

Daughters of Abraham

Mission of the Daughters of Abraham

- ◆ To overcome stereotypes and to foster mutual respect and understanding among Muslim, Jewish and Christian women
- ◆ To learn about the commonalities and differences found in Islam, Judaism and Christianity
- ◆ To develop an interfaith community of women who can speak intelligently about the Abrahamic faiths

Daughters of Abraham

How is this different from interfaith dialogue groups?

- ◆ We see ourselves not as a dialogue group but as a book group
- ◆ We read to explore the meanings, shape and practice of our own and one's another's religious experience
- ◆ Our goal is to offer one another a window into our living experience of faith
- ◆ We have chosen to name ourselves after Abraham as our father because Abraham is considered by many to be the first monotheist, and to emphasize our common roots

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What is the general structure of your meetings?

- ◆ We meet once a month for a two hour meeting
- ◆ We try to have space that is non-sectarian, comfortable and easily accessible.
- ◆ Our meetings are for two hours.
- ◆ The first 30 minutes or so are devoted to social time and community building, gathered around kosher/halal food brought by the members.
- ◆ We spend about an hour or an hour and a quarter on the discussion of what we have read.

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Do you have ground rules?

- ◆ We have agreed to speak respectfully to one another
- ◆ We do not monopolize the conversation
- ◆ We speak from personal experience rather than making sweeping statements
- ◆ We ask questions of members of other religions rather than making assumptions about them

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Do you ever disagree? Are there problems?

- ◆ We occasionally disagree and try to resolve our difficulties with respect and in the moment.
- ◆ We encourage members to speak up when something has offended or upset them so that we can resolve difficulties in the group.

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Why do you avoid politics?

- ◆ We are committed to building relationships with each other, so we look for common ties rather than differences
- ◆ Our goal is to show that all Abrahamic faiths can be a force behind a variety of lives lived well and honorably.
- ◆ Politics is the thing that can divide us. We prefer to focus on what unites us.
- ◆ If political issues arise as a result of what we are reading we discuss them in the context of the book.

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How do you choose books?

- ◆ **Members suggest books**
- ◆ **In some groups leaders take a more active role in selecting books**
- ◆ **If anyone strongly objects to reading a book (especially someone whose religion is described in the book) we do not read it in the group**

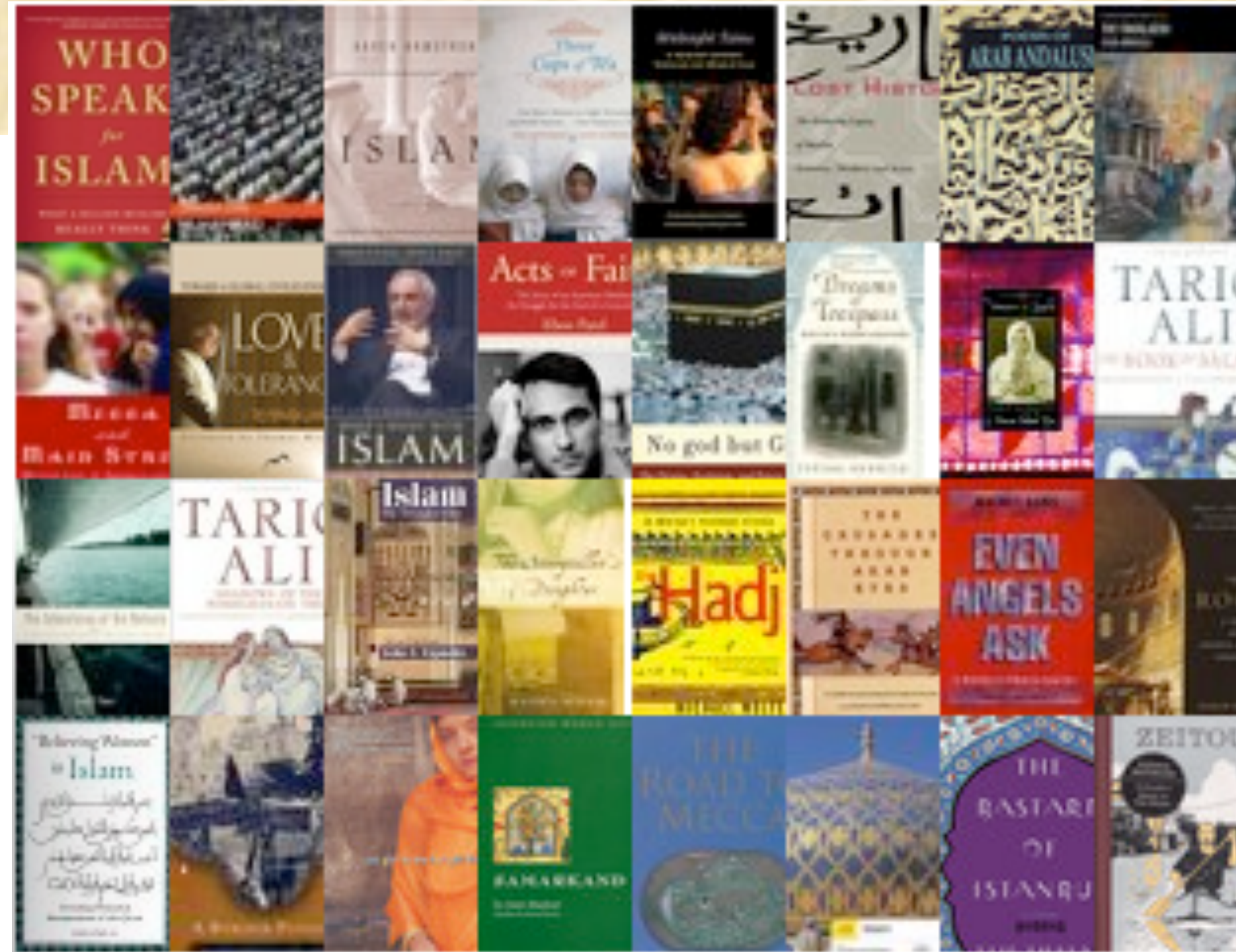
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What kinds of books are appropriate for your meetings?

- ◆ Books that show how religion inspires personal experience
- ◆ We usually rotate our book selections monthly- a Jewish book, a Christian book, a Muslim book.
- ◆ Fiction, memoirs, biography, history, poetry are all options
- ◆ Books that help us talk together about our religious background and help us learn about one another's religions.
- ◆ Books on culture and history help to fill in our gaps in cultural awareness

Women's Interfaith Book Group

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Who belongs to Daughters Groups?

- ◆ Jewish, Christian and Muslim women who can say that their religion informs their daily life.
- ◆ In order to have as much common ground as possible, we chose be comprised only of the three Abrahamic religions.
- ◆ Members of our groups are teachers, doctors, ministers, rabbis, engineers, scientists, technicians, retirees, students, mothers, grandmothers, professors, real estate agents, lawyers, social workers, event planners, and women from many other backgrounds

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How can I join or start a group?

- ◆ You can join a group listed on our web site by contacting the group directly
- ◆ You can contact us by email and we will tell you whether there is a group meeting near you
- ◆ If there is no group in your area and you would like to start a group, you can contact us by email
- ◆ We will also provide you with a mentor/liaison who can be available to you as you begin a group to provide guidance

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Where are there Daughters Groups?

Cambridge, MA (2 groups)

Newton, MA (2 groups)

Arlington, MA

Wellesley, MA

Jamaica Plain, MA

Roslindale, MA

Sudbury River Valley area, MA

Merrimack Valley area, MA

MetroWest area, MA

Andover, MA

Brookfield, MA

Winchester, MA

Cape Cod, MA

Washington, DC (2 groups)

Erie, PA

Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia, PA at Univ. of Penn.

West Chester, PA

Pittsburgh, PA

Baltimore, MD

Des Moines, IA

Montreal, Canada

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What do you do besides reading books?

- ◆ Yearly gathering of all Boston area groups converse and share a meal
- ◆ We watch movies together
- ◆ We have “sharing meetings” where we come together with photos, significant religious objects, songs, poems, reflections
- ◆ We visit each others houses of worship
- ◆ We invite group members to attend lectures and religious celebrations
- ◆ Daughters' groups in the Boston area gather once a year to meet one another, share a meal, and learn more about Daughters' groups locally and nationally
- ◆ Daughters from different groups have travelled together to Spain, Jerusalem, and Turkey

Daughters of Abraham

How to Contact Us

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or talk to us personally