

**Timeline: The Abrahamic Center
(Initiated 1994 and formally named the Tolerance Resource Center, 1997- 2009)
Notre Dame College, South Euclid, Ohio**

Background:

1994. A tolerance outreach center is first envisioned by faculty member and alumna Margaret "Maggie" Kocevar '90. The initial focus is Holocaust education. In subsequent years the Tolerance Resource Center will provide students, faculty, scholars and members of the greater community with programs and materials for exploring, studying and teaching about racial, cultural and religious diversity in the world around them.

1995 October. Maggie meets with Sister Mary Louise Trivison, SND, to discuss the formation of a center. They begin to write a grant proposal for Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation.

1995 November. Maggie begins work with the Shoah Visual History Project, interviewing thirty-three Holocaust survivors between now and May 1996.

1996 January - April. Maggie meets weekly with Sister Trivison to craft the grant proposal for the Righteous Persons Foundation. The final version is sent to the Notre Dame College president for approval. A board of directors is recommended. Maggie and Sr. Mary Louise meet with the library director, Karen Zoller, about the possibility of locating the Tolerance Outreach Center in the Clara Fritzsche Library. It is decided that the Center will be placed on the second floor.

1996 May 31. Maggie Kocevar passes away unexpectedly at the age of 27.

1997. Maggie's friend and mentor, Rachel Morris, head of the College's Art Department, steps in to renew efforts to complete the grant proposal that had been left unfinished at Maggie's passing. Though the grant was not realized, Morris, Trivison and Zoller continue to work on Maggie's dream. National City Bank donates furniture. Renovations begin. President Anne L. Deming approves a grant proposal to the Jewish Community Federation to fund the first events. A logo is designed.

1997 November 16. On International Tolerance Day the Tolerance Resource Center is dedicated in the Clara Fritzsche Library. Guests represent various religious organizations, community and education groups, friends and family. Invocations are given by leaders of the three Abrahamic faiths.

The Center provides resources for students, faculty, scholars and the general community to better understand and appreciate issues of racial, cultural, and religious diversity in the world around them, offers instructional materials, and conducts programs. The Center's nearly 2000 resources are comprised of donations from the family of Maggie Kocevar, Sister Mary Louise Trivison, and the estate of Louis Cellini, father of Rachel Morris.

Since 1997 the Abrahamic Center (formerly the Tolerance Resource Center) has sponsored or co-sponsored the following events:

1997 November: "Views of Israel" photography exhibit by Elliot Faye.

1998 February. *The Interview*, a play written by Faye Sholiton following her experience interviewing Holocaust survivors, premieres at Notre Dame College. *The Interview* explores the impact of silence in families, in this case, in the aftermath of the Holocaust. It won top honors in three national competitions and went on to seven productions and more than a dozen staged readings. The Jewish Community Federation and the Schonberg Family fund the event.

1998 February. In conjunction with the play, *The Interview*, artist and author Peter London's exhibit, "Final Portraits: Images of the Holocaust," opens. His exhibit features 24 portraits of Holocaust victims as he recalls them from television reports viewed as a child.

1999 February – June. "The Holocaust, 1933-1945," a showing of twenty posters, is co-sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Cleveland FBI.

1999 April. Gregg Rickman, author of *Swiss Banks and Jewish Souls*, speaks on "The Swiss Banks and Lessons for the Future." Second Generation Kol Israel co-sponsors the event.

1999 May. Co-sponsored by the Cleveland Holocaust Center, Shalmi Barmore, educator and former director of Yad Vashem's department of education, speaks on: "The Holocaust: Emerging Responses in Contemporary History."

1999 May. An Educator's Conference on teaching lessons of the Holocaust is co-sponsored by the Cleveland Holocaust Center. Speakers include Shalmi Barmore (keynote address); Holocaust scholar Saul Friedman on "The Culpability of the Nazis"; and David Weinberg, Director of the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies, on "The Jewish Response during the Holocaust: Moral Dilemmas and Practical Realities."

1999 November – December. "Tracing Home," an exhibit of paintings, drawings and prints by local artist Judy Harlan is on exhibit. Her work confronts the horror experienced by her Romanian parents, both Holocaust survivors. Poems written by poet and Holocaust survivor Andras Mezei accompany the exhibit.

2000 January – February. WorldView Productions, a non-profit Christian arts organization brings "Visions of Silence" to the campus. The artists' works focus on religious persecution of Christians throughout the world to raise awareness, ignite hope, and incite compassionate action. In February, two of the artists hold an informal talk about their work, and the founder discusses experiences in Africa that led to the formation of WorldView Productions.

2000 February - March. The City of University Heights co-sponsors a "Series of Discoveries: Moving Beyond Discrimination, Racism and Prejudice," about the Catholic, African American, and Jewish experience in America. Meant to emphasize community harmony as well as diversity, students and faculty met with residents from the neighboring community, viewing films that stimulated discussion of issues of race, of religion and of prejudice.

2000 April. The Manchester Dance troupe commemorates the victims of the Holocaust in "Paths of Resistance." Second Generation Kol Israel co-sponsors the program.

2001 October – December. Mary Costanza's "Images of Love and War: the Art of the Holocaust" and "Kaddish for Six Million" (lithographs from the Yad Vashem Museum) express her message of love and social justice in the context of the Holocaust. Co-sponsored by the Italian American Cultural Foundation. Sam Miller and Bishop Anthony Pilla greet hundreds of

guests at the opening reception. Students in the Advanced Multimedia class produce a CD, a web site is developed, and a video is produced to document the Costanza exhibit.

2001 October. Dr. Nicholas Patruno speaks on "At an Uncertain Hour: Primo Levy and his poetry." Levy, an author, poet, philosopher and chemist, was an Italian Jew who survived the Holocaust.

2001 November. Holocaust Educators' Conference II on teaching the Holocaust in middle and secondary school. Speakers include Dr. Mary Noel Kernan, S.C., on "Finding a Focus in Holocaust Education;" Eva Broessler Weissman, "A Life with a View;" and Dr. Alan deCourcy, "Depth and Detail: Encountering the Holocaust as Student and Teacher."

2001 November: "Paths of Resistance," a Holocaust-themed performance by the Manchester Dance Ensemble and an informal discussion on "Using the Arts to Teach Tolerance" by the artistic director are presented over two days.

2001 November. The Tolerance Resource Center and the Italian American Cultural Foundation present Dr. Gemma Del Duca, S.C., speaking on "Painful Memories: Italians and Jews in World War II."

2001 November. "In Their Place: A Daughter," a slide presentation by artist Judith Harlan (Ludita Robicsek), daughter of Holocaust survivors. Also shown and discussed was a documentary video, "Talks with Children of the Victims and the Perpetrators of the Holocaust," produced by Artistelle Productions under the direction of Elizabeth Earley.

2001 November – December. Co-sponsored by the Italian American Cultural Foundation, the Bodwin Theatre Company presents "The Investigation: Oratorio in 11 Cantos" by Peter Weiss. The play is a dramatic reconstruction of the Frankfurt War Crimes trials (1963-65), and is based on actual evidence given.

2002 January. "How to Address Stereotypes in the Classroom," a faculty diversity training workshop conducted by *Facing History and Ourselves* in collaboration with the Tolerance Resource Center is held as preparation for the Charlene Teters Native American multi-media art exhibit scheduled for the spring of 2003.

2002 Special Recognition Awards from the City of University Heights are given to President Anne Deming and alumna Eleanor Raper Kocevar '52 for their role in helping to establish the Tolerance Resource Center after the untimely death of Notre Dame faculty member Maggie Kocevar '90 in 1996. The City and the College have partnered to deliver the "Series of Discoveries" dialogues on multi-culturalism.

2003 March - April. Native American artist and activist Charlene Teters presents "Home of the Brave," a multi-media art installation focusing on prejudice against Native Americans and challenging the use of Native American symbols and how they depict culture and spirituality. She opens with a lecture and a workshop for teachers.

March 2003. "Choosing to Participate," a Case Studies Workshop for Teachers is co-sponsored by *Facing History and Ourselves* and the Tolerance Resource Center as preparation for the Teters exhibit.

2003 March – April. “Home of the Brave: An Ohio Interpretation” features the work of local Native American artists. Charlene Teters speaks on *Art as Activism*.

2003 March. Panel discussion: “Misuse of Native American Symbols in Sports and Media” with Charlene Teters, Chris Begay, Bernice Begay, Faye Brings Them, Bruce Kafer, and Juanita Helphrey.

2003 April. Dr. Richard Grounds speaks on “Racist Imagery in Popular Culture” as part of the Tolerance Resource Center and the UCC’s 5th Annual Conference. Faculty were offered grants for course and curriculum revision.

September 2003 – January 2004. The Tolerance Resource Center, Hillcrest residents and community leaders form a committee to plan the “Insights and Illuminations” series for 2004

2004 February – March. *Insights & Illuminations* (Hillcrest area) is a community-building workshop and discussion series about cultural and ethnic differences for educators, students, parents, business owners, community leaders, and religious and civic organizations to enhance perceptions, nurture hope and peace, and to serve as a catalyst for positive change in the Hillcrest region (Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Richmond Heights, Mayfield Heights and South Euclid). Co-sponsored by the Heights Community Congress, Cuyahoga County Planning Department, and Notre Dame’s Tolerance Resource Center.

2005 February, March, November. *Exploring Paths to G-d: A Conversation of Catholics and Jews* is co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the Interfaith Commission. Clergy, religious and laity view a video produced by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Synagogues, then discuss the topic - “A New Future; Building Shalom between Catholics and Jews,” “Shared Origins, Shared Paths,” “Mending Relationships, Mending the World,” “Common Texts, Different Scriptures,” “Seasons of Freedom, Seasons of Rebirth,” and “Mending Relationships, Mending the World.”

2006 January – March. Transitions and restructuring in advancement and grants office. There are no Tolerance Resource Center projects at this time.

2006 April. The Tolerance Resource Center participates in the Beachwood Montefiore Nursing Home Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) by lending videos, books, posters and other materials for the event.

2006 April – October. President Roth and two faculty members serve on the planning board of the Maltz Museum and help to plan the exhibit, “Cradle of Christianity: Treasures from the Holy Land” which examines the final days of the Second Temple—a time when Jesus of Nazareth lived—and discover the shared history of Christianity and Judaism as they developed in the Holy Land side by side.

2006 September. Faculty attend a workshop hosted by *Facing History and Ourselves’* Director Mark Swain-Fox to prepare for a multimedia event centering around the play, *And Then They Came for Me*.

2006 October. Notre Dame College hosts guest speaker Eva Geiringer Schloss, the neighbor, playmate and eventual stepsister of Anne Frank. Schloss’ story of survival during World War II was chronicled in *And Then They Came for Me*, a multi-media play by James Still. The play,

performed by Notre Dame College students, was based on the stories of the Geiringer, Frank, and Silberberg families. Over 4,000 high school students attended this production.

2006 October. Barbara Powers' "Coreopsis: Children of the Holocaust," color lithographs of paintings created of Holocaust children from photographs taken during the war adorned the set and graced the building where *And Then They Came for Me* was performed. Both Schloss and Powers answered questions following each free performance of the play. Proceeds from sales of the artwork benefited the Tolerance Resource Center.

2006 November –2007 March. "Three Faiths, One God: Judaism, Christianity, Islam," a series of interfaith community meetings sponsored by the Tolerance Resource Center, the American Jewish Committee, and the Cleveland Catholic Diocese-Interfaith Commission compares similarities and differences in religious beliefs and practices in the three great Abrahamic faiths. Meetings explore how people in Abrahamic faith communities deal with historical conflicts, yet remain dedicated to facilitating understanding and respect. These meetings are an important step in building interfaith cooperation in the Greater Cleveland community. topics covered include, Sharia-Halakah, Lent-Passover-Ramadan, Women and Family, Concord and Conflict in theology, The Golden Age of Spain for Muslims, Christian and Jews, Religious extremism, and Scriptures and their interpretations.

2007-2008. "Beyond Tolerance, Envisioning Tomorrow..." The Tolerance Resource Center celebrates ten years of providing programs, workshops, and resources about racial, cultural and religious diversity.

2007 January – February. "Victims, Perpetrators, Rescuers and Survivors" a multigenre social studies class project by 48 Orange High School seniors is exhibited at the College. Inspiration for the project stemmed from the resource book *Facing History and Ourselves*, which focuses on how to deal with prejudice, racism and anti-Semitism. Students studied Nazi-occupied Europe, biographies of Holocaust victims and survivors, viewed the film "Schindler's List," and listened to Cleveland-area survivor Max Edelman speak about the Holocaust before crafting their impressions.

2007 February – March. "Three Faiths, One God; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam II, " a series of meetings sponsored by the Tolerance Resource Center, American Jewish Committee, and the Cleveland Catholic Diocese to compare similarities and differences in religious beliefs and practices in Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Topics discussed were "Religious Extremism and the Path of Reconciliation," "Dialogue: Faith to Faith," "Social Justice and the Pursuit of Peace," "Women, Marriage & Family in Interfaith Perspective" and "Understanding Muslim Prayer and Worship."

2007 April. The Tolerance Resource Center participates in the Beachwood Montefiore Nursing Home Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) by lending videos, books, posters and other materials for the event.

2007 October. *Walk, Don't Ride: the Fight for Freedom in America*, an original dramatic production by visiting professor Peter Manos, is presented by the Notre Dame Vocal Ensemble and Masquers theater troupe. It recalls when the religious community united people for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Nashville Lunch Counter sit-ins, and the Greyhound Freedom Riders to further human rights.

2007 October - December. Herb Ascherman's "50 Faces," a photographic documentary of Cleveland area survivors, prisoners of war and concentration camp liberators opens. The photos are accompanied by stories of each written in their own words. In November, Ascherman shared his journey in documenting those images in a Gallery Talk.

2007 November. Speaker Sr. Gemma Del Duca, S.C., a Catholic educator and peacemaker working in the heart of Jerusalem, addresses the Notre Dame community on "Reflections on Holocaust Education." As co-founder of Seton Hill University's National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education she has led Holocaust education seminars for two decades, and is the first non-Jew and non-Israeli to receive Yad Vashem's Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education.

2007 December. Notre Dame presents "Paper Clips," a documentary film about middle-school students in the small town of Whitwell, Tennessee, who try to comprehend the millions dead in the Holocaust by collecting 11 million paper clips to represent the Jews and non-Jews who perished during the war.

2008 January. *Walk, Don't Ride* is reprised for the Martin Luther King Celebration. The dramatic production includes performances by the Notre Dame College Vocal Ensemble and Masquers theater troupe.

2008 January - February. Ben Blount's "What is Race?" an art installation and commentary exploring definitions and stereotypes regarding race in America opens.

2008 February. Inspired by an actual U.S. Supreme Court case, a staged reading of *All Things Being Equal* by playwright Faye Sholiton is presented. The play centers on two teachers caught in a difficult situation when the school board is forced to lay one of them off. When the selection is made, it is revealed that the decision is based solely on race. A question and answer session follows each performance.

2008 March. Associate professor Sr. Eileen Quinlan, SND, talks about her experiences with Native American Christian groups and her research on a women's theology in Louise Erdrich's novels in: "That the People May Live: The Importance of Faith in the Native American Communities."

2008 April. "Never Again: Genocide in the 21st Century", a lecture by Dr. James Waller, author and professor of psychology at Whitworth University, touches on issues of genocide and the state of racism in America. He writes and lectures extensively on topics of genocide, the Holocaust and racism.

2008. A CD celebrating and providing evidence of the ongoing, focused work of the Tolerance Resource Center is produced. *The Tolerance Resource Center: the First Decade* highlights the growth of the Center since 1997. Copies are distributed to area schools to help further the Center's mission of providing students, faculty, scholars and members of the greater community the opportunity to understand and appreciate issues of racial, cultural and religious diversity.

2008 June. Notre Dame College recognizes Sam Miller's lifelong philanthropic and community involvement on behalf of Greater Cleveland's less fortunate and the twin causes of social justice and inter-faith and inter-group understanding and respect. He has worked with myriad diverse organizations, including the College's own Tolerance Resource Center, to help make the Greater Cleveland community a better place to live and work." Proceeds from the dinner help endow the Tolerance Resource Center.

2008 June. An exhibition, "Righteous Among the Nations," focuses on the life of Blessed Paul Gojdic a Byzantine bishop from Czechoslovakia.

2008. Throughout the year, the "Tolerance Talks: Native American Issues of the Past, Present and Future" interdisciplinary reading group is dedicated to the study of human rights, tolerance, and roadblocks to understanding. Current and historical conditions that support or erode freedoms of groups and individuals are explored. This group explores issues from historical, psychological, spiritual, sociological, cultural, and other perspectives.

2008 September. The Tolerance Resource Center presents, "Extenuations and Circumstances" a lecture by Bruce Kafer, MSN, RN, who works locally in American Indian and homeless programs and is an advocate for indigenous peoples.

2008 October. Faye Brings Them addresses the *Relocation Era: A Personal Account of the BIA's Relocation Program*.

2008 October – December. "Between Two Worlds: the photos of Nadya Kwandibens," an Ojibwe French Canadian photographer and educator.

2008 October. John Washco presents "Traditional Healing - A Medicine Man's Approach to Healing."

2008 November: Artist, activist, teacher Chris Begay speaks on "Native Youth Identity: Growing Up in Two Worlds." He has played a major role in addressing unacceptable individual and institutional racism against Native Americans. Begay is also the director of the Crooked River Dance Troupe, which gives a pre-lecture performance.

2008 November. The keynote speaker for the series "Focus on Native Americans" is Guy W. Jones who will discuss "Race: The American Concept" and the impact of the introduction of "race" and its effects on culture, traditions, spirituality and language.

2008 November. The three-part series, *Exploring Paths to G-d II: a Conversation of Catholics and Jews* is presented by the American Jewish Committee, the Catholic Diocese Interfaith Commission, and the Tolerance Resource Center.

2009 January. Notre Dame College and Siegal College of Judaic Studies collaborate on a 16-week undergraduate course, "Judaism and Catholicism: Shared Heritage, Divergent Paths," taught jointly by instructors from each college. The course explores scripture, history and the relationship between God and the two faiths. Materials from the Tolerance Resource Center support student research and learning.

2009 March. The Tolerance Resource Center presents a lecture by anthropologist Felix Moos entitled "The Anthropology of Insurgency: Tibet, Nepal and India." Dr. Moos is a professor of Anthropology and East Asian studies at the University of Kansas and has authored numerous reports and journal articles on ethnic conflict, culture change and development, applied anthropology and ethnology, comparative value systems, the East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. He also contributes to the field of intelligence studies.

2009 April. The Tolerance Resource Center presents *Africa Awareness Week* to highlight issues of genocide, child soldiers, AIDS, drought and fair trade. First up is the Invisible Children "Schools for Schools" tour, formed to bring peace and aid to Northern Uganda by highlighting the plight of its child soldiers through documentary filmmaking. Participants view a documentary

film and a video update on the schools' progress and can participate in a question and answer session. Sweatshop-free apparel and other merchandise are available for purchase.

2009 April. The Tolerance Resource Center and the student club Justice sponsor a social justice essay contest as part of *Africa Awareness Week* entitled: "Why Should We Care?" The students draw on personal experiences and their studies in a variety of fields including theology, political science and ethics. The contest was conceptualized by Sr. Eileen Quinlan as "inviting students to ponder some issues of injustice and to respond, in writing, with constructive ideas for changing minds and hearts." Winners read their essays at an all college event featuring the Lost Boys of the Sudan as guest speakers.

2009 April. The Lost Boys of Sudan, a group of Sudanese men who were brought to the U.S. after they were orphaned during civil war and genocide, address the challenge question "Why Should We Care?" then participate in a question and answer session. Afterwards the winners of the College's Social Justice Essay Contest read their essays. The event is sponsored by the Tolerance Resource Center and the student organization Justice.

2009 April: Sister Valerie Sweeney, SND, addresses the question, "Why should we care?" and demonstrates the College's connection to Africa through the work of the Sisters of Notre Dame as part of *Africa Awareness Week*.

2009 April. "Native American Spirituality" with guest speaker Sr. Kateri Mitchell, Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference, the only Catholic Native American/Aboriginal Organization in North America representing over 300 tribes and nations in the United States and Canada., and the Catholic ministers that serve this population. Co-sponsored by St. Augustine Parish and the Parish Life Secretariat of the Cleveland Diocese.

2009 November 9. More than 200 guests gather at Notre Dame College to celebrate the inauguration of the College's Abrahamic Center, an outgrowth and expansion of the Tolerance Resource Center. Holocaust survivor Lissa Keller speaks in remembrance of family lost and of Kristallnacht. Bruce Feiler, author of "Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths" and "Walking the Bible" recounts his journey through the Middle East while researching Abraham, the shared ancestor of Jews, Christians and Muslims. Mr. Feiler stressed the importance of interfaith respect and communication.

2009 December. Notre Dame History professor Dr. Gregory Moore has co-written a book with Holocaust survivor Eva Broessler Weissman. Several Notre Dame College alumni and students assist with research using Tolerance Resource Center materials. In "The War Came to Me: A Story of Endurance and Survival," the co-authors tell the story of how Eva and her sister avoided deportation to the death camps with the help of courageous and compassionate Dutch citizens. The College's Abrahamic Center celebrated the publication of the book with a special program and book-signing entitled "The Human Face of History."

2010 March. Sponsored by the Abrahamic Center, the Arts and Humanities Division, and the NDC Gay/Straight Alliance, the 2010 Essay Contest seeks reflections on the Gospel of Matthew (7:1-5), "Judge Not..."

2010 May - August. Maltz Museum: "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America." Sponsored in part by Notre Dame College, the exhibit is a chronicle of women religious who played a significant role in shaping the nation through schools, hospitals and other enduring institutions

and continue to work for peace and social justice. A season-long offering of programs, performances and lectures at the museum and around town complements themes of the exhibition. A film by Steven Hacker created exclusively for the Maltz Museum adds an interreligious approach, highlighting the role of spirituality in the lives and work of area women of various faiths. Two Notre Dame staff members helped to create a local exhibit within the national exhibit. The exhibit is a project of The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center. Attendance was 19,637.

2010 June. The College collaborates with the Beachwood Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library to sponsor a book discussion on "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" at the Beachwood Public Library, held in conjunction with the Maltz Museum's current exhibit "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America," which is co-sponsored by Notre Dame.

2010 June. The Maltz Museum co-sponsors a lecture by Loyola University Professor Dr. Bren Ortega Murphy titled "A Question of Habit: The Curious Image of Nuns in Popular Culture" to examine the variety of visual images of Catholic nuns and sisters used in popular culture. She contrasted these images with the real lives of historical and contemporary women religious.

2010 July. Abrahamic Center board member and Notre Dame professor of art Rachel Morris travels to Israel to attend a three-week seminar on the Holocaust at Jerusalem's Yad Vashem, the most comprehensive center of Holocaust commemoration in the world. The program equips participants for serious discussion on the causes of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust from a Catholic perspective, and to shape appropriate curricular responses at Catholic institutions.

2010 July. The Abrahamic Center and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage co-sponsor an interfaith Volunteer Opportunities Day to encourage people to donate their time to one of seven faith-based social service organizations represented at the event - Catholic Community Connection, the Federation of Indian Communities, Interact Cleveland, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Lutheran Metro Ministries, Salaam Cleveland and the Maltz Museum. The day was one of two Notre Dame sponsored events connected to "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America," a Maltz exhibit co-sponsored by Notre Dame College.

2010 July. Len Calabrese, who serves on the Abrahamic Center's community leadership council, moderates a panel discussion on social action and community justice. The panelists include Zarina Siddiqi, president of Salaam Cleveland; Fr. Lorn J. Snow, pastor at Church of the Gesu; Meg Wilson, pastoral minister at Gesu; and Rabbi Sharon Marcus, president of the Cleveland Board of Rabbis.

2010 October. Cheyenne linguist Dr. Richard Littlebear, president and interim dean of Chief Dull Knife College in the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana, discusses issues of social justice on the Cheyenne Reservation and the role of tribal colleges in effecting positive change. He also advocates for bilingualism, encouraging use of all indigenous languages in reading, writing and oral expression.

2010 November. The Abrahamic Center presents John Allen, Jr., senior correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, CNN senior Vatican analyst, a prize-winning journalist and author of six best-selling books on the Vatican and Catholic affairs. His topic "Vatican Interfaith Relations with Islam and Judaism" addresses the historic shift that has occurred from Judaism to Islam as the paradigmatic interfaith relationship of the Catholic Church. The lecture is sponsored by Medical Mutual of Ohio.

2010 November. Iranian-American journalist Roxana Saberi, who spent 100 days in an Iranian jail cell, tells the story of her arrest, captivity and release, and shares the struggles and courage of her cellmates who inspired her. She now writes and speaks out for human rights and “prisoners of conscience” in Iran. Saberi’s talk is co-sponsored by the College’s Abrahamic Center and part of a national speaker series offered by Facing History and Ourselves and The Allstate Foundation, which explores issues of civic responsibility.

2010 November. Students representing Campus Ministry, FalconCorps and the Abrahamic Center pass milk jugs throughout the stands at a football game to collect money for the Pass the Cans for Pakistan event. All money raised during this event is donated to the Catholic Relief Service to help victims of the Pakistan Floods, where 20 million people have been devastated by the effects of the floods.

2011 February – March. The Abrahamic Center and Campus Ministry sponsor a trip to the Holy Land to learn about ancient & modern Israel.

2011 August. Welcome Weekend Food Drive benefitting the Heights Emergency Food Center – Freshmen Student Service Project (a core curriculum expectation in light of Abrahamic Center Mission). Co-sponsored by Student Life, Campus Ministry, and College Mission.

2011 September 11. The Abrahamic Center helps plan and organize “Out of Many, One” an interfaith remembrance and commemoration on the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001” held in Cleveland’s Public Square.

2011 November. Abrahamic Center Distinguished Lecture: Dr. Reza Aslan, Internationally acclaimed writer and scholar of religions discusses “Ten Years Later: Fighting Islamophobia and Understanding Muslims.” Dr. Aslan’s topic speaks to the heart of the Abrahamic Center’s mission of placing interfaith respect, tolerance and social justice at the core of the college experience. His address is sponsored by Medical Mutual.

2012 May – August. Notre Dame College is a benefactor sponsor for the Maltz exhibition, “A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People” an interactive experience that allows visitors to follow in John Paul II’s footsteps from his childhood to his role as head of the world’s largest church where he used his papacy and his special relationship with the Jewish people to promote tolerance and interfaith understanding.

2012 June. In cooperation with the Maltz Museum, Abrahamic Center director Michael Bloom leads a post-viewing discussion of the film *I Am Joseph, Your Brother*, a documentary inspired by the visit of Pope John Paul II to Israel in 2000.

2012 August. Welcome Weekend Food Drive benefitting the Heights Emergency Food Center – Freshmen Student Service Project (a core curriculum expectation in light of Abrahamic Center Mission). Co-sponsored by Student Life, Campus Ministry, and College Mission.

2012 November. Abrahamic Center Distinguished Lecture: Diana Eck speaks on “Religious Diversity in America.” Eck is a religious scholar, author, professor, and director of The Pluralism Project at Harvard University, where the project mission is to help Americans engage with the realities of the growing presence of Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Zoroastrian communities through research, outreach, and the active dissemination of resources. The Project documents four principles: pluralism is not diversity alone, but the energetic engagement with diversity; pluralism is not tolerance, but the active seeking of understanding across lines of

difference; pluralism is not relativism, but the encounter of commitments; pluralism is based on dialogue.

2013 February – April. "Continuing the Conversation: Engaging the Other" sessions follow Diana Eck's 2012 lecture on "Religious Diversity in America." Panelists from several faith traditions address topics on peace, fair trade and the poor, and women in the religious tradition.

2013 March. Nearly 40 Notre Dame College students and faculty present the play "The Laramie Project," which features interviews and direct testimonials from the citizens of Laramie, Wyoming in the wake of the beating death of Matthew Shepard, a homosexual student.

2013 March-June. Notre Dame College is a Patron Sponsor of the Maltz exhibition, *Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust*. A production of the Yad Vashem, it is the first exhibition to focus exclusively on Jewish women and their experiences in the Holocaust.

2013 November – December. "KinderToys: the Courageous Children of the Holocaust," an exhibition that focuses on the toys and drawings of the youngest victims of Nazi persecution by artist Boni Suzanne Gelfand, is sponsored by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council. Utilizing still photos, collages, paintings, installation art, quotes, replica toys and memoirs and historical literature, Gelfand's exhibit tells the stories of the child victims of Nazi persecution and serves as a springboard for reflection and discussion. The show includes a gallery talk by the artist and a lecture by Dr. Louise Prochaska, Notre Dame professor and humanities scholar for the project.

2013 November. Abrahamic Center Distinguished Lecture: "Striving for Justice: Seeking Common Ground" by Nontombi Naomi Tutu, an activist for human rights, an advocate for tolerance and inclusion among all people, and the daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. She believes that we must start our quest for a just world with the things that unite us as human beings as well as acknowledging how our different experiences, gifts, challenges and talents can be the basis of a true appreciation of our shared humanity.

2014 February - April. In response to Naomi Tutu's November 2013 presentation, "Striving for Justice," the Abrahamic Center conducts "Continuing the Conversation: Engaging the Other" sessions to seek out the shared humanity in others. Participants consider their assumptions, where those assumptions are rooted, and important issues that relate to life differences - religious difference (theistic and non-theistic traditions), political difference, ideological difference, and the simple realities of different preferences. Topics discussed include: Recognizing Bias and Prejudice; Finding Common Ground; and Engaging in Difficult Conversations.

2014 Spring Break. Cross Campus Student Service Project (a core curriculum expectation in light of Abrahamic Center Mission): Notre Dame College students travel to Alabama, the cradle of the American Civil Rights Movement, to build affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity of Birmingham, an ecumenical Christian organization. Co-sponsored by Student Life, Campus Ministry, and College Mission.

2014 October. Notre Dame hosts "Communities in Conversation," a network of community-based interfaith study and discussion groups in which individuals from different faith communities meet and, in informal discussion based on the readings provided, learn about each other's beliefs and practices. Each five-week program of interfaith study and discussion is led by trained facilitators.

2014 November. Abrahamamic Center Distinguished Lecture: Eboo Patel, author and founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core presents “Interfaith Cooperation: Why Religious and Non-Religious Diversity Matters in the 21st Century.” Patel was recently awarded the Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize, an award given to an individual to enhance awareness of the crucial role of religious dialogue in the pursuit of peace.

2015 February - March. The Abrahamamic Center partners with campus ministry, residence life, student activities, the counseling office and honors classes at the College to initiate “Opening to the Other,” a three-part interfaith film series on the Abrahamamic traditions. *The Jewish Americans*, *G-Dog (Christian)*, and *Inside Islam: a View from the Inside Out* will be viewed and discussed.

2015 March. Noah Silverman from Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) speaks on vocational discernment, interfaith dialogue and teaching in religiously diverse contexts.

2015 Spring Break. Cross Campus Student Service Project (a core curriculum expectation in light of Abrahamamic Center Mission): Notre Dame College students travel to Alabama to build affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity of Birmingham, an ecumenical Christian organization. Co-sponsored by Student Life, Campus Ministry, and College Mission.

2015 March – April. The five-part “Communities in Conversation” dialog sponsored by the Abrahamamic Center continues its informal study of the Abrahamamic traditions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Facilitated by Notre Dame faculty members and Communities in Conversation Inc., an Ohio nonprofit organization, participants share information and learn from each other. Each receives a book that includes narratives on Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and a bibliography. Presentations are brief and the time is structured to encourage thoughtful and engaging conversation based on present day news events and participants’ questions.

2015 August. Notre Dame College sends interested students, staff, and faculty to the Interfaith Leadership Institute in Chicago to gain skills to build an interfaith movement of diverse religious and non-religious identities on the campus. IFLI is a program of the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC; Eboo Patel, founder) which works with institutions of higher learning to build interfaith cooperation by committing to religious diversity on an institution-wide basis.