news, media bias ratings, diverse perspectives and civil conversation across divides to help people better understand the world and each other. Gable has nearly 30 years of technology entrepreneurship, management and executive experience. He served on the original teams for Microsoft Office, Mozilla at Netscape (browser now known as Firefox), among other tech companies. Previously, Gable was a political campaigner and executive director working for the Republican National Committee, George H.W. Bush, Mitch McConnell and others. He is a devoted Episcopalian whose work is an important part to his practice as a Christian.

**STEPHEN
GEORGE**

Stephen George is president and CEO of Louisville Public Media (LPM). A Louisville native, he has spent most of his career in journalism. He previously served as executive editor of LPM, where he led a growing, multiplatform and collaborative newsroom. George has also been editor-in-chief of the Nashville City Paper and LEO Weekly. His writing has appeared in a variety of local, state and national media. He is also active in the nonprofit community, serving on the boards of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence and the Young Authors Greenhouse.

**CARLA
GOLDSTEIN**

Carla Goldstein, JD, is president of Omega Institute, a premier holistic learning center, and is co-founder of the Omega Women's Leadership Center. Previously, Goldstein worked in city and state government and the nonprofit sector in public interest advocacy. In 2021, she received the Helen Gurley Brown Genius Grant in recognition of her commitment to women's rights. Career highlights include serving as vice president for public affairs at Planned Parenthood of New York City; working for the speaker of the New York City Council; and teaching about law and social justice at CUNY Queens College. Today, she teaches leaders how to apply holistic principles at work, at home and in community.

**DANIEL GOLEMAN**

Daniel Goleman, a psychologist and science journalist, was with the New York Times for 12 years. He is best known for his book *Emotional Intelligence*. Goleman first met the Dalai Lama in the 1980s, and organized a series of meetings with His Holiness and scientists. Goleman's book *Destructive Emotions* narrates one of those meetings. He was asked to write *A Force for Good*, about the Dalai Lama's vision for the world, to honor His Holiness' 80th birthday. Goleman is co-founder of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning; its mission centers on bringing evidence-based programs in emotional literacy to schools. With Richard Davidson, Goleman wrote *Altered Traits: Science Reveals How Meditation Changes Your Body, Mind and Brain*, a review of the best studies of meditation. His book *Why We Meditate*, written with Tsoknyi Rinpoche, is forthcoming.

**SUNDER IYER**

Sunder Iyer is a yoga practitioner with the Hindu Temple of Kentucky, a local non-profit temple that has been bringing yoga to the Louisville area for over three decades. He immigrated to the United States 25 years ago, where he began to learn yoga. As a student of Guru Sam Rangaswamy, his yoga routine is a mixture of Prana and Kriya techniques. Sunder Iyer currently teaches weekly yoga classes at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 am and encourages anyone interested to come visit.

**MARTIEN HALVORSON-TAYLOR**

Martien Halvorson-Taylor is a scholar of the literature, religions and history of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the Second Temple period. She is particularly interested in how narratives (like the books of Esther and Genesis) and poetry (like the Song of Songs and the book of Job) were interpreted—and how they continue to articulate the major human questions and provide for existential reflection. Since 2004, she has taught at the University of Virginia, where she also co-directs the Religion, Race and Democracy Lab, which, with an interdisciplinary cohort of faculty and students, supports teaching, facilitates research, and produces stories in many forms on religion, race and democracy.

**NEONU JEWELL**

Neonu Jewell is committed to creating transformative results in the world and lives by the mantra “when one succeeds, we all succeed.” Her focus is on transformational leadership, personal empowerment, and promoting inclusive cultures where people can live and work together across differences. She is founder and CEO of the Christmas Jewell Corporation, a consultancy that works to transform organizational cultures and individual lives. Neonu also serves as executive and spiritual director of the Niyah Center, an interfaith empowerment and social justice community. In addition, the former practicing attorney is a faculty member for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity’s Pathfinder Program and Momentum Education’s Leadership.

**LYLA JUNE**

Lyla June is an Indigenous musician, scholar and community organizer of Diné (Navajo), Tsétséshéshéshé (Cheyenne) and European lineages. Her dynamic, multigenre presentation style has engaged audiences across the globe towards personal, collective and ecological healing. She blends studies in human ecology at Stanford, graduate work in indigenous pedagogy, and the traditional worldview she grew up with to inform her music, perspectives and solutions. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree, focusing on indigenous food systems revitalization.



**COURTNEY
MARTIN**

Courtney Martin is an author and entrepreneur. Her latest book, *Learning in Public: Lessons for a Racially Divided America from My Daughter's School*, explores White parents and the unfinished business of school integration through a mix of memoir and reportage. She is co-founder of The Solutions Journalism Network and FRESH Speakers Bureau, has a popular newsletter called Examined Family, and has two TED talks totaling nearly 6 million views. She earned the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics, a residency from the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, and an honorary Ph.D. from Art Center of Design. She lives with her family in a co-housing community in Oakland, where she also co-leads the local chapter of Integrated Schools.



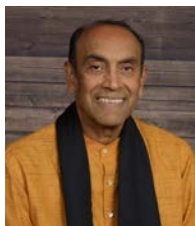
**MICHAEL
BRANDON
MCCORMACK**

Dr. Michael Brandon McCormack is associate professor of Pan-African Studies and Comparative Humanities and director of the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research at the University of Louisville. He earned his Ph.D. in religion from Vanderbilt University. His research explores intersections between Black religion, popular culture, the arts and activism. He teaches courses in African American religion, religions of the African diaspora, and religion and hip-hop culture. He is an inaugural Ascending Stars Fellow at UofL and a research fellow at the University of Memphis. He is also a member of the Black Interfaith Project, a network of academics, artists, and activists engaged in research and action around the role of Black religious practices in social justice movements.



JOSH MOSS

Josh Moss has served as editor of Louisville Magazine since 2014, and he began working at the publication upon graduating from Ohio University in 2006. He's written about Pappy Van Winkle mania, the city's oldest Black-owned funeral home, Louisville's last abortion clinic, the divide between east and west Louisville, and how the city has changed since March 2020. He spent a year working on a profile of rapper Jack Harlow. In 2013, he ate 38 burgers in 31 days on a quest to find the city's best. In 2020, the magazine won a General Excellence award from the City and Regional Magazine Association.



**ANANTANAND
RAMBACHAN**

Anantanand Rambachan is a professor of religion at Saint Olaf College, Minnesota, and was a visiting professor at the Academy for the Study of World Religions at the University of Hamburg in Germany. Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Rambachan's early experiences with an interreligious community have inspired his involvement in interfaith relations. He is active in the dialogue programs of the World Council of Churches and was a Hindu guest and presenter in four of the organization's General Assemblies. He's written numerous books, and the BBC transmitted a series of his lectures around the world. Rambachan serves on numerous boards, including as president of the board at Arigatou International NY, a global organization advocating for the rights of children and mobilizing the resources of religions to overcome violence against children.



**RUBÉN ROSARIO
RODRÍGUEZ**

The Rev. Dr. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez, a graduate of Union Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary, holds the Clarence Louis and Helen Steber Professorship in Theological Studies at Saint Louis University. Publications include *Dogmatics After Babel: Beyond the Theologies of Word and Culture* and the *T&T Clark Handbook of Political Theology*. His next book, *Theological Fragments: Confessing What We Know and Cannot Know About an Infinite God*, is scheduled for publication in April. Rosario engages issues of global migration and social justice as director of the Mev Puleo Program in Latin American Politics, Theology, and Culture at Saint Louis University, and through advocacy work with Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates.



**JUDITH
SIMMER-BROWN**

Judith Simmer-Brown is a professor of contemplative and religious studies at Naropa University, where she has taught for over 40 years. Simmer-Brown is founder of Naropa's Center for the Advancement of Contemplative Education, and is a trainer for the Compassion Initiative. She co-chairs the Contemplative Studies Steering Committee for the American Academy of Religion; is author of *Dakini's Warm Breath: The Feminine Principle in Tibetan Buddhism*; and co-editor of *Meditation and the Classroom: Contemplative Pedagogy for Religious Studies*. She is co-editor of a new contemplative studies book series and is guest co-editor of a forthcoming special issue on compassion for *Mindfulness Journal*. For the last year, she's been co-team leader for the Buddhist team of Fetzer's Shared Sacred Story project.



STORÄE MICHELE

storäe michele (they/them) is a black queer, shape-shifting, non-binary femme, afro-futurist performer + storäe-teller. Their creative practice builds a present and embodied archive of black femme futures + aliveness. their art is in dialogue with black feminist philosophers, activists and African diasporic folk + futurist writers, with whom they co-create blueprints for navigating black life and livelihood despite living in a state of precariousness, and yet, coping, surviving and thriving. storäe centers these narratives on rituals of self-love, cultivating accountability within community, and learning from black queer feminists who envision worlds beyond white supremacist capitalist patriarchy.



NAJEEBA SYEED

Najeeba Syeed is the inaugural El-Hibri endowed chair and executive director of Interfaith at Augsburg. She has been a professor, expert practitioner and public speaker for the last two decades in the fields of conflict resolution, interfaith studies, mediation, education, deliberative democracy, social, gender and racial equity. In 2021 she served as chief of staff for an elected official, and prior to that appointment was an associate professor of Interreligious Education for a decade at Claremont School of Theology. She is widely published in the area of interreligious studies, peace studies and theologies of religious communities.



ANAM THUBTEN

Anam Thubten grew up in Tibet and at an early age began to practice in the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. He currently resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is the founder and spiritual advisor of Dharmata Foundation, teaching widely in the U.S, Europe and Asia. He is the author of several books, including *Embracing Each Moment*, *No Self, No Problem*, and *The Citadel of Awareness*. Through sharing his wisdom and personal experience on the spiritual path, Thubten brings alive the timeless teachings of Buddhism.

MARY EVELYN
TUCKER

Mary Evelyn Tucker teaches at Yale University's School of the Environment and at the Divinity School. She is co-director (with John Grim) of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology and has co-organized 10 conferences on World Religions and Ecology. Tucker is the author and/or editor of close to 20 volumes and has published hundreds of articles. She is widely regarded as a pioneer in the field of religion and ecology. Tucker was a member of the Earth Charter Drafting committee and the International Earth Charter Council. She won the Inspiring Yale Teaching Award in 2015 and has been awarded five honorary degrees. With Grim, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture.

VIVIAN
WILLIAMS-
KURUTZ

Vivian Williams-Kurutz is a founder and executive director of Harlem Wellness Center, as well as a health activist, community organizer, yoga and meditation teacher, writer and business owner in Manhattan. Through two decades of work at the intersection of racial, health and environmental justice, she is committed to contributing to the vibrancy, health and stability of her community and the world. In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream for "beloved community," she delights in bringing diverse groups together in ways that foster understanding, connection, healing and social change. Previously, she maintained an extensive career in the arts that encompassed performance, direction, producing, writing, music and teaching.

SHMULY
YANKLOWITZ

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz has twice been named one of America's Top Rabbis by Newsweek and has been named by The Forward as one of the 50 most influential Jews and one of The Most Inspiring Rabbis in America. Rabbi Yanklowitz is the author of 22 books on Jewish ethics, and his writings have appeared in outlets including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Guardian and Atlantic, among many other publications. He has served as speaker at the World Economic Forum Switzerland and a Rothschild Fellow in Cambridge, UK. Shmuly received master's degrees from Harvard University and Yeshiva University, and his doctoral from Columbia University. He was ordained as a rabbi by Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, along with two private ordinations in Israel.

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