

Daughters of Abraham



APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



FROM OUR FOUNDER: Janice Harris Lord

Yearly Retreat This Month!

Continuing wars. Wildfires. Frigid temperature deaths. A bizarre political climate. COVID and flu upticks. It is easy to feel helpless and hopeless. Yet, we do know what to do. The Daughters of Abraham Spring Retreat theme is **Restoring our Souls by Deepening Friendships**. We are all women of faith. Our three faiths point to the same thing: Love of God and love of neighbor. We have a poignant and rich opportunity to do just that at the retreat and return home having done a magnificent thing. It's not too late to register. Just apply by way of this link and pay at the door. I can't wait to see you!

Please go to our website, www.daughtersofabraham-tx.org to check it out and register. We now have more than 30 registrants but would LOVE more, especially Jewish and Muslim women!



Arlington/Fort Worth Morning Group

About 40 women enjoyed in-depth discussion on the topic "How we relate as people of faith to anxiety, depression, and grief" on Wednesday, March 26, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on 8th Avenue in Fort Worth. Many thanks to Ann Milne, Betty Jo Lee, Jennifer Smith, and Janae Baird for their gracious hosting! In solidarity with our Muslim sisters, no refreshments were served (Ramadan). During the full group, representatives of the three faiths spoke generally about their faith communities' responses to challenging mental health issues. Following that, each table of six discussed two questions: "What Words in your Holy Book help you find peace or reduce your anxiety or depression," and "What are your faith communities doing to support people with these challenges?" One from each table reported to the full group. Many provide various kinds of support groups, and gratitude was expressed that the faith communities now acknowledge mental health issues rather than sweeping them under the rug or over-spiritualizing them.

Ruth Winkler, chair of the Daughters Retreat Committee, reported on the progress of the Retreat and encouraged participation. Janice Lord encouraged the women to see if the men and boys in their lives are interested in the newly re-starting Sons of Abraham group in Tarrant County.



Northeast Tarrant County Group



On Thursday, April 10th, ten members of the NE Tarrant County Daughters of Abraham chapter attended a field trip to Grapevine's Peace Circle statues outside The Vin Hotel (corner of Main Street and Dallas Road). Docent Sallie Andrews of the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau gave a lively, interactive tutorial on the creative process that resulted in the noble statues of Texas forefather Sam Houston and the ten native American chiefs who famously gathered in a moment in time before the signing of the Treaty of Bird's Fort near the Trinity River bottoms area on September 29, 1843.

Being herself a descendant of the Wyandotte nation of Oklahoma, Sallie described to the group the intensely committed research that she and sculptor Linda Lewis conducted to accurately depict the detailing of the costumes for each of the tribal chiefs who attended the meeting, along with the clothing of Sam Houston, right down to the ring he was known to wear. Linda and Sallie worked closely with members from each of the ten tribes represented, to allow them to provide input on the

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authenticity of their leaders' clothing, accessories, and tribal artifacts crafted into these individual images. Sallie explained the historical significance of this treaty, which aligns thematically with the purpose of Daughters of Abraham. These leaders were all war-weary, longing for a time when they could return to their daily lives and traditions without feeling threatened by the overreaches of others. Sam Houston won their trust by being willing to live alongside them in an attitude of intentional peace and cooperation, leading them to sign their commitment to the treaty.

The group followed this fascinating presentation with a spirited discussion on how observing the rules of Daughters of Abraham (i.e., no discussion of politics and no proselytizing) have protected the integrity of our purpose. Observation of our rules allows us to maintain our focus on nurturing friendships with women of Abrahamic faiths during times of escalating conflict and political tension. The NE Tarrant County Daughters of Abraham chapter wishes to thank docent Sallie Andrews and the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau for an evening of fun, edification, and education!



Dallas Group

The March meeting for the Dallas DofA group was hosted by the Muslims at the Dialogue Institute in Richardson. Dialogue Institute was founded in 2002 by Turkish Americans and their friends as a 501C(3) non-profit educational, cultural, and community organization under the Raindrop Foundation's umbrella. We are pleased to have members of the Dialogue Institute as members of our Dallas group. For more information about this wonderful organization, see their website at <https://www.dialoguedallas.org/> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dialogueinstitutedallas>.

We met a little early to accommodate breaking the Ramadan fast together. The room had been beautifully arranged with round tables set for the Iftar dinner to follow the meeting. A representative from the Dialogue Institute, Nimet Karadag, gave a presentation summarizing the meaning of Ramadan before we discussed our topic: "How Faith Shapes Our Daily Lives." After a lively discussion, we enjoyed a beautiful meal together including many Middle Eastern delicacies. We were all given beautiful metallic golden feathers as gifts. Everyone was touched by the sweet hospitality of the Muslim daughters. There were seven tables with 55 in attendance (although many left before the picture was taken). These Ramadan meals represent Daughters of Abraham at its finest! We all left basking in the joy of our interfaith friendships.

