



Spring Interfaith Council  
United for Understanding

April 2026  
Volume 99

## DIALOGUE MEALS

Register NOW for Spring Interfaith Dialogue Meals 2026

Talking face-to-face with your neighbors of different faiths over a shared meal is one of the best ways to increase understanding among people. Five families belonging to the Spring Interfaith Council have offered to provide a simple meal in their homes on different days and times during Dialogue Week, May 11-17. Each home will welcome 8 to 14 guests of a diverse range of faith traditions. A moderator will be present at each home to guide discussion on religious topics in a safe and respectful manner.

Space is limited, so register now to assure that you get a day and time convenient to you:

	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Host 1	Wednesday	13-May	12:00pm
Host 2	Wednesday	13-May	6:30pm
Host 3	Thursday	14-May	11:30am
Host 4	Thursday	14-May	6:00pm
Host 5	Saturday	16-May	10:30am

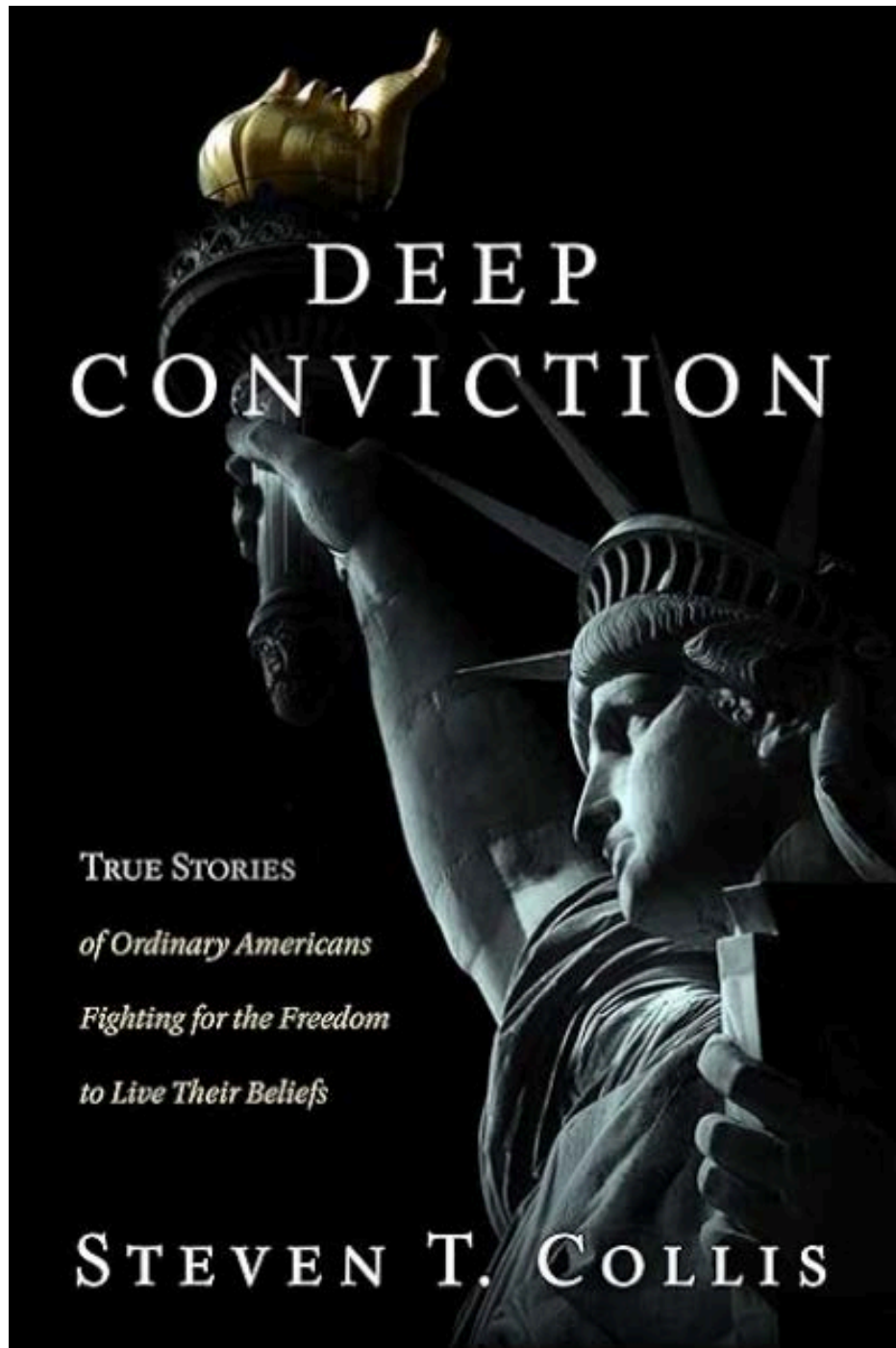
Reserve your spot now by emailing [nancy.agafitei@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.agafitei@gmail.com) and indicate all of the dates on which you could participate. For each participant who will attend the meal, please include their name and e-mail address, plus indicate their faith tradition (or “no faith tradition”) so that we can provide a diverse mix of participants for each conversation. When the groups have been set up, you will receive an email providing you with the name and address of your host.



## WOMEN'S VOICES

Women's Voices is an interfaith group of women that meets once a month for discussion based on a book they are reading. The next gathering is on Thursday, April 2 in the Oasis Room at the Northwoods Presbyterian Church (3320 Cypress Creek Pkwy, Houston, TX 77068). They will meet from 12:30 - 2:30pm discussing Part Three of the book "Deep Conviction: True Stories of Ordinary Americans Fighting for the Freedom to Live Their Beliefs" by Steven Collis. If you'd like to know more, please contact Nancy Agafitei. Her email address is: [nancy.agafitei@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.agafitei@gmail.com)

Mr. Collis will be speaking at an America250 event on April 18th. Details can be found on [page 4](#) of this newsletter.



## SIC PLANNING MEETING

All are invited to our quarterly planning meeting on April 10 at 10am at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church (2322 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, TX 77388) in the Parrish Hall. Watch for the signs. We will review our various communication avenues, discuss our upcoming events, as well as coordinate tours of houses of worship/buildings of faith. May 7 is World Day of Prayer and if your faith or organization would like to host a community event or gathering of some sort, we'd love to have your input! Would your faith or organization enjoy providing a tour to the community? Join our planning meeting to collaborate. See you April 10th!

## OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Archdiocese of Galveston Houston invites you to a monthly online community conversation about race, faith, and finding our way forward in love. Each Open Wide Our Hearts meeting includes a presentation on a relevant topic. After the presentation, a small group discussion will follow.

Join this month's presentation which will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 when we will discuss the topic "God in All Things - Ignatian Discernment for Difficult Times." How does God want me to respond to sin and injustice? How can my thoughts and prayers lead me to holy action, rooted in the mission of Christ? We will learn more about the gift of discernment as it was taught by St. Ignatius, and how it can help us find peace and purpose in the work of social justice.

[Click here to register](#)



# AMERICA250: CELEBRATING FAITH & FREEDOM

In honor of America250 we want to examine religious freedom in the United States, celebrate our religious diversity, and provide an opportunity for unity and peacemaking between people of different faith traditions. So we invite the community to a free event to commemorate America's 250 years of independence on April 18th at 2pm. This free event includes a keynote speaker and breakout sessions tailored to all ages, planned by an interfaith committee across greater Houston.

We hope that participants will be —

- Enlightened with a greater understanding of the religious freedom issues currently happening,
- Uplifted in knowing they are not alone in facing those challenges,
- Inspired to trust each other as we become peacemakers in our individual spheres of influence, and
- Motivated to return to their communities ready to work together to take meaningful action.

Please join us as we reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (16535 Kleinwood Drive) will host and you can register [HERE](#). A schedule of events is included on the website as well. Please share the flyer below and the website to register with family and friends.

**AMERICA250:**  
**CELEBRATING FAITH AND FREEDOM**

JOIN US FOR A  
**FREE COMMUNITY  
INTERFAITH EVENT**  
in Houston, Texas

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026**  
**2:00 PM - 5:30 PM**  
16535 Kleinwood Dr, Spring, TX 77379

**ADULTS AND CHILDREN WELCOME**

**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER** **STEVEN T. COLLIS**  
Expert in religious law, First Amendment freedoms, and productive discourse  
Law professor at the University of Texas  
Acclaimed Author and Speaker

**BREAKOUT  
SESSIONS** Table Discussions  
Service Projects  
Intergenerational Activities  
... And More!

Register Online 

# VISIT FROM DR. ALICE ROTHCHILD

Dr. Alice Rothchild is a physician, author, and filmmaker with a longstanding interest in human rights and social justice. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1970 and Boston University School of Medicine in 1974. She practiced ob-gyn for almost 40 years. Until her retirement she served as Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Harvard Medical School. Alice writes and lectures widely, blogs regularly, and is the author of several books on Israel/Palestine, three focused on health and human rights issues, and two award winning novels for children. Her memoir was named a must read for the month of November by Ms Magazine. She is a member of Jewish Voice for Peace Health Advisory Council, mentor liaison for We Are Not Numbers, on the board of the Gaza Mental Health Foundation and Americans for Middle East Understanding. She was last in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza in August 2023. For more info, including study guides and resources: [www.alicerothchildbooks.com](http://www.alicerothchildbooks.com) and <http://www.alicerothchild.com>

Sat., April 11, 3-5pm

Live Oak Friends Meeting

1318 West 26th Street, Houston, TX 77008

Topic: Failure of the US Health establishment  
on reporting conditions in Gaza

Sunday, April 12th, 10-11am

(15 min during worship); and talk at 11:15 – 12:00

Plymouth United Church of Christ

5927 Louetta Road, Spring, TX 77379

Contact: 281-251-8147

Topic Women's History / Conversation with Alice

Monday: April 13th, 6:30-8:30pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

5200 Fannin St. Houston, TX 77004

Co-sponsored by Houston Interfaith for Middle East  
Peace and Jewish Voice for Peace

Topic: A screening of the documentary  
"Voices Across the Divide"

Sat., April 11, 7-9pm

Basket-Books & Art

115 Hyde Park Blvd, Houston, TX 77006

Topic: *Inspired and Outraged: The Making  
of a Feminist Physician* (Alice's memoir)

Sunday, April 12, 6-8pm

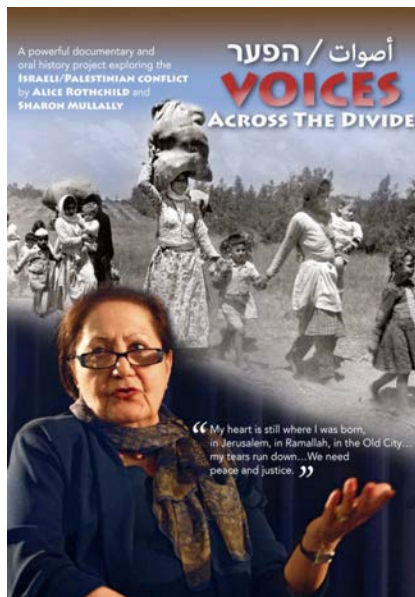
Cypress Creek Christian Church

6823 Cypresswood Spring, TX 77379

Contact: 281-376-7113

Co-sponsored by Spring Interfaith Council

Topic: Weaponization of antisemitism to  
silence critics of Israeli policy.

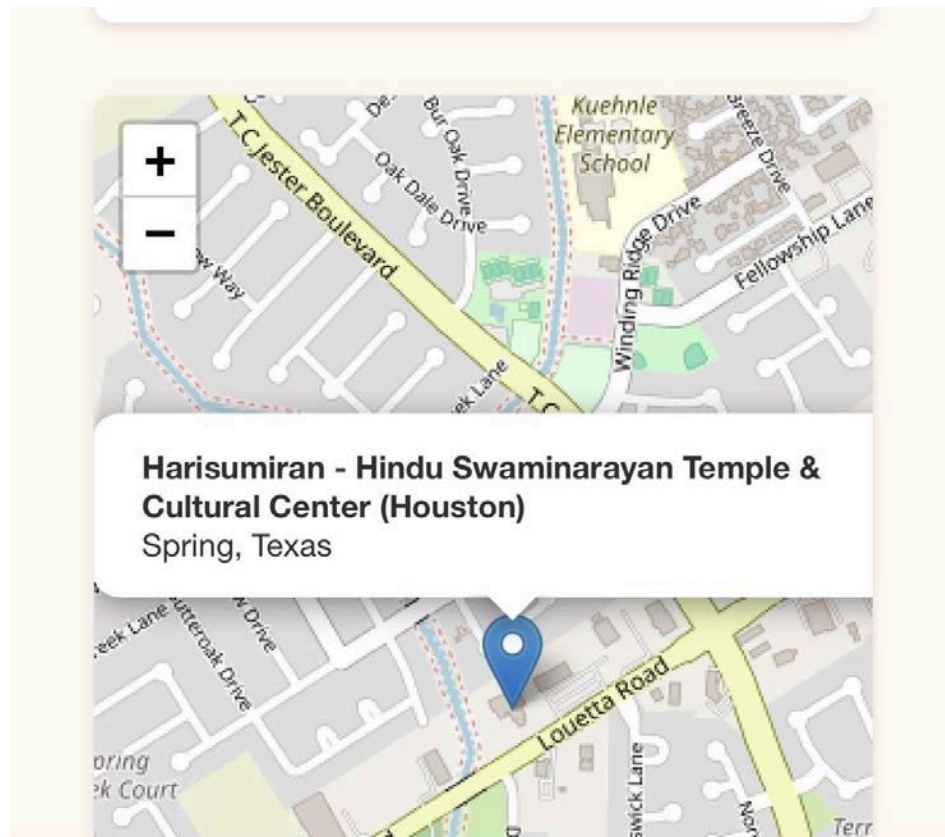


# TOUR HINDU TEMPLE

Ooma Lakshmanan has made arrangements for the Spring Interfaith Council to tour the Harisumiran - Hindu Swaminarayan Temple & Cultural Center on 5850 Louetta Rd., Spring TX 77379 on Friday, April 24, 2026. We will gather at 9:30am, and the tour will begin at 9:45. We must exit the building by 11:00am because of other activities they have scheduled. You can see more on their website: <https://harisumiran.org/tx>

Note these guidelines for visiting the temple: Please do not wear shorts. Head covering is optional.

We need an **RSVP** from you by April 15 if you want to join the tour. Send it to [ooma.lakshmanan@gmail.com](mailto:ooma.lakshmanan@gmail.com)



# DIALOGUE INSTITUTE HOUSTON

Dialogue Institute Houston is organizing an interfaith trip to Spain. They already have 4–5 participants signed up and are hoping to reach others who might be interested. Details are below and you can contact Nazli Cizmeci, Director, Dialogue Institute Houston at (512) 909-3578.

Trip Dates: September 4–11

Includes:

Transportation throughout the trip

Professional tour guide

Accommodation

Entry fees to scheduled sites

Meals (with some free time to explore local cuisine independently)

Cost: \$3,950 + airfare

Deadline: April 26, 2026

Interest Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSed5fGnctpOd4MiUhPVAthKVyrCpb9lLhsI2o2mprldqdxEEA/viewform>

**DIALOGUE INSTITUTE HOUSTON**

## Interfaith Trip to Spain

Explore Madrid, Toledo, Cordoba, Seville, and Granada

**Airfare + \$3950**

**Package Include**

- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Tour Guide
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Entry Fees
- ✓ Inclusive meals, with two free days to explore local cuisine at your own pace

Experience Andalusia's rich cultural and religious heritage through guided visits to iconic landmarks and interfaith dialogue, and enjoy local culinary experiences

Deadline: April 26, 2026

SCAN ME

[www.dialoguehtx.org](http://www.dialoguehtx.org)

# HOPE CENTER HOUSTON

Save the date for Hope Center Houston's 10th Anniversary Luncheon and Fundraiser. Details are in the flyer below and you can purchase tickets here: <https://events.humanitix.com/10th-anniversary-luncheon>



## HOPE CENTER HOUSTON'S 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON & FUNDRAISER FOR OUR FUTURE

Friday, May 15 11am - 2pm  
St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, Christus Center

### Speakers:

Joel North, CEO HCA Northwest Healthcare  
2026 HOPE CENTER HOUSTON VISIONARY OF THE YEAR

Kelly Young, CEO Coalition for the Homeless/Houston/Harris County

Madison Yezak, Actress, Model, Author, Social Media Influencer  
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Debbie Johnson, Founder and Heart of Hope Center Houston

MUSIC by Gene Keen

### TICKETS

\$100/person \$800/table of 8  
Last day to purchase tickets, Friday, May 1





## HOPE CENTER HOUSTON

821 Peakwood,  
Houston, TX 77090  
Phone 832-965-5511

The Hope Center is a day center that not only offers hope to those in our community experiencing homelessness, but also a delicious hot breakfast, lunch, showers, laundry, clothing, social services, mentoring, prayer, and more! The Hope Center's regular hours of operation are Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Hope Center Houston, please contact the Hope Center Volunteer Coordinator at 832-965-5511 for additional information. Or to volunteer please [click here](#).

### Women of Hope

The Hope Center is excited to announce a new program and ministry for at-risk women called "Women of Hope". Utilizing Hope Center Houston's campus in Northwest Houston as a base, they currently offer women (and men) a sanctuary from the storms of life during the day. Now, through the generous support of local congregations, organizations, businesses, and individuals and in partnership with Hope to Home Houston, their new program offers at-risk women not only a safe, sheltering space to sleep each night, but also a life skills, education, and employment program by day. Learn more [here](#) and thank you for your prayers and financial support.

### Women in Need

Victims of inclement weather, insults, threats, assault, robbery, and rape can find help here. The Hope Center has learned first-hand that most women living on the streets are indeed the most vulnerable members of our community.



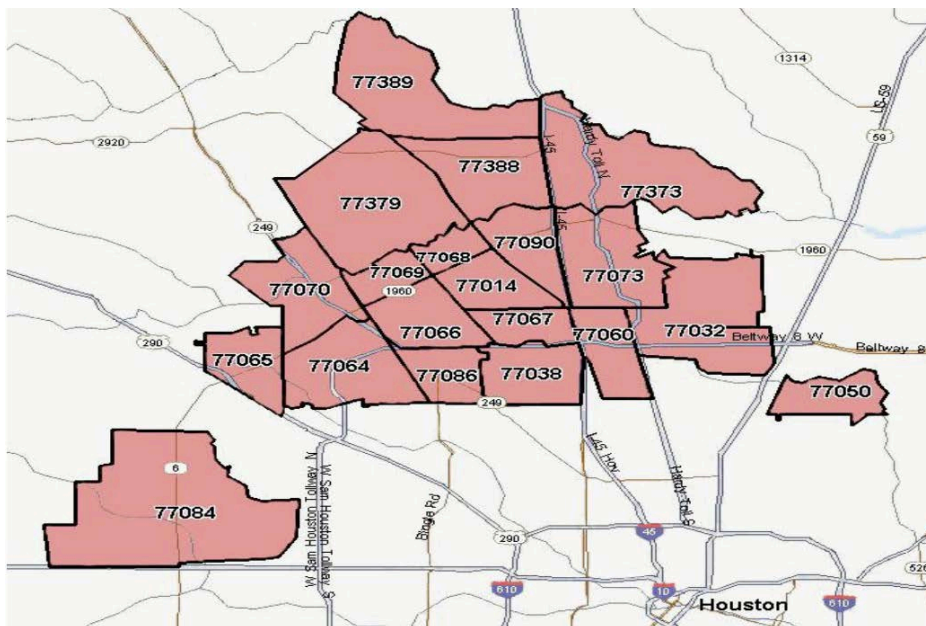
## NORTHWEST ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES

15555 Kuykendahl Rd  
Houston, TX 77090

Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) is a nonprofit, community-based, social service agency that strives to meet basic human needs. NAM provides assistance in areas including food, shelter, health, education, safety and financial education over 660 square miles of northwest Harris County. If you need help or know someone who does, call NAM (281) 885-4555 or visit [their website](#). For the 24 Hour Family Violence Hotline call (281) 885-4673. NAM relies on supporters and volunteers to help provide services and hope to our community. For every dollar donated, between 85 and 90 cents goes directly back to NAM to support their programs and services. NAM is always grateful for monetary donations and it is super easy to [donate here](#).

NAM could not serve our community without volunteers. NAM is always in need of volunteers for the Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, and the Resale Donation Center. To learn more about how to volunteer, including kids [click here](#).

### ZIP Codes Served by Northwest Assistance Ministries



# RESOURCES AVAILABLE

If your faith community or organization has a resource to offer, please send an email containing information about that resource to [springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com) and we will include the information in the listing below.

## Resources for the Spring Community - Updated 9/1/2025

RESOURCE	WHAT IS PROVIDED?	PROVIDER/SPONSOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
Medical Clinics	Medical Care Medical Care	Masjid Al Salam Mosque Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)	ahsanhuq@sbcglobal.net 281-583-5600
Housing/Rental Assistance	Rehousing (1) and Rental Assistance	Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)	Online Application <a href="http://namonline.org/basic-needs">namonline.org/basic-needs</a>
Homeless	Food, clothing, showers, etc.	Hope Center Houston	821 Peakwood Houston, TX 77090 832-965-5511 M-F 9am-3pm
Transportation	Transportation	Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)	281-583-5600
Family Support	Food pantry, Counseling, Health Services, After School Clubs, Literacy, Educational Support	Bridging For Tomorrow <a href="http://www.bridgingfortomorrow.org">www.bridgingfortomorrow.org</a> Serving ZIP Codes: 77066 & 77086	5351 W. Richey Road Houston, TX 77066 281-203-0830 Email: <a href="mailto:infor@bridgingfortomorrow.org">infor@bridgingfortomorrow.org</a>
Employment Assistance	Counseling & training Job Training	Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)  Deseret Industries	281-583-5600  8625 FM 1960, Houston Phone: 346-214-7453
Mobile Food Distribution	Food	Kinsmen Lutheran Church  See also Bridging for Tomorrow & Houston Food Bank	1st Saturday 8-11 AM Mobile Food Distribution at 5359 W Richey Rd, Houston, TX 77066
Meals on Wheels	Food Delivery	Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)	Senior Center 281-885-4622
Clothing	Clothing	Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)	281-583-5600
Showers	Offering showers & a set of clean clothes to each client every Friday 10-2	Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)	<a href="http://www.movingwaters-houston.org/showers">www.movingwaters-houston.org/showers</a>
Food	Food Pantry	Abundant Harvest Kitchen	24803 Oakhurst Dr, Spring, TX 77386 e xt: 781-474-3673 Make appointment on Monday at: <a href="https://harvestkitchen.org/food-pantry/">https://harvestkitchen.org/food-pantry/</a>

# **BULLETIN BLURBS**

These snippets are available for you to copy and paste into your faith newsletters and community bulletins or print out and serve as a personal reminder.

**Women's Voices meeting** - April 2, 12:30 - 2:30pm, Northwoods Presbyterian Church, (3320 Cypress Creek Pkwy, Houston, TX 77068)

**Spring Interfaith Council Planning Meeting** - April 10, 10am, Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, (2322 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, TX 77388)

**Open Wide Our Hearts Community Conversations** - Next Zoom discussion will be April 15, 10am-noon. Click [Here](#) for the Zoom Link.

**America250: Celebrating Faith & Freedom** - April 18, 2-5:30pm. Register [Here](#) (16535 Kleinwood Drive Spring, TX77379)

**Visit from Dr. Alice Rothchild** - Multiple appearances of guest speaker Alice Rothchild April 11-13

**Harisumiran - Hindu Swaminarayan Temple & Cultural Center** - RSVP by April 15 to tour this Hindu temple on April 24 at 9:30am (5850 Louetta Rd., Spring TX 77379). RSVP to [ooma.lakshmanan@gmail.com](mailto:ooma.lakshmanan@gmail.com)

**Dialogue Institute Houston** - Register [Here](#) by April 26 to take an interfaith trip to Spain in September.

**Dialogue Meals** - Sign up NOW to enjoy a dialogue meal the week of May 11-17. RSVP your choice to [nancy.agafitei@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.agafitei@gmail.com)

**Save the Date, Hope Center Houston** - 10th Anniversary Luncheon and Fundraiser on May 18

You can find Spring Interfaith Council at their [Website](#) and on [Facebook](#)



## **DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?**

If you have an event or announcement you would like to include in future newsletters, please send the information to Diane Hunt at [springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com). Our newsletter will be sent out via email no later than the first day of each month. Therefore, please send the information about your event or announcement no later than the 20th day of the month prior to the event.

### **Subscription Information**

If you have friends who might enjoy receiving this newsletter, please forward this copy of the newsletter to them. Anyone can subscribe by adding their email address to our database. Just send a request to [springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:springinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com) Or if you do not wish to receive this newsletter anymore, please respond to this email and ask to be removed from our subscribers list. Also, please feel free to print and post this newsletter on your faith community bulletin board.