



Daughters of Abraham

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



FROM OUR FOUNDER: Janice Harris Lord

As you know, we steer clear of discussions about politics in Daughters of Abraham. We would never endorse candidates, but I trust we all voted this month and keep on top of the political issues. For your future reference, the League of Women Voters offers non-biased answers to questions directly from the candidates themselves, so you can always look for their print publication in libraries or online to help you decide how you want to vote.

With this time change, we enjoy more morning light. Thanksgiving brings emotional light for all of us as we express gratitude among family and friends. The Christmas and Hanukkah Holy Days celebrate light. This season, we can all appreciate Light overcoming Darkness regardless of the formal Holy Day we may or may not celebrate. It is easy to get caught up in the darkness of our world right now, but we must not disregard our ability to bring Light into someone's eyes simply by being kind, by noticing when darkness seems to be creeping in, and by correcting myths and prejudices. I love Christmas lights as a person who strongly prefers light and warmth over darkness and cold. May you light up someone's life by bringing joy and hope everywhere this season! I love you so much.



NEWS: Book Discussion Invitation

For anyone available on November 20 at 7 p.m., the Dallas Daughters would like to invite you to our special meeting to discuss the book *A Vanished World: Medieval Spain's Golden Age of Enlightenment* by Chris Lowney. The discussion will be led by our wonderful Dr. Laila Rumsey, who has even prepared a summary guide for those who can't make it through the whole 300+ page book. Email caseskyl@gmail.com for more information or just show up! We will be meeting at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, 9800 Preston Road, Jubilee Hall B, Dallas 75230. (This is a new host church for us; we like to move around a lot as we've found it brings us new members.)



NEWS: Daughters of Abraham Chorus Forming NOW!

Attention: Especially Jewish and Muslim Daughters! Bette Jo (BJ) Lee is putting together a Daughters of Abraham Chorus. We need a few more Jewish and Muslim women to have good representation from all three faiths. We hope to have this chorus sing at events, perhaps during the holidays. The tentative plan for practice is for BJ to send you the music and a link to listen to. Each group might practice either before or after meetings. Then we could all come together at some central location for an all-group practice. BJ will get the music and link out soon! **Contact BJ at bjruss@lee-web.org or 346-276-5301 to sign up.**



Arlington/Fort Worth Morning Group

Nearly 40 Daughters attended the September 24 meeting at Rush Creek Christian Church in Arlington, where they viewed the documentary, "Colleyville" about the hostage-taking of Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker and three of his members at Congregation Beth Israel in January 2022. This event was even more poignant for us in Daughters because Adena Cytron-Walker, the Rabbi's wife, was leader of our NE Tarrant County Daughters group, and many of us knew them well. After the viewing, Jeff Cohen, one of the hostages, and Michele Kerstein, a Daughters member who would ordinarily have been at the Synagogue that day, shared their personal perspectives and responded to questions from the participants.

This group's October 29 meeting at Mosque al Ibrahim in Fort Worth was a follow-up to the viewing of the "Colleyville" documentary in September. Discussion on the topic, "How my faith helps me deal with the threat of violence," was facilitated by our Muslim sister Elizabeth Shaheed. As has been this group's tradition, the November and December meetings are combined to meet on the first Wednesday in December. The discussion topic will be "What my Faith Tradition says about Gratitude." The ladies will bring cookies for a cookie exchange for ourselves as well as food items for the Tarrant County Food Bank.



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Northeast Tarrant County Group

On September 18th, the Northeast Tarrant County Daughters of Abraham chapter met at First Presbyterian Church of Grapevine for their first meeting of the fall, following their summer hiatus. We viewed a TED Talk by Meredith Preston McGhie (Secretary General at the Global Center for Pluralism), titled "Peace and The Power of The Middle Ground".* The TED Talk reflected on the work McGhie did with warring African locals creating a middle ground from which both sides could hold a space for mutual communication, to attempt to find peace. Our group held a lively discussion on the topic and enjoyed renewing friendships, along with some great snacks!

(*<https://mcatexas.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4fd5313ea9a873f45bc170fff&id=ddfa808ef3&e=019bdcca98>)

The Northeast Tarrant Daughters of Abraham met Thursday, October 16, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Colleyville. There were 16 of us sharing "Sounds of Worship" together. We shared music, prayers, chants and silences that have meant a lot to us in our faith lives. Ruth was the host. She shared the song "Be Still and Know that I am God" that she leads her children to sing right before they hear God's story in Children Worship, Wonder and Welcome. She invited the group to join her with the sign language. We heard some music from the Easter Saturday Vigil shared by Judith. Wendi shared a Taizé Ritual and Sacrament song. We heard a Jewish prayer for healing, the Gregorian Chant, and a closing communal prayer. Members shared about the importance and powerfulness of "silent prayer." Childhood memories were shared and one spoke of how lovely it is to hear the sounds of children in worship. It was a wonderful time of learning more about each other through the gifts of listening and sharing. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 20 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 500 W. McDonwell School Rd., Colleyville, Texas 76034. All are welcome!



Dallas Group

The Dallas group gathered on September 18th at Temple Emmanu-El to explore the theme of "Love and Forgiveness." Welcoming over 30 women from different backgrounds, the evening held special meaning, particularly for the Jewish attendees who were observing Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. To enrich the evening, our Jewish hosts brought classic treats that symbolize the hope for a sweet new year during Rosh Hashanah. The Christian ladies reflected on forgiveness in their faith, emphasizing Jesus's teachings and his powerful words on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The Muslim participants described how forgiveness is deeply woven into the fabric of Islam: Prophet Mohammed forgave those who wronged him and encouraged his followers to do the same. The evening fostered a warm atmosphere of learning and fellowship, and as always, we delighted in the shared values among the three faiths, reminding everyone of the power of forgiveness.

On October 16, the Dallas Daughters were hosted by the Muslim ladies at East Plano Islamic Center (EPIC). Originally, the plan was to discuss the book we had chosen for this month, but our discussion leader was delayed at the airport and we voted to do a "get-to-know-you night" instead. It seemed particularly appropriate as we had 10+ new Muslim ladies attending (around 40 in total, many who didn't want to be in picture)! We were thrilled to have some young girls and a teenager or two in this group of newcomers. Our Muslim hosts outdid themselves with an array of Mediterranean foods, resembling an Iftar dinner! Although the evening was not what we had originally planned, we easily filled our time and had a lot of fun by going around the circle and learning about each other. It was a reminder that sometimes when we listen to God, we have better plans that supersede our previous plans!



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Dallas September Meeting



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